

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
April 10, 2022  
“How God humbled Himself for you!”  
Philippians 2:5-8  
By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today’s text for this 6th Sunday in Lent is from the Epistle reading for today, Philippians 2:5-8

**“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

Here ends our text.

Introduction:

There’s an auxiliary organization of the LCMS called the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, OAFC for short. It’s main purpose is to train youth to be witnesses of the Good News in Jesus. Youth are taught simple witnessing methods and then given the opportunity speak God’s word to people making what one would call, “cold calls”, going door to door. Indeed, in order to be Christ’s witness, one must have His mind of love and service to others. For one gives up much time and spends much effort to achieve, by the power of the Holy Spirit, one purpose, reach and save the lost.

And for the most part, the most dedicated and faith filled youth go to annual trainings and weekend outreach events. But, since the devil, of course, doesn’t want the good news to be heard, and because we all have a sinful nature that doesn’t want to follow Jesus, the OAFC had simple alert when it seemed that one’s mind wasn’t the mind of Jesus. Someone would call out, “Attitude check!”

Something is off, something is not right. Check your attitude! Is your mind following the mind of Christ or is it disrupting the group with selfishness.

Attitude check! And then the reply of the group is “Praise the Lord!” Yes, praise the Lord who always put Himself last, to serve us first. Praise the Lord true God! Who humbled Himself by becoming a man, being born of the Virgin Mary. Praise the Lord! Who humbled Himself by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to go to His death! Praise the Lord! Who was obedient to death! That we would have life through His death! Praise the Lord! That He has given you this Good News to humbly share with others!

Yes, Paul begins this 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Philippians with an attitude check for all of us! Even before He talks about Christ’s mind, He talks about ours. Listen to Paul speak to your heart in the four verses which precede our epistle text.

**“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”**

If, if, if, if – yes, yes, yes, yes! There is consolation in Christ, comfort of His love, fellowship of the Spirit, and unlimited affection and mercy from God! So...Paul says to the Philippians, if you have received this love through faith, then give him so joy by putting away any divisions among you and having the same mind, the mind of Christ! Attitude check! Praise the Lord!

Paul also calls on each of us to not check our luggage at the church door, but our attitudes this morning. Is anything being done by selfish ambition in your life? Do you always have Christ’s lowliness of mind and esteem others better than yourself? Do you look out for the interests of others or just your own? Ah, those are some big attitude checks, that would keep you from being an effective witness of Jesus!

God calls us to check this baggage and leave it at the cross. Count it as rubbish as we heard Paul say in chapter 3 of Philippians last week. Paul has nothing to boast of, no lineage, no selfish acts of righteousness...nothing but the excellency of knowing Jesus His Lord! As we heard last week...

**“not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”  
(Philippians 3:9)**

Attitude check! Praise the Lord for His righteousness given to me through faith, not mine! Ah, the great exchange – my sin for His righteousness.

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

**“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Let’s see the mind of Christ now which accomplished this for us!

How did Jesus give us His righteousness, His consolation, His comfort of love, affection and mercy, His fellowship with the Holy Spirit?

First,

1. Jesus became a servant of all!

**“who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”**

Jesus is by nature true God, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Yet, He made Himself of no reputation by becoming a man. The Creator of the Universe, the Master Craftsman, was born in a humble manger. And, though He still was true God, and this is most important, He didn’t use His power as true God for selfish purposes. He hid His power, didn’t use His power except to help others. This was His humiliation. He allowed the sinful world to criticize Him for healing on the Sabbath, hurl insults at Him that nothing good can come from Nazareth. He didn’t grasp at His equality as God to give glory to Himself – but emptied Himself!!

He allowed sinful men to arrest Him, falsely accuse Him, beat Him, spit upon Him without retaliation. Listen to the prophesy from Isaiah 53 of the suffering servant.

**“But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;**

**And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

**7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.”**

How difficult it is to think of others first when they are treating you this way! This was Jesus' attitude! Ours? Well, we don't suffer injustices in silence very well do we. All too often, we act like Will Smith at the Oscars. If you hadn't heard about this, the master of ceremonies, Chris Rock, was telling jokes at others expenses as comedians do. And took it too far by making fun of Will Smith's wife's hair style who suffers from hair loss, alopecia. Will's response? Walked right up to Chris Rock and slapped him on the face and yelled at him, "you keep my wife's name out of your \*expletive\* mouth". Some people thought Chris had it coming. At that moment when the anger was rising, Will needed an attitude check in the worst way! Later when he calmed down, Will apologized, but is banned from the Oscars for 10 years.

God could and should have banned each of us from heaven for not just 10 years but for eternity for all of our selfish, conceited and unloving actions in this world.

But He didn't. Instead He laid all our iniquities on His Son Jesus, who silently and obediently bore them.

How did God humble Himself for you? By becoming your servant to save you. Remember what happened in Samaria on the way to Jerusalem. Jesus disciples went ahead of Him to prepare the way and they were rejected by the Samaritans. The disciples' response? Let's call fire down on them like Elijah did! Attitude check! Praise the Lord! For He came to save the lost including the Samaritans.

Jesus' response?

**But He turned and rebuked them, and said, 'You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.' And they went to another village.” (Luke 9:55-56)**

How did God humble Himself for you? First, by becoming a bondservant, a slave to all in order to save all, and second, by being obedient unto death, death on the cross. So says our text:

**“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

Could Jesus have come down from the cross and saved Himself? Of course, He is true God. And the devil was taunting Him, tempting Him to do just that through the people who passed by as Pastor Goetz told us his Wednesday message.

**“And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” (Luke 27:39-40)**

Ahh, that was the biggest attitude check for Jesus! How easy it would have been to break free from the cross and destroy all who were taunting and killing Him.

How easy it would have been to prove Himself the Son of God to the devil in the wilderness by changing a stone to bread! How easy it would have been for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem in glory instead of humbly on a donkey. How easy it would have been to defend oneself in the Garden of Gethsemene, not just with a breath that knocked over arresting soldiers, but destroy them completely. How easy it would have been to answer the Sanhedrin at His mock trial that He was the Son of God by showing His power to them!

But the mind of Jesus, the suffering servant wouldn't allow Himself to do that. And He wouldn't allow Himself to come down from the cross. He was obedient to death. God died on the cross for you and me. Yes, you can't separate Jesus humanity and divinity. God the Son died to pay for all our selfishness, sinful attitudes and self-righteousness. He freed us and forgave us.

**“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,” (v.9)**

Yes, Jesus, according to His human nature is exalted and uses all His power to the glory of God! He uses it to keep us in the faith.

And so, Paul continues to the Philippians and us by saying, **“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)**

Truly, have a fear of doing sinful things. And God will work His saving will in your heart and His will to do His good pleasure. Attitude check! Praise the Lord!

God has saved you by His humble Servant, His begotten Son, Jesus. What does that mean for you? You are ambassadors for Christ!

**“Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”**

Attitude Check! Praise the Lord!

**“that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Amen!**

**The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**