

THE HUMBLE SAVIOR

+ SESSION IN A SENTENCE:

The Son of God provided salvation through His humiliation on earth.

+ BACKGROUND PASSAGES:

Philippians 2; Hebrews 4; 2 Corinthians 5

+ SETTING:

Philippians 2:5-11 teaches great theological truths about the humanity and divinity of Jesus. However, when we only focus on this section apart from the rest of the letter, we miss out on what Paul was showing the Philippians. The church at Philippi faced a very serious crisis—there were divisions that were threatening the unity of the church. Their common faith in Jesus should have united them, however, they were divided. Thus, Paul wrote this portion to show that Jesus’s humiliation should bring His people together. Paul was calling them to unity through the gospel.

DAY 1

READ:

Philippians 2:5-8

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Philippians 2:5

NOTES

As believers, we are called to follow our Savior Jesus. In Philippians 2:5, Paul told the church at Philippi to adopt the same attitude of Jesus. What is this attitude or mind that we are called to have? It is the Savior's humility that Paul referred to in the prior verses (vv. 1-4) and expounded upon further in verses 5-8.

If our Savior Jesus humbled Himself, then we should also humble ourselves. This call to humility is not just something good to do, rather it is rooted in the gospel. Jesus humbled Himself to death on the cross to save us.

This good news is meant to unite believers; thus, humility is the natural outflow of a person who has humbled themselves before God in faith. In our conduct, we should seek to model humility like our Savior did for us. This attitude of humility should be a major characteristic of all believers.

How does Christ's humility drive us to be humble with others?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"For the Christian, humility is absolutely indispensable. Without it there can be no self-knowledge, no repentance, no faith and no salvation."¹

—A. W. Tozer (1897–1963)

DAY 2

READ:

Hebrews 4:15

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Hebrews 4:15

NOTES

Jesus humbled Himself, not only in His persecution and death, but also in becoming human. He took on flesh because He wanted to be able to sympathize with us and model to us how to live a life worthy of God's glory. He was hungry and thirsty, tired and tempted, but still remained gentle and kind and loving to all people. He was the perfect High Priest to atone for our sins.

That's a big sacrifice for someone divine to become a man. But that was a sacrifice He was willing to make because of His love and grace and mercy. This was the only way to save us; this was the best way to show us His love. Jesus sacrificed much for us and calls us to do the same for those around us to imitate the love of Christ. True love cannot occur without some sort of humble sacrifice.

What sacrifices have you made for God or others in your journey to become more like Him?



KEY DOCTRINE #55: CHRIST'S HUMILIATION

Although God the Son was equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

DAY 3

READ:

Philippians 2:5-8

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Philippians 2:8

NOTES

A lot of ink throughout church history has been used in the debate over the nature of Christ from these verses. Was Jesus fully God? Was He fully man? Was He only part God and part man? Was He man but not God? Was He God but not man? Several heresies arose in the early church over these debates. In AD 451 at Chalcedon, church leaders assembled and wrote a statement affirming both Jesus's full humanity and full divinity united in one Person.

Now you might think, "What does this have to do with me today?" Everything! If Jesus was not fully God, He could not fully save! If He was not fully man, He could not be the sacrifice needed to redeem us from our sins. Many cults and false teachings constantly arise regarding Jesus. We must be aware of what we believe regarding Christ and know that the Bible expresses His full divinity and full humanity. Praise the Lord that Jesus is fully able to save us because He is fully God and fully man!

How does knowing Jesus is fully God and fully man encourage me in my Christian walk?

DAY 4

READ:

Philippians 2:9-11

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Philippians 2:9

NOTES

Paul began verse 9 with “For this reason.” Some translations have “therefore.” This phrase connects back to Christ’s humbling. The reason God has now exalted Jesus is because Christ humbled Himself. If Jesus did not humble Himself—if He did suffer death on the cross in our place—then there would be no exaltation.

Jesus had gone down; He humbled Himself even unto death on the cross. The flow of the passage is down, down, down. But after three days in that dark tomb, up from the grave He arose! The grave could not keep Jesus!

Jesus’s exaltation at the right hand of God began when He walked forth out of that grave on that first Easter morning. Jesus had made Himself perfectly obedient to God the Father, now the Father is going to exalt Jesus on high. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is confirmation that Jesus has defeated sin and death.

We can have hope in whatever circumstance we may find ourselves in because our Savior has conquered death. Jesus has defeated the worst thing that could happen to us—death and separation from God. Our Savior is exalted at the right hand of God the Father where He is ruling and reigning over all.

How does the resurrection give you hope in your daily life?

DAY 5

READ:

2 Corinthians 5:21

FOCAL PASSAGE:

2 Corinthians 5:21

NOTES

Jesus is God and thus holy and blameless. But He chose to take on our sin that we might become blameless before the Father. That is true mercy. That is true love. That is true humility.

We are reminded that no one else but Jesus can save. No one else is sinless. No one else is fully God and fully man. No one else can atone for our sins. No one else has defeated sin and death.

When we know Christ, these great truths should grip our hearts as we love Him more. May our knowledge of Christ drive us deeper in our love and praise for our Savior.

What can you praise God for, knowing Christ has made you righteous before the Father?

GROUP

NOTES

POINT 1: The Son of God humbled Himself to take on flesh (Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 4:15).

Believers in Christ are called to unity and humility because Jesus humbled Himself.

? How have the world around us seen or not seen the humility and unity that are supposed to define Christians?

Jesus humbled Himself into the form of a human servant, that He could sympathize with us.

? From Day 3: How does knowing Jesus is fully God and fully man encourage me in my Christian walk?

POINT 2: The Son of God humbled Himself to die on the cross (Philippians 2:8).

Jesus was not caught off guard by His death; He willingly and obediently went to the cross.

? How was Jesus's death on the cross the ultimate act of humility?

KEY DOCTRINE #55: CHRIST'S HUMILIATION

Although God the Son was equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3), and He experienced a humiliating death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

? How does Jesus's humility destroy our pride?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Pride must die in you, or nothing of Heaven can live in you."²

—William Law (1686–1761)

POINT 3: The Son of God humbled Himself to bring forth the victory (Philippians 2:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus's humility led to His exaltation, that the world would come to know Him and confess Him as Lord.

? How does knowing Jesus is victorious encourage us in our evangelism efforts?

We have victory in Christ because He became sin for us, that we might have the righteousness of God.

? What are ways we can honor Christ, knowing He humbly died and took on our sin, giving us His righteousness?

MY RESPONSE

Because Jesus secured our salvation through His humiliation on earth, we humble ourselves, always seeking to put God's plan and the needs of others above our own.

- **HEAD:** How are Jesus's humility and servanthood different from what we see in the world today?
- **HEART:** How does your life reveal that you believe and confess Jesus is Lord?
- **HANDS:** To whom this week can you tell the good news of Jesus Christ?



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

VOICES from THE CHURCH

"Every believing heart will cry it (Jesus is Lord) at the top of its lungs in voice and song, and we, with the angels, will do it over and over for all eternity. Every unbelieving heart will confess it too, in dismal submission and despair. Even Satan will do it. His knee and his tongue will not be excluded. . . . Hitler will do it. Stalin will do it. Every soul from every age will confess that Jesus Messiah is Yahweh."³

—R. Kent Hughes