

## Palm Sunday Sermon – Year B

### Philippians 2:5-11

Have you ever been humbled? Speaking for myself, yes! A game of scrabble humbles me all the time. I thought I was pretty good, but the last several games I have played have not been so good. I suppose my head was getting swelled. With March Madness this BB season there has been a lot humbling taking place. All the number one teams are out, some being eliminated in the first and second round. Now we have the Final Four of teams we little about, except for those who graduated from those schools. To be humbled can be a pretty humiliating experience. Yet, we all need to be brought down to earth every now and then. Usually when we are humbled there is something we need to be humbled about. The human tendency is to get a little too full of ourselves. Being humbled is not something that we truly seek in our lives. It can be truly embarrassing.

Yet, we see in our epistle lesson for this palm Sunday that is what Jesus, God begotten Son did. He humbled Himself. Christ volunteered to humble Himself. We see it in the Palm Sunday account in the way Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Coming into Jerusalem during the Week leading up to the Passover on a donkey, a beast of Burden. We see it again in the Gospel Lesson in the way He went to His death. Carrying a cross. Although Jesus was relieved of burden of the cross having Simon of Cyrene taking Jesus' cross. The way He died. If you are the Christ, come down from the cross. Christ certainly could have and showed them, but He did not. Jesus Stayed put.

This passage from Philippians is truly one of the most amazing writings in all of scripture. We have a God who is not aloof, uninterested, or uncaring for His people. We have a God who cares, is involved, and who truly loves His people. We have Jesus Christ who is God from God (Very God of Very God), true God from true who does not count His equal status as something to be exploited, or taken advantage of, who goes from the most glorious position in heaven to His incarnation, and not only that allowing Himself to be born of woman just as we are born, all the way to the most humiliating death that one could go through, "Even death on a cross."

And He does this for you, to save you from sin, death, and the power of the devil, not because deserve it, but because of His most wonderful love for you and desires that you live in faith and relationship with Him.

God gave us the Ten Commandments as a mirror to look at ourselves and to truly see ourselves as we really are. We cannot keep them the way God expects. If we see these Commandment as God's Holy Law and see ourselves it can be a very humbling experience to help us recognize that we do indeed deserve God's Eternal punishment. Thank God for His love for us that He intervened and entered into our life by humbling Himself, He became human flesh, suffered, experienced the agony in the garden praying, "Father remove this cup of suffering from me." Was stripped of His clothing, mocked, and whipped. All of this was quite humiliating. In doing so he did what we could not do, keeping and fulfilling God's Holy Law perfectly and dying the death we deserve, taking on all our sins so we can be Forgiven, and have life and hope.

What was the result and Christ's humiliation? St. Paul writes that, "God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name. So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under earth, And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Our lives are merely a preparation for that day when He will come again and raise us up with all believers. Every worship service is a prelude to what is coming. Every confession of sin is a form of humbling ourselves. Living in the forgiveness Christ gives you means humbling oneself daily, and even seeking out one we have had disagreements with and had cross words with to seek reconciliation. This is a form humbling and living into the same mind of Christ. Learning not to put oneself over another and seeing all as one who is loved by God and for whom Christ humbled Himself and died for.

In Our Opening Today we shouted 'Hosanna,' "Lord save us," is that admission that we do indeed need God's Salvation in Christ. That His humiliating death for us led to His exaltation in His resurrection. I guess I am getting a little ahead of where we are today. We will get to that next week. For now, and for today, Hosanna will be our word. And if you think about it, Hosanna is not particularly bad either. For Jesus God continues to gives us what we need for us and our salvation. May our hosannas be our confession of faith for this day that brings glory to God our Father in heaven.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding, Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.