

# **St Martins C3 – July 14, 2022**

## ***Follow Jesus' Attitude – A Life Worth Living***

### **Sermon Notes:**

A life worth living is a life of humility. A life focused on others more than on ourselves.

### **Read Philippians 2:5-11**

Jesus laid down His divine privileges. This is the scandal of the incarnation. It is incomprehensible for eternal God to become a finite human.

In doing this he didn't become less God but He showed who He truly is.

*“As you look at the incarnate son of God dying on the cross the most powerful thought you should think is: this is the true meaning of who God is. He is the God of self-giving love.” Tom Wright*

His investment in humility brought honour to Him and glory to God. Now, Paul is saying I want you to be like that.

### **First in how we relate to each other**

Jesus gave up himself for others and we should do the same.

### **Read Philippians 2:1-4**

Christians need to be humble and focus on the mission of God and look for ways to push others forward in that mission.

## **Second in how we live for God**

Jesus was obedient to God and we should be the same. Obedience is not possible without humility.

### **Read Philippians 2:12-13**

Our response is to copy His example, but also to be so close to him that we hear His voice and follow His leading. This kind of obedience is impossible without humility.

## **Third, in how we behave in front of the world – bringing glory to God**

Jesus brought glory to God and showed love to the world and we should do the same.

### **Philippians 2:14-16**

Paul is showing that humility is an investment worth making.

We are investing in our world, not for us. But for our world, that others might be blessed and drawn to the righteousness of God.

From the investment of humility, we gain a closer devotion to Jesus and a greater fruitfulness in bringing His Kingdom to the whole world.

Humility comes when you can practise that art of self-forgetfulness. The truly humble man, says C. S. Lewis, “will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.”

## Questions for Connect Groups:

### Sermon Reflection:

*What stood out to you from this week's message?*

*What did it mean for Jesus to come as a human? What changed in Him as He became human?*

*What does it mean to "think of others as better than yourself" (Philippians 2:3)?*

*What is the difference between having a relationship with God and just following His example?*

*How will humble living bring glory to God in the world?*

### Life Application:

*Who is the most humble person you have ever known? What attitudes and behaviour made them humble?*

*Jesus was successful by being humble. Why are humility and success seen as opposites?*

*Where could you be more humble this week?*

*Here are two challenges for us to practise this week. Discuss together how you will find doing them and the difference they might make.*

*1 – Every morning pray, "Jesus, help me to live like you today."*

*2 – When you are in a conversation with someone else – turn your attention fully to them.*

## **Monday Devotion: Glory to God**

***Read Philippians 1:9-11***

It is said that truth hits home when it is shown not just when it is explained. We need to see real-life examples of something if we are to emulate it in our lives too.

Paul does this in Philippians by telling them what characteristics to focus on and then giving real examples of what it looks like. This week we are going to see instances of humility in its different forms. As we read these examples may we copy their attitudes and behaviour in ourselves.

First, Paul prays for them that they would grow in love, understanding and morality. He asks God for the Philippians' lives to be filled with Godly character. In verse 11, he shows the purpose of these important parts of the Christian life is not just for them but that God would receive the glory.

Our quest to be more loving, knowledgeable and moral often comes from selfish motives. We love so that others like us. We want more knowledge so people will see how clever we are. We strain for morality because we think it will make us a better person. This is not right.

Unless we live all of our life with the humility that brings glory to God then all the things we do for Him aren't really for Him at all. Let us consider how we can bring humility to our life in a way that gives Him the glory.

## **Tuesday Devotion: Paul's Humility**

***Read Philippians 1:12-26; 3:8-18***

The first example of humility is the life of Paul himself. The letter of Philippians is written towards the end of Paul's life while he is in prison. He has been through shipwrecks, beatings, and arrests. Yet he can say that all of this has happened for the glory of God and to see others come to know Jesus.

He is willing to lay down all the things that the world counts as important – success, righteousness, religious observance – if only he might imitate the life of His Saviour. For Paul, Jesus' actions as seen in Philippians 2 were not some idealised pattern that can't be imitated. Instead, he lived his life seeking to copy the behaviours and attitudes of his Saviour.

One of the most stunning things from Paul's description of his attitude is a complete lack of complaining. He didn't decry the political situation of the time, he didn't ask people to petition for his release from prison, and he didn't talk about how unfair life had been to him. Instead, he used every breath he had to speak of the wonder of God and encouraged others to come to know the rich reality of a relationship with Jesus.

This is super challenging for me. I look at my own life and how I easily become frustrated by its imperfections. I want to have the humility of Paul, not expecting the world to owe me something or complaining when I don't get what I "deserve". Instead, I want to focus on what brings glory to God. What about you?

## **Wednesday Devotion: The Example of Timothy**

**Read Philippians 2:19-24**

Directly after explaining the character that should come into our lives as a response to Jesus' incarnation, Paul speaks of his special relationship with Timothy. At first, it looks as though Paul has changed the topic completely, however, Paul is using Timothy as an example of what the humble life looks like.

Paul speaks of Timothy as someone who can encourage the people of Philippi. He is someone who genuinely looks out for Paul's welfare. He cares not just about himself but about what matters to Jesus Christ. Timothy has aided Paul's ministry and Paul feels a paternal connection with him.

A key element of living a humble life is the way we relate to the people in our life. We have the opportunity every day to bring encouragement to others. We have the chance to see the difficulties they may be facing and bring some relief, be it big or small. We can lay down what we care about and ask Jesus what He wants us to bring into their life.

Today, think of the people you have been or will be interacting with. In what ways are you able to bring Jesus to them? Where might they need encouragement? How can you look out for their welfare and not just your own?

**Pray** – Ask God to give you his eyes today to see how you might bring something of Him to the relationships around you. Ask Him to help you lay down your interests.

## **Thursday Devotion: The Example of Epaphroditus**

**Read Philippians 2:25-30**

Paul's second example of humble living is that of Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus was from Philippi and had been sent with encouragement and gifts for Paul (4:8). During his trip he had become gravely ill and Paul thought he might not survive. Paul sees him as an example of the humility Jesus had.

He nearly died in aiding Paul in bringing the gospel and so Paul commends him. In the same way that Jesus was lifted up by God, Paul asks that Epaphroditus be greeted with love, with joy and treated with honour.

We need to look out for those amongst us who are working hard to bring the gospel and bring them encouragement. I think of the amazing people in our church (not to mention others around the world) who are reaching out to others with the love of Jesus.

Our kids' workers give up hours every week to prayerfully prepare and teach our children and then spend time with them on a Sunday. Our Toddlerock team works so hard to bring love to parents and caregivers in our community. The CAMEO team reach out to seniors with the love of Jesus even though it is hard work. Many others are involved in ministries, and other everyday ways, to bring the gospel. We need to support and care for these people. Pray for them this week and ask God for a way you can honour them and lovingly help them!

## **Friday Devotion: The Case of Euodia and Syntyche**

**Read Philippians 4:2-3**

I have seen it and I know you have as well: the ugly disagreement between important people in the church. One person says something about the other person and it gets back to them. Or someone makes an unfortunate statement to the other and before you know it a full-blown disagreement has blown up.

Paul addresses this very thing in Philippi. Euodia and Syntyche are two women who worked hard with Paul to tell others the good news about Jesus. Now, they are disagreeing to such an extent that even Paul has had a report of it. Interestingly, Paul does not spend a lot of time talking about their disagreement. Given what has come before now, he doesn't need to.

In light of what Jesus gave up to save humanity the resolution of an argument should be easy. It is part of the redeemed life that we have accessed through Christ and acknowledges the worth they carry as someone whose name is written in the book of life. Yet it is still something we must work at.

I don't know what issues you might be working through with other Christians right now. However, in light of their status as God's children and what Jesus gave up for you, can I encourage you to settle your disagreement with them.