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EXALTED SERVANT

Who's your super-hero? There are many worthy models of people who have done great deeds and overcome great odds against them. Throughout all of human history, none are more dramatic than the Lord Jesus Christ. As the highest of the high, He chose to become the lowest of the low. Why?

Read about it in Philippians 2:5-11 where the Apostle Paul worships the Lord with a hymn about Christ. It provides a stunning portrait of humility, love and leadership lived out by our servant-King, the Lord Jesus.

Last week, in "Humble King" verses 5-8 we saw how the king of the universe humbled Himself for our sakes. This would be an amazing story of universal proportions all in itself. But it is not the half.

In verse 8 Paul wrote, **"And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** By the supreme sacrifice of Christ, we know what love is -- the giving of yourself for the benefit of others. But His death paid the penalty for our sins. His blood washed away the charges against us. The spectre of our own death vanishes because of His death.

But there's more to the story. Because of Christ, death is not the end of life for those who are **"in Christ."**

Verse 9 says **"Therefore God has highly exalted Him."** They crucified Him. But Christ rose from the dead. As God, death could not hold Him. By the same mighty power with which He created the universe, He rose Himself from the dead. Because He lives, everyone who puts their trust in Him lives.

His resurrection led to His ascension to heaven, where He now lives and reigns at the right hand of the throne of God. Verse 9 continues, **"God bestowed on Him the name that is above every name."** The Son's vindication is predicated on His "incarnation obedience" - coming in the flesh to do God's will. So He is re-exalted to the highest of the high so that every entity of existence bows down to Him.

Verse 10 says **"so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father."** His name, Jesus, means "Jehovah saves." Jehovah "I am who I am" is the personal name of God. The pre-existent, omnipotent, omniscient sovereign of the universe. Our creator and our redeemer. In the Old Testament He declares that He alone saves.

Acts 4:12 says **"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** John 5:32 says **"all will honor the Son as they honor the Father."** His great humbling accomplishes God's purpose. Jesus is re-exalted to His rightful glory.

Draw it out - the humiliation of Christ is like a giant "U-shape." The highest of the high became the lowest of the low, then raises again to be the highest of the high. Why did He do this? For you. Because of His great love. And He invites you today to receive His grace and forgiveness and love and eternal life.

Either repent today, and confess Him as Lord & Savior now -- or rebel today, and confess Him in shame and terror on the Last Day of judgment. God is not mocked. He gave His life so you have a way out. You can have HIS life. Simply by receiving Him, the servant-King.

Jesus came from heaven without sin, to pay for sin, and return to His real life -- so that you can have real life. He sets you free from sin and self. Then you can live for Him, and serve Him, as you live like Him, by His power within, to serve others.

So how about it? Will His transformation from high to low to high, also transform you ?
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