

“Epic of Descent”

Philippians 2:5-11

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All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted

A.W. Tozer – *“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*

- There are things that are absolutely true about Jesus, which we believe

Jesus is **God**

- Jesus exists eternally, coequal with the God the Father and with God the Spirit. (John 1:1)

Jesus has no **Origin Story**;

- As a coequal member of the triune God, He has always existed in perfect unity with God the Father and God the Spirit

In the beginning, God created all that has been created – including mankind

- Man was created in God’s image, but chose sin (rebellion against God’s perfect law)
- The price that sin carries is death (Romans 6:23), but God did not want you to have to bear that price, so He came in the person of Jesus, to pay it for you

Jesus’ first stop was the **Cradle** (v.7)

- Jesus emptying Himself is an example of **Subtraction** by **Addition**
 - *Jesus didn’t remove His deity; he added in the human nature*
 - Theologians call this “Hypostatic Union”
 - *When Jesus stepped into the world, He did not step out of His **Worthiness***
 - Jesus retained His divine attributes (Col. 2:9)

Jesus’ second stop was the **Cross** (v.8)

- Jesus chose **Humility**
 - Jesus humbled Himself in the incarnation; the uncreated One being born. But Jesus was not merely a man; He was Emmanuel, God with us.
- Jesus chose **Obedience**
 - The supreme act of Jesus’ incarnation required the deepest level of humility; becoming obedient to the point of death by crucifixion
 - Jesus obeys the will of the Father (Mark 14:36)
- Jesus chose **Sacrifice**
 - Jesus could have prevented it all (Matthew 26:52-53) or bailed out on it all (Luke 23:39), but instead, Jesus chose to surrender His life (John 10:18)

Jesus' final stop is the **Crown** (v.9-11)

- *The name of Jesus is a **Transcendent** name*
 - To transcend is to go beyond, and the name of Jesus is infinitely more powerful, infinitely more honorable, infinitely more glorious than any and all other names
- *The name of Jesus is a **Victorious** name*
 - It looked like Jesus was kneeling before the dark spiritual forces of this world, when in fact, He was purchasing redemption for all who will believe in His name.
- *The name of Jesus is a **Glorious** name*
 - Everyone will recognize and confess the magnificence of Jesus' name – the greatness – the bigness – the excellence of Jesus' name

Today's passage is not a "Do this" passage – it is a "**Believe this**" passage

- We cannot separate His name from His authority, which comes from His being in very nature God
 - This is God's Word . . . believe it.

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning's message.

1. ***What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today's passage/message? Why?***
2. ***What would it mean to have the same mindset as Christ, who though He was equal with, and one with God the Father, made Himself as nothing?***
3. ***What inaccurate explanations of the Trinity have you heard? Why do each of these attempted explanations fall short? Is there a better way to explain the Trinity?***
4. ***What "rights" do you need to surrender in order to serve others? What does it look like for you to serve others selflessly?***
5. ***Which of Jesus' names is most special or meaningful for you? Why?***
6. ***In the ancient world, humility was often considered a weakness. Why do you suppose that is? Would you consider it a weakness? Why or why not?***
7. ***Read through the book of Philippians this week. Are you seeing it any differently now?***
8. ***What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?***