

PHILIPPIANS 2 KENOSIS (VERSE 5-11)

MAY 17, 2023

SCRIPTURE

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. 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. Philippians 2:5-11, ESV

THE SELF-EMPTYING OF GOD

It's important to remember that Jesus is in every way equal with God the Father and did not forsake His deity to become human.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. Colossians 1:15, NLT

"In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity... But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders." C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

1/ Jesus stepped down from certain divine rights and privileges.

Jesus gave up the right to call on heavenly assistance.

"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" Matthew 26:53-54, NIV

Jesus gave up the right to be worshiped and honored.

Jesus gave up the right of glory.

Jesus gave up the privilege of omniscience.

Jesus' human mind had access to the divine mind but was selective in accessing it.

"How do You know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." John 1:48, NIV

Jesus gave up the privilege of omnipotence.

Jesus gave up the privilege of omnipresence.

2/ Jesus stepped down into humanity.

Jesus took on the emotions of man.

Jesus took on the frailty of man.

Jesus took on the warfare of man.

Jesus took on the natural limitations of man.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52, NIV

Jesus took on the appearance of man.

(Jesus) had to be made like (people), fully human in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17, NIV

"[This emptying] placed Him indeed on the creaturely level in regard to the reality of human experience of growth, and human capacity for suffering. But never for one moment did it, could it, make Him other than the absolute and infallible Master and Guide (and God) of His redeemed (people)." Handley C.G. Moule

3/ Jesus stepped down into servanthood.

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." Matthew 20:28, NIV

Jesus served people on an eternal level.

Jesus served people on an earthly level.

Jesus...rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. John 13:3-5, ESV

4/ Jesus stepped down into humility.

Jesus was born in a humble time.

Jesus was born into a humble family.

Jesus was born in a humble town.

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Jesus was born in a humble place.

Jesus lived in a humble manner.

Jesus died a humble death.

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. Matthew 23:11

5/ Jesus stepped down into death, even death on a cross.