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| Phil 2:1-11  | Soul Keeping – (Part 1)A Mark of a Healthy Soul. | Pinelands – 9am – 04/08/2024Thornton – 10:30am – 04/08/2024 |

***Compartmentalizing…*** We do it all the time….

Work, Sport, Home, School, Church,

**Family…** Keep certain parties apart because they fight

 Keep secrets

**Friends…** You can say this but not that

 Something we do not want…

others to know

 **Activities…** We go here but do not tell others.

 I went to the Casino ???

There might be good reasons to do that… ***BUT…***

 We must ***NEVER – EVER*** Compartmentalize GOD

People’s behavior often changes when…

they discover I am a minister...

 I talk with people but they say…

 I cannot tell you this Joke you are a minister

 God fits into this COMPARTMENT

**WHEN** we compartmentalize God…

 **LIFE becomes FRAGMENTED.**

**Because…** What happens at in one area of life…

Impacts every other area of Life.

What happens… here… Impacts… there

At work… At home.

 At home… At work.

Everything is connected… Therefore everything is **Integrated**

 ***AND…*** God is part of EVERYTHING.

 Therefore… ***Everything is SPIRITUAL…***

**WHEN** we compartmentalize God…

 **LIFE becomes FRAGMENTED / DISINTEGRATED**

**AND…** **A FRAGMENTED LIFE** is an indicator of…

 **An UNHEALTHY SOUL**

In fact it is the **SOUL…**  That **keeps Everything Together.**

We need to KEEP our ***SOULS*** Healthy…

 Each one of us… Is the KEEPER of our SOUL.

**The best SOUL KEEPERS… Follow the example of JESUS.**

**READ… Phil 2:1-11**

Paul is talking to Christians…

 Christians who are getting it right… *Church is going well*

**Phil 2:1… *“Your life in Christ makes you strong…***

 ***You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you***

 ***have kindness and compassion for one another.”***

Just as Paul was writing to Christians then…

 **He writes to us today.**

And so he says in **verse 5…**

 ***“The attitude you should have is the one***

***Christ Jesus had”*** **- can it be any clearer**

**The best SOUL KEEPERS… Follow the example of JESUS.**

The **attitude of Christ** in this passage is summed up in one word…

 ***HUMILITY…***

**Verse 7-8:** ***“Of his own free will he gave up all he had,***

***and took on the nature of a servant. He became like***

***man and appeared in human likeness.***

***He was humble and he walked the path of obedience***

***all the way to death – his death on the cross”***

**Jesus HUMBLED himself…**

***Usually*** I get humbled ***by*** something or someone…

 Example - Prof Cook cleaning toilet

 - My Ferrari – Hanover Park

***BUT…***  **Jesus humbled Himself!**

**Jesus** becomes human.

He lays aside the glory of heaven.

 He sets aside His self-willed use of Deity.

And He accepts the limits of a physical body.

**For 33 years**, the privileges of being God in Glory were set aside…

 and Jesus became limited by space and time.

In the person of Jesus, God experienced flesh and bones.

He suffered and grieved.

He got thirsty and hungry.
He was frustrated and disappointed.
He could no longer be everywhere at one time.
He had to have clothes to wear.

When He got hit… He hurt.
When He got cut… He bled.

**Then to add to it…**

Jesus was born a Jew in an occupied country.
 He came as a ***NOBODY / NOTHING***
He came determined to be a **SERVANT…**

Jesus came… not to **be served** but **to SERVE.**

***BUT… there was even more!***

**JESUS** stuck to the plan, **GOD’S PLAN**

He took that human body to **A CROSS** and willingly died.

 And it was the worst kind of death.

most painful and the most degrading,

 reserved for criminals…

displayed naked before a mocking crowd.

He became… a **NOBODY / NOTHING**

**He…** **HUMBLED** Himself

**Are you prepared to HUMBLE YOURSELF?**

**The world pushes us to be…** a Somebody *(in worldly currency)*

 Number 1, First, Dominate,

 Climb high, Over others, Have the best,

 Have the latest, Move up and up and up.

Do you play sport… Soccer, Rugby, Tennis, Golf…

Do you play games… Bridge, Scrabble, Monopoly…

**You got to be…** First, Number 1, Best Score,

 Got to be KING

***BUT…*** The Attitude of Christ… Is different,

It is ***NOT*** about… being the **BEST…**

It ***IS*** about… Playing the Game **WELL**

For Christ… The way **‘UP’** **is ‘DOWN’**… He **Humbled** Himself

The way of Christ is a downwards movement.
 **We think** it is an upwards movement.

lift ourselves up… our attempt to grow…

our efforts to become a good person…

**Christ shows us a different way.**

Gospel Spirituality has **nothing to do with…**

climbing a spiritual ladder.

 Gospel Spirituality has **everything to do with…**

 Becoming less Important… **Not # 1.**

**Norman Vincent Peale** put it this way…

***“Humble people don’t think less of themselves . . .***

***they just think about themselves less.”***

**Paul** **challenges us** to live the **example** of Jesus,

To have the same attitude as Jesus…

Remember our reading… **Verses 3-4…**

***“Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap***

 ***desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always***

 ***considering others better than yourselves.***

***And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own.”***

**It is a choice to Humble Ourselves…** *as Jesus did…*

It was the theologian **Augustine**, he said,

***“It was pride that changed angels into devils;***

 ***it is humility that makes humans angels.”***

***NOT*** to think **less** of ourselves… ***BUT…***

 To think of ourselves **LESS**

In Kingdom Currency…

 Those who are last will be First

 Those who want to be Great… must be the Servant of all

***Remember*** **Jesus followed God’s Plan…**

 All the way to death, death on the cross…

Eventually he was exalted…

 Raised back to life…

 Became **the Saviour** of the World

 Given the name above all names…

 **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**

**As we humble ourselves** we to will eventually **be exalted**

**Matt. 23:12** ***“whoever humbles themself shall be exalted”***

**James 4:10 *“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord,***

***And He will exalt you”* …**

 **IN Kingdom Currency**

The **TASK / AIM** of a **SOUL KEEPER…**

**IS** to have a **HEALTHY SOUL.**

 We need to…

 Follow the example of JESUS…

 **Humble Ourselves…** as Jesus did

 Think of ourselves Less…

**A Healthy Soul…** Keeps our lives together ***/ INTEGRATED***

 **Is *NOT…* FRAGMENTED**

**We need to** **Humble ourselves…**

 **Follow the Example of Jesus.**

**The best SOUL KEEPERS… Follow the example of JESUS.**

**Philippians 2:1-11** **Christ's Humility and Greatness**

Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had:

He always had the nature of God,

 but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God.

Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had,

 and took the nature of a servant.

He became like a human being

 and appeared in human likeness.

 He was humble and walked the path of

 obedience all the way to death— his death on

 the cross.

For this reason God raised him to the highest

 place above and gave him the name that is

 greater than any other name.

And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings

 in heaven, on earth, and in the world below

 will fall on their knees,

 and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is

 Lord, to the glory of God the Father.