



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 37: Count Others More Significant

Philippians 2:3–8 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves... Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God... emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Here reverence flows full circle. Having already humbled ourselves before the holy God; Paul now shows us what humility looks like when it reaches other people by giving us the highest possible example: Jesus Christ Himself. “In humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Then, to show us that this is no small task, Paul points to the Son of God descending from heaven’s throne to a servant’s position and a criminal’s cross.

The phrase “count others more significant” is worth the focus. The Greek verb *hegeomai* means to lead the way in your thinking, to consider, to esteem. Paul isn’t telling us to pretend others are better, or to placate with false modesty. He’s telling us to make a deliberate mental choice to genuinely regard others’ interests, needs, and worth as worthy of our attention ahead of our own. This is the opposite of the “selfish ambition and conceit” he also names; the reflex that makes me the center, that reads every situation for what it means for my advantage, comfort, or recognition.

Then Paul lifts our eyes to Christ, in one of the most thought-provoking passages in all of Scripture. The eternal Son, equal with God, did not cling to His rights and privileges. He “emptied himself,” took the form of a servant, and “humbled himself” all the way down to death on a cross. If the Lord of glory would stoop that low for us, what possible ground do we have for pride toward one another? Andrew Murray, in his classic book on humility, called it the chief mark of Christ’s character and the root of every grace — arguing that we can never be too lowly, because we are only taking the place the Son Himself took.

This is the beautiful logic of our whole journey. The fear of the Lord humbles us before God (vertical), and that humility cannot help but reshape how we treat people (horizontal). A truly reverent person is not haughty, not self-absorbed, not always jockeying for position. He has seen the humility of Christ, and it has emptied him of his conceit. So today, take the lower place on purpose. Look to someone else's interests. Count another more significant. It is the mind of Christ.

TAKE AWAY

If Jesus emptied Himself to be a servant for you, what ground is left for pride toward anyone? Take the lower place today, and count someone else more significant.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to give you the mind of Christ today — to empty you of conceit and help you genuinely put others' interests ahead of your own.