



Introduction:

1. This is my hope.... That God's people would give themselves to humility and service.
2. **"The great ones among us are actually the servants."**
3. **Illustration:** Matthew 20:25, *Jesus called [His disciples near,] and said, You know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 [In the same way that I] came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give [My] life a ransom for many.*
4. **Matthew 20:26-28—If you really want to be great, learn to be a servant of others.**
5. "One important reason why churches struggle to develop biblical community is because so much of what the church does enhances the congregation's self-centeredness rather than challenging and confronting it." (*The Gospel-Driven Church*, Jared C. Wilson)
6. **Illustration:** There is a church in Palestine the doorway of which is so low that one must stoop to enter it. This was to prevent medieval raiders from riding their horses into the church and disrupting the worship. The door is called "Humility Gate." (Knight's, p.173)
- 7.
8. I would like to speak to you today on this subject— **The Humble Servant**
 - a. Be Humble
9. Please turn in your Bibles to Philippians 2
10. Context:
 - a. Series on serving.
 - b. This week's Bible Fellowship lesson was designed as a buddy study.

Philippians 2:1, *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies.*

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 01 Be a Servant |
| 02 Serve God |
| 03 Be Humble |
| 04 Be Obedient |
| 05 The Gifted Servant |
| 06 Unencumber Yourself |
| 07 Take Your Family with You |
| 08 Be Strong |
| 09 The Better Way |
| 10 The Faithful Servant |

Psalm 119:18, *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.* NKJV





The Humble Servant

I. The Beginning of Strife

A. Explanation: Philippians 2:2, *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*



1. 2:1 Peace, comfort, kindness, Spiritual fellowship and compassion are all at risk—even in churches.



2. 2:2 Therefore, there is a call for people to make an effort to come to harmony and unity.



3. 2:3-5 This harmony is accomplished when:



a) We do nothing by strife or self-glory.



b) We in humiliation think of others more than ourselves.



c) We care for the things of others more than our own.



(1) Romans 12:10, *...in honor preferring one another;*



d) We begin to think like Jesus, the humble Servant.



e) **“Part of serving is putting others first.”**



4. Strife always includes pride. Proverbs 13:10, *Only by pride cometh contention....*



5. We should be sensible about our own brilliance and more impressed God’s gifts in others. Romans 12:3, *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*



B. “When a church mirrors the values of the world outside by embracing ...pragmatism, consumerism, and legalism, we should not be surprised when congregants think of the church as the place where their individual desires are met (or not met), not as a place to unite with others in commitment and selfless service.” (The Gospel-Driven Church, Jared C. Wilson)



C. “Part of the reason our society is broken is because we feel like we have to cater to the complainers. Ford may sell more cars with that method—but this is not a publicly traded company. It is a church! And I will next apologize for ever acting like your felt needs were my first concern! God help me to serve Him above my audience!”

D. Illustration: Astronomers have found the source of life in the universe! <https://www.inverse.com/science/carbon-from-white-dwarfs>

1. Refuse to take part in this kind of arrogance!

2. The world is full of gutless wonders! Don’t be among them!

E. Application: The world is not about you, but the world needs you to be a servant!

The Humble Servant

(I.) The Beginning of Strife

II. The Emptying of Self

A. Explanation: *Philippians 2:5, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

1. 2:5 We should learn to think like Jesus thought.
2. 2:6-7 Even though Jesus was in form of God—equal to God, He did not promote Himself. (Kenosis—emptied Himself!)
3. 2:7 He took the form of a servant, being made as a man.
4. 2:8 He humbled Himself and accepted death on the cross.

B. “There can be peace, but not without the humility of Jesus!”

C. The Humility of Jesus on Display:

1. The Manger. Luke 2:7, 11-12; John 1:14, *The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us....*
2. The interaction with low people. (The poor, the lame, the deaf, the blind, the lepers, the demon-possessed, the Samaritans.)
3. The washing of His disciple’s feet. John 13
4. The triumphal entry. Zechariah 9:9, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.* NKJV
5. His endurance of the cross. Hebrews 12:2

D. “The great conflicts of this life—in homes, in churches, in governments, in neighborhoods, in offices, in society—the great conflicts will be resolved when people learn to think and act like Jesus!”

E. Illustration: “We have plenty of people nowadays who could not kill a mouse without publishing it in the gospel gazette. Samsung killed a lion and said nothing about it: the Holy Spirit finds modesty so rare that He takes care to record it. Say much of what the Lord has done for you, but said little of what you have done for the Lord.” CH Spurgeon. (IBP, P.199)

F. “God does not call the equipped; rather, He equips those He calls. [Look at the cross!] It’s all you need. Life doesn’t start when you’re twenty, or when you’re forty. Life starts at Calvary.” ~ José Luis Navajo

G. Application: Empty yourself of you and personal agendas.

The Humble Servant

(I.) The Beginning of Strife

(II.) The Emptying of Self

III. The Promoting of Servants

A. Explanation: Philippians 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: 10 That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*

1. 2:9 Because Jesus humbled Himself, the Father has highly exalted Him.
2. 2:9 The Father has given Jesus a Name that is above all.
3. 2:10 Every knee should bow at the Name of Jesus.
4. God wants you to be humble and to trust Him with your glory. 1 Peter 5:5, *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you.*

B. “Here is the path to the higher life: Down, lower down! This was what Jesus taught His disciples when they were thinking of being great in the kingdom. Do not seek or ask for exaltation—that is God’s work. Let us take no place before God or man but that of a servant.” ~ Andrew Murray (Knight’s, P.173)

C. Critical truths about humility:

1. Humility comes before honor. Proverbs 15:33, *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.*
2. Honor will strengthen the humble. Proverbs 29:23, *A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.*
3. God will handle the glory of the humble. Matthew 23:12, *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*
4. The greatest ones among us are actually the servants. Matthew 23:11, *But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

D. “God knows when you need to be lifted up. Keep your head down, your hand to the plow, and trust Him for your reward!”

E. Illustration: Do you want to serve Jesus? Luke 9:62, *But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. NKJV*

F. Application:

1. Joseph, David, Daniel & his friends were promoted—after humble obedience!
2. **Do not utter a self-glorifying sentence!**

Conclusion—Review: **The Humble Servant**

- (I.) **The Beginning of Strife**
- (II.) **The Emptying of Self**
- (III.) **The Promoting of Servants**

1. **Slap the helmet— You can do this!**
 - a. Get it that the world is not about you—but the world needs you to be a servant!
 - b. Empty yourself of you and personal agendas.
 - c. Trust God to exalt you at the right time.
 - d. Will you serve? Are you serving your family? Your church? The Lord?
2. **“The great ones among us are actually the servants.”**
3. **Illustration: Jesus washed His disciples’ feet and then said,** John 13:14, *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.* (You are not too good for this, right?)
4. **Illustration: Stand up beside Jesus! “The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is.” Phillips Brooks (IBP, P.200)**
5. **Illustration: Exodus 34:27-30, Moses was receiving the 10 commandments from God.**
 - a. He was in the presence of God for 40 days and nights!
 - b. When he came down, the Bible says that his face was shining because of being in the presence of God.
 - c. But he did not know it!
 - d. Robert Murray M’Cheyne points out—this is just like humility!
 - e. **Your disposition glows—but you don’t seem to know it.**
 - f. You are humble....
6. **We also must come down off of our horses in order to enter the place where we can worship and serve the One Who has called us!**
7. **Because the great ones among us—are actually the servants!**
8. **Bow your heads with me please.**

Invitation—

1. **Salvation:** Trust in Christ—He served the cause of your salvation!
2. **Surrender:** Pride shackles you. Forgive, humble yourself. Let go of anger!
3. **Service:** (Are you serving your family? Church? The Lord?)

Also, Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 23:8-12; Luke 1:51-52; Hebrews 2:9; 12:28; James 1:9-10