



*The Emptying Of Jesus, Philippians 2:5-8*

## The Emptying of Jesus

- Around 1707, Isaac Watts wrote a hymn called “When I Survey The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride

- Survey – To look carefully and thoroughly, to examine deeply especially to appraise them, to evaluate the worth, significance, or status of
  - To toss it around in your mind
- Contempt - The feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless

## The Emptying of Jesus

- We can sort of grasp the enormity of the cross moment and the process of Jesus dying for us
  - It deals with themes we are familiar with – pain, dying, unfairness, humility, taking the place of another
- But there was another event that preceded the cross that in some respects I find more wondrous, glorious, stupefying
  - Without this event there would be no cross

## The Emptying of Jesus

- **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne (*authority and power*); and the train of his robe filled the temple (*His glory and majesty*).
  - In the days of old, when one king would defeat another, it was customary for the victor to cut a piece from the robe of the defeated king and add it to his own
  - The more a king conquered the longer his robe becomes
  - It symbolized strength and security

## The Emptying of Jesus

- **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne (*authority and power*); and the train of his robe filled the temple (*His glory and majesty*).
  - 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:
    - “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”
  - 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke (*the smoke means the glory and greatness of God.*)
- This is so past our ability to comprehend so we tend to set it aside
- We see it only as maybe a majestic painting from a Master artist

## The Emptying of Jesus

- **Isaiah 6:5 NIV**, “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”
  - **NCV**, I said, “Oh, no! I will be destroyed. I am not pure, and I live among people who are not pure, but I have seen the King, the Lord All-Powerful.”
  - **MSG**, “Doom! It’s Doomsday! I’m as good as dead! Every word I’ve ever spoken is tainted—blasphemous even!”
- What do you hear in Isaiah’s response?
  - Fear drawn from his unworthiness
    - I don’t belong here, and he would be correct
    - I am nothing in comparison, and he would be correct

## Scripture

- **Philippians 2:6-8 NIV**, 6 Who, being in very nature (*form of*) God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
  - 7 rather, he made himself nothing (*emptied Himself*) by taking the very nature (*form*) of a servant, being made in human likeness.
  - 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
- **NLT**, 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.
  - 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.
  - When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

## The Emptying of Jesus

- Without **Philippians 2:6-8** there would be no Savior for my sin debt
  - There would be no miracles, truths spoken, crucifixion, resurrection, no forgiveness, no hope
  - Because Jesus chose to be obedient to the will of the Father, under the power of the Holy Spirit, today forgiveness is offered for sinful, rebellious me
  - Today we have acceptance and restoration before a holy, just and righteous God the Father
  - Today we have God's love shining in our lives warming us with His presence, His peace, His joy, His future



## The Emptying of Jesus

- If you want to really know what happened in Mary's womb the night the Angel Gabriel visited her, **Philippians 2:6-8** answers that
  - If you really want to know who caused the child in Martha's womb to do summersaults upon hearing Mary's voice, **Philippians 2:6-8** answers that
    - **Luke 1:41-43 NIV**, 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped (*and kept leaping*) in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"
- If you want to know who was really nailed to the cross for your sins and mine, **Philippians 2:6-8** answers that

## **Vs. 6a NIV, Who, being in very nature (*form of*) God**

- **AMP**, who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity],
  - Essence - the basic nature or most important quality of something, it's what makes something what it is
  - Everything that made God, God was found in the person of Jesus Christ
- In the beginning, before the foundations of the world, there was God the Son
  - **John 1:1-2 NIV**, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

## **Vs. 6a NIV, Who, being in very nature (*form of*) God**

- He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God
  - One with Him
    - **John 10:30 NIV**, “I and the Father are one.”
    - **John 14:8-9 NIV**, 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
    - Completely possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of the deity of God
    - Whatever made God, God was found in Jesus Christ with nothing lacking, fully complete

**Vs. 6a NIV, Who, being in very nature (*form of*) God**

- This is who caused Martha's child to jump in her womb
  - This is the one who came from Mary's womb
  - This is the one who was beaten and nailed to the cross
  - Never forget this or trivialize it
  - Never forget why He came
  - For you and me and all of mankind

**Vs. 6b NIV, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage (*to cling to*)**

- **NCV,** But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit (*to cling to*).
- Jesus did not demand His rights as God the Son
  - He did not demand He be respected, To be listened to and obeyed
  - Jesus did not cling to the privileges of deity
  - J. B. Lightfoot wrote that it was not “a prize which must not slip from His grasp, a treasure to be clutched and retained at all hazards.”
- Jesus wasn't trying to earn equality with God, He already had it
- Jesus was willing to let go of the rights and privileges of deity to become fully and completely human

**Vs. 7a NIV**, rather, he made himself nothing, by taking the very nature (*form*) of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- **NCV**, But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.
- Go back to the image of the majestic King on His throne
  - Now condense that down into a human baby
  - Babies have no power, authority, strength, single purpose
  - Not only did the Son Of God condense himself down to human, but He also poured Himself into the position of a bondservant
    - He emptied Himself into the form of a bondservant, not merely the form of a man
    - He became a bond-servant to humanity, you and me

**Vs. 7a NIV**, rather, he made himself nothing, by taking the very nature (*form*) of a servant, being made in human likeness

- “being made” = ancient Greek does not imply an exchange, but an addition
  - Angels are servants, but not made in the likeness of men even if they appear that way
  - Jesus chose to submit Himself to the power of the Holy Spirit and the will of the Father
  - He set aside His own life as an act of total obedience to the will of the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit

**Vs. 7a NIV**, rather, he made himself nothing, by taking the very nature (*form*) of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- Do not think that Jesus emptied Himself of His equality with God
  - **Matthew 17:1-2 NIV**, After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.
  - **John 2:23-25 NIV**, 23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. 25 He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.



**Vs. 7a NIV**, rather, he made himself nothing, by taking the very nature (*form*) of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- Do not think that Jesus emptied Himself of His equality with God
  - Jesus did lay aside some of the privileges of deity
  - Humanity was added to His nature
  - As born-again children of God we have two natures within us

**Vs 8 NIV, And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

- **AMP,** After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely-appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- Obedience is something that Jesus could only experience by coming down from the throne of heaven and becoming a man
  - When God sits enthroned in heaven's glory, there is no one He obeys
  - Jesus had to leave heaven's glory and be found in appearance as a man in order to become obedient through humility

**Vs 8 NIV, And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

- He was humble in that he took the form of a man, and not a more glorious creature like an angel or even a king
  - He was humble being born into an obscure, oppressed place, in poverty among a despised people
  - He was humble being born as a child instead of appearing as a man
  - He was humble in submitting to the obedience appropriate to a child in a household
  - He was humble in learning and practicing a trade – and the humble trade of a builder

**Vs 8 NIV, And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

- He was humble in the long wait until He launched out into public ministry
  - He was humble in the companions and disciples He chose
  - He was humble in the temptations He allowed and endured
  - He was humble in the weakness, hunger, thirst, and tiredness He endured
  - He was humble in choosing and submitting to the death of the cross
  - He was humble in the shame, mocking, and public humiliation of His death
  - He was humble in enduring the spiritual agony of His sacrifice on the cross and finishing the work of the Father

**Vs 8 NIV, And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

- He humbled Himself for the surpassing greatness of our salvation and His work for us and in us
  - Charles Spurgeon, “The lower he stoops to save us, the higher we ought to lift him in our adoring reverence. Blessed be his name, he stoops, and stoops, and stoops, and, when he reaches our level, and becomes man, he still stoops, and stoops, and stoops lower and deeper yet.”

## The Emptying of Jesus

- Jesus rose from the grave still fully human and fully God
  - Just as He did not lose His deity in becoming human, He did not lose His humanity in death
  - He was raised to human life with a glorified (*ready for eternity*) body
  - And one day all born-again children of God will inherit the same from our Lord Jesus Christ

## The Emptying of Jesus

- There is now one who understands you and me and is sitting at the right hand of God in power making intercession for us, all because He stooped
  - **Romans 4:25 NLT**, He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.
  - **Romans 10:9 AMP**, if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.



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