

“God With Meat!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Prayer:** Every Christian has the choice of being humble & being humbled. Lord You never crushed a soul that was laying prostrate at Your feet.
- B. **Dr. Harry Ironside** was once convicted about his **lack of humility**.
 A friend recommended as a remedy, that he march through the streets of Chicago wearing a *sandwich board*, shouting the scripture verses on the board for all to hear.
Dr. Ironside agreed to this venture and when he returned to his study and removed the board, he said *“I’ll bet there’s not another man in town who would do that.”*
1. **Our pride** is as silly as *the donkey* that had Jesus on his back, thinking that they put garments & palm fronds on the ground **for him!**
 2. **Perspective: How to stay humble?** Picture yourself as simply **a kite in a hurricane**. When Jesus is the hurricane, it’s kinda hard not to fly!
- C. **Unselfish** - *who comes to mind when you here that word?* Mother Theresa?
 Maybe this “unknown man in the water” from 1982.
 As disasters go, this one was terrible but not unique, certainly not among the worst on the roster of U.S. air crashes. There was the unusual element of the bridge, of course, and the fact that the plane clipped it at a moment of high traffic, one routine thus intersecting another and disrupting both. Then, too, there was the location of the event. Washington, the city of form and regulations, turned chaotic, deregulated, by a blast of real winter and a single slap of metal on metal. The jets from Washington National Airport that normally swoop around the presidential monuments like famished gulls were, for the moment, emblemized by the one that fell; so there was that detail. And there was the aesthetic clash as well—blue-and-green Air Florida, the name a flying garden, sunk down among gray chunks in a black river. All that was worth noticing, to be sure. Still, there was nothing very special in any of it, except death, which, while always special, does not necessarily bring millions to tears or to attention. Why, then, the shock here?
But the person most responsible for the emotional impact of the disaster is the one known at first simply as *“the man in the water.”* (Balding, probably in his 50s, an extravagant mustache) He was seen clinging with 5 other survivors to the tail section of the airplane. This man was described by Usher and Windsor as appearing alert and in control. Every time they lowered a lifeline and flotation ring to him, he passed it on to another of the passengers. *“In a mass casualty, you’ll find people like him,”* said Windsor. *“But I’ve never seen one with that commitment.”* When the helicopter came back for him, the man had **gone under**. His **selflessness** was one reason the story held national attention.

D. **Humility** - tough subject.

1. I don't claim to be there, nor as having been there.
2. So like Paul, I'll use **Jesus** as our example this evening.
3. Let's commit to **Pursue** humility together; **Practice** humility together; **Grow** in Humility together.
4. We cannot attain full Humility here. The best we can say is, "as a proud person I am pursuing humility."
5. Augustine said, **Pride is the mother of all sin. It is pregnant w/all sin.**
 - a) Pride is the **root** sin that leads to the **fruit** of sin.
6. Conversely then **Humility** is the mother of all Joy!

E. **Humility** runs completely counter culture today!

1. Even comes against some churches who preach, "It's all about your destiny, your rights, your calling, your giftedness, your glory."

II. **UNITY THROUGH HUMILITY!**

- A. If (4x's) - since Paul was affirming these qualities in the Philippians, not questioning them
- B. (1,2) **Fulfill** or, Fill-Full my Joy!
- C. Look at how the **4 Incentives** (vs.1) link with the **4 Directives** (vs.2).
 1. **Since there is consolation in Christ - be like-minded.**
 2. **Since there is comfort of Love - having the same love.**
 3. **Since there is fellowship of the Spirit - being of one accord** {accord = "harmony of souls", souls that beat together in tune w/Christ & w/each other}
 4. **Since there is affection & mercy- be of 1 mind**{like clocks that strike at the same time}
- D. He calls for **Unity** not Uniformity!
 1. **Quote** - "*Everybody repeat after me... "We are all individuals."*"
 2. You can achieve Unity, amidst Diversity!
- E. (3) **Nothing** - How many things?
- F. (4) Paul doesn't promote *self-hate*, but advocates **self-forgetfulness!**
 1. **As Billy Graham says**, "We hurt people by being too busy. Too busy to notice their needs. Too busy to drop that note of comfort or encouragement or assurance of love. Too busy to listen when someone needs to talk. Too busy to care."

G. Paul shows us Christ's humble attitude **Before!**(5,6) **During!**(7,8) & **After!**(9-11) His coming to earth!

III. **GOD WITH MEAT! (5-11)**

A. **BEFORE!** (5,6)

B. **HE DID NOT CLING TO HIS RIGHTS!** (5,6)

C. Was Jesus selfishly trying to hold on to His privileges as God? No!

D. (6) As 2nd member of the Godhead, Jesus is coexistent, coeternal, & coequal w/God!

1. "As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image-the perfect representation-of God." (St Ambrose 340-397ad)

2. "A man who can read the NT and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man can look all over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day & not see the sun." (William Biederwolf)

E. **DURING!** (7,8)

F. **HE LAID ASIDE HIS GLORY!** (7)

G. Made Himself of no reputation / He emptied Himself / made Himself nothing.

H. This is what "*kenosis*" means **2 things**:

1. His pre-incarnate glory was veiled: that is, the glory that He had before He came to earth was veiled by His human form.

a) Once Jesus unveiled, the veil - Mark 9:23 and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

2. He voluntarily did not use some of His divine attributes some of the time.

a) Nonuse does not mean subtraction. Just because He didn't use them doesn't mean He didn't have them, or could not have used them if He had chosen.

b) Doesn't mean He didn't possess them, but He didn't access them continually.

3. He didn't lay aside His Divine nature or His **God-ness!**

4. But, He gave up His environment of Glory. He took upon Himself *limitations* of place(space), knowledge, & power.

a) Lightfoot said, "He stripped Himself of the **insignia** of Majesty!"

b) "He left the Fathers presence & fellowship, to come walk a lonely path of obedience to the cross."

- c) “Think about it the Sovereign of the universe became umbilically dependent; The Divine Word was unable to utter one word; The Alpha & Omega had to learn how to feed himself, put His toys away, clean up his room, & take naps.” (Swindoll)
5. **Q:** Of what must **you** empty yourself to model that same servants attitude?
- a) A title; a position; privileges; rights; status; personal conveniences?
- I. (7b) **Chile con carne** = chili w/meat/flesh. **Incarnation** is about *God w/meat on!*
1. The **likeness** of men - A Real likeness!
 2. How different was it to **pray** before Jesus came?
What **picture of God** would men try to have as they prayed? Some awesome, incomprehensible *Super-Being* utterly beyond all power of human imagination?
- a) In Jesus I **see** Him; **recognize** Him; **understand** Him; & though I still **fear** Him, I **like** Him; I **love** Him; I can utterly **trust** Him; & **possess** Him!
- J. **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF!** (8a)
- K. In Lk.14:7-11 Jesus tells of the parable of **taking the low place** at a wedding feast.
1. He ends with the basic principle (vs.11) **For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**
- L. (8) **He humbled Himself** - **Q:** Want to know how humble your not? How proud you are? Just wash someone’s feet in your family this week! [Try it, you’ll experience a very humbling moment as either the washer **or** washee!]
1. **Wasn’t Jesus always stripping His robe for us?**
 - a) **1st**, in his heavenly home stripping His robe of Glory; **Next** to wash feet; **Next**, to hang naked on a wooden cross. **What a love!**
 2. **Jesus’ coming is the final and unanswerable proof that God cares.** William Barclay
- M. You & I never would have invented a **humble God**.
1. He is the only God that claims this attribute.
- N. **HE BECAME OBEDIENT & DIED ON THE CROSS!** (8b)
1. For his **matchless obedience** he receives a **matchless name!**
- O. **AFTER!** (9-11)
- P. **GOD HAS EXALTED HIM!** (9a) [God rather than Christ becomes the subject now]
- Q. **God** super-exalted Him; **God** gave Him the name; **God** will receive the Glory.

- R. God has highly exalted Him - We do not worship a “*babe in a manger*”; or a “*sacrifice on a cross*”; we worship an **exalted Lord** seated on the throne of the universe!
- S. GOD GAVE HIM A NAME ABOVE ALL OTHER NAMES! (9b)
- T. In that day The greatest City, Rome! The greatest Empire, Rome!
The greatest name, that was above all other names...**NERO!**
1. **Philippi was a Roman Colony**. At every public event, sporting event, political event, they’d *bend their knee & raise their voices* to declare “Nero was Lord & Savior”, his name was to be praised above all!
 2. Paul here says, **no...Jesus is the name above ALL names!**
- U. RESULT, ALL WILL ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS LORD! (10)
- V. Every knee should bow -
1. **Heaven** - **angelic hosts & all believers** who have died before us.
 2. **Earth** - everyone from the **most bitter skeptic** to the **most sincere follower**.
 3. **Under the Earth** - refers to the **unsaved** who have died, the **demonic host**, & even **Satan** himself.
- W. GOD RECEIVES THE GLORY FOR ALL OF THIS! (11)
- X. This is one of the most important verses in the N.T. “**Here is the aim of God...** “**That every tongue should confess...Jesus Christ is Lord!**”
1. These **4 words** were the *1st Creed* that the Christian Church ever had.
 2. To be a Christian was to “**confess Jesus Christ as Lord.**”
Rom.10:9 **That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**
- Y. The Great question facing some of you today is when will you bow?
1. Will you **voluntarily** humble yourself before the Lord Jesus, or wait till your **forced to?** [Today as **Friend**, or later as **Foe?**]
a) **Plan A - Act Now?** - You’ll be saved.
b) **Plan B - Refuse?** You’ll surely concede one day “Under the earth” (too late?)
- Z. Jesus is the **lifeline** the Father has lowered for our salvation.
1. **All mankind has fallen in a deep pit(sin); The rope has been thrown down; Attach it to your waist TODAY!**