

Christology

Lesson 7

Study Notes

The Kenosis of Jesus Christ

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Text: Philippians 2:5-11.

Key Verse: Philippians 2:7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

Introduction: The term "no reputation" is the Greek word "kenoo" meaning to _____. The essential idea is that of bringing to emptiness, vanity, or nothingness; and, hence, it is applied to a case where one lays aside his _____ and _____, and becomes in respect to that as nothing; that is, he assumes a more humble rank and station. Jesus Christ emptied Himself. He divested Himself of His prerogatives. The question is what did He empty Himself of? Certainly not His _____, but only His divine prerogatives and privileges. He did not and could not cease to be _____ when He was made flesh. His deity remained throughout the whole course of His self-imposed humiliation. He did not empty something from Himself, but He emptied Himself, from something, the _____ of God. The figure presented is similar to pouring water from a pitcher into a glass. The form is different, but the substance remains the same. Christ emptied Himself of His divine glory, but not His _____ nature. He stripped Himself of His expression of deity, but not His possession of deity.

Looking at it from earth, men say, 'Jesus was born.' Looking at it from heaven, Angels say, 'He emptied Himself.'

Philippians 2:6 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

The word "being" means existing, from all eternity the Son was co-existent, _____, and co-eternal with the Father.

I. He Left Heaven's Glory.

John 17:4-5 *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Consider this:

1. He was born in a borrowed _____. Luke 2:7
2. He was laid in a borrowed _____. Luke 2:7,12
3. He used as His pulpit a borrowed _____. Mark 4:1

4. He fed thousands with a borrowed _____. John 6:9-11

5. He taught from a borrowed _____. Luke 4:16,17

6. He slept in a borrowed _____. Luke 9:58

Luke 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

7. He rode as a King on a borrowed _____. Matthew 21:2,3

8. He observed the _____ in a borrowed room. Matthew 26:18

9. He was mocked as king in a borrowed _____. Matthew 27:27-31 (a scarlet robe)

10. He was buried in a borrowed _____. Matthew 27:59,60

II. He Was Made in the Likeness of Men.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Heb 2:14-16 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

The fact that He would become man cannot remotely be grasped by human minds. The infinite, holy Creator suddenly comes in the likeness of His finite and sinful creatures; yet He was _____.

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

When Jesus was born, Israel was under the heel of Rome; the royal line of David was no longer on the _____, but had returned to peasantry, you see, Jesse, the father of King David, was a peasant, a _____ in Bethlehem. And when Jesus was born, the royal line was again in the peasant class. Jesus was born into a poor family. Though He was the Son of David, the stem came out of Jesse. He took upon Himself the form of a servant. (J Vernon McGee)

The same divine person who existed in the form of God took on Himself the form of a slave. Christ had all the qualities which Adam had before he _____, but not the sinful nature which came through Adam's _____.

III. He Humbled Himself.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

His _____ for us prompted Him to voluntarily do this.

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

"Form of a servant" can be clearly seen in His washing of the disciples' feet in John 13.

John 13:4-5 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

The same divine person who existed in the form of _____ took on Himself the form of a _____.

IV. He Became Obedient unto Death.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Joh 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Christ became obedient unto death meaning He was _____ to it. Christ's obedience was _____ death and not to death. He was never death's slave, but death's master and conqueror. Adam was disobedient unto death; Christ was obedient unto death. Christ's death was voluntary, vicarious, and _____.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

V. He Died upon a Cross.

Jesus did not just die, but He suffered the worst kind of death both physically and judicially. The horrors of death by crucifixion began with the stabbing pain when nails were driven through hands and feet, and a sickening jolt when the cross was hauled upright and dropped into its socket so that the weight of the body tore the stab wounds. Then dizziness, cramps, raging thirst, starvation, and sleeplessness all added to their torments. Gangrene, tetanus, and fever followed, and the heat of the sun and the torment of flies contributed to the suffering. Every moment caused agony and the anguish gradually increased. Added to it all was the public shame of hanging _____ and _____.

VI. He Has Been Exalted by the Father.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

God exalted Him supremely. Christ emptied Himself; God exalted Him. The Father's exaltation is His satisfaction with His work on earth. On earth Christ was crowned with thorns; in heaven He is crowned with _____ and _____.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

VII. He Has Been Given a Name Above all Others.

Eph 1:19-21 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

VIII. He Is to Be Confessed by all Creatures.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Every created and moral being will bow in submission to Christ's _____.

1. Things in heaven: the world of the angels.
2. Things in earth: the world of saints and sinners.
3. Things under the earth: the world of demons and unsaved.

Conclusion: To confess Him in this life as Lord opens the door to salvation; but to wait until the next life will result in damnation. No future reconciliation for the lost is anywhere promised in the Word of God.

The question is not when will men and women confess, the question is where will they confess.