

Sermon-Based Study Guide

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

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1. Introduction to this Study

This week we conclude our Lenten Sermon Series, *I Give Up!* This series has invited us to be asking ourselves where we need to “wave the white flag” in order to follow Jesus more closely.

During Holy Week, let’s give up allowing pride to govern our lives, in our words and our actions with those God places around us daily. Jesus models for each of us what a life of deep and passionate humility really “looks like.”

As we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus’ ultimate demonstration of putting others before himself was descending from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem, while being met with both shouts of praise - and those who were wrestling with a pride-driven anger.

Bottom line: this passage implores us to accept Jesus’ attitude as our own…

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!* **Philippians 2.5-7**

1. Connecting with One Another

Have you ever known someone who exemplified humility? What was that person like? How did they demonstrate this characteristic?

In what ways has Jesus been your servant?

1. Study the Text
2. Read **Philippians 2.1-11.**

Reading between the lines, what was the problem with the church in Philippi?

What impacts you most from this text? (Also, knowing that **verses 6-11,** may very well be [part of] an early Christian hymn about the humiliation and exultation of Christ)

What other scriptures come to mind that guide us in the ways of humility and/or putting others before ourselves?

1. **Verses 1-4**.

What are the four motives for living in unity? How is this unity related to humility?

How does Jesus exemplify verses 3-4? What stories from the Gospels come to mind?

1. **Verses 5-8**.

What does Paul mean when he says that Jesus *“did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (something to be used to his own advantage)?” (v.6)*

In what areas of your life are you most tempted to seek honor and selfish ambition?

1. **Verses 9-11**.

How would you describe God’s response to Jesus’ humility?

1. What opportunities will you have for humble service during the next few days?
2. Read the Palm Sunday passage from **John’s Gospel (12.9-19).**

Even amidst the shouts of Hosanna and Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – there is a deep sense of Jesus’ humility.... How so? Think about what awaits him 5 days later. Think about his deep, deep passion for you?

1. Pray
	1. For one another, for our church, and the witness of the larger Church, that our attitude would be that of Jesus - humility and willingness to serve others.
	2. Ask God for the wisdom and courage for how you can best mirror the humility of Jesus Christ.
	3. As you enter in Holy Week as a follower of Jesus, ask the Lord to reveal his passion/love to you in a deeper way than ever before?
2. Digging Deeper
3. This passage has a lot to say to us today. One powerful witness Good Shepherd has to the community is our oneness of mind and servant-minded focus to the world around us-near and far. However, the threat of disunity is real, and it can easily be fostered by selfish ambition and pride. Our witness to the love and gracious servant-like self-giving of Jesus can easily be lost in the darkness of in-fighting, placing our interests above that of others, and insisting on our own preferences – because we almost always know what’s best for us and other too...

How is your heart being stirred as you read and reflect on this statement?

1. Look at Jesus' prayer in **John 17.20-23**. Why is oneness/unity so important?
2. Read **John 13.12-17** and ask the Lord to bring to your heart and your mind the ways you are being tempted to be conceited…how might you respond?