

**B. The Example of His Humility (Philippians 2:3-11)****1. A basic understanding of humility****a. What is humility?**

- (1) All who know and love the King James Bible know that it contains a built-in dictionary.
- (2) King James VI (also known as King James I) commented on God's graciousness concerning His word. He pointed out that the definitions of many Bible words could be found by considering surrounding words. John Eadie explains this in his book *The English Bible*, vol. 2, London, Macmillan, 1876, p. 191.
- (3) Our study in humility is a case in point. The true riches of this word can only be gleaned when one considers words used in close proximity of the word *humble* (along with its variations).
- (4) These words include croucheth (Psalm 10:10), lowly (Proverbs 16:19), boweth down (Isaiah 2:9), bowed down (Isaiah 2:11), brought down (Isaiah 5:15), hewn down (Isaiah 10:33), abased (Luke 14:11; Luke 18:14), and lowliness (Philippians 2:3).
- (5) God wants the Bible student to understand the depths and riches of His word and words. As it pertains to humility, He clearly indicated that humility results from one being brought low.

b. What is the result of humility?

- (1) The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that honour follows humility! But how does this work?
 - a) According to Luke 14:11, "whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Abased means to be brought low, while exalted means to be elevated.
 - b) Matthew 23:12 and Luke 18:14 reiterate the truth found in Luke 14:11, yet none of the verses expound upon how this takes place.
- (2) What or who is at work behind the scenes to make this principle true?
 - a) The answer is found in James 4:10—"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
 - b) Man's finite mind-set leads him to think that the way up is up and the way down is down; but according to the Bible, the opposite is true.
 - c) The way up (to be exalted) is down (through humility) and the way down (to be abased) is up (self-exaltation).
 - d) Those who seek to be exalted by others will find themselves frustrated through their own efforts; yet those who seek humility will be exalted by God.

c. The twofold nature of humility as found in our passage (Philippians 2:3, 7)

- (1) One is to esteem others better than himself (Philippians 2:3).
- (2) One is to make himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7).



2. The admonition to the saints (Philippians 2:3-5)
 - a. Let nothing be done through (Philippians 2:3)
 - (1) Strife—quarreling, competing, discord
 - (2) Vainglory—empty praise from men
 - b. Let each esteem other (Philippians 2:3); to esteem is to value or estimate.
 - (1) Better than themselves
 - (2) In lowliness of mind
 - c. Look not every man on his own things (Philippians 2:4).
 - d. Look every man also on the things of others (Philippians 2:4, 19-21).
 - e. Let this mind be in you (Philippians 2:5).
3. The perfect example (Philippians 2:6-11)
 - a. His humiliation (Philippians 2:6-8)
 - (1) His natural form (Philippians 2:6)
 - a) He was in the form of God (John 1:1-14; Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8).
 - b) He was equal with God (Zechariah 13:7; John 5:18, 23; John 10:30, 38; John 14:9).
 - i) Equal in creation (John 1:3; Genesis 1:1)
 - ii) Equal in His work (John 5:16-18)
 - iii) Equal in life (John 5:26)
 - iv) Equal in existence (John 8:56-59; Exodus 3:14)
 - v) Equal in power (John 10:27-33)
 - vi) Equal in glory (John 17:5)
 - vii) Equal in receiving worship (John 20:27-29)
 - (2) His chosen form (Philippians 2:7-8)
 - a) He made Himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7; Isaiah 53:3; 2 Corinthians 8:9).
 - i) His birth was lowly as one would expect for the birth of a lamb.
 - ii) His life was one of a poor man with no place to lay His head and living from meal to meal.
 - iii) His death was that of a criminal.
 - b) He took upon Him the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7).
Note: The connection to the servant and the Lord accepting a body of flesh demands deep consideration.
 - i) Consider the law of a servant.
 - (a) The servant's liberty (Exodus 21:1-4; Deuteronomy 15:12)
 - (b) The servant's love for his master and his wife (Exodus 21:5; Deuteronomy 15:16)
 - (c) The servant's change (Exodus 21:6; Deuteronomy 15:17)
 - (i) In appearance
 - (ii) In service
 - (d) The duration of the servant's change (Exodus 21:6; Deuteronomy 15:17)



- ii) Consider the prophecies of the Lord.
 - (a) The prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 50:5-6)
 - (b) The prophecy of David (Psalm 40:6-8)
 - iii) Consider the statements about the Lord's body.
 - (a) David spoke of the opening of the ear (Psalm 40:6), but Paul gave additional light by replacing that statement with a statement concerning a preparation of a body of flesh for the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1-10).
 - (b) Something about the Lord changed when He adorned the body of flesh. It appears that this change remains in effect now and will likely do so for the rest of eternity (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - c) He was made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7).
 - i) He was made of a woman, made under the law (Galatians 4:4).
 - ii) He came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3).
 - iii) He took not on Him the nature of angels but took on the seed of Abraham (Hebrews 2:16).
 - d) He was found in fashion as a man (Philippians 2:8; see Philippians 3:21).
 - e) He humbled Himself (Philippians 2:8).
 - f) He became obedient (Philippians 2:8).
 - g) He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).
- b. His exaltation (Philippians 2:9-11)
- (1) The association—"Wherefore" (Philippians 2:9; see Colossians 1:18 and Hebrews 2:10)
 - a) This lets us know that the previous verses bring about the latter verses.
 - b) The same thing is true in Isaiah 53:12 with the word *Therefore*.
 - (2) The reward (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - a) God also hath highly exalted Him (Philippians 2:9).
 - b) God hath given Him a name which is above every name (Philippians 2:9).
 - c) At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow (Philippians 2:10).
 - i) Of things in heaven
 - ii) Things in earth
 - iii) Things under the earth
 - d) That every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11)
 - e) Note: These very truths are conveyed multiple times in scripture, but easily recognizable in Isaiah 53:12.