

Reflection for Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Pastor Barnes

“At the Name of Jesus All knees Shall Bow”
Philippians 2:5-11 (Good News Translation)

Some thoughts for this Wednesday evening. (I know we are not together, but then with God’s love, we are never apart.)

Earlier during Lent from this Philippians passage....we heard that Jesus “emptied himself and became obedient.”

We spent time thinking of what it might mean to “push yourself out of the way,” for something greater than self.

Difficult to do in our world where often we focus upon what WE want and what makes our life BETTER.

Having said that....you all know and have met people who indeed... Have pushed their “self” further back and are full of the joy that God gives as obedient children.

Those folk are people that just make you want to soak up that contentment....that love that God gives.

A brief background from our past Wednesdays....only because... I don’t want us to misunderstand our piece of text/scripture for this evening:
“For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and give him the NAME that is greater than any other name.”
So all knees shall bow.

Think back to all the stories that Jesus told and taught.

Think back to the miracles that happened and healings.

NEVER did you hear Jesus say: “Hey look at what I have done!”

It was always....God’s kingdom is near! OR It is the love of God that has come close.

We have an old hymn: “Nearer my God to Thee”

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee! E’en though it be a cross That raiseth me.
Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee.

Jesus endured the cross not to raise HIS name but Messiah as one who saves....and God so loved.

Think of some of Jesus’ parables:

The prodigal son...OR the waiting FATHER.

The Good Samaritan...OR those who thought of themselves first.

“At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow”

Has nothing to do with the name....JESUS

Rather it has to do withhe emptied himself and became obedient...

For YOU and ME

Messiah is literally one who saves.

When I was a boy....I always felt that I must end my prayers with the formulae....”In Jesus Name.”

Almost as if....if I didn't the prayer was not valid.

But I missed the point.

The focus was upon God become flesh. The focus was upon Jesus pointing away from self to the grace, forgiveness and steadfast love.

To pray in Jesus name....is simply to say....Ah, Yes! I know and remember!

If EVERY KNEE shall bow....that means as we bend a knee in prayer whether literally or figuratively....

We say: “I understand.” We say: “I also should point to the grace, forgiveness, love AND Salvation offered.

Not always easy.

For whether we are willing to admit it or not....we like getting “credit.” We like saying....”yes, I did that!”

We struggle with humbleness.....emptying oneself and honoring God in everything we do.

We should not be singing Frank Sinatra's song: “I Did It My Way.”

What happens when you have something all planned out in your mind OR maybe on paper....

Then a group or committee begin taking it apart and want to go a different direction???

Scripture says:

Just a tad before our text for this Lent: Philippians 2:3

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interest, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.....”

The same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Look to the interest of others.

We should bow on bended knee....because it isn't the “NAME”

It is the word become flesh! The gift given in the flesh.

All through our lives....parents would say.....now be careful of your reputation.

Businesses would say: We have built a good reputation.

We might think....I have a reputation for getting things done!

The question to ponder during this Lenten season is: What is our “reputation” if we live to Christ Jesus?

What do others “see” in us if our “reputation” is in Christ Jesus.

IN other words.....why do you and I bow on bended knee at the “name” of Jesus?

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

In that frame of mind we bend our knee in prayer.

Amen.