

The Long Way Down

Philippians 2:1-11

Big Idea: Jesus had every right to be served, and He spent every bit of himself on us.

SCRIPTURE

📖 **Philippians 2:1-4 (ESV)** "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, (if) any comfort from love, (if) any participation in the Spirit, (if) any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

- Four "ifs" that mean since (not maybe).

📖 **Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)** "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

INSIGHTS

1. Selfishness promises to protect you, but it actually isolates you.

📖 **Philippians 1:17 (ESV)** "The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment."

- Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less.

📖 **Philippians 2:5 (ESV)** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

2. Jesus had every privilege, yet spent none of it on Himself.

📖 **Philippians 2:6 (NIV)** "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage"

📖 **Mark 10:43-45 (ESV)** "But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

3. He did not empty Himself of anything. He poured Himself into something.

📖 **Philippians 2:7 (ESV)** "but emptied himself, **by taking** the form of a servant (slave, ESV footnote), being born in the likeness of men"

- The emptying is not subtraction. It is addition.

📖 **Philippians 2:8 (ESV)** "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

- Four steps down: Humbled. Obedient. Death. Cross.

4. He never grabbed for His own glory. The Father gave it to Him.

📖 **Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)** "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

📖 **John 10:17b-18a (ESV)** "I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again."

📖 **Revelation 1:18 (NIV)** "I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

📖 **Hebrews 1:3b (ESV)** "After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

- Christ won the victory. The Father announced it.

📖 **Isaiah 45:22-23 (ESV)** "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'"

Digging Deeper: Who are you keeping score with right now? What would it cost you to put it down? Christ knew exactly who He was, and it made Him free to serve rather than free to demand. Where in your life are you not settled enough to serve? Read Philippians 2:1-11 again this week and notice Christ's humility. How can you grow in humility? You will bow that knee one day. Will it be gladly now, or unwillingly



then?