

Message Title: Jesus The Ultimate King!

Philippians 2:5-11 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Well happy Three Kings Day! I did a quick google search about the origins of Three Kings day, since we have celebrated it all my life, but never had any history about it shown to me. Well it started back in the 4th century, and is also called epiphany. Interestingly enough, it is actually meant to be celebrated with a great feast and it commemorates Jesus’ baptism, along with honoring the three kings who visited Jesus.

However, that little search I did had some errors Biblically. First off, nowhere in the Bible does it say there were three men only, and even less that they were kings! They were wisemen, or mystics from the east, likely astronomers, likely from the region of Babylon. So they weren’t kings, but scholars and scientists. These were likely Magi, and the reason they were looking for these signs was because of none other than the prophet Daniel. Daniel was appointed as head over their department, so likely he taught many of those wisemen about the prophecies of the Messiah. It is amazing that while the Jews were not seeking Jesus, these foreigners remembered the teachings of Daniel, and traveled at great danger and expense to meet Jesus.

Also, when they arrived at Herod’s home, he wouldn’t have freaked out so badly had it just been three guys riding camels. There would’ve likely been a caravan of several dozen, if not hundreds of men. Let’s add to that that when they found Jesus, He was not a baby in the manger, but a 1-2 year old toddler. We know this because when Herod commands his soldiers to kill every infant boy out of fear one would usurp him, he orders them to kill every boy 2 years old and under, an evil action no doubt led by the devil seeking to destroy Jesus before He could grow up.

Now the idea of there only being three of them likely comes because they gave Mary and Joseph three gifts for Jesus. Remember what they are? Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh! These three gifts actually spoke of who Jesus was: The Frankincense, or incense, spoke of His divinity as incense was offered at the temple. Myrrh was a spice used for embalming the dead, and spoke of Jesus’ eventual death for the sins of the world. Lastly, Gold speaks of royalty, and how that toddler in the home of commoners was actually the one and true King of All things!

But the wisemen did a fourth thing, they bowed down and worshiped Jesus. This act alone proves all the things the gifts represented. These wisemen understood that before them, though it looked like a boy learning to walk and talk, was the King of Heaven, God in Human form, come to free us from sin and death.

This is what our series “JESUS #1” has been about as well. It has been teaching all of us who Jesus really is, why He is #1 above all things, and why He should be #1 in your life. So as we close this series today, I wanted to cover the final important Christological chapter, which is the only chapter that isn’t a 1, but a 2. Let’s read Philippians 2:5-11 again together.

- **Philippians 2:5-11 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in**

heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Paul is writing to the Philippians, the first Church planted on European soil that we have records of in the Bible. This church was near and dear to Paul’s heart as they showed great love for their founding pastor, and supported him in his missionary work with what they had available. Philippians is often called the Epistle of Joy, as it contains the secret to true and lasting contentment in Christ. It was to this Church that Paul gave this wonderful Christological message in these 8 powerful verses.

Now Philippi was a Roman colony, meaning its population was mainly retired veterans and other Roman citizens. They held all the rights of citizens as if they lived in Rome itself. They were guaranteed fair trials, protection, and many other benefits. They understood the privileges and responsibilities of representing Rome to the world, and serving the emperor. So Paul, knowing this, weaves into his epistle illustrations using these things to show them how it is similar in the Christian life.

They were representatives of Christ, citizens of Heaven with all the privileges and responsibilities that come with it. But that also includes serving the King of Heaven. That is why in Philippians 2, Paul exhorts the Philippians to “mimic your King and worship Him!”. He tells them to have the same mind of Christ, and then shows how Jesus is the ultimate King over all. The wisemen understood this when they bowed before the child. Now Paul explains it as he calls us to learn from and worship the risen savior.

- **Phil 2:5-6 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,”**

Paul is teaching the Philippians about being others minded, and brings the greatest example of who put others before Himself, Jesus. This statement is profound because Paul isn’t telling Christians to admire from afar the humility of Christ and His love for others, but calling them to think like that and live like that. If you think there is a palace of service that is beneath you, let’s say cleaning toilets, then you still don’t understand what Jesus did. If you did, no task of service for someone else would seem so low compared to what Jesus did for you.

Paul continues by boldly declaring, without second thought, the deity of Christ! He says that Jesus was in the form of God, and did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. He is describing Jesus’ preincarnate existence, that before He became a baby in a manger, He was the God who created the Heavens and the earth, and who upholds all things by the Word of His power. The words “being” and “form” in Greek carry great significance.

- Being/hyparchō - describes that which a man is in his very essence and which cannot be changed. It describes that part of a man which, in any circumstances, remains the same.
- Form/morphē - always signifies a form which truly and fully expresses the being which underlies it. It is the essential form that never alters, even if the outward appearance does.

What these words mean is that Jesus is the very essence of God, and He is totally equal with God, even if He has a different outward form. Relisten to the series and you’ll see that all over the Bible, Jesus is declared to be God, the 2nd person of the trinity, unique in all His power and glory.

- **Philippians 2:7 “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”**

This chapter is often called the ladder down from Heaven, because Jesus willingly made the decision to step down. There He was, surrounded by Angels, worshiped every moment by beings and creatures we can barely imagine, sitting on an exalted throne as King. Yet He made a decision, and

stepped off that throne. He who was exalted above all, now entered humanity, His own creation. The Creator of man became part of His creation.

But He wasn't born into the palace of a king or emperor. He was born to a family of Jewish commoners, to a teenage girl likely no more than 14-15 years old. He wasn't received with the trumpets of talented musicians, but by lowly shepherds working in the fields. He wasn't born in the halls of a great palace, but in the stable of a house, that would've been little more than a cave.

He did not come as a conquering ruler, but as the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. He hid His glory under human flesh, and humbled Himself to how humans lived. This would be the equivalent of you choosing to turn into a roach or an ant. Yet that still doesn't really fit how far Jesus stepped down the ladder for you, because as God, the differences between a human and Him are far greater than the differences between us and a cockroach. Both of us are finite created beings. He is the infinite creator, putting on the flesh of finite creation. But His descent didn't stop there.

- **Philippians 2:8 "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."**

Not only did He humble Himself and become part of the lowest status of humanity at the time. He willingly allowed Himself to die a criminal's death. Crucifixion was the death sentence of the worst criminals, that of traitors and rebels. He didn't deserve it, He was innocent, He was blameless. Yet He endured the cross, despising the shame. He knew this was the Father's plan, and He obediently stepped into it.

Through the cross, our sin is absolutely forgiven. All sin has been forgiven men, except for unbelief. To receive salvation is to repent of our unbelief and by faith accept what He says is true, and let Him bring us new life through the resurrection and bring us into a relationship with Him. The problem of sin has been dealt with, it's over. Now we must turn away from the sin of unbelief and turn to a life of faith in Him.

If you study the crucifixion, you'd learn how horrendously painful it was. And Jesus did not only endure the cross, but the lashings, the beatings, the lack of sleep and sensitivity of skin. But most of all He endured the wrath of the Father on sin. Jesus absorbed God's wrath on sin, so that you and I can be spared by turning to Him in faith.

But this humbling of Himself, and willing sacrifice would not go unrewarded. Like the writer of Hebrews tells us in **Hebrews 12:2 "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."**

- **Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

Many believe these verses to be a hymn, a worship song of the early Church, and man oh man doesn't this make all the ones we sing sound theologically dry and weak? Very few modern songs reach the depth of good theology, and if they want to call themselves worship songs, they absolutely should have good theology.

Paul ends this section in this glorious song of praise to Jesus' exaltation. At the resurrection Jesus defeated death, placing the final blow and giving us the opportunity to receive new life. He declares that the Father has highly exalted Jesus, placing Him once again on the throne. Soon and very soon a day is coming when all creation, regardless if they want to or not, will bow their knees before Him. Some will bow willingly in thankful worship, others will bow as defeated enemies accepting their defeat.

This is why Paul states that ALL those in heaven, on the earth and UNDER the earth will bow. No portion of creation will be left out of acknowledging the fact that Jesus is the ultimate King. When

we see that day, we will see people from every nationality, every tongue, every corner of the earth, exalt Jesus as King and Ruler over all, just like the wisemen did so long ago.

The simple question to end this series then is this: Have you declared Jesus to be #1?

You have heard the Gospel multiple times. You've been shown who Jesus truly is multiple times. You've been invited to declare Him as #1, not just over all of creation, but over every aspect of your personal life multiple times. So have you made that decision?

Unbelief is the only sin that still remains, and part of repenting of unbelief is to acknowledge Jesus as #1. To declare Him the ultimate King of your life. The wisemen sacrificed great wealth and braved many dangers so they could worship the King. Are you willing to do as they did? Are you willing to place Jesus as your ultimate King above all others?

As Jesus chose to humble Himself and step down from His throne for our sakes, are you willing to get off of the throne of your life, stop trying to make the decisions and rule over yourself, and instead, place Him as King over everything, and worship and exalt Him? As we close in worship, make the decision in your heart to make Jesus your #1, your ultimate and only true King, this year, and for evermore.