

A KING BECOMES A SERVANT

Text:

Philippians 2:5-7:

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

The newspapers made it front page headlines, when the King of England abdicated his throne to marry the woman he loved. He made fascinating reading to many here in reading the story, because she was an American.

Many women's hearts were touched with compassion for him. He had been severely criticized by the press for marrying a divorcee. But he was admired by many for this demonstration of love. Many here began to think that most men have lost the capacity to love anymore. They have been compelled to think the closest they could come to it was lust and thereby only still loving themselves in reality.



Then in more recent days in the same land, the Queen married a commoner, or one of lesser rank and station in life, and this caught the big print. If a poor hometown boy makes good, we celebrate the fact. I remember while traveling back to Arkansas, we passed through a very small town where Al Kaline's name was displayed on a large billboard because this was his birthplace. He made good and they were proud of him.

All this is as it should be, and many more examples are found continually. When anyone rises in status from obscurity to popularity, it makes the common folk feel good that someone made it, and we're inspired to try a little harder.

However, when the reversal of that order takes place, we are startled. Like when a king declines his Throne after having reigned on it. We want to know, why? Close attention is given to the details of this extreme conduct. The fact that he did it is of lesser importance than WHY HE DID IT.

The Bible tells us the case of the very first king to do this. It was also out of love that prompted this King to leave His throne. His Name is Jesus, and it was for a Bride, His Church, that He forsook His Heavenly home. You should really know that He left ivory palaces, wealth, and splendor our natural eyes have never seen. He did it for us, poor lost sinners out of pure love. Here is how Apostle Paul describes it:

His name is
Jesus, and it
was for a
Bride, His
church, that
He forsook
His heavenly
home.

2 Corinthians 8:9: For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Romans 8:32: He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?

Here are the details of why Jesus left His Throne, His Heavenly Home, and became one of us. This makes more fascinating reading to me, and might to you, too. Why? Because we are all included in the great abdication of a Throne, for it all happened with us in mind. Others here on earth may think that they weren't even thought about.

I've noted some newspaper articles which build up a headline story only to let you down for an awful disappointment. But Jesus was let down to earth to give us a wonderful uplift out of the miry clay, as the scripture says:

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

When we receive Christ as our personal Savior, we become a part of His Bride, The Church. This is but the starting point of the startling good news of the Gospel.

Jesus said:

John 14:2-3:

² In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

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Luke 22:27: For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as He that serveth.

He said these words during the time His disciples had a big squabble as to who would be the greatest in the Kingdom.

Matthew 20:27: And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Jesus then demonstrated His sermon by washing the disciple's feet:

John 13:5-17:

5 After that He poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.

6 Then cometh He to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto Him, "Lord, dost Thou wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

8 Peter saith unto Him, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me."

9 Simon Peter saith unto Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

10 Jesus saith to him, "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all."

11 For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, "Ye are not all clean."

12 So after He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, and was set down again, He said unto them, "Know ye what I have done to you?"

13 Ye call Me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.



14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Such steps as these startle me, and looking into the matter more closely, I perceive why these steps were taken by our Lord, for He said in **verse 15** above, "**I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you.**"

Paul tells us the same truth in different language only.

Philippians 2:5-7:

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

John 12:26: If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Have you ever noticed how, after this, many of the apostles of Jesus identified themselves as servants of Christ, or how many times Jesus called His followers — and even His prophets — servants?

Matthew 18:23: Therefore is the Kingdom of Heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 21:35-36:

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.



Matthew 24:45-46:

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over His household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when He cometh shall find so doing.

Matthew 25:14: For the Kingdom of Heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Luke 2:29: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word:

Luke 14:17: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.



Luke 17:10: So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

John 18:36: Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world: if My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My Kingdom not from hence."

Acts 4:29: And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word,

Romans 1:1: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God,

Romans 6:22: But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end Everlasting Life.

1 Corinthians 7:22: For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

1 Corinthians 9:19: For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

2 Corinthians 4:5: For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Proverbs 26:20: Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Galatians 1:10: For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Philippians 1:1: Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians 4:12: Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the Will of God.

Titus 1:1: Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

Hebrews 3:5: And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;



James 1:1: James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve Tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

1 Peter 2:16: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

2 Peter 1:1: Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Jude 1: Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Revelation 1:1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His Angel unto His servant John:

All these dear saints and apostles, after seeing how Jesus bowed Himself, could never feel elated over any self-denials they might make in the course of Christian service for our precious Lord and Saviour. Jesus said,

John 12:26: If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Philippians 1:21: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [words of the Apostle Paul]

But to exchange Heaven for earth, that would be nearly a tragic mistake. Yet Jesus did exactly this, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but quickened [made alive] by the Spirit.

Jesus abdicated His Throne and made a strange and shocking exchange of a King's position for the position of a servant. Jesus said: I am among you as one that serveth.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:



This is a message on Christian stewardship. We are told in our text how Jesus took on Him the form of a servant. Also that we are to let this same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. Jesus said: a servant is not greater than his Lord, neither is he that is sent greater than He that sent him. So Jesus tells us in:

Matthew 24:44-47:

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over His household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That He shall make him ruler over all his goods.

This is the message of encouragement which Jesus gives to all you Ministers of the Gospel who have been faithful in feeding His sheep and lambs, and have labored unceasingly for the Lord Jesus.

The Bible says in:

2 Corinthians 8:9: For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

He left ivory palaces and eternal splendor, and became so poor that He did not even have a place to lay His head. Jesus said in:

Matthew 8:20: The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.

Could we ever comprehend why He left riches for rags or swaddling clothes, or a mansion for a stable? He left a throne for a manger in which to be born. He laid aside garments of royalty to be clothed in common place attire. Those hands that created worlds and stars and placed them in their sockets, and told them to orbit, now tells us who are His followers that when we win precious souls to Him, we shall shine as the stars in the firmament forever.

Jesus walked the rugged hills of Judea, used boats for a pulpit, and mountain sides for His sound board in order to undo the damage done by the curse of sin in aching bleeding hearts. Jesus met the outcasts of society — those without peace or hope — removed sin's curse of disease and sickness, and never charged them one cent.

He entered the home of the mother of Peter's wife who lay with a raging fever, placed heaven's fingers on her fevered brow, and immediately her fever was quenched. She then rose and ministered unto them.



That very day in the backyard, a crowd of people came, many bound by evil spirits; and He cast out the spirits with His Word, and healed all who had need of healing. Habits were broken, and the captives were set free.

Jesus came to seek and to save them which were lost, and to forgive you of your sins, lift your heavy load, and give you peace. He has never changed; He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. He is not willing that any of you should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

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When the body of David Livingstone, that great missionary to Africa, was brought back to London, great masses of people lined the streets to pay their respects. Among them was an elderly gentleman seated on the curb weeping greatly. He was a man of wealth, well-known in the city of London. *One person ventured to ask him why he was weeping so. He brokenly said: When Livingstone and I were boys, we had started in business together. We had wonderful prospects. One day David told me he was called to be a missionary. I rebuked him and told him he should stay with me, and we would become two of the wealthiest men in London. He lost his life for the poor and needy in Africa, but as Jesus said: 'he that saveth his life shall lose it, but he that shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it unto life eternal.'* Now, David Livingstone is living with treasures he cannot lose, while I am living with wealth I cannot keep, for I cannot take it with me when I die.

**Only one life will soon be past
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Will you be able to hear Jesus say, as recorded in ***Matthew 25:21: Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord?***

Jesus will never say "well done" unless you have done well. What are you doing to reach lost souls for Jesus?

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