

Thinking like Jesus

Phil 2:5-11

INTRODUCTION

- A. American society needs to change its thinking.
 - 1. It seems that people in our society only think of themselves.
 - a. Therefore, abortion is what it is.
 - b. Therefore, divorce is what it is.
 - 2. We need to change our thinking & think like Jesus.
- B. The Philippian church was one of Paul's favorites.
 - 1. But, they didn't think like Jesus.
 - a. Apparently, they were not like-minded; they were selfish & conceited (2:1-4).
 - b. Paul implored two women to be of the same mind (4:2).
 - 2. In light of their disharmony, Paul encourages these brethren to think like Jesus.

HOW WE THINK LIKE JESUS, vv 5-8

- A. Jesus was in the form of God, v 6.
 - 1. His very essence was that of divinity.
 - 2. Some people claim that Jesus is not divine.
 - 3. Yet, Paul says that Jesus is God.
- B. Jesus did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.
 - 1. This translation doesn't really do the passage justice.
 - a. The New Revised Standard Version reads that Jesus "did not regard equality with God was something to be exploited."
 - b. The idea is that Jesus did not hold on to his deity so strongly that he wasn't willing to give it up.
 - 2. Jesus didn't think he was too good to come to earth.
 - 3. We can't think we're too good for service.
- C. Jesus emptied himself, v 7.
 - 1. Jesus gave up his right to divine purgatives.
 - a. For example, Scripture says that God cannot be tempted (Js 1:13).
 - b. Yet, Jesus was tempted (Mt 4:1-11).
 - 2. Instead of holding onto his pre-existent state, he gave that up.
 - 3. Sometimes we need to give up our rights.
- D. He took on the form of a servant.
 - 1. Instead of staying in heaven where he was served, he came to earth & became a servant.
 - 2. Mt 20:28.
 - 3. Jesus served others.
 - 4. We must serve others.
- E. He came in the likeness of men, v 7.
 - 1. Jesus didn't think he was too good to live as a person.
 - 2. But, he experienced the same things we experience.
- F. He humbled himself & became obedient to the point of death, v 8.
 - 1. Jesus didn't think he was too good to die.
 - 2. But, he became obedient to the point of death.
 - a. He became obedient to God to the point of death.

- b. He became obedient to the civil authorities to the point of death.
- 3. We need to be obedient.
- G. He even became obedient to the point of dying on a cross, v 8.
 - 1. The cross was a very painful way to die.
 - a. Those on the cross often took several days to die.
 - b. They often died from suffocation.
 - 2. The cross was a shameful way to die.
 - a. Cicero said, “Far be the very name of a cross, not only from the body, but even from the thought, the eyes, the ears of Roman citizens.”
 - b. The cross was very shameful.
- H. This is the way we are to think.
 - 1. We can’t think we’re too good for anything.
 - 2. We must be humble.

WHY WE NEED TO THINK LIKE JESUS, vv 9–11

- A. Because Jesus was humble, God highly exalted him, v 9.
 - 1. He didn’t give him a little exaltation.
 - 2. Here’s how highly God exalted Jesus:
- B. God has given Jesus the name above every name, v 9.
 - 1. The name God has given is “Lord.”
 - 2. This term has various meaning.
 - a. The term can mean “master” or “owner.”
 - b. It is also the term Jews to refer to God.
- C. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, v 10.
 - 1. All classes of beings are included—
 - a. Those in heaven—angels.
 - b. Those on earth—living people.
 - c. Those under the earth—dead people.
 - 2. This shows the glory that Jesus should have.
- D. Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, v 11.
 - 1. All of us will one day confess Jesus as Lord.
 - 2. This will be done to the glory of God the Father.
- E. God will exalt us if we think like Jesus.
 - 1. 1 Pt 5:5-6.
 - 2. No, God will not give us the name which is above every name, but he will exalt us.
 - 3. Peter has the Second Coming in view (5:4). When Jesus returns, the humble will be exalted.