

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Joy of Christlike Humility

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
May 24, 2026



Jesus said: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Matt. 20:26

Big Idea: Follow Jesus into self-giving sacrificial love.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **Christ takes the humble position as a human who serves.**

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Philippians 2:6-7 (AMP) ...although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it]; ⁷ but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man].

- **Christ embraces humiliation and powerlessness.**

⁸ "...he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

***"A true human is one who embraces obedience to God even when that path leads to humiliation."* Lynn Cohick**

Mark 10:45 (NLT) "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

Isaiah 53:3,5,7(NLT) "He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief...He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word...He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins."

Isaiah 53:10-12 (NLT) "Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants...And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. ¹² I will give him the honours of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels."

- **Jesus Christ is Lord & honoured above all.**

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Big Idea: Follow Jesus into self-giving sacrificial love.

How do we do this?

Practice the J.O.Y. Principle:

J — Jesus as Lord.

O — Others to Serve.

Y — Yourself Surrendered & Submitted.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**The Joy of Christlike Humility
#7 of 15 - May 24, 2026**

Context

1. In Matthew 20:26, Jesus redefines greatness as servanthood. How does this teaching challenge the way our culture typically defines success and influence today?
2. Philippians 2:5–11 is often called one of the most powerful passages about Jesus' humility. What do you know about the situation Paul was writing into (his imprisonment, the early church pressures, etc.) that helps shape how you hear this passage?

Observation

3. In Philippians 2:6–8, what specific downward steps of Jesus' humility do you notice (e.g., what He gave up, how He came, how far He went)? How does this relate to the Isaiah 53 passage?
4. In verses 9–11, what words or phrases describe how God responds to Jesus' humility and obedience?

Meaning

5. What does it mean that Jesus "did not consider equality with God something to cling to," and how does that reshape our understanding of true power and greatness?
6. Lynn Cohick describes true humanity as obedience even into humiliation. How does Jesus redefine what it means to live a truly human life through His obedience and sacrifice?

Application

7. Where do you personally find it hardest to live out the J.O.Y. principle (Jesus first, Others second, Yourself surrendered)? How does the Gospel help you live in faith and obedience to Jesus?
8. What is one practical way this week you can "follow Jesus into self-giving and sacrificial love", by serving someone else in a self-giving, sacrificial way—especially when it costs you something?



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