

Bringing Glory to the Father Phil 2:5-11

So have most of you been watching
the Olympics this past week?
What was the most glorious event you watched,
the most glorious moment so far?
For me it was watching Paul Hann
falling on the judges table and
thinking he had lost the gold but
coming back with two near perfect events and
winning the gold metal for the USA in Men's gymnastics
against all odds. A glorious moment.

The reason I ask you this question is because
I would like for us to think for a few moments about
what the concept of glory really means to us to day.
You see we as Christians exist to bring glory to God.
What does that mean?
To bring glory to someone else?
Bringing Glory to God is our purpose statement here at
Hope International Church.
But what does bringing Glory to God mean?
What are we as a church about?
What should we be doing?

Most of the athletes at the Olympics
are about bringing glory to themselves.
Wanting the gold and as much of it as possible.
There are some instances when an athlete (mostly
unintentional) brings glory to someone else.
The American woman who won a Gold medal in
gymnastics brought glory to her coach.
When she won the coach put her on his shoulders and
they waved to the crowd together.
Most of the athletes when they win gold for themselves
also bring glory to their coaches.
They display the qualities and the passions, and
everything the coach stand for.
One swimmer brought glory to his father
by repeating what his father had done many years before,
winning three medals like his father in the same events.
What does it mean for us to bring Glory to God.

Today I invite you to turn to Philippians 2: 5-11.(1827)
This is the greatest hymn in the bible.

In this hymn we discover
the essence of the Christian faith.
The core teaching of the bible
the key to understanding the ministry and mystery
of Jesus and of God himself.
Let's stand and read this great hymn about
Jesus bringing glory to God his Father.
Let's read it together. Read & pray.

This hymn is divided into three sections
explaining and describing the three stages of Jesus career.
Vs. 6-7 tell us of his pre earthly existence,
v. 8 tells of his earthly life and ministry, and
vs. 9-11 tell what happened to Jesus after his earthly life.

Now in verse 6 we are told that everything about the
career of Jesus hinges on a decision
Jesus made in his pre earthly existence.
An amazing decision.
And question we ask is Why?
Why did he decide to do what he did?

Jesus in his pre earthly existence
did not consider equality with God something to be
grasped, something to be held onto.
He did not consider.
The came to conclusion that this was not the right way.
Everything, the whole of salvation,
our knowledge of God and his love,
our experience of God's forgiveness
depended on this attitude of Jesus.
In his pre earthly existence Jesus thought about it,
he considered it, and said to himself,
how can I best illustrate and show what God is like.
How can I best be the son of God?
What is equality with God like?
And Jesus came to the conclusion that equality with God,
godlikeness was not something you grasp,
something you accomplish, not something you defend.
Actually the word is better translated
as exploited or taken advantage of.
As the son of God, Jesus did not consider using his
equality with God to bring glory to himself,
to take advantage of it for himself.
Instead, Jesus, knowing the heart of God,
made himself nothing v.7.

He emptied himself of all prerogatives and rights
and honor by making himself a nothing, a slave.
Someone who is totally dependent on another,
owned by another.

Jesus decided to take the form,
the existence of a human being to show
what equality with God looks like.
Why? Why did he do it?

When Jesus became a human being v.8
he did not stop being equal with God.
In this second phase of his career as the Son of God
he showed his equality with God
by humbling himself and
by slave like obedience even to the point of death.
Death on a cross.

That was Jesus decision.
To be obedient to his father even to death on a cross.
Death on a cross was the most humiliating degrading
painful death anyone could experience.
It was a death suitable only for a terrible criminal
without status.
It was the lowest point a human being could experience.
An untouchable in the untouchable caste.
Scum of scum.
And again the question is Why? Why did he do it?

The hymn goes on in verse 9 Therefore.
Because of this decision,
because of this becoming a slave,
because of this humility,
because of this obedience and this scum like death
God exalted Jesus to highest place.
God put Jesus on the platform
as the champion of champions.
The gold medalist of the gold medalists.
And God gave him the name which is above every name.
God gave him the name Lord. Lord.

Lord is what people in Jesus day used to
refer to the emperor of the Roman empire.
The highest citizen in the world
recognized by many as god. Lord.
The highest name on earth.
But Lord was not only used for the emperor.
The Jewish people used this word Lord

to refer to the name of God. YHWH.
To the Jews this name Yahweh was so holy,
so high and so honorable
they would never allow themselves even to say it.
Instead, each time they saw the word
they would say adoni, Lord.
God gave Jesus his own name.
The highest name in all of heaven. Why?

Here we come to the heart of the Christian faith.
Why did Jesus not consider equality with God
something to take advantage of or grasp? Why?

Did he do it because he loved us so much?
Did he do it because Jesus thought
we who lived in sin and
were dying in our misery were worth it?
The hymn does not say.

He did not consider equality with God to be X
He considered equality with God to be Y .

In his pre earthly state Jesus contemplates
what it means to be God, to be equal with the Father.
And when he considered it,
he did not consider equality with God
something to be taken advantage of.
He concluded that equality with God means self emptying,
making yourself nothing, taking the form of a slave.
Did you hear that?
To be God means to be a servant,
a slave even to the point of death.

In adopting human likeness
Jesus does not give up what it means to be God
rather he shows how equality with God is best expressed;
by self emptying and making yourself nothing,
accepting even death in obedience.

This is what has astounded theologians and people
throughout the ages.
This is not what we usually think of
when we think about God.
In the revelation of Jesus we learn that God is not about
getting and demanding his due and
insisting on his way and seeking honor,

but God is defined in giving, in self giving love,
in sacrifice and humiliating himself for the sake of others.
For the sake of you and me.

In becoming a human being Jesus
was not leaving his divinity behind,
but was showing what equality with God looks like
and means.

In other words he was revealing to us the father, his father.
The best way to express the concept of God
is a baby in cradle,
a towel around the waist of a servant,
a dead person on a cross.

So why did Jesus do it? Why?
The last line of the hymn answers that question:
to bring glory to God the Father.
Why did he decide to humble himself?
Why did he empty himself?
Why did he consider others better than himself?
Why did he allow himself to die on the cross?
To bring glory to God the father.

How did Jesus bring Glory to God?
By doing what he saw his father doing.
By being about his father's business.
By being the son who perfectly images his father.
Like father, like son.

In the gospel of John just before his death
Jesus prays to his father and
he says these amazing words: Jn 17:1-5

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your son that your son
may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all
people (equality with God) so that he might give eternal
life to all those who you have given him. Now this is
eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God.
I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work
you gave me to do. Now Father, glorify me in your
presence with the glory I had with you before the world
began.”

The cross was Jesus most glorious moment.
The cross was the most glorious hour in history.
This was the hour when he was glorified

as he glorified his father in heaven.
At that low point on the cross
we see into the very nature and heart of God.
This is what Jesus understood.
Who God truly is and how he acts.
And it was his decision to bring Glory to God his father.
To make God known.

And it was when he brought glory to God
that God gave him the name above every name
that at the name of Jesus everyone will confess him
as Lord to glory of God the Father.

Now the question we started with is
How do we bring glory to God?
In the same way Jesus did.
By having the same mind, by having the same attitude.

Paul says in v 1 of Phil 2.
If you have any encouragement,
any inspiration from being united with Christ,
if any comfort from his love,
if any fellowship, any connection with his spirit.
If there is tenderness of compassion between you and Jesus,
put a smile on God's face by being like minded,
having the same love,
being one in spirit and purpose.
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but
in similar humility
consider others better than yourselves.
Each of you should look not only to your own interests,
but also to the interests of others.

This is how we bring glory to God our father.
By being children of God and
doing what we see the Father doing.

Lets pray.