

**Palm Sunday Comment**  
**Philippians 2:5-11**  
**April 9, 2017**

*“The Emptiness of God...the Fullness of Grace”*

Philippians 2:5, perhaps the Bible’s clearest statement about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for the human race, says *“Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant”*. Traditionally this day is called “Palm Sunday”, though I suggest we could just as easily think of it as “Temptation Sunday.” This was a day when Jesus could have chosen to end his ministry in a very different way from what he did. He could have chosen at the very least a seat of influence in the established political and religious realms of his day, and that at the very least is what the crowd was ready to hand him. He chose instead nothing but the form and place of a servant. He was and is a very different kind of king.

Philippians says he “emptied himself”. To be empty, according to Webster’s is *“to contain nothing”*. To “empty”, as it is intended in Philippians, means; *“to completely eliminate elements of high status, by eliminating all privileges associated with such status”*. *‘Though he was in the form of God’*... Your salvation and the privilege of living a godly life today, come to you from a Savior who shows that godliness comes under the form of emptiness. When by God’s grace you set aside whatever privileges your education, or occupation, or position might ascribe to you, whether in the home, at work or school, or even as a church member, you will discover the sum and substance of being a Christian. You will become a disciple of the King. You will discover that you gain by giving away, that you will have peace by making peace, and that you will finally gain control of your life by surrendering it...to Jesus Christ.

Ask yourself this - how many times in your life have you been the beneficiary of someone surrendering an advantage they may have had over you and thereby extended you some kindness or opportunity you may not have deserved? How many times have you returned that sort of favor to someone yourself? Then consider, *“though in the very form of God”*, Jesus ignored his noble position as well as your desperate one.

When he entered Jerusalem, with much honor, Jesus chose to ignore the crowd’s version of Palm Sunday – which was sizing up to be a day full of praise, popularity and power – temptations then just like now, and go with the stunningly austere script of God - a cross. Jesus emptied himself. And that is why you can leave today filled with hope. Consider this. If you can recall the effect of another human being’s kindness to you, or yours on them, imagine what the kindness of the King of kings will do for you. The Passion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of God.

