

Sermon Outline

“Servanthood,” What Christmas Creates, Part 2 – Philippians 2:1-11 – Mark Mitchell – December 9, 2012

I. Introduction

- A. Christmas has an extraordinary impact on our culture: Christ-exalting music is played in stores. Non-loving people seem happier. People give gifts.
- B. As wonderful as this is, a careful reading of the Bible shows that all this “niceness” that descends on us at Christmas time easily misses what Christmas truly represents and what Christmas truly creates. Christmas creates Christ-like servanthood.

II. Christmas reveals Jesus as the supreme example of servanthood

- A. As God, Jesus emptied himself. “When Jesus emptied himself by embracing the divine vocation and becoming incarnate he became a slave, without any rights whatever. He did not exchange the nature or form of God for that of a slave; instead, he displayed the nature or form of God in the nature or form of a slave, thereby showing clearly not only what his character was like but also what it meant to be God.” (Peter O’Brien)
- B. As a man, Jesus humbled himself. Jesus humbled himself by taking on human form and dying on the cross. The creator of the universe was hung on a cross designed for criminals to rescue sinners from God’s wrath and to bring them into his family.

III. Christ calls his disciples to practice humble, sacrificial service

- A. Christmas creates servants who view others humbly.
 - a. Our Lord Jesus, though infinitely greater than us in worth and glory and position and power, showed that his nature is to humbly serve. If he is willing to so humbly serve us, shouldn’t we likewise humbly serve those around us? (2:3)
- B. Christmas creates servants who serve others selflessly and sacrificially.
 - a. Each of us is to concern ourselves not only with our interests but also with the interests of others (2:4). Paul gives two examples of such service: Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19-30).

IV. Conclusion

- A. *Christmas creates humble, sacrificial servants who follow Christ’s supreme example!*

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Fellowship Starters

1. Take time as a Care Group to read Philippians 2:1-11
2. Does the miracle of the incarnation amaze you? Has the glory of the spectacular event Christmas is meant to commemorate grown dim in your heart?
3. What does Philippians 2:1-11 tell us about the character of God?
4. How do you view those who are less mature as you? Do you see them as a nuisance or do you esteem them as more important than yourself? Does your attitude reveal conceit or humility?
5. What opportunities do you currently have to serve others? What steps can you take to make that happen?