

Philippians 2:5-11

A few notes on Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Read Philippians 2:5-11

1. Verses 6-11 are argued to be the most significant portion of Philippians. So much so, that more has been written on these 5 verses than the rest of the letter combined. Interestingly, many theologians believe that this passage is not unique to Paul, but rather is the text to an early Christian hymn that he is quoting and utilizing at this point. It is also the most developed Christology that we receive from Paul in his letters.
2. This is also a variation of the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed
 - a. Note the reiteration of Christ's life
 - b. It also gives us an explanation of the relationship between the Father and the Son
3. What should be the general habit and mindset of the Christian?
 - a. It should be like Christ which means humility, service, and sacrifice.
 - b. How do you receive that mindset?
4. Paul begins by explaining humility and does so through the relationship of the Son with the Father.
 - a. Humility comes from the ability to refrain from seizing power.
 - b. Note the idea of equality- does not mean sameness
 - c. The use of the word "grasped" is important here. For what is grasped? What if it is yours to begin with?
5. Christ is equal with God and always has been. Unlike the gods that the Philippians would have been familiar with in the Roman or Greek Pantheons, there was no jealousy or envy over position between Jesus and his Father.
6. Christ's humanity does not divorce him from his divinity. Christ did not empty himself of anything-he emptied himself into something. He is fully God and fully man, at the same time.
 - a. Given our definition of humility in 4a, God humbles himself to death instead of calling on angels to remove him from the cross and prevent his suffering.
 - b. If we are to have a mind like Christ's, what does this teach us about our own humility?
7. What is the result of his humility?
8. As Romans, Lord Caesar was the name above all names. What is Paul saying about the reality of Christ in this moment?
9. So what does it mean to have this mind as a Christian?
 - a. Those who are privileged to believe in Christ are also privileged to suffer for him.
 - b. How should we look to those who are suffering?
10. What does this text teach us about the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?