

Sermon ~ Sunday, March 14, 2021 by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Matthew 20: 28 “Even as **The Son of man** came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give **HIS Life** a ransom for many.”

Title: “Humble Position”

I would hope that you agree with me, “These *days and times*, are meant to bring us to our knees before **GOD!**” This thought I hope you also would agree, “When your knees are knocking, it might help to kneel on them!” Instead of defiance: open resistance, bold disobedience... Why not take an “Humble Position?”

Humble, adjective in Greek language, is *tapeinoo* (tap-i-no'-o) which means to make low. To show true lowliness. It happens by being fully dependent on **The LORD GOD**. Humble is dismissing reliance on ‘self’ and emptying carnal *ego*.

The opposite of Humble, is *Pride*, the feeling of being good or worthy. Such feeling leads to disgrace. Such feeling produces arguments. Such feelings lead to punishment, ends in destruction, ends in downfalls, brings one to humiliation. *Pride* grows out of the soils of false ambition: self-seeking; deceit; misuse of influence, power, and position; entitlement; misunderstanding of **The Truth**.

But as followers of **CHRIST**, **HIS mission** to our world was, is, *distinct and definite*. **HIS ministry and purpose** (for us) are *clear and transparent*. **CHRIST JESUS** “came into the world to save *sinners*”—I Timothy 1: 15b. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other **NAME** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”—**JESUS CHRIST**. **JESUS CHRIST** “is the propitiation (accepted payment for our guilt and covering of our *sin* offense against **GOD**—I John 2: 2. “Without the shedding of **HIS—JESUS CHRIST** blood, is no remission of *sin*—Hebrews 9: 22. PLEASE be *not weary* of this **TRUTH**. Be not “ashamed of **The GOSPEL of CHRIST**: for it is the power of **GOD** unto salvation” (Romans 1: 16)—for days and times like these. PLEASE take the Humble Position!

It is plain...

--“**The Son of man...**” Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** here speaks of **HIMSELF**. In relation to our fallen natures— “Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) *sin* entered into the world, and death by *sin*; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have *sinned* (Romans 5: 12) ... it sounds humble, but in the light of prophecy, it is full of dignity. “**The Son of man**” is none other than **MESSIAH—The SON of GOD, Infinite, Eternal, Co-Equal** with **The FATHER**, and yet **HE** chooses to call **HIMSELF**, “**The Son of man**,” because as it was, man that committed *sin*, it is “**The Son of man**” **WHO** must make an *atonement* for *sin* to the injured **Law of GOD**. “For it is by one man’s offense (Adam) death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of *grace* and of *the gift of righteousness* shall reign in life by **ONE, JESUS CHRIST**—Romans 5: 17.”

It is plain...

--“**The Son of man came...**” *Strange to many, but sure in HIS sending by GOD. To come, HE—JESUS CHRIST, had to stoop from **The Highest Throne in Glory**, and be born of **The HOLY GHOST**, born of a Virgin, laid down in a manger of Bethlehem, and on **HIS** part it was *voluntary*. **JESUS** had no need to be *born* as such. It was **HIS own consent, HIS choice, HIS strong desire**, that made **HIM** take upon **HIMSELF** our nature, of the seed of Adam. Let it sink into your mind, **HE WHO** is **KING of kings** and **LORD of lords, The MIGHTY GOD, The Everlasting FATHER, The Prince of PEACE**, *voluntarily, cheerfully* descended that **HE** might dwell among the sons of men, share our sorrows, bear our *sin*, and yield **HIMSELF** up as a sacrifice for us. The *Innocent* for the *guilty*. “OH, how I love **JESUS!**”*

It is plain...

--“**The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister...**” NOT to be served, but to serve.” **HE** had not a *selfish* thought in **HIS** soul. Though **HE** had set **HIS** heart upon being **The Incarnate GOD—EMMANUEL, GOD with us** (Matthew 1: 23), **HE** had *nothing* whatsoever to gain! What could **The Infinite GOD** gain? **HE** *knows* the *Name* of each *Star* in all the galaxies. Only **HE** *knows* how many *Angels* **HE’S** *created* and that *bow as willing servants* to **HIM**. *Honor* and the *trumpet of Fame*, **HE** needs not, for throughout Eternity, all Day long, in Heaven it is proclaimed, **JESUS is KING of Kings and LORD of Lords**. The sun, moon, and stars all together cannot shine as bright as **HIS Glory!** **JESUS** did not come to be served, but to serve. I’m so glad, **HE** *knew* the depth of our need!

It is plain...

--“**The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give HIS Life...**” That is, “to give **HIS soul**.” We have no *lives* to give. Ours are forfeited, could not be giving because of *sin*, we were due Divine Justice—death. **CHRIST is LIFE**, which was by no means due to **GOD** on account of any obligations. **HE** had not sinned but *gave HIS soul*. **HIS** death on The Cross was perfectly *voluntary*. “And when **JESUS** had cried with a loud **VOICE**, **HE** said, **FATHER**, into **THY Hands I commend MY SPIRIT**: and having said thus, **HE** gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23: 46) As **HE** was free to come, or not, so **HE** was not under any constraint to give **HIS soul**, but **HE** did so, and that of **HIS** own accord. **JESUS** came to give **HIS “soul”**, *psuche’* (psoo-khay’), **HIS Breath**, **HIS Breath of Life**, **HIS distinct identity** (unique personhood), i. e. *individual personality*. The *soul* is the direct aftermath of **GOD breathing** (blowing) into a person, so that we can become *living souls*: *that is between The LORD GOD* and this created world. *Rulers* but under **GOD’S Authority**. “If any man be *in CHRIST*, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5: 17) To give **HIS soul** is something more than to give **HIS LIFE**. **JESUS** did die. **HE** died by pouring out all **HIS Life-blood**, by the endurance of an anguish such as no ordinary mortal could ever have done. OH, **The Blood of JESUS...** What can wash away our sins?

It is plain...

--“**The Son of man** came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give **HIS life (soul), a ransom for many.**” “A ransom for many”, *lutron anti pollon*, a ransom in exchange (anti) for many. Ransom, the price paid for the setting loose or freeing of a slave (Leviticus 19: 20). A ransom is the redemption price paid for land (Leviticus 25: 24). A ransom is the price paid for a captive (Isaiah 45: 13). **CHRIST** gave **HIS soul** in exchange, that is, in the place of or as a substitute for, many. PLEASE, see this, “for” has a *substitutionary* meaning, “HE gave **HIS soul**” instead for “many.” It does not say “all.” Well, who are the many? Bless **GOD**, they are *many*, for they are not a few. Then again, “they are not “all.”

But who are they? **GOD knows! CHRIST knows!** “**MY** sheep hear **MY VOICE**, and I know them, and they follow **ME**: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of **MY Hand**. **MY FATHER**, which gave *them* **ME**, is greater than all, and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of **MY FATHER’S Hand**. I and **MY FATHER** are one.” **JESUS SAID THIS...** (John 10: 27-30)

What a **Humble Position!**

If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me.
If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me.
Take my hands, **LORD**, and my feet.
Touch my heart, **LORD**, and speak through me.
If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me!

LORD, YOU called Moses from the wilderness and **YOU** put a rod in his hand.
YOU used him to lead **YOUR** people over to the Promised Land.
LORD, I’m willing to trust in **YOU** so take my life **LORD** and use it too.
Yes, If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me!

If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me.
If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me.
Take my hands, **LORD**, and my feet.
Touch my heart, **LORD**, and speak through me.
If **YOU** can use anything **LORD, YOU** can use me!