



Sermon Growth Guide

January 29, 2023

Take Joy – Jesus is Lord

Philippians 2:1-18

Key Verse: Philippians 2:10-11 “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Big Idea: Jesus is Lord. Joy is discovered along the path of humility and acknowledging His lordship over everything.

Foundations

What does the pathway of power look like? How might one find their way to the top of the heap? The world would teach us that it's by might and exercising power in order to gain the upper hand.

When it comes to holding the trump card of power, God is the ultimate source. And Jesus, being in His very nature God, could have come as an obvious omnipotent tyrant, ready to wield lightning bolts at any moment.

Nevertheless, when the time came for Him, Jesus didn't remain up and away, exalted and aloof. Jesus left His heavenly home and came down. God became flesh, not to be served by those who dwelt among Him, but to serve them wholly—even unto death. Jesus humbled Himself, made Himself nothing and became the ultimate sacrificial servant for those He loved. In doing so, God raised Him out of the grave and exalted Him to the highest place.

Jesus shows that the way up is to come down. The high way is found by going low. Ultimate triumph is gained through a life offered in humility, obedience and self-sacrifice.

Understanding God's Word

Read together Philippians 2:1-4. What are the preconditions that Paul raises at the beginning of this passage? Why are these significant? Why do you think he's raising them to the church in Philippi at this time?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. What word or phrase in this section seems to surprise you or even catch you off guard? Discuss why that is as a group.

Applying God's Word

Check out verse 14 and consider your life. Where are you tempted to succumb to complaining or arguing? Where might you invite the Spirit of God to show you a different way?

Witnessing God's Word

Share these areas of struggle with your group, taking time to pray for one another.