

## Have This Mind Among Yourselves

**Text:** Heb 12.2–3; Isa 53.2–3; Phil 2.8

**Theme:** We must have Christ's humiliation always before us

### Introduction — “I was never so humiliated in all my life”

- I was so embarrassed
- ever felt this before? Very likely, to some degree
- and it is only natural to sinful man
- Genesis 2.25 tells us this
- Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
- before sin entered the world, there was no shame, no embarrassment, no humiliation
- then along came the sin of Adam & it all went south

### Yet it was into this domain that our Savior came

- He came willingly, He took on human flesh—the very Son of God
- Scripture says: He became of no reputation
- we're told He became a servant as a man, obedient, even unto death
- and He did this willingly, out of His great love for the Father

### This is one of the benefits & blessings of the cross of Jesus Christ

- Philippians 2 tells us Christ emptied Himself & humbled Himself
- **Philippians 2:5-8 “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.”**
- without this, you cannot be saved
- without this, you are still dead in your sins and trespasses
- so, let's consider this blessing of Christ's humiliation
- and then let us praise our Lord
- and let us do what Paul commanded: have this mind among yourselves

*Let's see how Christ humbled Himself for our sake; He was...*

#### I. HUMBLING IN HIS COMING IN THE FLESH

- perhaps as a child, you turned over a rock and saw an earthworm there
- maybe you even wondered, “What would it be like to be an earthworm like that?”
- and yet, you would never dream of actually becoming a worm
- gulf between God & man unimaginably vaster than that between man & worm
- infinite became finite; unchangeable somehow changed; omnipresent located in one place
- this was the state of Christ's humiliation in taking on human flesh
- he laid aside divine majesty, majesty of sovereign ruler of universe, and assumed human nature

#### 1. The Word became flesh

- mind-boggling how pre-existent One could come in this manner
- **John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

- and yet **John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**
- **2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.**
- Jesus, Son of God, takes to Himself human flesh and blood

## 2. Absolutely necessary

- because sin had entered the world Jesus now needed to take on flesh
- it was all part of God's sovereign plan of redemption that this be so
- it was needful for Him to be born, born of a woman, born under the law
- only a man could die, since this was the punishment meted out by God
- as truly man, He needed to obey perfectly, personally, and perpetually God's law
- but only God could come in this way and offer Himself the perfect sacrifice
- what a humbling thing for Jesus to do

*This coming in the flesh entailed more than just His birth, for Jesus was...*

## II. HUMBLED IN HIS EARTHLY SUFFERINGS

- during the earthly life of Jesus He suffered, experienced hardships like you and I do

### 1. Growing up

- first thirty years lived in backwater town called Nazareth
- remember Nathaniel's words, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- his father was local carpenter & Jesus would have taken up tools and worked
- hammer, chisel, saw: wood, splinters, sawdust
- the One who created the very wood used it to build things: doors, tables, chairs, more
- lived there with family: half-brothers & half-sisters
- eating ordinary, every day food with them; not feasts for kings, or even a god

### 2. Life of ministry

- life was one of suffering servant
- daily, He associated with sinners in a sin-cursed world
- the way of obedience to very will of Father included struggles and sufferings
- think of it: repeated assaults of Satan himself
- hatred and rejection of His own people
- persecution at hands of His enemies
- at times, must have seemed very lonely, even with disciples around Him
- their failure to comprehend who He truly was, added to misconceptions of Jews of Messiah
- any who have ever taught those who just never seem to "get it" know exhaustion of this
- then demand of so many that He heal them of all ills

### 3. Body & soul

- confession reads: *He endured extremely heavy sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body.*
- walked everywhere he went, grew weary from travel, healings, teachings, more
- nothing like what He experienced in anguish of soul, especially in Garden of Gethsemane

### 4. Various causes

- ultimately, all came because Jesus took place of sinners

- yet, think of it yet again: Creator of universe, Sustainer of all He created, Lord of heaven & earth
- taking on menial tasks and daily functions, as servant of all
- this One who was pure and holy lived in sin-polluted atmosphere
- even from young age, He understood His mission, anticipated its horrors to come
- temptations faced Him constantly, as they do us
- yet He never once gave in, never once yielded, but always resisted
- the hardships of even that were immense
- and by doing so, Jesus fulfilled yet another prophecy
- **Isaiah 53:2-3 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**
- add them altogether, and you see how Christ the Lord was humbled greatly

*All this suffering ultimately led to the greatest suffering as we see that He was...*

### **III. HUMBLD IN HIS DEATH & BURIAL**

- extremely sorrowful in body and soul...the worst was now to come
- imagine it, if you can: One who created man, to be put to death by His creatures
- Son of God created iron ore, trees, gifts of craftsmanship, spirit of justice
- even the righteous punishment of evildoers came from Him
- and yet, men & women used all that to put Jesus on trial
- they bribed men under oath to lie in order to convict Him
- then, cruel men that they were, took hammer and nails, pounded them thru flesh on a tree

#### **1. Physical death**

- flesh of Jesus died, literally, on that cross
- exhalation of final breath, last beat of heart, final brainwave ceased
- It is finished, He cried, and gave up His spirit
- many attempts have been made to depict the horrors of this most cruel form of execution
- no need to paint the gore for you this day
- but know this: Romans would never crucify one of their citizens: beneath them
- only for worst of criminals, vandals, insurrectionists
- Cicero, Roman statesmen, scholar, philosopher, hated crucifixion
- didn't matter who it was, thought it an unhuman means to kill another
- nevertheless, there hung the Son of Man, suffering in our place, for our sins
- and He died

#### **2. Spiritual separation**

- sin in the Garden brought this upon man: death spiritually in relationship to God
- but for this last Adam, even worse
- He trod this wine-press alone, an oppressive loneliness
- He knew the responsibility He had taken on but it was crushing nevertheless
- Jesus' suffering was consecrated suffering: He had been set apart for this
- the wrath of God due upon sin was now poured out on His flesh and soul
- judicially, God imposed this punishment of death upon our Mediator

- He bore the penalty each one of us deserved
- indeed, as Scripture tells us, He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

### 3. Burial

- one might think that when Jesus died, His humiliation was over
- not so, we see in Scripture
- He was counted with the transgressors, condemned as a common criminal
- as such, He should have been buried as one, in a heap of bodies in a mass grave
- He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My people , Isa 53.8
- Jesus breathes out His last: It is finished
- here He is, the One who created dust, now having His human flesh return to that dust
- burial is a going down, an act of humiliation
- God ordained that burials be to symbolize the humiliation of the sinner
- when, by grace through faith we look to Christ, we are joined to Him
- Romans says, united with Him in His death AND burial and resurrection
- for us, it is the spiritual putting off of the old sinful flesh
- but the reality behind it is the literal death and burial of Jesus Himself

### 4. Willingly did Christ take this on

- out of love for sinners whom He had been entrusted, He humbled Himself
- submitted to unspeakable horrors of this punishment, death, and burial
- Christ would not take steps to escape it, even though He said He could call legions of angels
- He had come to do His Father's will
- He had come to do His Father's great delight
- He came as servant subject to His Master
- His Father had given Jesus His people to redeem & Jesus would do all needed to redeem them

- *When on the cross, my Lord I see  
Bleeding to death, for wretched me;  
Satan and sin no more can move,  
For I am all transformed to love.*

*His thorns and nails pierce through my heart,  
In every groan I bear a part;  
I view His wounds with streaming eyes,  
But see! He bows His head and dies.!*

John Newton, "When on the Cross My Lord I See"

- this is why we must always look to Christ, thinking of Him often
- **Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."**

**Conclusion – In same letter as this grand hymn of Christ's humiliation is something for us**

- **Philippians 4:2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.**
- there was a personality clash between these two women, leaders in their church
- each knew her experience, years of service, and thought they deserved something more
- how did Paul approach the clash between these two believing women?

- could have used apostolic authority and said, “Okay, that’s enough; knock it off right now!”
- instead, in context of whole letter, he’s already reminded them of great benefit of cross
- “have this mind among yourselves” — you two women, agree in the Lord’s life & work

**Scripture, in that text in Philippians 2, makes a staggering conclusion**

- we are to have the mind of Christ in us
- the mind of humiliation, lowering self and considering interests of others ahead of own
- we, who are in Christ, are to act and think just like Jesus did thru His life
- only way this can happen is to be in Christ: by grace thru faith in Jesus
- you cannot live like Him if you are not His to begin with
- then, you cannot live like Him if you do not abide constantly in Him
- the cross is the power of God to set apart as holy all who have died in Christ
- utterly dead to former way of life
- you who have trusted, you have have died in Christ, live humbly before your Lord

*His dying crimson like a robe,  
Spread o'er His body on the Tree;  
Then am I dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.*