

*Resurrection Reverberations -  
“The King and I”*

*Bible Reading:  
Philippians 2: 5-11*

PREPARED BY  
KEN GEHRELS  
PASTOR  
CALVIN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
NEPEAN, ONTARIO

This past week I got to chatting with someone about our Church. He asked me, "So, *what are you?*"  
So I think to myself, "*Can't he see? Young.... intelligent.... athletic.... male.... What do you mean - what am I?*"

Oh - he was asking about Calvin; wanted to know what we are about as a church. Which was a good question.

A very good question.

How would you answer that question if someone asked it of you -  
*Calvin Church, what are you?*

As of this week the building has been taken out of the picture.  
And - guess what - we're still around. Calvin exists in spite of being homeless.  
Beyond the bricks and mortar - *What are you?*

Somewhere along the course of my conversation last week, I said to my acquaintance, "*We're a group of people who serve Jesus Christ. We love Him, and want to live in obedience to Him.*"

Think for a moment -

- assuming that this statement is at least part of the answer to question about our identity as a congregation -

how would you describe a group of people who want to live in obedience to Jesus Christ?

what would they look like?

Hear the word of God:

**Philippians 2:5-11** p.1323

*"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...."*

That's what we're about.

And

- as our physical facility is undergoing renovation and upgrading -  
we're going to pray that the Holy Spirit would work renovation and upgrading within each of us as individuals, and within us as a community of Christians, so that we develop that sort of Christ-like attitude in deeper, richer, authentic ways.

These words from Philippians 2 are actually part of an early hymn of the Church,  
a hymn that hits us square between the eyes in a simple, yet most profound manner.

Here's the picture of Jesus.

And here are benchmark standards by which we can measure our spiritual and character growth.

It's a hymn that brings to mind two great Old Testament themes:

1. From Genesis 3 comes the image of the first Adam, who desired to be God even though he was just a mere creature. Coveting equality with God, he grabbed for it. He sinned greatly and fell in a most awful way.

2. From Isaiah 52-53 comes the image of the suffering servant. This prophetic portrait speaks of one coming, one who would endure horrible agony for the sake of his people.

Two opposite picture -

Jesus comes to counter-act the effects of the first.

He comes to fulfill the second.

It's a hymn speaking of the Son of God, humbling himself to become the Second Adam;  
Enduring the road of terrible suffering as God-made-man, doing it on our behalf.

As that one who was, and always remained God, he could have very easily, while here on earth, asserted his divinity, steam rolling over all opposition.  
During the temptation in the wilderness he could have called out and stones would have become bread.  
He could have jumped from the pinnacle of the temple and demanded that angels rescue him.  
Even in the Garden of Gethsemane he could have called for legions of angels to come to his defense and they would have.

He could have, as the son of Mary, grasped at equality with God.....  
But he didn't!!  
Which is the miraculous part of it all!

He, who came to earth to disarm Satan,  
to regain supreme and total Lordship over all  
chose to do that through the path of servanthood,  
the way of obedient suffering --  
**that** was his pathway to Lordship!

He that was very true God, buried His divinity beneath his humanity -  
- revealing it only for a moment on the mount of transfiguration -

He poured himself out, completely out, all the way to death.  
He....  
the suffering servant.  
totally humiliated.... for **our** sake!

Let that work, that attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.  
Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you by forming, in you -  
**Self-denial.**

God calls us to give up our preoccupation with "*rights.*"  
That's hard when our culture keeps bombarding us with messages that we have some birthright to be the centre of attention. Combine that with a fallen human nature that quite naturally and eagerly drifts toward self-promotion instead of self-denial, and you have a deadly mixture.

The lies are loud and clear - we've all heard them:  
- the key to joy is getting  
- the key to becoming somebody is to look out for "number one."

Jesus said,  
*"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Mk 10:43-45)

Let that work, that attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.  
Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you by forming, in you -  
**Identification.**

Learn to walk in the shoes of those you serve.  
Jesus identified with us in our moments  
moments:  
when we feel like we're about to collapse,  
when we get suckered into temptation of cheap, degrading sorts  
when life disappoints us bitterly.

Doesn't mean we mimic their flaws.  
But we **do** identify with them.

Let that work, that attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.  
Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you by forming, in you -  
**Obedience.**

What motivates you -  
God's agenda..... or your own?  
God's agenda..... or the agenda of your family & friends?  
God's agenda..... or that of our culture?

Let our primary motivation be to gain **His** approval and not the approval of anyone around us.  
As we serve others, let's seek to fulfill God's agenda for their lives.

Let that work, that attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.  
Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you by forming, in you -  
**Sacrifice.**

Be willing to go the distance.  
How much are you willing to let go?  
How much are you willing to give up for Jesus?  
Ever find yourself saying, "*Ah, I've given enough. Let someone else.....*"  
enough money  
enough time  
enough of letting another person have their way  
enough physical effort  
enough phone calls or meetings  
How much are you willing to give up for Jesus?

Do you think he wrestled with that along the way -

- facing constant challenge and humiliation at the hands of Jewish leaders
  - knowing pain and suffering were waiting
  - enduring a form of death reserved to humiliate political rebels
- Do you think he struggled with the temptation to quit?

No Hallmark card will say it – but true love involves self-sacrifice.

Amy Carmichael wrote:

*“Can he have followed Christ far  
who has no wound, no scar?”*

Being Christ-like costs.

Don't whimp out on Jesus.  
Go the distance.

Let the work, the attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.

Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you by forming, in you -  
**Satisfaction.**

Christ was exalted because of His obedience. Now, while it won't be in the same realm, our obedience results in the smile of our Heavenly Father.

We are saved by Jesus.  
Now we have the joy of being able to respond to His great gift of life to us.  
We can know the pleasure and blessing of our Lord in our life and in our relationships as we follow in the King's footsteps.

We can look forward to hearing the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servants.”*  
We can know that the labour done in His strength are never done in vain.

No, never in vain.

Let the work, the attitude of Christ now affect you, believer.

Let it shape you.  
That's your spiritual target.  
So says the word of God.

Let it shape you.

Let it form you.

Let the Holy Spirit grow in you:

Self-denial  
Identification  
Obedience  
Sacrifice  
Satisfaction.

All - that we would look more like Jesus.  
And bring greater glory to Him.