

Jesus: Becoming Humble & Obedient

by David McWilliams

Why did Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, need to become humble and obedient? It was necessary for the salvation of mankind. If He had stayed on His throne in heaven, He could not have saved mankind from their sins.

To be humble, one cannot be proud nor think oneself better than others. Jesus humbled Himself by giving up His rank as God and becoming a human. As John 1:14 states, *"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."*

To be obedient, one must willingly submit to those in authority. Jesus demonstrated obedience by becoming the sacrifice for man's sins at the request of His heavenly Father. According to Hebrews 5:8, *"though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."* In John 17:4, Jesus tells the Father, *"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."*

Philippians 2:5-8 shows Jesus' humility and obedience working together: *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

Hebrews 10:9-10 further illustrates Jesus' obedience to the Father when He came into the world: then He said, *"Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God."* He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus demonstrated the degree to which He was willing to obey the Father. In spite of His human desire for self-preservation, he agreed to drink from the cup of suffering the Father placed before Him. Jesus prayed three times, saying, *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will"* (Matthew 26:39).

What is the end result of humility and obedience? Jesus Himself gives the answer in Matthew 23:12, *"whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* This is precisely what the Father did for the Son. *"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:9-11).

Christians are also called to humility and obedience (Philippians 2:5). They must reject the world's call to pride and defiance. *"Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:5-7).

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