



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

What "dangers" are we in by asking God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

The Humble King, 3 of 5 from December 17th, 2023

"The King of Glory has walked our path of humiliation."

Philippians 2:8b-9 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

[\[https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/the-humble-king-3-what-dangers-are-we-in-by-asking-gods-will-be-done-on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven\]](https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/the-humble-king-3-what-dangers-are-we-in-by-asking-gods-will-be-done-on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven)

PLEASE NOTE: transcript is generated automatically and may not be completely accurate.

[Music]

well good morning church and Welcome to our neighbors uh I'm glad to be together with you if we haven't met yet my name is Michael and I'm one of the pastors here at Neighborhood Church we've been going through a series that we've called The Humble king um and I don't know if you've if you've ever thought about it like when we do a series uh that's because I can't say everything in one go and so um I try to make it make sense in in the Sunday that you're there but they they do support one another so if you feel like oh he's really missing this one emphasis well maybe I got it in a different week so um if you want to check out those resources they're in the app they're on our website if you do podcasts you can search for that all that stuff is in there um has anybody like been forced into Plan

B like you had an idea of how things were going to go and but it's really really clear that the way that you are going to have to navigate your life is not the way you intended to go have you ever been forced into an alternate plan and what are the feelings that come up like I can I can see some Chuckles as as I even say that what are some feelings that come up when we are we find ourselves facing Plan B or C or D or e or F or Z like how what are the feelings that are like going on in Us in those moments anxiety anxious sadness did I hear for sure sadness maybe this time what was mad mad angry frustrated all right Restless Jesus now 1800 Jesus okay yeah spoilers come on Jeff

Plan B uh can feel like a little bit intimidating or can feel a little bit humiliating um I I could tell stories from my own life my dad's not here to defend himself so I'll tell I'll tell stories about him um he was uh he was an accountant he he ran everything by the books nothing I did with my life made sense with him because I'm like we're going to move across the country to the Indiana he's like you don't have a job and I'm like yeah it's going to be great he's like whatever um so he's the guy that just like it has to add up on paper before I'm willing to make the leap um and and I invited him to move down to Florida and and he came he moved down to Florida and he accidentally retired when he did that like he did not mean he did not mean to retire he did not move to Florida in order to retire he just got here and then he couldn't find a job um he he he was at in a season of life where the the the kinds of skills and things that he had the employers that were hiring for those roles they're like yeah we want somebody who's going to be with us for the next 15 20 years and he he's like I just I just

got three more left like it just he wasn't able to make it work and he's like well I guess I guess I'll just uh I guess I'll just retire and work on my garden and go to Disney I mean we'll see how it goes and I talked to him um and I mean I didn't know that this was the one of these times but I talked to him a week before uh he he passed away and I said hey Dad would you if you could do it over again what would you do differently and he said oh well I for sure would have worked until I was 65 and then retired on purpose before I moved to

Florida and he passed away at 64 a month before his 65th birthday and I thought man like he was in Plan B like he was he he accidentally retired he if he had known that he was not going to be able to be employed once he got to Florida I can guarantee you he would have never packed that moving truck because I asked him about it he's like yeah definitely would not have done this and yet like there was a mercy in that the last years of his life he got to spend doing things he loved he got to move to an environment that has a a year round growing season and he loved gardening so he got to plant plants and see them flower all year long which was not what happens in Virginia and he got to go to Disney which was his favorite place to be all the time um and he got to spend a significant amount of time with this huge crew of grandkids this small tribe of grandchildren that he had AC Creed over the years that he would not have been able to had if he was 12 12 uh 12 hours away so he was in Plan B but he didn't know that it was a Saving Grace he was frustrated he was a little bit angry he was um

sad and this was in in in 2020 so he was like what is the world coming to I don't even know what's happening anymore and yet uh God had him exactly where he wanted to be sometimes when things don't go according to our plan um God is actually doing something better for us than we would have planned for ourselves I don't know that we trust that because um we think that we've got a pretty good perspective on how the world and specifically how our world ought to work but Jesus shows us a different way so I'd like to explore that way a little bit with you this morning if you're willing to go there with me um we're going to be in uh we're going to be in Philippians chapter 2 if you want to navigate there it's on page 1222 in the blue Bibles um and if you don't have a Bible and you'd like one grab one of those blue Bibles for the chair in front of you and write your name in it and take it home let that be our gift to you um in the blue Bibles is on page 1222 we're going to be in Philippians chapter two but as I have already said we don't have great perspective on what's best for us let's go to the Lord as we begin and ask him to lead and guide us uh the way that we do that together I don't have it in there is the is by praying together the disciples prayer um and test of all tests I don't even have it on the screen this time so we'll see if uh we'll see how it goes and you pray uh I'd invite you to pray along with me as I pray at the very least let's bow our hearts together and let's

pray Our Father in heaven Hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation but Deliver Us from Evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever amen Philippians chapter 2 and we uh we read a larger passage than we discussed last week and I'm going to read the the whole block again we'll read chapter 2 verses 1 through 11 this morning um but we're going to zero in on some verses there in the middle so um this uh this passage this paragraph is written um as as the church in Philippi has seen that one of their one of their leading pastors has been arrested he it seems like God has abandoned him because that he went out preaching and teaching and then he got arrested for what he was preaching and like is God allowing the gospel to be hindered and he's hindered and he's saying um well no it's

actually working out pretty good for me um but my concern is for you because it seems like you guys have decided that this is a good opportunity to like uh fight over who should be in charge and and and and um and so he writes this letter to say hey um if there's ever been anything good um then maybe it's God that's doing it and you should be unified together in the spirit of Christ so that's that's how I would phrase it but he writes it this way Philippians chapter 2 beginning in verse one so if there is any encouragement in Christ any comfort from love any participation in the spirit any affection and sympathy complete my Joy by being of the same mind having the same love being in full Accord and of one mind do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a cross there therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on Earth and under the Earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the father so he writes you guys want to argue about all this kind of stuff he says if there's if there's ever been a good blessing that you've enjoyed if there's any comfort if there's any peace if there's hope at all and we're in a season of of the Year where our culture is much more apt to to to identify some of those good things whereas typically we we like to um uh focus in on the negative um if there is anything good if there is any Joy then then then be unified together with the spirit of Jesus with the mind of Christ who humbled himself and although he was equal with God although he was divine did not consider that Divinity something something to cling to and hold on to but instead he emptied himself and became the form of a servant and became obedient obedient to death even death on a cross so as we we said it last week and I if if something in here doesn't kind of if there's something in here that's kind of confusing then I'd encourage you to visit um revisit that teaching from last week but Jesus Is God like he's he's more than just a good moral teacher he's more than just a religious philosopher for Jesus Is God and God became flesh God became a human so the Eternal Almighty Creator God who who says a word and suddenly physics and photons and electrons are suddenly like existing in relationship to one another and spinning at the right capacity like that God the almighty who speaks things into creation put on a body and humbled himself to be born to human parents whom he literally knew more than and allowed them to raise him and care for him and and and and allowed them to lead him and guide him as he ought to on Earth um he humbled himself and that's the example that we have and and as we focus in uh this morning I want to look more closely at verses 8 and N being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a

cross he became

obedient Jesus was born for the purpose of being a perfect

sacrifice as we come this time of year we see pictures of of Jesus as an infant uh cute adorable we we sing songs that give that remind us of all the warm feelings of Parenthood because we know that Silent Night is a fallacy

right we we we see Jesus coming the the Incarnate God and we have these warm feelings and and we can lose sight of the fact that he came with a purpose

and on the night before he walks into that purpose he begs the father please if there's if there's literally any other way that we could do this then let's do

it Jesus asked for a different method of Salvation And if it had been possible he would have done it so so if we if we think that Jesus is god um let's consider that perhaps he is the the greatest possible mind that could exist and he's speaking to the father who who is God like like the one who created all things is if there was any other option in all of creation these two could have figured it out and he says if there's any other way if there's if you could just Overlook their sin without me having to pay for it then then let's do that says no this is this is the way my father if this cannot pass unless I drink it your will be

done I'm afraid that sometimes it's not that we don't know what it is that God wants us to do it's just that we're unwilling to do it obedience uh is not really a fun word in fact I don't even use it with my kids I can remember I can remember Mom uh teaching me a little song oh b e y obey your mom and dad oh b e y makes him very

glad listen to the words they say obey your parents every day oh b e y obey your mom like I haven't thought I didn't even practice that like that just that's that's embedded in my soul and I don't even use that word with my kids I say hey I've given you in instructions you should follow them you should follow my instructions you should obey me like there's something about that that just feels heavy-handed and oppressive and yet we come to Christ who became obedient he did what his father told him to although he really would have preferred literally any other option he became obedient to the point of death and not just death but death on a cross um there's some conversation in the scholarly circles was that perhaps this passage of Philippians chapter 2 is actually a song it's an old hymn there's a there's a verse uh there's a a way that it reads in Greek that sounds kind of like poetry except except for this line even death on a cross and so it seems like perhaps he's citing a song that they would have sung in church but he's inserted a line to make a point even death on a cross he became obedient to death and they would usually just move on became obedient to uh obedient to to the point of death therefore God has exalted him but he says obedient to death even death on a cross and in the same way that perhaps we have sanitized uh Christmas and Silent Night we have sanitized the cross it was not fashionable jewelry it was not a really sweet looking tattoo like the cross was shameful it was reserved for for the folks that we that we wanted to make sure that none of our kids wanted to be like let me hang you up and show you what you ought not to

be he became obedient to death even death on a

cross he humbled

himself so I'm looking at my notes and they don't make any sense so let's see how let's see how we work through

this I don't think it's often that we don't know what God wants us to do I think we're often unwilling to do it and so I just ask like what word are we hesitating to obey what do we know what do we know about what God has instructed us that we're just hesitating to obey like I know you said that but I really just don't want to do it God now and this can go two ways this can go things uh things that I commit like I can I can know that God told me not to do something and I go and do it I can commit sins I can be disobedient by doing something

you told me not to do but I can also be disobedient by not doing something you instructed me to do so I can commit sins or I can omit righteousness but like what are the words that we are hesitating to

obey and know it's a theme throughout scripture that God or God desires obedience rather than sacrifice he doesn't care what you've given up he doesn't care what massive uh massive commitments you'll make to him all the flowery language you can pour out if you are not being obedient to

him and that's hard it's hard because because often times the word is communicated through other people and other

people are Broken Vessels they don't do always the things that they say that they ought to do right church is full of Hypocrites now we we won't you know point out that everywhere else is full of Hypocrites too but we'll we'll we'll we'll bear what is responsible for us there are people who will teach the word and then not do it in fact Jesus is clearly aware of this as he's on his way uh into Jerusalem to be the sacrifice that's going to pay for all sins as we read this morning he tells his disciples that there are people who are religious teachers and you should not do what they are doing you should not live like them if you if you find Hypocrites in the church know that Jesus knows he's not surprised and what and the instruction he gives to his disciples is if they are teaching the word if they are teaching what is true then do what they say don't don't don't disobey God's word because you've got a teacher who doesn't live it out like that what is that sense does that make well you didn't do it right so I'm not going to do it right either ner ner I'll show God he put this guy in here who doesn't even know how to do the thing he's telling other people to do like we've all had managers that don't know how to do our job but it's still their job to tell us what to do right so if you come across somebody who's teaching truth and not living it out then just do the truth we want to fight the people that are doing it wrong instead of doing it because it's easier to try to point the speck in your eye when I've got one along in my own so what what words do we hesitate to obey and the only confidence I have in pointing this out is that our our king of glory has walked our path of

humiliation he prays my father if it cannot pass unless I drink it your will be

done when when I when the Lord brought me to the disciples prayer The Lord's Prayer and and began to infuse it into my prayer life and I began to pray it publicly and I began to invite other people to pray like it was a heavy process for me because I realized that culturally I can put that on people's lips and not in their heart and it's a dangerous prayer to ask for God's will if you're not willing to obey

it because he he died by suffering and disgrace the cross like we we look at the manger but the cross was his destination from the manger it overshadowed it and the thing is the thing is he was the perfect sacrifice the whole time so baby born in a manger do do you remember the story about Herod who who heard that there was a king born to the Jews and he was like that can't happen because I'm the king of the Jews and if there's another king of the Jews then he's going to take my job so let me kill him and he asked the wise men hey can you tell me where this baby is and they're like sure and then they don't and he can't tell where the baby is so he kills all the babies just to make sure did you realize there was a mechanism in place for Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice as an infant and the will of God

was for him to grow up and become a man before he was executed there is something necessary for us that Jesus lived a

life the example set before us our Christ Our King has many titles one of which is the Man of

Sorrows do you realize that Jesus was unwanted at Birth unplanned pregnancy like the literal definition of unplanned unplanned human wise God had the plan the whole time but from the human standpoint he was

unwanted materially poor his dad was a construction

worker he was hunted I already talked about Herod like he was not only unwanted but people wanted to destroy him even before he had done or said anything

he was

unappreciated he would do things for people that they did not even comprehend how he had served them all the time he was

unappreciated he was taken advantage of people came to him not to hear him speak although that was entertaining they came to him because he sometimes would just make bread come out of nowhere so they came to him for for unpure motives they wanted to eat and they they didn't really care what the teacher had to say and they certainly weren't going to do anything that he

said completely misunderstood the people who knew the book didn't get what he was doing completely misunderstood if they had understood what he was doing they wouldn't have killed him if the Jews had comprehended that their Messiah had come and the king of all creation was entrusted to them they would have just crowned him and then none of us would have had an opportunity to be a part of the Kingdom because it was a Jewish thing he was completely misunderstood he was betrayed he was sold out by his financial secretary somebody he trusted somebody he entrusted with with the livelihood of the organization betrayed he was slandered people said untrue things about him in order to defame his character he was mocked people made fun of him and the way that he operated in the world he was beat to a pulp people were so angry and and disgusted by him that they were willing to take their disgust to violence and allowed themselves to hurt him physically to be spit upon he was

disgraced after living a life being hungry after living a life being swamped because although nobody understood what he was doing everybody had something for him to do the disciples would come to him and say hey hey there's a whole crowd of people who need to hear from you and he say I need to go somewhere else he he was he comes home he comes to the hometown in Capernaum and and there's so many people surrounding him that that he says hey who touched me and the disciples like are you kidding me in this crowd you're asking who touched you we are

swamped he was homeless Capernaum was his hometown because that's where he had a place to crash but he didn't belong anywhere he didn't have a

house he was rejected the people that he loved the most turned their backs on

him said to hell with you damn you

so my friends if any of these words describe you unwanted poor hunted unappreciated misunderstood betrayed slandered mocked beaten disgraced hungry swamped homeless rejected if any of those words describe you I need you to hear me that if that is where you are then Christmas is for you if that is where you are then Christ is for you because he he came from Glory he had every right to stay on the throne and he chose us he chose life in the trenches he chose to be humble the king of glories walked our path of humiliation and so if we're in those trenches then then we should not we should reject some of the Polish and some of the shine of the memory of the holiday and we should we should embrace the fact that he invites us wherever we are and says I am for you because I have walked that path we are not without a high priest who is unable to sympathize but he has been tempted in every way as we are to the farthest

limits so my friends what disgrace keeps us from embracing our humble

King what are

we what are we holding in our hands hands and saying yeah you can't I've got this you can't you can't work with something like this until I get this thing sorted out you you've got you've got no business talking to

me we sometimes will cling to those things because they're comfortable and they're the only thing we

know but the the heart of of Christ is to take that thing that would separate you from

God not only put it on his shoulders but to become that so that it can be killed once and for

all and the glory of Christ Christmas is that it's not just a settled

debt have you ever paid off a

debt if I have it's only by by Jesse's good planning and diligence so we we have paid off a debt one

time and I can remember that debt it was our school loan I can remember that debt was a driving force and decision making for a number of years like well we we can't do that because we've got to make a payment on this we can't do this because we got to make and then there was one day where that thing was just

gone and maybe it's because I don't stick with the numbers very much but like that feeling of relief was very small the bank did not write me a congratulations letter they didn't even thank me nobody threw a party the glory of Christmas is not just that the debt has been paid because that's a transaction that's a a business expectation there was a thing that needed to be paid that we couldn't that somebody else paid on our

behalf being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a cross therefore God has exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name

if we were going to plan our lives out um and we were going to chart it it would always be up and the right if I could pick the events of my life and how I wanted them to play out it would always be smooth sailing it would be it would be stepping stones getting better as as as I have a privilege to teach um in in an elementary in a middle school um sometimes they ask me to pray for the students and that's literally the hardest thing I ever have to do because my desire is for them is that their life would always be up and to the right they would always make the right choice they would always do the wise thing and yet I know that they won't learn anything that way and that there's there's there's a strength of character that comes in suffering and so how do I ask God that he would give them appropriate suffering like their parents would not ask me to pray for them anymore if they knew that that's what I'm praying for them for like it's it's hard because I we have a desire that everything's going to be up and to the right and he says I have come and I have walked your path of humiliation because this is the example I've set for you that there are things that you will not let go of unless I take you through a season of suffering and there are things that you will cling and hold on to unless I make it more painful for you to hold on to it than let it go and let me take care of

it

so the way to Freedom the way to life is through

death the way to glory is through

humility whoever exalts himself will be

humbled if it were me I'd say whoever exalts himself will be

humiliated and whoever humbles himself will be

exalted and it's the definition of what we do by this all people will know that that you were Disciples of Jesus if you have love for one another love and service and humility towards one another that's the definition so in this season whose Glory motivates us like what what are we looking for are we looking for that up and to the right that everything's going great that next stepping stone to Greatness or we say Lord Jesus if if a season of leanness would be honoring to you then meet me in that moment give me just what I need for the

day whose Joy motivates us this season because the king of glory has walked our path of

humiliation blazed a trail where none of us would choose to go so that we might join him in the destination that none of us could make it to on our

own let's pray

together Lord we need

you there's times where we can we can describe the words we can read the words we can even understand them a little bit and and yet are at a loss to how in our own strength we could follow you into

them and perhaps it is your mercy that we see it that

way Lord by your grace would you receive us when we throw ourselves on

you we can't follow your

example

our

pride Lord you know and I thank you that you know so God wherever we're at whatever our next step is be it up or down Lord help us to trust your good hand in it help us to trust that if you are removing things from our lives that they are things that are not good for us and help us to trust if there's if there's a way that you're inviting us to walk that that way leads towards

life Lord by your mercy would you give us the the decision the choice the desire to follow you this week in the midst of everything else that's going on all the pressur all the stresses Lord would you help us to take a deep breath in you

to know that you have carried it all and the gift you extend to us is truly life it's in your name we pray

[Music] amen [Music]