

B O T T O M L I N E

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SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-7: **humility.**

James 4:10

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Think about this... James, the brother of Jesus says to humble yourself before God. How much humility do you think it took to be Jesus little brother?

Today our B O T T O M **L I N E** truth is...

HUMILITY:
THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Good-to-great transformations don't happen without Level 5 Leaders at the helm.

Level 5 Leader is someone who builds enduring greatness through a paradoxical combination of personal humility plus professional will.

Jim Collins and his team took 5 years of research to land on something that Jesus taught us through his life 2000 years ago... Humility is the key to success.

Here's our core passage for today...

Philippians 2:5-7

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Mark Moore. "A leader's natural instinct is to protect his power. As it turns out, giving away power, honor, and influence is the secret sauce of becoming an effective leader."

You see, servant leadership was the brainchild of Jesus.

Most organizational flow charts start with power at the top and flowing downward. Each level reports up through the chain of command.

POWER - HONOR - INFLUENCE is at the top.

But a servant leader turns this model upside-down.

In this flow chart the senior leader serves those who are above him or her. So that naturally those who were at the bottom of the organization are the ones who are now at the top.

Notice that the **POWER - HONOR - INFLUENCE** stays at the top of the flow chart. The servant leader chooses to give those away by humbly serving others.

You see our natural tendency is to try and gain **power, honor and influence** as a means to success, but Jesus was different. He gave all those away and took the position of servant.

Jesus said to his disciples...

Mark 10:43-45 (NLT)

⁴³But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,
⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus gave away power, honor and influence and we are still talking about him today.

Let's go back to our core verses for today and see if we can learn and apply some of Jesus' life to our lives.

Philippians 2... let's start in verse 3.

Philippians 2:3-4

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,
⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to
the interests of the others.

HUMILITY VALUES OTHERS **ABOVE SELF.**

Paul helps us by defining what this looks like.

First, do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

How often can you say that you live this out? Maybe we get it right some of the time, but how many of us *"do nothing"* out of selfish ambition? High standard!

Second, Paul says, put others interests ahead of your own.

Humility in practice puts others interests ahead of our own.

Two Rivers Church has a set of Core Values that we adopted from before we ever started. These core values help us define not "WHAT" we do, but "WHY" we do what we do.

These statements frame who we are as a church and help guide us as we try to live out our mission in this world.

One of those values is this... We value...

others over ourselves

One of the foundational teachings of Jesus is that we should consider others needs in higher regard than our own needs. Serving others both in our community and in our church is therefore foundational to us as a community of believers.

You see this is who we want to be in our community and in this world.

That's putting others before yourself. Paul says that's a part of humility.

Philippians 2:5-7

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

HUMILITY VALUES SERVICE **OVER POSITION.**

Notice that Paul takes a different look at humility than James does.

James says,

James 4:10

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

The idea from James is to humble ourselves before God.

The idea from Jesus example is to humble ourselves before others.

I think it's easier to humble ourselves before someone we know and respect as greater. If you believe there is an all-powerful God who created this world and is involved in creation, it's not a big leap to humble ourselves before him.

But Jesus example takes it a step further. Paul says that we should have the same mindset as Christ in "our relationships with others"

That's totally different! That's actually harder.

The greek word Paul uses here is a very aggressive greek word - **kenoo'** - which means "to **EMPTY**"

Jesus "EMPTIED" himself and became obedient. Jesus completely poured himself OUT, totally empty SO THAT He could be obedient.

Jesus took the action of **KENOO'** to humble Himself.

He had to take the action of emptying Himself because being EMPTY wasn't who He was until He came to earth in human form.

Prior to Jesus coming to earth in human form, He sat at the right hand of God in HEAVEN, in glory, perfect and amazing.

He had to empty himself because prior to coming to earth, HE WAS IN HEAVENLY GLORY.

Jesus took the ACTION necessary to PRACTICE HUMILITY

Philippians 2:8

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

HUMILITY EMPTIES ITSELF **THROUGH OBEDIENCE.**

Jesus took the role of servant and was obedient. He gave his life as the ultimate sacrifice.

Talk about humility.

Jesus said...

John 12:32

³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

At first glance that verse might sound like Jesus wanted to be exalted or honored. But the next verse clarifies...

John 12:33

³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus knew that it was his job to go to the cross. So that we could find forgiveness and peace. Talk about a cause.

And the cross was not as pretty as we make it out to be. It was brutal. Created by the Romans as a way to torture and humiliate each victim.

Hebrews 6:6b

To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Jesus understood his part and played it willingly. He humbled himself and was obedient to God and fulfilled his mission.

Jesus example is one of leadership through humility.

INVITATION:

Matthew 23:12

¹²For those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Jesus gave up **power - honor - influence** and humbled himself.
That's our example.

SG questions:

1. **Read Proverbs 16:18 - share with the group how the verse speaks to your heart.**

2. Humility is a character trait that isn't often celebrated, why do you believe that is?
3. Why do you believe servant leadership is so successful?
4. Read Philippians 2:-4 - what is the path to humility?
5. Why do you think that serving leads to humility.
6. What is something you have done, or been a part of that you completely emptied yourself, but it brought you great joy?
7. Jesus is our example of humility, how are you following Jesus and showing humility to others around?
8. Read Matthew 23:12 - what does this passage tell us will happen when we try to elevate ourselves?