

Harris Creek Baptist Church
Jonathan Pokluda
Series: Philippians
November 1, 2020

The Humility of Jesus
Philippians 2:3-11

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Father, I do just pray that we would feel the gravity of this passage today, the deep implications, as you describe your Son and him putting on flesh and then humbling himself to obedience even to death, even death on the cross. As these words were penned almost 2,000 years ago, that we would apply them to our lives, that we would examine the Scriptures, that your Spirit would help us to look deep into the Scriptures, and that it would be like a mirror, that it would show us what in our lives is out of place, that you would do that supernaturally over the next 40 minutes we have together here this morning. In Jesus' name, amen.

Hey, it's great to be with you guys. If we haven't met, my name is JP, or Jonathan Pokluda. It's my privilege to travel with you through the book of Philippians. Do you guys know who this is? Tony Hawk. He's the GOAT. Right? If you're older, if you ever hear that, the *GOAT* is an acronym. It stands for Greatest Of All Time, if you ever see that on social media or anything.

So, if anybody calls you the *GOAT*, it's not an insult. It means you're the greatest of all time. It's the highest compliment someone could pay you. Tony was in Waco the other day. I don't know if you guys saw this. He was at Sul Ross Skate Park just shredding it up. I saw a picture of him there, and I said, "He's the GOAT," and somebody said, "He's not the GOAT."

I was like, "What are you talking about? It's Tony Hawk. He's the greatest of all time." They said, "No. The greatest of all time skateboarder is Rodney Mullen." What? Who is Rodney Mullen? Anybody heard of Rodney Mullen? Okay. Just you and the entire worldwide web, evidently, because I Googled it, and it turns out Rodney Mullen is the GOAT of skateboarding. I disagree with Google on that one, but there we go.

How about hockey? Who's the GOAT, the greatest of all time hockey player? You have Wayne Gretzky who is nicknamed The Great One. Gordie Howe is up there. I Googled it, like, "Who's

the greatest hockey player of all time?" It turns out it's Gordie Howe. I've not even heard of this guy. Anybody else? Y'all are like I'm punking you. No, I'm not. That's literally who the Internet said is the greatest hockey player of all time. I disagree, Internet. I'm on the other side. But let's keep going.

Who's the greatest performer of all time? George Strait. I feel that. I love Waco. I'm so glad I'm here. Let's go. But according to the Internet, who's the greatest performer of all time? Is it Beyonce or is it Michael Jackson? It is indeed Michael Jackson. How about the greatest preacher of all time? Is it Billy Graham? Charles Spurgeon? Jesus? He was a good one. A lot of you wouldn't like his preaching. I'll be honest. You'd be like, "He went too long. Not deep enough." Who was the greatest preacher of all time? I'm going to go with Spurgeon.

The greatest women's tennis player of all time. Serena. Yeah, I think that's right. She would also win in any fight between the two of them, I assure you. Okay. How about greatest boxer of all time? Muhammad Ali or Mike Tyson? Let's see who it is. The greatest of all time is indeed "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," the great Muhammad Ali. We'll just end with an easy one: greatest basketball player of all time.

It's quite the debate on the Internet. People disagree who the greatest of all time is, but let's just leave that illustration for a minute, because we're here in church. Who is the greatest of all time? If somebody asks a question in church, usually a safe way to respond is to shout out "Jesus." Okay? Usually you're going to be in pretty good company there. Jesus is the greatest of all time.

The issue with the condition of some of our hearts is we would rather be like some of those people I just displayed on the screen. We want to play like them, wear their clothes, dress like them, practice like them. Usually, there's someone up there we would be really excited to meet, and in a morning, we would much rather have coffee with one of them than with Jesus, who is in reality the greatest of all time.

He used his greatness in a different way, different from everyone else before him. In fact, there's a deep desire in all of us to be great. In some way, at some capacity, I know there's something inside of you that wants to do something bigger than you. This desire for greatness is what sent Lucifer from heaven in Isaiah 14. This is the first fall.

Lucifer was the greatest of the angels, and rather than worshiping God, he wanted to be like God, so God sent him to the earth in this cosmic experiment. He said, "Oh yeah. You want to be like me? Let's see what kind of god you are." God created humans in this world, and he put them in the garden of Eden, and there was the Serpent, also known as *Satan*, also known as *Lucifer*.

God made them like gods. He said, "I put you here to rule over the animals, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, to bring order to this, to be rulers and reconcilers." But Satan came along and tempted them with the very thing that caused him to fall. He said, "God is withholding good from you, and rather than you worshiping him, you should be like him."

Genesis 3:5: "**For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...**" "He's trying to keep something from you when he says, 'Don't eat from this

tree in the garden." We exist in this Job experiment, if you're familiar with that book of the Bible. Satan right now is trying to get us to curse God, to leave him in everything.

The world we exist in is broken, and rather than worship God, we want to be like God. We want to create our own kingdoms. We want to have worshipers of ourselves. We feed our desire to be god here. But the greatest of all time, Jesus, used his greatness to serve others. He modeled humility.

Humility seems like a benign virtue. None of you when you were driving here this morning were probably like, "Lord, I pray that you would make me more humble. I just want more humility in my life." You have to keep in mind the issue of the Philippian church is unity. In fact, last week we talked about this. The secret to unity in any situation is actually humility, that we would be humble. The problem is that doesn't stir up in us enough need. So let me try this.

I had this profound revelation in studying this passage. I think the secret to happiness is actually humility. Without humility, we can be driven to a place where we think about ourselves all the time. Mental illness is often born. We can move to a place of misery. But with humility, we're able to lose our lives. We're able to serve others. We're able to look outside of ourselves. We're able to get outside of our heads, to think how we can care for one another.

This kind of changes everything if we believe that happiness is more tied to humility than anything. When we say something like, "Hey, this might sound prideful but..." we don't realize that what's about to come out of our mouth is incredibly destructive. We must take those thoughts captive, imprison them, and execute them, lest they carry us somewhere wicked and evil. If we define greatness as anything other than humble service, we've made the same mistake as the Devil.

So, today I want to talk about the humility of Jesus. He is truly the GOAT, the greatest of all time, and the most humble person of all time. He used his greatness to serve others. We're moving through the book of Philippians. Week one, we talked about Paul's growing love and affection for the church in Philippi. Week two, we talked about the courage we receive from and for the gospel, that we receive courage from the gospel and the courage to share the gospel.

Then last week, we talked about this call of unity in the body in the midst of opposition. Unity in opposition. Now Paul is moving to the secret of unity. Unity can only exist when there's humility. In fact, when there's not humility, you're going to see great division. So, if you look in the rearview mirror of your life and see a lot of conflict...you see dissension, you see challenges in relationship...inspect your humility. If you're the common denominator there, inspect your humility.

As we move through Philippians, chapter 2, rich in theology (a lot of important things happening here), we're going to learn from the humility of Jesus the *exhortation of humility*, Christ's *example of humility*, and the *exaltation from humility*. Verse 3: "**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**"

This phrase *selfish ambition* (*eritheia* in the Greek) is this idea that you would act out of selfishness, that you are focused on "What's in it for me?" Corporate America will exploit this. Businesses will exploit this. Business developers will exploit this, because they think, "Hey, if he or she is driven, then I can capitalize on that and make money for myself." The world calls this *drive*. The Scripture calls this *satanic* if exploited for the wrong purposes. Where it says *vain conceit*, it directly translates *empty glory*.

If you're the only one who benefits from your actions, you've lost your purpose. If you go through life and are constantly in your head space, thinking, "Okay. What can I do?" and "What do they think about me?" and "How do I get...?" and "What if it was bigger?" and "What if we went there and had this opportunity?" and "Let's go," and you live like this world is all there is, and you get down the road and realize the only one who has really benefited from your gifts and your talents and your resources is primarily you and those close to you, you've missed out on your calling.

1. *God's exhortation of humility*. We don't use that word *exhortation* often. It's just a strongly urging someone toward something. There are four commands in these two verses right out of the gate...two positive, two negative. He says, "Don't operate out of selfishness, but value others above yourselves." Then he says, "Don't look to your own interests, but instead look to the interests of others." It's a negative and a positive, a negative and a positive.

Don't operate out of selfishness, but instead value those around you. Don't look to your own interests, but look to the interests of others. Pride has sent the Devil into this world. Pride is a preoccupation of self. Pride is you thinking about you. A lot of pride is you thinking about you all the time. The problem with that is it's really addictive. If you've done it for a long time, it's a very challenging habit to break.

You may have heard humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. Have you ever heard that? Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It's not like, "Oh, I can't do anything. I'm not gifted. I don't know. Who is me? I don't even deserve to be here." That's not humility. They would say humility is just thinking of yourself less, like, not coming to mind so much.

Biblical humility is actually a little bit different. Biblical humility is thinking of others more and thinking more of others. So, biblical humility is thinking of others more but also thinking more of others, giving them the benefit of the doubt, not sitting there thinking, "Well, they don't know. How do they...? And how can they...? I'm better." It's saying, "That's a creation of God. I'm going to give them the benefit of the doubt."

My ditch in isolation is I tend to think I can do anything better than someone else, even someone who God created to do those things. I know that's ugly. It's ugly to share. How that manifests in my life in an effort to lead is control. I want to speak into everything. I want to control everything.

I want my hands in everything, because in my pride, given to my flesh, I think I can do things better. And that's not right. It's not godly. It's how the Enemy would take me out. I truly think if

there's one way he's going to take me out, it's not lust, which is a struggle; it's not materialism, which is a struggle; it's this thing I'm telling you about right now.

C.S. Lewis says, "Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all." From *Mere Christianity*.

C.S. Lewis is brilliant. If you can use *smarmy* and *chap* in a paragraph and still sound brilliant, you're brilliant. That's the real test. Think about what he said. You will just get lost in their ability to enjoy life. Don't our hearts kind of leap at that a little bit? Like, "Oh man. I want that." Just so lost in enjoying life. I know for most of us we're not on a pursuit of humility, but in case you are on a pursuit of happiness, I'm telling you, you will never have sustainable happiness without humility. It won't happen.

You might have flashes of it that will leave you more empty than you started, but there will be no sustainable joy without humility. Do you guys know who William Wilberforce is? He was largely responsible for abolishing slavery in Britain. He was meeting with the Duke of Wellington once, and this is what the Duke of Wellington said about him after that meeting: "You have made me so entirely forget you are a great man by seeming to forget it yourself."

In fact, if you think of a lot of people who have been great in the faith, great in Christianity, they are humans who were known for their humility. Greatness often comes through humility. So, we're going to see in this next passage the humiliation of Jesus. In this passage is the theological idea... There are two enormous theological ideas here.

The first is the *hypostatic union*. The hypostatic union is this idea that Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent man. It's an impossibility, much like the Trinity, impossible to perfectly understand. If you're 100 percent God and 100 percent man, that's 200 percent. Very difficult to understand that. He wasn't half man, half God. He wasn't 100 percent God, then 100 percent man. It wasn't like he took off his deity. It's that he put on humanity.

The implications of this are he would have to be to atone for our sins. If you sin against a holy, eternal God and you deserve the death penalty, I could raise my hand and say, "I'll die for them," but there are a couple of problems with that. First, I'm a mortal being, so I could only cover the sins you committed in this world. I'm not eternal. Secondly, who's going to cover for *my* sins? I would have to be perfect.

So, the only way someone could die for our sins is they would have to be eternal, and then they'd have to be in the exact representation as us, because it's not like a dog could die for your sins. You couldn't in the court say, "Here, kill this Labrador in my place. They'll atone for me." They have to be a human, and they would have to be able to atone against an eternal deity or be deity themselves. So, this is the implication of the hypostatic union.

This is what it says: **"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus..."** Christ is our example. **"...who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"**

There's this going low, going low, going low, going lower. He made himself nothing, servant, human, appearance as a man, humbled, obedient to death even on the cross. Even on the cross! Romans couldn't die by way of crucifixion. Your hands would be pierced. Your feet would be pierced. You'd have to push up on the nail driven through your feet so you could breathe. You would die this slow, humiliating death by asphyxiation. It was only for the most heinous of criminals or criminals who committed the most heinous crimes.

In this passage, you also see what's known as *kenosis*, the Greek word *kenóō*, the emptying of himself. Jesus, who was fully God, pushed aside his powers. The most powerful King did not use what was available to him to free himself, but rather he used it to serve others. This is the King who died for his kingdom, but the kingdom he died for killed him.

I think the implications of this for us is there are so many people... We talked about being inoculated to Christianity. There are so many people here right now hearing me who are like, "Yeah, I'm fine with Jesus. Jesus is fine." Maybe you share the gospel, and someone is like, "Oh yeah. I'm fine with Jesus." You share with a Hindu. They're like, "Sure. Jesus. He's one of many gods." In the Bible, there was no one who was fine with Jesus. In fact, John Stott writes this about biblical interactions with Jesus.

He says there are three kinds of reactions to him. They hated him and tried to kill him or they were afraid of him and ran from him or they were absolutely smitten by him and gave their entire life to him, but no person ever had a moderate reaction to Jesus. I think today, for some of us, if we met Jordan, we'd soar on that for a month. If you rode an elevator with Serena, you'd tell all of your friends, but we're bored with Jesus.

2. *Christ's example of humility.* This is you standing before the most powerful King, and you've committed the most heinous crime, treason against him. You've hurt his family. He sits on the throne. He has the power to set you in the gallows, to put your head in the guillotine, and he steps down from the throne, takes off his royal robe and puts it around you, and he says, "Take over my kingdom; everything I have is yours," and then he himself crawls into the guillotine and slips his head in there and says, "So be it. I want to free them from the consequence of their actions." Let us not become bored with the gospel.

Christ used all he had to serve us. The application of humility is service. If we're the only ones who benefit from all we have, we've missed out on our purpose. If we benefit others with our scraps, our leftovers... One of the scariest Scriptures in the Bible for me is Luke 12:48, the second part, where it says, **"From everyone who has been given much, much will be**

demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

I think we've lived in a tithing mindset. I'm not talking about financial resources now. We're not going to take up an offering at the end of the service and try to guilt you into giving more. That's not what's going on here. I think we've existed in a tithing mindset where we live our lives and we give God 10 percent of not just our money but our time, our minds, our thoughts. Spiritual things are something we add to our lives like an accessory.

This is not biblical Christianity. It's heretical in the face of biblical Christianity. It's nothing even remotely similar to biblical Christianity. This idea of humble service is how Christianity exploded in the first, second, and third centuries. There were plagues in Rome in the second and third centuries that had death rates upward of 50 percent. Fifty percent of those infected died.

Compare that with COVID-19. The last stat I saw was 1 percent, and I know it's always moving around, so go look for yourself. But 50 percent. Over 5,000 people in Rome were dying in a day. There were bodies piled up in the streets. This is what Dionysius wrote. This is the archbishop of Rome at the time. He wrote this. I'll just read you his words in the second century.

"Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains."

Who loves like this? Jesus does. His followers do. They push their own ambition aside to care for those around them. In fact, 100 years later, the emperor Julian wrote this (he's a pagan, by the way). He said the recent Christian growth was caused by their "moral character, even if pretended," and by their "benevolence toward strangers and care for the graves of the dead."

Peter exhorts us in 1 Peter 5:5 to "Clothe yourself in humility." It looks good on everyone. It's always appropriate. Wear it with a tux. Wear it with your little black dress. Wear it with jeans. Wear it with shorts and flip-flops. This week, I had a meeting with someone I found myself rather frustrated with. I don't know if you've ever done this, but I was rehearsing conversations in my head and getting worked up.

I had felt like they were deceptive to me, to some of you. I take very seriously my call to shepherd the body, to care for you, to protect you. It was this day where I was writing a sermon half the day, so right before the meeting I needed to get dressed. I walk into my closet, and I'm looking around, thinking, "What will I wear?"

I'm always trying to think, "Okay. What will help me further the gospel? What won't be a hindrance? What should I wear?" I just felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit. "Clothe yourself in humility. You're going to have to put on a lot of humility for this one. You need to put aside your agenda. You need to go with a heart to listen. You need to seek to understand."

As with all conflict, every one *I've* been a part of, when you do that, things weren't as they seemed. The motive wasn't as it seemed. We were able to pursue unity, able to march forward in oneness. I'm confident had the Holy Spirit not been so kind to remind me of that verse, I would have been a hindrance to that. "This one, you're going to need to wear humility...a lot of humility."

Let's see where this goes. The reverse economy of Jesus. The great King, the powerful King, who made himself like a servant. **"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

In that first section, there's this low, low, low, low, low, low, low, and then this next section it's high, high, high, high, high, high, high, high. It's the exaltation of Christ. Paul is throwing back to Scriptures he knows, like Isaiah 52:13: "See, my servant will be raised and lifted high and highly exalted." Isaiah 45:23: **"By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength.'"**

He's quoting Scriptures from the prophet Isaiah, messianic Scriptures that point to the coming of Christ. He's looking back and saying, "See. Jesus was the fulfillment of this." He is the greatest of all time. The greatest of *all* time.

3. *The exaltation from humility.* *Exaltation* is another word we don't use often, the act of elevating someone to be highly praised. In this we see that Jesus wins, that the victory is his. He humbled himself. He made himself like a servant. He used everything he had to serve others as an example to us, and he gets more than you could ever possibly fathom, the highest name. At his name...not the name of *Jesus*, not the name of *Christ*, but the name of *Lord*, the name of the *King of all*...

At his name, every knee will bow, every tongue will confess. Every person you've ever shared Christ with will see that what you did was the most loving thing you possibly could do because he's real. There's not a square inch of all of creation over which he does not hover and cry out, "Mine!" King Jesus. Colossians 1 says this about him. In fact, as I read this, would you just close your eyes? Let me read this to you.

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

The greatest of all time made himself like a servant only to reign as the greatest of all time. If you and I know that we have an inheritance in him, if we know we're going to be with him forever, if you know that you're moving toward him, then what else would you do with this life but use everything you have to serve?

I'm not just talking about buying a toy or a bike for Toy Store. Should you do that? Undoubtedly, you should absolutely do that. Our family is going to do that. You should do that. That should be a microcosm, a tiny example, of the way you live your life in all things and in all ways and in all situations, everywhere you go.

If that feels heavy to you, like a yoke of obedience, like, "Ugh! I've got to do more," you haven't lost your life yet. You're still holding on to your life. You can't find joy in service yet. You're too big in this world. You're striving for the wrong things. What if we really believe that the first will be last and the last will be first? See, humility is not only the path to the most happiness here. It's the path to everlasting, sustaining joy with God forever and ever and ever.

In summary, God's exhortation to us is "Do not act out of selfishness." Christ's example is that he used his greatness to serve others, and the exaltation is that Christ is the greatest and he shares his kingdom with you and me. I was asked this question on Friday. I know I showed these last week too. I'm not just trying to bring a lot of attention to it, but this was too relevant not to share with you.

It said, "Who's the GOAT? Michael Jordan or LeBron?" I just said, "Real talk. I'm not sure either one was great at much beyond putting a rubber ball in a hoop. Jesus defines greatness as serving others, and while he was certainly the greatest of all time, he used everything he had to serve us (Mark 10:45)." Which says, "**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"

"So, I'm not sure who will have more treasure in heaven, Michael Jordan or LeBron. I'm not even sure either will be there." Then, just to satisfy your curiosity, "But, if you're asking who was better at putting the rubber ball through the hoop..." It was, of course, Michael Jordan. Don't be distracted by that, because it's just a rubber ball and it's just a hoop.

Right now you're arguing. "No, the statistics... I don't know if you've noticed, but more points..." Stop. I don't care about a rubber ball. I don't care about six rings. They're trash in the kingdom...trash, garbage, asphalt. It's what the streets are made out of. I don't want this revelation to be like we've missed it. Jesus was the greatest of all time. If you define greatness as anything other than humble service, you've made the same mistake as the Devil.

The number one question Jesus was asked by those who followed him... Do you know what it was? They asked nine times in the gospel a question. Do you know what it was? Literally, "Who is the greatest?" "Which of us is the greatest?" I'll show you a couple. Matthew 18:1: "**At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'**" Luke 9:46: "**An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.**"

Jesus said who the GOAT was. Do you know that? He answered the question. The greatest of all time said who the greatest of all time is. Do you know what he said? It was a weird dude. It was the camel hair guy. He ate locusts. Do you know who I'm talking about? John the Baptist. He said John the Baptist was the greatest of anyone who was born of a woman.

This is what he said: **"Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist..."** He said in Luke 7, **"I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John..."** John the Baptist used his entire life to point others to Jesus, and this is what Jesus ends both of those statements with: **"...yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."**

We're not going to be able to get up there and say, "God, why didn't you tell us? I wouldn't have gotten so lost in my business, I wouldn't have gotten so lost in my money, I wouldn't have gotten so lost in private school or education, I wouldn't have gotten so lost in my grades, I wouldn't have gotten so lost in relationships or lost in followers had you just told me. Why didn't you just tell me? I mean, if you wanted me to be like John the Baptist, why didn't you just say that he was the greatest of anyone born of a woman?" He'll say, "Why didn't you just read the Bible?"

How did we get here, so lost in this world? There's hope. This could be a turning point for each of us right now. You'll walk through those doors in just a moment. You could get in your car and you could say, "In every relationship from this moment on until I'm face-to-face with Jesus, I'm going to seek to lose myself to serve others and to care for those around me." If you ever meet someone like that, you really enjoy them. So, there are benefits to you, but don't do it for the benefits to you; do it to be like Jesus.

Father, would you make us like Jesus? Help us to be more like your Son. Father, help *me* to be more like your Son. Start with me. Help me to lose myself in conversations, to serve and to care for others, to use the resources you've entrusted to me to love others. Father, protect us from the Evil One. As we sing, would you condition our hearts? Would you conform our hearts to your desires?

Lord, we confess to you that all of us want to be happy. We want sustainable joy. We want energy and smiles, and most of us don't want to be humble. We certainly don't want to be humbled. To ask you to humble us is a terrifying prayer. Especially for me, that's a terrifying prayer. God, do what you need to do so that we might be used for your glory and your kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.