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THE SLAVE

Philippians 2:5-11

The Exemplary Slave

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"THE SLAVE: The Exemplary Slave"

"Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth – and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:5-11 HCSB

"The Exemplary Slave"

I. Jesus Is Our Example of Accepting Slavery as a Mental State First. (verse 5)

He exhorts us to have the mind of Christ. He is not speaking of the 'mind of Christ' in the context of the brain – but regarding the attitude of Christ. Paul believes the way you think shows up in the way you live.

It's not just to copy or imitate Christ – but to have Him "in you."

We cannot copy His redemptive acts; we cannot suffer and die vicariously, but we can copy the attitude. Better still, have the attitude of Christ "in you." Through the Holy Spirit, we don't have to "copy;" instead, we can be authentic.

It is impossible to live inconsistently with the way you think.

II. Jesus Is Our Example of Actively Positioning Himself as a Slave. (verses 6-8)

Jesus accepted the position, and He actively put Himself in this position. He didn't just "fall" into being a slave, and it is not forced upon you, either.

"...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a slave,
and coming in the likeness of men."
– Philippians 2:7 –



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This was totally voluntary. No one forced him.

He emptied Himself of His privilege and rights, of His heavenly glory, of His independent authority, and of some of His divine attributes.

He took the form of a slave while He retained the form of God. But, His whole life was lived as a slave, for He served only one Master.

**“The only person in the world who had the right to assert his rights waived them.”
- Wuest -**

He humbled Himself – He never shouted, “That’s enough.” Don’t you know who I am?” He never cried out for His rights.

He humbled Himself, and He was obedient – to death.

Even death – He went down so low, even to the death of the cross. Crucifixion originated with the Persians and was adopted by the Romans to execute the worst of criminals. Even God had said anyone who dies on a tree is cursed.

Christ emptied Himself to that degree.

He went down, down, down, down, and God took Him up, up, up, up.

III. Jesus Is Our Example In the Results of a Spiritual Principal. (verses 9-11)

There is a divine, spiritual principle in full bloom here.

He has spoken about the humiliation of Christ, but in verse 9, a radical change takes place. In one sweeping act of God, Christ is exalted from the cross to the right hand of God.

You can never measure how high something is until you know how low it is.

The exaltation is neither a reward nor a gift, but the demonstration of a spiritual truth.

**“And whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
- Matthew 23:21 -**



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God did this. Not Jesus, not man – but God.

What God did for Jesus He will do for you or me. No, we won't be raised to the right hand of God, because we have not humbled ourselves like Jesus, but God will exalt him who humbles himself.

“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He might exalt you in due time.”
- 1 Peter 5:6 -

Highly exalted – this word is “super exalted” Him. He gave Him what no one else has. It's from which we get our word “hyper” or “super” – super-elevate. He is in a class by Himself.

How did He do it? – He did it through resurrection and coronation.

And He got a new name...

Definite article before the word “name”

A change of name in Scripture means a change in relationship...

- Abram became Abraham
- Jacob became Israel
- Simon became Peter.

Name is not Jesus but LORD. He had that name at birth. Some say it now means something different. Maybe?

But, the name Jesus does not fit into the upward shift here. He is now in control. It is the same word as used in the Old Testament as **Yahweh**. You can't know Jesus any other way but by **Lord**. The first confession of the early church was Jesus Christ is Lord.

You can't make Him Lord. God did. You can only surrender to him as Lord.

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart
that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- Romans 10:9 -

To the glory of God.



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C. S. Lewis says the Christian story is God descends to re-ascend. Goes down and down and down only to come up again and bring ruined humanity with him.

Its like a strong man stooping lower and lower to get under a load - almost disappearing under the load before he incredibly and unbelievably straightens his back and marches victoriously off with the whole mass firmly on his shoulder.