



FINDING JOY IN BEING SECOND
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11
PASTOR CATHY BURKHOLDER
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 1, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We all have a natural desire to be first, but true joy comes from following Christ's example—putting on an attitude of humility like Jesus. Placing the needs of others above our own is a choice that Jesus modeled during his time on earth, and as his followers, we must strive to imitate this humility. When we choose to be second (or better yet, third!), we will carry an unmistakable joy that will last through eternity. True JOY comes when we put Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself third.

WARM IT UP

Apart from the example of Jesus, what are some of the better examples of humility that have inspired you? What are some examples of false humility that you have seen or maybe even realized you were guilty of? Why is pursuing a life of humility a difficult virtue to sustain?

TALK IT OVER

Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. (v.1) Describe a time when the Lord encouraged you, comforted you, brought you fellowship, showed you tenderness or compassion.
2. (v.2) What is it that Paul is asking for when he says "make my joy complete?"
3. Cathy used a quote by Corrie Ten Boom who said "Look outward and feel distressed. Look inward and feel depressed. Look to Jesus and feel rest." Do you find this statement to be true? Explain.
4. In Philippians 2:3, Paul states, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." What are some ways you can value others higher than yourself? Think of opportunities in your family, community, and workplace.
5. Why do we find it so hard to consider others better than ourselves? (vs. 3) In what ways is looking beyond your own interests to the interest of others (vs. 4) opposed to the philosophy of the world?
6. How does Philippians 2:5-11 relate to 2:1-4? In other words, why does Paul include this description of Jesus' humility and exaltation?



WORK IT OUT

7. "True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." (Tim Keller)
How does Christ's example inspire you to think of yourself less?
8. (v. 5) According to the passage, what are the results of Christ-like humility? How does Christ's model of humility uniquely motivate you towards humility?

WRAP IT UP

9. Philippians 2:9-11 are not our responsibilities but God's promises, and God doesn't break promises. Does that change the way you read this passage? How does God's faithfulness enable you to "count others more significant than yourselves?"
10. How does Christ's example of humility and obedience speak to your life circumstances this week?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." Phil. 2:5-7

PRAY IT THROUGH

Pray for the person on your right, and commit to praying for one another throughout the week. Prayer is powerful!