



GOING DEEPER

The Great Reversal: Philippians 2:5-11



Discussion Questions, Read Philippians 2:5-11

This week's message focused on **The Great Reversal** and that while there are several themes that run through the scriptures, threading through them all is the theme of the Great Reversal. Biblical scholar G. K. Beale calls this "God's ironic overturning of human wisdom." Beale says, "In dramatic irony, narrated events are reversed, turned in a direction opposite to where we would have expected them to head."

Zach gave us a quick survey of several stories in scripture where we see The Great Reversal leading to the cross and resurrection of Christ.

Is it difficult for you to believe that a man was also God?

For you is He – Lord, a Liar? Or a Lunatic?

What do you accomplish for God through proper moral conduct?

Here are the three implications of the Great Reversal for us:

First, we see the whole world differently. We do not overly value the competent, confident, and successful. We do not bow and cater to the wealthy, brilliant, and able (James 2:1–7). Rather, we lift up those at the margins.

If you believed this, how would that impact how you gave of your time in service of others? In other words, how would this impact your mind? Your calendar?

Second, it means that we also live and grow and serve in this kingdom not by taking power but, following Jesus, by giving up power in order to forgive, sacrifice, and serve.

What would it mean for you to serve others and not worry about your name, significance or success?

Why do we find it so hard to consider others better than ourselves? (v. 3) In what ways is looking beyond your own interests to the interest of others (v. 4) opposed to the philosophy of the world?

Finally, it means that we enter the kingdom through this same upside-down pattern. Unlike in other religions, we do not achieve salvation by summoning up our strength to live a virtuous life. We receive salvation through the weakness of repentance.

How does Christ's example of humility and obedience speak to your life circumstances this week?

This is the focus of the message- Strength is found through weakness- Jesus, the omnipotent, eternal God knew this as he made himself nothing to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason, God highly exalted him. This is the Great Reversal.

Jesus, by his death, reverses our course as straying sheep. He took on our unrighteousness and sin and in exchange, gives us his righteousness and perfection. By bearing "the sin of many," he reversed the power of the devil and sin's hold on us ([Isa 53:12](#))

Final Thoughts This Week on this Passage:

What is God inviting you into through this passage? What do you feel like God has been saying to you through this scripture and this week's message?

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

Notes and Reflections: