



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Is there any more tangible hope than “we tried our best?”

The Humble King, 5 of 5 from December 31st 2023

“The peace our King’s humility brings is our hope for restoration.”

Philippians 2:9-11 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

<https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/the-humble-king-5-is-there-any-more-tangible-hope-than-we-tried-our-best>

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[Music]

well good morning church um we have been working together through a series that we've just called The Humble King we started in December and have been looking together at a passage in Philippians and we're going to wrap up that series uh all together today but if this is the first time you're connecting with us it's a summary we'll go through what we've talked about before and cover a couple of new a couple of new points and so I don't think it'll be difficult um but there is something that is difficult uh and that is follow through um I was I in my head I think New Year's only happens in January so uh my Aunt Janet was greeting me happy New Year like that's tomorrow like I don't know with don't let me I don't want to think about the stress of like having to make make commitments or promises or resolutions and there's a time there was a season where I was really poo poo about all that I didn't want anything to do with it um I've come to where I can see that it's valuable um but I I wonder today if like doing it in the middle of winter isn't kind of shooting ourselves in the foot because I'm not really motivated to do much anything in the middle of winter except go back to sleep um so maybe maybe we should move New Year's to Springtime I think I think that should we do that um because follow-through is difficult it's one thing to know you need to make some changes it's another and it's and it's another thing to want to make the changes you know you need to make but then it is a whole another thing or another whole thing as my wife would prefer me to say it is another whole thing to actually do the things that you wanted to do that you knew you needed to do right follow through uh is is actually really difficult there's a a phrase and I did some digging and couldn't figure out who actually said it it's not in the Bible so I feel comfortable just kind of throwing it out there that the the um the road to hell is paved in good intentions the the the idea there isn't not necessarily that like we have good intentions we want to do something good but then we get unexpected consequences the idea is if I intend to do something and and I commit in my mind that I'm going to do a good thing and then I believe that I have become a good person because I intended to do the good thing but never actually get around to doing the good thing then my destruction is paved with my good intentions because I thought about doing the right thing I now think of myself as the kind of person who would do a right thing without ever having actually done it and and I I say that because that's the mirror that's in front of me there there's so many times where I'm like I think of myself as a certain kind of person or right I would never be the kind of person who would do that awful thing um but because I intend with my life to do good and I think most of us would say that

maybe few and far between are those of us who would commit like my purpose here is to do bad I really want to mess some people up um we we start off with this intent to do good but the difficulty is like actually following through and as we kind of grow up and we grow into this I think we begin to comfort ourselves when we when we get a result of how we actually chose to live we get a result and we Comfort ourselves with this this statement well we tried our best we tried our best we I I meant to do the right thing and maybe I didn't keep my eye on the ball exactly the same way so didn't play the game exactly how it should have been played but I I tried my best given the circumstances you know I started off the school year like really convinced that I was going to make the grade I was going to get straight A's I was going to I was going to um show my teachers really what I was made of but man when it came time to sit down and actually do the homework there are so many other things I would rather do and homework is a personal burden of mine like I have never done well with homework and so the the follow through is where we trip up but is there any like deeper or or or more tangible hope than just well we tried our best the grades are the grades are in the results have been tallied it's not what I wanted but we tried my

best I hope not let's pray together and it's our habit together um to pray the disciples prayer this is the model of prayer that Jesus left for the folks that um would would follow him would be his disciples um and so we we try to pray this uh every week start off the week um and so I'd encourage you to pray together with me the words are on the screen um if you'd like to read along out loud you're more than welcome to but let's uh let's at least bow our hearts together and

pray Our Father in heaven Hallowed Be Your Name Your Kingdom Come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread 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 Glory forever amen I'd invite you to turn with me to uh the book of Philippians uh chapter 2 of The Book of Philippians and um if you want to follow along in these blue Bibles they're tucked under the chair near nearby to you it's on page 1222 in the blue Bibles um and if you don't have like a Bible at home that you can read like this is a pretty good English translation um and if you don't have one you'd like to take it home just write your name in the front and let that be a gift to you so Carlos I don't know if it's like the extra cookies but I got like a stitch singing this morning like I think it I don't know let me drink let me drink some water I might need some Gatorade here in a minute Philippians chapter 2 and this is a passage that we've been looking at um and taking apart piece by piece kind of verse by verse over the last couple of weeks and I'm going to read the whole uh 11 verses that we've been talking about so Philippians chap 2: 1- 11 we'll read the whole thing and then we'll kind of zero in there at the end um but this is a letter um that a pastor wrote to a church that he was not physically present at um he writes to this church and says hey it seems like there's some conflict going on in in your body uh it seems like some people are are disagreeing and it seems like you're concerned about um about my reputation and so he writes this letter to say Hey you have no need to be concerned the gospel's not been prevented um and also you guys should get along like stop fighting and this is how he puts it in Philippians chapter

2 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 therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name so that 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 amen God blesses the reading of his word so he starts off with uh this kind of exhortation this kind of instruction which sounds a lot like the things that we hear in the broader culture around this time of year like peace on Earth everybody should get along we're looking out for our fellow men we're we're being generous and and giving um and so if there's any like encouragement in Christ if there's any love if there's any participation in the Spirit any affection any sympathy if you have any like warm fuzzy feelings um then what you should do is you should be of the same mind you should be unified and have the same mind of Christ which was a mind of service a mind of sacrifice we we discuss that God gives us the mind or Jesus gives us the mind that he had to serve those that He humbly served so if if we're going to walk with Jesus our life is going to be defined by the way that we humble our ourselves and serve other people our life will not be about uh serving ourselves or meeting our own needs but about serving and meeting the needs of other people which that sounds kind of christmy doesn't it it sounds like oh yeah like we should we should be generous and we should like not be so nitpicky about what kind of Meatloaf we had at the Christmas thing because who eats meatloaf for Christmas like we should instead meet our family where they're at and and serve them and love them with the thing that they would like to eat like that like that just sounds Christmasy sorry Pastor Ryan's not in here to defend himself we had a long conversation about his family having meatloaf for Christmas dinner and it was a thing [Laughter] yeah Jesus Jesus gives us the mind to serve those he humbly served he uh this this is kind of like the on Earth idea um and that's not like that's not offensive is it it's it's uncomfortable it's like yeah I don't know that I really want to dedicate my life to other people but like I I can understand why somebody would do that like that seems like a good person would do that kind of thing I can be on board with that I can even see Christ's example as like the way that things life should work um and I can feel okay about that but even and let me highlight there Christ's example um he says have this mind in verse 5 have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus so have the same attitude that Jesus had and if you follow Jesus this mind is already in you 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 so that's the the the message of Christmas Even that Jesus is God and God became human that that when the baby is born in the manger the warm fuzzies that we feel isn't the same warm fuzzies that we'd feel about any other child that's born and and babies are cute after they've been cleaned up and you know they've puffed out a little bit like babies are cute right and we have affection for them but like Jesus being born is not just another baby that's just kind of born in an odd way kind of in a Manger like he is he was God God Almighty Creator God without form Spirit powerful like he put on flesh and became a human and and that's a miracle uh that is the the Wonder and that is the magic behind Christmas is that that Christ became man to win man to himself if if men if if people could make their way to God on their own then we would like that's actually an Impulse I I can find my way to God I can earn my way to God I can I can build a tower that's high enough to reach God I can get there on my own if we actually could we would but we can't and God knows this and so Jesus Is God God became human to win humans to himself we can't make it to God on our own God has to come to us and get us the king of glory has walked our path of humiliation he he not only came as a baby you know diaper changes in all uh entrusting himself to

human parents to take care of him and protect him um but he also submitted he obeyed to the point of death like he wasn't just born in a manger to be isolated in this season to think about like Easter is tied intrinsically to or Christmas is tied intrinsically to Easter that the crucifixion was the path that was laid out before him and so he not only humbled himself and kind of moved into a a crummy neighborhood to get to know like people in poverty like he actually died on on behalf of the people and I don't know that that's an example I can follow even if I think that serving others is like uh uh I can't think of the word an altruistic even if I think that serving others is an altruistic way to live it's a it's a good and right way to live like I don't know that I should die for other

people but the king of glory has walked our path of humiliation because our King reverses the natural current of creation by his

humility God made things good he created the Earth the way it ought to be and we really quickly just knocked it off track and so the stream that was kind of running down the mountain it it went in the wrong way and ended up flooding the valley underneath and it's not that that Jesus came to kind of redirect the river back to where it ought to go he came to reverse the flow of the river and set everything back the way it was intended to be he recreates creation it's not that it's not that like we know that we fail and so God comes to like help us do better it's that we not just fail like we fail miserably we we actually are are our striving is actually an Evidence of our death our inability to do good shows that we are actually spiritually dead and so it's not that God's like Jesus is coming so that we can have a little bit of Jesus and we can try a little bit harder but he comes to reverse the flow he comes to actually pour life into us not so that we can now live or not so that we can pretend and try to do harder but so that he reforms us so that we actually do good out of a source of life that's a lot of words I don't am I are we tracking a little bit this is supposed to be a summary I feel like I'm I'm preaching but our King reverses the natural current of creation by his humility but here's here's where we're focusing in this morning and I think I got it on this slide yeah the the peace our King's humility brings so his humility actually brings a peace and that peace is Our Hope for

restoration the peace our King's humility brings is Our Hope for restoration look with me in verse n 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 therefore God is highly exalted him God has God has placed on him the name that is above every name I love that when we get together like one of the things that we do is that we sing because in in culture we don't really sing very much together anymore um we we might sing at at an a sports arena or if if you um like went to school you know the schools like uh the school song you sing that together um some schools not every

school it's okay we're in this together we don't we don't sing a ton but when we come to to celebrate Jesus there's songs on our lips like there's there's a a a joy joy that that Wells up in us that we can't express in just words we can't just say like I'm so

thankful but we sing how can I thank you thank you Lord like the the the the meaning of the words is is uh empowered by the music like there's something that happens there and so therefore because of Christ's humility God has ex exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every other name he's exalted in name Christ is not his last name it's a title Jesus the Messiah the Savior the chosen

one and we pray together Hallowed be your name your reputation should be set apart above everybody else's like God looks at Jesus and says your name is above every other name which is a little bit of a big deal so who are we who are we cheering for who do our lives root for what what name do we exalt above every other name how do we show whose reputation we care about the

most how do we show whose reputation we care about the

most I I don't even remember who it was that that told me I was wrestling one time with um with humility how do you know if you've like made it to be humble how do you how do you know like to serve people and and and I wish I could remember who it was that said it he says listen if you want to know whether or not like you have a servant's heart if you want to know if you're serving people well see what happens in your soul when people treat you like a

servant if if somebody looks at you it's like well yeah of course you should be serving me like what happens when somebody feels entitled to your service like my often my heart is like oh no you don't you don't deserve anything from me don't you know who I

am we want to put our name up like hey hold on hold on hold on I'm I'm serving you you should be grateful that I am serving you and and yet Jesus says no I laid down my reputation I humbled myself to the point of death even death on a cross a criminal's execution how do we show whose reputation we care most

about therefore God has exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every every other name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on Earth and under the Earth so there's a time thing that's happening here therefore God has highly exalted him Jesus is highly exalted his resurrection was a proof that God accepted his payment for sin he is highly exalted but it doesn't always look like that does it look like Jesus is highly exalted in our country right now they look like Jesus is highly exalted in in other countries around the world right now like okay so God has exalted some and we just can't see it we're not there yet he's exalted he already has exalted so that at the name of Jesus in verse 10 there is a day coming where the name of Jesus is revealed and proclaimed in a very clear way and when Jesus makes himself clear and visible and proclaims his glory to everybody what's the response every knee should

bow every knee should bow I don't I don't kneel very often and I find that the older I get the harder it is to kneel

amen but there's a day coming at the at the day when the name of Jesus is clear in the hearts and minds of every being and the response is kneeling in heaven and I in heaven and in Earth and in under the Earth and I I'm not quite sure how to how to parse out the specifics of who's where are we talking when we talk about heaven are we talking about angels and Heavenly beings and Servants of God um are we talking about Saints who have passed before like I'm not entirely sure who's in heaven but when the name of Jesus is revealed everybody who's in heaven whoever that happens to be they kneel on earth like I I suspect that those are the people who were present and just kind of living their lives when this day comes that the folks who were on earth when they clearly see uh Jesus and and clearly understand his name when that name is revealed they kneel I don't know who's under the

Earth if we're talking demons spiritual entities that are kind of in Rebellion against God or or whether these are people who have died in Rebellion against God they're considered under the Earth I'm not sure that it's that picture at all I don't know who exactly it is but I know that when the name of Jesus is proclaimed the thing that they do is they

kneel willingly or unwillingly there's going to come a day when everything that we could possibly imagine every being with with personality of any kind at all looks to Jesus and without question kneels

there's a vulnerability in being on your

knees there's a surrender inherent to

kneeling the question becomes who's who in charge who who gets to rule who gets to call the

shots there's going to come a day when it's real clear when when Jesus is revealed that he is the one that should be

ruling but in the meantime what do our what do our habits reveal about who actually rules our

lives what do our habits reveal about who actually rules our lives I'm not talking about the things that you intend to do I'm not talking about the person you've convinced yourself that you kind of are like I'm not talking about the the ideas that exist in your head I'm talking about your habits like let's be real because this is the this is the problem we don't like it we don't like the we don't like the question I get it because I I can be real comfortable as long as it's like an idea or a philosophy that I can interact with in hyp in hypotheticals I just give an inventory of the last week and maybe the last week's not a good week like let's think about the last month well maybe December's not a great indicator okay well let's go three months ago let's go three months that seems far enough away take an inventory of like your habits what did your day-to-day look like what did what what how did you actually operate throughout your day give yourself a month of what your habits look like and what do our habits reveal about who actually rules our

lives is is it just about like how to how to be comfortable how to be uh entertained like I'll go and do the uncomfortable thing I'll go to work as long as I get enough to be able to do the thing that I want to do because it's about me and meeting my needs and my desires what do our habits reveal about who rules our lives because there's going to come a day the name of uh so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow there's going to come a day when it's going to be real clear who should be be the one in charge and your response whether today you want it to be or not your response in that moment will be to

Neil and verse 11 every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father every tongue talking about language not just like your tongue but I'm talking about language anything that communicates uh any any being that communicates uh that tongue will confess what we going to go in a booth and you're going to tell me all it's not not that kind of confession it's it's an agreement if I confess something I agree with it and Jesus or God says Jesus is Lord and my life my habits sometimes disagree but but at the point not

only will I kneel physically kneel but my tongue will confess yeah he he is the Lord I agree with you God that he is the king

and I I wonder to because I think about communication a lot one of the thing that's interesting is is even for even for scientists and folks who will reject like that that God is a thing um there's this impulse in observing nature that we cannot not personify things that we look at cells um and things that we would consider some kind of life but like there's there's an intent when we see them we oh this thing wants to do something this thing has to communicate even in the simplest and it's complicated but even in the simplest mode there's a language in our cells like our DNA contains a code a language of sorts that communicates between proteins to tell the proteins what to do to be make the cell the thing that it's supposed to be that makes these complex like there's communication and I wonder I wonder not only if it's verbal language between human and human but I wonder if all the cells of all the living creatures and all of creation at the name of Jesus not only will bow but all of them will reorder to say Christ is Lord where creation suddenly articulate with a thousand tongues to sing one cry then from north to south and east to west we'd hear Christ be

magnified there's going to come a day where we will see the true nature of reality and the true nature of reality is that Jesus is in charge he is Lord that was what we read together in in in Romans chapter 8 this morning and he even starts with like the world's kind of crummy like things are hard right now but he says I consider in verse 18 for I consider that the sufferings of this present time of the life that we're living right now are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us for creation Waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God for creation was subjected to futility not willingly it didn't want to be a part of the curse but because of him who subjected it in hope that the creation itself might be set free from its bondage to corruption to obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God what God is doing in humanity he will apply to the rest of creation as well for we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the Pains of childbirth until now and not only creation it's not only that creation shows us and Longs for the day of redemption not only creation but we ourselves who have the first fruits of the spirit grown inwardly as we wait eagerly for the adoption of sons the Redemption of our bodies for in this hope we are saved the Peace of our King's humility is Our Hope for restoration if you lay down at night and you know that not all is right in the world and there's something a longing for something better then that's an indicator that there's something

better if there wasn't we would never have thought about

it do we agree with God that Jesus is in

control here's the deal Jesus's claim to Authority is unique among religious teachers in my estimation there's a number of religious teachers that want to talk about Enlightenment um and and the path to God and they will they will Point outside of themselves and say you know I'm I'm an instrument of God or or you need to you need to make peace with God or you need to make peace within yourself reconcile peace within yourself but Jesus's claim to Authority is unique like he is he is the final judge he is the one who sits at the end of whatever it is and says how'd you do and he is the king God himself has placed the crown upon his head he is the king he's the one who who can open the scroll of the inheritance of all creation he's the king he's the one with the rights duties and privileges of

creation so Jesus doesn't just encourage encourage us to be good he doesn't just encourage us to follow his example he swears by his own name that he will undo all in Justice and set creation in its proper order under

him I'm going to serve people and they're going to take advantage of me that's not

right but I I can serve and I can love people knowing that the good judge and the good King ultimately will make everything not just okay but

good the hope of Christianity isn't just that we can try harder and be kind to one another and and and and serve one another and love one another it's it's it's not just like a positive net good for society that we that we care for one another here's the deal Jesus will follow

through he didn't just say like you should do right he said I'm going to

judge Jesus will follow through he he he doesn't just have the intent that the world might somehow be better by the way that we treat one he not only intends but he will come and he will follow through he will sit and he will reign and and that is

Hope question is what do we do in the

meantime will we wait until that day to kneel say yeah yes you're right that bow guy should have listened to

him or will today be the day that you surrender that you kneel now the posture of your life says no Jesus you are Lord if you say it I will do it if you say this is life then I will

follow we've looked at just a few small verses that have that have keyed in on Jesus's humility and his obedience to the father and and the therefore in verse 12 that we have haven't read out is therefore my beloved as you have always obeyed so now not only in my presence but also in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you both to Will and to work for his good pleasure do all things without grumbling or disputing that you may be blameless innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation among whom you shine as lights in the world holding fast to the word of life so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain

the peace our King's humility brings is Our Hope for

restoration I can't tell you the news is going to pan out I I I can't tell you that it's all everybody's going to you know cross the line at Christmas time and we'll all hug and sing Silent

Night I can't tell you the king is coming I can tell you all the pain and all the Brokenness all the Injustice that we have felt and endured he says I don't just wash it away I make it right I'm not just going to overlook all of it I will make it

right and in a cold

winter our our one day of Sweater

Weather I need the warmth to know that the king will set things

right let's

pray Lord Jesus I thank you for your word I thank you for the way you challenge

us

Lord we can we can get so concerned with

ourselves we can get turned so far inward that we can't even see how you are seeking us out
and chasing us down and extending your love and your grace to us your desire is for us to
trust you and to walk with

you

and it's real clear that we can't do that on our

own it's real clear that even when we try to serve other people we do it out of selfish

motives so Jesus you're our only

hope our hope for the future sure

yes but our hope for the last day of

2023 Our Hope for the dawn of another day

tomorrow Our Hope for just a few more breaths before

lunch

so Lord would you let us kneel

now would you let us kneel in the

morning would you let us kneel when people treat us as servants would you remind us that
you're Lord of all

for your name For Your Glory we ask

[Music]

amen [Music]