

**Your Attitude:** Philippians 2.5-11  
[Going Deeper]

**Read Philippians 2.1-4**

Why do we struggle so much with selfish ambition (promoting ourselves, trying to benefit ourselves) and vain conceit (looking to get praise and recognition)?

How is humility the antidote?

**Read Philippians 2.5-11**

Think about Soren Kierkegaard's parable about the king and the maiden. What does it communicate to us about God? How does this connect with Philippians 2.5-11?

Consider this thought from N.T. Wright's commentary on Philippians: "This is a God who is known most clearly when He abandons his rights for the sake of the world." How should this give shape to the ways that we relate to each other?

What rights are difficult for you to give up for the sake of others? Why?

Wright also says this: "As you look at the incarnate son of God dying on the cross the most powerful thought you should think is: this is the meaning of who God is. He is the God of self-giving love." Some would say that there are two ways of being in the world: "grasping" vs. "giving". Why do you think Paul keeps connecting our realization of what God is like to the ways that we live every day?

Paul says that the pinnacle of Jesus' humble obedience is the cross. The cross, in the time of Jesus and Paul, was a symbol of shame, humiliation, dishonor, etc. In fact, *crux*,—the Latin word for cross—was a curse-word that shouldn't be used. When you think about your life, what are your *crux* moments—those moments of great agony and pain?

How do we generally respond to those moments?

Paul points out that God's response to the *crux* of Jesus was to exalt him (hyperhypsos-*em-raised* to supreme honor). How is it that being subjected to the ultimate shame doesn't get in the way of Jesus being exalted?

**Read Isaiah 52.13-53.12**

What parallels do you see between this passage and Philippians 2.5-11?

**Read Matthew 16.21-28**

Jesus encourages his followers to not avoid their *crux*, but to actually embrace it. How do you feel about that? Why would he say that?

Ultimately, whatever your *crux* is, because of Christ, when we embrace his life in us, the *crux* doesn't have the last word, Christ does. Why is this so important to keep reminding ourselves of?

In what ways have you experienced this? In what ways has God used others to remind you of this?

What would it look like for us to share the mind of Christ in this way together?

What rights is God asking you to set aside and for whom?