

## Self Emptying

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-6 **Larry:** Children's Ministry. **REAL.** Colina. *Donut Sales.* **Video**/James&Giant Peach Jr + **Slide**
- B. Slide7 **Father/Son Outdoor Adventure.**

### II. Slide8 **Intro: Self Emptying**

- A. **The Copernican Revolution** was the paradigm shift from *the Ptolemaic model* of the heavens (having **Earth** stationary at the **center** of the universe), to *the heliocentric model* (the **Sun** at the center of the Solar System).
  1. **We** (all humans) need a **Copernican Revolution** or a **Christian Revolution** in our personal lives. [It's the revelation at the moment of our salvation, *oh, I'm NOT at the center of my world*]
- B. A mother was making her 2 boys pancakes (ages 5 & 3) when she heard them fighting over *who gets the 1st one*. So she said to them, *if Jesus was here I think He would give his brother the 1st one*. To which the 5 yr old said to his younger brother, *You be Jesus!*

### III. Slide9a **THE MARKS and MOTIVES OF SELFLESS LIVING (1-4)**

- A. **If** (4x's) is a *rhetorical expression* best understood by the word **since**. Paul was **affirming** these qualities in the Philippians, **not questioning** them.
- B. (1,2) **Fulfill** or, *Fill-Full my Joy*.
  1. Slide9b The Message says it this way, *If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care then do me a favor: Agree w/each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.*
- C. Slide9c 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 - have 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 a room full of clocks that strike at the same time*]
- D. (3) Let *nothing* be done through selfish ambition... How many things? *Nothing*.
1. **Pride** will make God your **enemy**, **humility** will make God your **friend**. Oh?
    - a) *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*
    - b) Did you know there are 2 ways to walk into the room: *Here I am or There you are.*
- E. (4) Paul doesn't promote *self-hate*, but advocates *self-forgetfulness*.
1. This verse is none other than the principle of *loving our neighbor as ourself*.
- F. There is a **parable** in **India** concerning *a selfish fool who was given a Ricefield*.
1. **The first season** the irrigation water covered his property, making it abundantly fruitful, and then flowed onto his neighbor's fields, bringing equal fertility everywhere. **The next season**, however, the selfish fool said in his heart, "*this water is wealth; it is a liquid harvest. I was too generous in letting this treasure escape to others.*" He therefore stopped the water with a specially made dam and robbed his friends of the beneficial flood. In so doing he spoiled his own crop, for the irrigation water brought blessing while it flowed, but when it became stagnant it turned his rice patty into an unfruitful marsh.
    - a) *Slide9d Love that stops at itself breeds trouble!*
- G. *Slide10* Paul is about to show us Christ's humble attitude *before, during, & after His coming to earth*. [*before* (5,6) *during* (7,8) *after* (9-11)] *Outline for our 2nd section*.

#### IV. *Slide11a* **HOW TO SEIZE SLAVE STATUS (5-11)**

- A. *Slide11b* Wait, do I want to *seize slave status*? That is so against *everything* that our world/culture shouts. *Yes because, this is how Jesus did it*. He was the *ultimate example of self-emptying love*.
- B. This section is *the Mount Everest of Philippians*.
1. **Poetic** so most likely it was **an early christian hymn**. **Christ's Hymn**.
- C. *Slide12a* **BEFORE** (5,6) *before coming to earth*
- D. **HE DID NOT CLING TO HIS RIGHTS** (5,6)

- E. Was Jesus selfishly trying to hold on to His privileges as God? **No.**
- F. (6) As 2nd member of the Godhead, Jesus is *coexistent, coeternal, & coequal* w/God.
1. **Slide12b** *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. **Slide12c** *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 and not see the sun.* William Biederwolf
- G. **Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God** - robbery/*arpagmos*, only used here. *something seized by force.* **He didn't have to hold onto it.** **Or,** *He did not reach out of his favored place and grasp at authority/worldly glory.* (LKGNT)
- H. **Slide13a DURING** (7,8) *during His time on earth*
- I. The contrast between verses 6,7 is heightened by the conjunctive **but** - *Christ was in the form of God, but He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave.*
- J. **HE LAID ASIDE HIS GLORY** (7)
- K. **Made Himself of no reputation** / He emptied Himself / made Himself nothing.
- L. **Jesus is our great teacher**, the One who *emptied Himself, the One who divested His self-interests, took the humble road.*
1. **Be a student of the Master** who took a towel and washed His disciples' feet.
  2. Spurgeon, *Was he not on earth always stripping off first one robe of honor and then another, till, naked, he was fastened to the cross, and there did he not empty out his inmost self, pouring out his life-blood, giving up for all of us, till they laid him penniless in a borrowed grave?*
  3. **How low** was our dear Redeemer brought, **how then can we be proud?**
    - a) **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.**
- M. **Made Himself of no reputation** -

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) Remember when Jesus *unveiled the veil? and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.* Mark 9:23
2. He voluntarily did not use His divine attributes.
  - 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.
3. He didn't lay aside His Divine nature or His God-ness.
  - a) But, He gave up His **environment** of Glory. He took upon Himself limitations of place (space), knowledge, & power.
    - (1) Slide13b Lightfoot said, *He stripped Himself of the insignia of Majesty.*
    - (2) *He left the Fathers presence & fellowship, to come walk a lonely path of obedience to the cross.*
    - (3) *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) Slide13c ~ Shirt
4. Of what must you empty yourself to model that same servants attitude?
  - a) A title? a position? privileges? rights? status? personal conveniences?

N. (7b) Incarnation is about God w/meat/flesh/skin on.

1. Making God accessible to our human senses.
2. The likeness of men - A *Real* likeness.
3. 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. *And though I still fear Him I like Him, I love Him, I can utterly trust Him, & possess Him.*

- O. Slide13d HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF (8a)
- P. 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 *For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.* vs.11.
- Q. He humbled Himself - Jesus seemed to always be stripping His robe for us.  
1st, in His heavenly home *stripping His robe of Glory*.  
Next to *wash feet*. Then, to *hang naked* on a wooden cross. What a love.
- R. You and I never would have *invented a humble God*. [He's the only God that claims this attribute]
- S. Slide13e HE BECAME OBEDIENT & DIED ON THE CROSS (8b)
- T. For His *matchless obedience* He receives a *matchless name*.
- U. Follow the steps down: *humbled himself, death, even the death of the cross*.  
Before we move on...
- V. Slide14a The Subordination of Christ. RC Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*
1. Today to be subordinate to someone is to be *under* that person's authority.  
Not a peer, not an equal. *Sub* means *under*, *super* means *over/above*.
  2. Though our culture equates subordination with *inequality*, the Trinity doesn't.  
All members are equal *in nature, in honor, and glory*. All 3 are eternal & self-existent.
  3. Slide14b Father = Son [*equal* in being & eternal attributes]
    - a) Christ is *equal* to the father in terms of his **divine** nature, yet is *subordinate* to the Father in His **role** in redemption.
    - b) *Subordination does not mean inferior*. Christ subordination is voluntary (not begrudging). And Christ's perfect obedience qualifies Him to be the sin bearer.
  4. Slide14c Father  
*Son subordinate in the economy of redemption*  
Son
  5. We must distinguish between the 2 natures of Jesus *without* separating them.

a) Concerning Jesus' **human nature**, He is no longer present with us.  
However, in his **divine nature**, He is never absent from us.

6. He **came in the likeness of men** - his humanity was like ours. He had the same limitations as all human beings (except that He was w/o sin).

a) In his **human nature** He was not *omniscient*. His knowledge, though true and accurate as far as it went, was not infinite. There were things He did not know such as the day and the hour of His return to earth.

(1) As a human he was restricted by time and space. He sweated. He hungered. He wept. He endured pain. He was mortal, *capable of suffering death*. He was **like us**.

b) In His **divine nature** He is omniscient **and** His knowledge is without limit.

W. **Slide15a AFTER** (9-11) *after His time on earth*

X. **GOD HAS EXALTED HIM** (9a) [**God** rather than *Christ* becomes the *subject* now]

1. **God** super-exalted Him. **God** gave Him the name. **God** will receive *the Glory*.
2. **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.

Y. **Slide15b GOD GAVE HIM A NAME ABOVE ALL OTHER NAMES** (9b)

Z. **A name above every name?**...hear this in Paul's 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", his name was to be praised above all.*

a) Rome was beginning to exalt the emperor as a *semidivine* being.

2. Paul here says, **no...Jesus** is the name above ALL names.

AA. **Slide15c RESULT, ALL WILL ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS LORD** (10)

BB. **Every knee should bow** -

1. **In Heaven** - angelic hosts & all believers who have died before us.
2. **On 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*.

CC. Slide 15d GOD RECEIVES THE GLORY FOR ALL OF THIS (11)

DD. This is one of the *most important verses* in the NT. *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.*

EE. The Great question facing some of you today is **when** will you bow?

1. **Voluntarily** humble yourself before the Lord Jesus, **don't** wait till your forced to. [today as *Friend*, or later as *Foe*?]

FF. Slide 16a **Jesus** - it's an **easy** name, a **beautiful** name, a **comforting** name, a **mighty** name, an **enduring** name...the **best** name.

1. **Jesus**, the **loveliest name in any language**. Jezi, Jesu, Issa, Issa Masi, Yashua, *Jesus* (Spanish/Tagalog), Yesu, Yayzuu, EEsus (Rus), Zshe-zues (Portu).
2. Slide 16b No matter *what name* you wore **or** tarnished down here, when you see **Jesus** *face to face* you will have the privilege of having **His name** on your forehead (Rev. 22:4).
3. **Jesus**...the One *born to die, died to save, lived to bless, & coming to reign*... what a worthy name!