

Jesus' Present Ministry: The Name above Every Name

When Jesus walked this earth He didn't force Himself on anyone. His power and glory were restrained and veiled because He didn't want people following Him for the wrong reasons. He wanted people to trust Him and love Him not out of compulsion, but willingly and joyfully from the heart. And so since Jesus's earthly ministry was one of humility people could ignore Him if they wanted to. Many did. Others treated him with contempt. In fact, out of humility Jesus allowed men to crucify him. But this is not the full truth about Jesus. The passage we are looking at today reveals that not only is Jesus humble, he is also highly exalted. He has been given a name above every name! May we willingly live in light of this truth!

Read Philippians 2:5-11

1. In verse 5, Paul urges us to have the humble attitude that Jesus had. Does it strike you as strange to say that Jesus was humble? Why or why not?
2. How did Jesus express his humility (vv. 6-7)?
3. What does Paul say about how God rewarded Jesus for His humble obedience?

Steve said:

It's important to remember that in the Bible a name isn't merely a label that is slapped on a person; a name is associated with a person's character or reputation . . . When the Lord proclaimed His name, He gave an explanation of His character, something that is true of Him.

4. What was revealed about Jesus' character by the name that God gave to him?
5. What does Paul say about how every created being will one day respond to Jesus?

Steve said:

Have you ever wondered why the Bible makes these statements? Why are we told that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess? We are given glimpses into the future so that we can live our lives **today** in anticipation of **that day**. In Philippians 2 Paul is making the not-so-subtle point that we shouldn't wait until that day to bow the knee and confess that Jesus is Lord.

6. How does this passage shape our thinking about how we should live our lives today in anticipation of "that day"?

7. "Bowing the knee to Jesus is simply about acknowledging and trusting in Him as Savior." Agree or disagree? Why?

Steve said:

I don't know what your concept of Jesus. But He isn't harsh or mean or arrogant; He is gentle and humble in heart. He is like His Father who is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). Jesus is humble. At the same time, as we've seen in Philippians 2, He has been given the name above all names. This means that He has the power and authority of God. He uses that power and authority for His glory in our lives and in our circumstances as we walk with Him. There is beauty and power in living your life in relationship with the One who is both exalted and humble. As the child's mealtime prayer says, "God is great, God is good." He is both great and good.

8. Jesus is both humble and exalted! What are some ways that we can and should respond to this beautiful truth about Jesus?

9. Steve made the point that many people have experienced life and freedom and joy by offering glad submission to Jesus. Can you give examples of how you have experienced this in your own life?