

“Lessons from the Manger” Part 4 – Advent Week 4
Mount of Olives | December 21, 2025 | Philippians 2:5-11
Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, You came to earth to demonstrate Your love for each of us. May this fourth Sunday in Advent not be just heightened anticipation for Christmas, but rather a reminder that we should show all others a love that is similar to Yours. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Message Notes

Luke 2:12

“This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Philippians 2:5-8

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Psalms 25:8-9

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Study Questions

Read Philippians 2:5-11

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. Who is someone you've known that embodied humility, and what made them stand out?
2. When you think of leadership, what qualities do you most respect or respond to?
3. What's a situation where you've seen humility completely change the atmosphere?

Based on Philippians 2:5-11, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Philippians 2:5-11**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What does Paul mean when he tells believers to have “the same mindset as Christ Jesus”?
2. How does the passage describe Christ’s pre-incarnate status before He came to earth?
3. What does it mean that Jesus “did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage”?
4. In what ways did Jesus “make himself nothing”?
5. How does the image of Christ taking on “the very nature of a servant” challenge common ideas of power or greatness?
6. What is the significance of Jesus becoming “obedient to death—even death on a cross”?
7. Why do you think Paul links humility with obedience?
8. According to verses 9–11, how did God respond to Jesus’ humility and obedience?
9. What does it mean that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?
10. How does this passage connect Christ’s humility with His ultimate exaltation?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What specific attitude of Christ from this passage do you feel most challenged to imitate right now?
2. Where in your life could choosing humility help restore or strengthen a relationship?
3. How might embracing servanthood change the way you approach your responsibilities at home, church, or work?
4. What would it look like this week to obey God in a difficult area, following Christ’s example?
5. How can the truth of Christ’s exaltation shape your hope, courage, or outlook in daily life?