

Theme: Jesus is the Humble King, the One Who is truly and fully God but came as a lowly human to save us.

I. Intro - Michael Jordan *The Last Dance*

- A. Interesting documentary on Michael Jordan
- B. A reminder of how great he was as a player
- C. But he was not humble! Most great people are not!
- D. We have seen three perspectives on Jesus - He is Great!
- E. Today we see He is the Humble King

II. The King Has Come!

- A. The angel brings Good News of great joy
But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10–11
 - 1. The angel tells them “Do not be afraid”
 - 2. The angel is bringing good news - the Gospel!
 - 3. This is not a cause for fear but GREAT joy!
 - 4. The reason for great joy is that the Savior has come!
 - 5. After many years of lonely exile, of domination by sin, the Savior has come! Rejoice!
- B. The King has come in glory and power
 - 1. His birth is attested by a mighty angel
An angel of the Lord appeared to them... Luke 2:9

- a. Most births are not attended by angels! Mine certainly was not!
- b. Angels were active at the coming of Christ!
 - 1. Gabriel appeared to Zechariah
 - 2. Gabriel appeared to Mary
 - 3. A mighty angel appears to the shepherds
- c. An entire angelic choir gives a concert!
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying Luke 2:13
 - 1. What an event - an angelic concert!
 - 2. This is the capstone of the angelic appearances
- d. This is no ordinary birth!
- 2. His birth is announced with the glory of the Lord!
An angel of the Lord appeared to them, **and the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were terrified. Luke 2:9
 - a. As if the angel was not enough - the Shekinah glory of God shines around the shepherds
 - b. No wonder they were terrified!
 - c. I remember the birth of each of my kids - but there was no glory of the Lord!
 - d. This is no ordinary birth!
- C. The One Born is Christ the Lord, the King
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
 - 1. The City of David - this is the promised Davidic King

2. This Child is the Seed of Eve, the Seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Seed of David, the fulfillment of all God's promises!

3. But this Child is also the LORD - God Himself come to save!

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us."

Matthew 1:22–23

a. God's promises are being fulfilled

b. God Himself has come to us to save us!

4. The announcement that the King has come could have been fearful to rebellious subjects - but the coming of this King brings great joy because He has come to save His people!

5. This King is none other than God Himself, coming to us to bring salvation from sin, death, and hell!

III. The Humble King

A. The great paradox - the humility of the God-King

1. Mary herself was of humble origins and prophesied that Jesus came for the humble

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed" Luke 1:46–48

a. She was not rich, powerful, or well known

b. She was humble - but her fame has echoed down the ages because of the Humble King she bore!

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. Luke 1:51–53

a. This King comes for the humble, not the proud

b. This King comes for the hungry, not those who are full of pride and their own riches

2. The birth announcement is not to kings or rich, powerful men but to shepherds

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:8–9

a. Shepherds were often outcasts and despised by the rich and powerful of society

b. Yet they are the ones who receive the announcement of the birth of the King!

c. This King has come to exalt the poor and overlooked

3. The King born in the humble circumstances
This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

a. The sign - a baby! A weak, helpless Child!

b. A child in a manger - not a Palace, or upon a throne, but in a manger!

c. This King does not just come for the humble - He IS humble!

B. The King humbled Himself to lift us up!

1. Jesus became poor so that we might become truly rich!

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

- a. Jesus possessed all the riches of heaven by right - and gave it up to become a poor, humble, Human
- b. He did this so that we who had forfeited any right to the riches of heaven might be brought in as full heirs
- c. THIS IS HUMILITY; THIS IS GRACE!!!

2. Jesus became human for our good!

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.” C. S. Lewis

- a. He is God by nature, but took our humanity to Himself, embracing our weakness and frailty and forsaking His rights as the Eternal Son of God
- b. He did this so that we who had forsaken God and were His enemies might become sons and daughters of God through Him
- c. THIS IS HUMILITY; THIS IS GRACE!!!

3. The paradox of the HUMBLE KING

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

Gregory of Nazianzus, A.D. 381

- a. He was not humble for a few moments, but for His entire life
- b. He poured Himself out, embracing our lack, want, and need, so that we might be given the riches of salvation!
- c. THIS IS HUMILITY; THIS IS GRACE!!!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Embrace the Humble King for JOY

1. The angel tells us this is Good News of Great Joy!
2. Today we lit the candle of Joy - for Jesus has come!
3. In a world of sorrow, brokenness, and grief, Jesus has come that we might have true, deep, everlasting JOY
4. If you have never responded to Jesus, do not arrogantly refuse to humble yourself and come - and be surprised by JOY!

B. Receive overflowing JOY by embracing humility

1. Jesus is the Humble King and His followers are called to walk in humility
2. This is the call in one of the great passages on Jesus as the God-Man

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ

Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5–8

- a. We often turn to this great passage to speak of Jesus as the God-Man, and that is correct!
 - b. But notice that Paul wrote it as a call for how we are to walk in humility (v5)
 - c. Jesus has set the pattern for us - and joy is found in walking His way!
3. This is the pattern throughout Scripture - the Cross comes before the Crown; suffering precedes glory; humility precedes being exalted. This is the way of the Kingdom. THIS IS THE WAY OF JOY!
 4. To walk in pride is to walk against the grain of the universe and to invite grief, while walking with Jesus in humility brings full blessing and joy, now and forevermore!

C. The Table Humility, Riches, and Joy

1. This Table is the Table of Humility, for Christ humbled Himself to take our flesh and die, and we must humble ourselves to confess our sin to receive
2. Because of Christ's humility, this is also the table of riches and joy - all who feast here receive the riches and joy of Christ Himself!
3. Come, humbly confessing your need for Christ, and receive His riches and joy!

The Humble King

Luke 2:8-14

December 19, 2021

Communion

Romans 15:13

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Incarnation, humanity of Christ, humility and pride; joy

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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