

Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 25th September 2022 10 am

Love serves – our royal example

Welcome to all.

Opening Scripture Hebrews 13:15

Hymn MP 41 At the name of Jesus

Scripture Isaiah 42:1-9 (page 727)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Children's talk

Chorus MP 465 Meekness and majesty

Notices Harvest 2nd Oct. Fellowship Lunch bring and share
Saturday 10:30 set up display, Communion 9th,
BCM Annual Celebration

CAP Kristal

Prayer time

Reading Philippians 2:1-11 (page 1179)

Hymn MP 1141 You're the word of God the father

Sermon Love serves – our royal example

Hymn MP 258 I am trusting thee Lord Jesus

Closing Prayer

Close

Kristal Kierstenson

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Book by founder John Kirby

Exordium and Prayer

■ Justin Welby started his funeral address for the late QE II with these words: "The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory."

He went on: "Jesus – who in our reading does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: "I am the way, the truth and the life". Her Late Majesty's example was not set through her position or her ambition, but through whom she followed." He went to remind us that: "In 1953 the Queen began her Coronation with silent prayer, her allegiance to God. her service to so many people in this nation, the Commonwealth and the world, had its foundation in her following Christ – God himself – who said that he "came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

(The short but full sermon is available at the back of the room)

Jesus showed through His own life how we should live our life. And we are the worse for it when we don't follow His way. It is a harder road than the easy way many are now on, but anyone who seeks that road, will find the Lord Jesus, His help, His power. And one day share in His Glory.

[Let me remind you of what is happening here.-](#)

Paul because of his faithfulness to the Lord is suddenly banged up in prison. The Christians at Philippi in hearing of what had happened to Paul saw it as the worst possible news. It has put them into a flat spin, they really didn't know what to make of it, and in their young faith assumed that all was lost.

Paul writes to the Church in Philippi out of concern for them. He may well be concerned for himself in prison, for in those days, prisons were dreadful places, as indeed they still are in some places around the world.

People are asking in our country now the Queen has gone, what now? Where is the moral authority? Will Charles be truly a Defender of the Faith? What about disestablishment? that is the connection between church and state. What even of the monarchy itself? What now?

They were thinking "Paul the great champion for the faith is now in prison what now for us? What now for the church? What now for the Gospel?"

"No" says Paul from his prison cell, "the Lord is in charge, He is sovereign, and in fact good has come out of it, instead of hindering the Gospel it has advanced it!"

What did they need to do? He says v2 **then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.** x2

That is stand firm and remain united in love. A loving and united church is a strong church. Just as a loving and united family is a strong family.

This is what they needed to do, stand firm, serve in love together, and hold out the Gospel as they faced the difficulties of living for Jesus in this evil world.

For everyone who denies self and follows Jesus will not only find much joy, But you will also find hardships **For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,**” Phil 1:29

It’s a wrong view of Jesus and what it is to follow Him that is behind our surprise and indignation when suffering comes.

Certainly many suffer in this world without being followers of Jesus, despite our technical advances and financial security you won’t be able to avoid it.

But true followers of Jesus will face extra trouble. **In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.** 2 Tim 3:12

✚ The passage this morning tells us how to stand strong in it, remain loving in it, remain united in it, and to trust God through it.

■ The life and character of our late queen has been such an example to so many. And that is those who never met her. How much more has she been to those who did meet her, and even got to know her.

There is power in an example, but for a Christian it is the internal experience and enabling of Christ within His people, - As I believe she knew - that brings the power, the fire, the character, the steadiness, - it is His Spirit that makes all the difference. **Jesus is not ‘out there’ but ‘in here’**

Being a Christian is an experience, so Paul says:

“1 **If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,** *Experience*

if any comfort from his love, *Experience*

if any fellowship with the Spirit, *Experience*

if any tenderness and compassion, *Experience*

Did you notice the if / then statement, if x 4... 2 **then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.**

Can you see those qualities in your life? Is it evident? Is there a love for Jesus Christ that seeks to serve Him and His kingdom?

When we are told to forgive one another, love each other giving time, money and practical help? Are you doing this?

The sign we are saved is that we love Him. When you read about making disciples of others do you say Lord ‘I want to do this’ – and in obedience go and do it - When we are told to join together in prayer, Do you do this?

There are many who do not do these things. They will not be in Heaven. They will not avoid Hell on Judgment day. **No deeds, no faith** simple as that. God sees more integrity in those outside who live in disbelief - than those who profess faith but do not live it, and have nothing to show for it.

If that is you then confess it, go to the Cross, stop serving whoever it is you are serving, and turn to Christ whom God has made Lord of all. Turn from your own way and take Him as Lord of your life. Give him his rightful place

Jesus’ horrific death shows us how terrible sin is in the sight of God. The cross is a picture of hell raised up for the world to see. To see and turn. For it is none other that God in the flesh who suffered and shed his blood to cleanse away my sin. Oh what love! That is where you will find peace with God.

This Lord of all Glory, this author of life became a servant: **6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

He did not have to grasp it because he had it, being **the image of the invisible God** Col 1:15, and **the brightness of his glory, and express image of his person,** Heb 1:3.

Jesus has the same form, the same nature, and essence as the Father. He has all the many attributes and the same glorious names, God, the mighty God, the true God, the living God, God over all, the Lord of glory, &c. He is the creator and sustainer of all things, the same worship and homage are His.

The devil tries to steal the throne of heaven, proud men lay hold of heaven, everyone of us are naturally puffed up, and put ourselves forward to remove God and try to take his place.

Yet Jesus, who is God in all his Glory **made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

The Devil and his demons were forcibly ejected from heaven and fell to earth, Jesus left willingly....

What a contrast, what condescension, from the highest to the lowest, he was not humbled, he humbled himself, and **made himself nothing.** He voluntarily assumed human nature; it was his own act, He *emptied himself*, divested,

took off the honours and glories of the upper world, to clothe himself with the rags of human nature. **taking the very nature of a servant.**

✚ Hear Archbishop Trench “Lowliness found no place in heathen ethics since it was thought of as a form of abject grovelling. That it became a primary Christian virtue is entirely due to the example and teaching of Christ [John 13.46], whose sinless humility consisted in taking the form of a servant and rendering a perfect obedience to God [Phil 2.5-8]. (Richard Trench 9 September 1807 – 28 March 1886 was an Anglican archbishop and poet.)

Although he was God over all – Jesus gave it up and became a servant, the word is Doulos and also translated slave, slave. It means a bondman, one who gives himself up to another’s will, devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests. He washed dirty feet etc.,

Should not we all have the like-mindedness and the same low-mindedness?

He was obedient in everything, yes everything even death. **he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!** Phil 2:6-8

That is the lot of the lowest, he was despised and rejected, **I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.** Psalms 22:6

Do you really want to follow someone like that?

For every follower of Jesus

Phil 2:5 **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

✚ If the attitude is right - the actions will follow x2

✚ God's servants are like a potter and clay (Jer 18:1-6). **To be useful, clay has to be pliable. Its usefulness is still subject to the discretion of the potter.**

Paul is in prison – he could have quickly denounced his faith and been out a free man. He chose to serve His Lord,

He chose the narrow road, the Lord’s way, the way of suffering.

Paul knew – and you and I must know what there is on the road to Glory.

We for the most part do not suffer as they suffered, but many, most Christians around the world suffer, and many are suffering greatly, suffering horrendous torture, imprisonment, rejection, hatred, loss of home, property, family, and why? for they will not forsake Jesus their Lord and their love for Him.

How much do I suffer? Any one here shed your blood for the Lord? No, it is mostly no more than a harsh word? A slur or insult? Can we not hold our

nerve? hold our ground and continue in love? knowing that Christ suffered much more. *Love suffereth long*, love is patient. We can do that!

So if he humbled himself should not we - his followers? Yes of course, not to live humbly is to misunderstand Christianity.

That is what love is, love serves and as a servant I position myself below others, not to gain - but to give. Not to better myself - but to better others, Love serves the best interest of others – didn’t Jesus? – Let us look to Him.

The strength of the church is measured in the love displayed among us, love for the Lord and love for His Gospel.

So let us heed Paul’s call to the believers that we are motivated by love **2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love,**

Love promotes unity so he says **being one in spirit and purpose.** In that church there was, as in many churches, disunity, one person not getting on with another. Jesus tells us how to resolve these things, sadly again and again I have seen that completely ignored and the direct opposite action taken.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition x2 an enemy of unity – **or vain conceit,** Pride another enemy of unity, the two greater enemies to Christian love.

Their actions were driven by self, self-advancement, Like King David’s son Absalom who positioned himself into taking his father’s place.

No we **in humility consider others better than ourselves.** In other words

1. be severe upon our own faults – but charitable in our judgments of others,
2. be quick in observing our own defects and infirmities, but ready to overlook and give the benefit of the doubt with the defects of others.
3. Know my own failings - while finding the good in others.

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. that does not mean sticking my nose into another’s business which he has nothing to do me. No, we are to have a concern for the best interest of others. Sadly 2:21 we read **For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.**

✚ Is that true of us here? Would Jesus say that about His church here at KNBC? Does that apply to us?

or is my **attitude ... the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

Paul is saying “if you confess faith in Christ - then be like Him!”

- One way is to spend time with local families and help them through and out of their debt situation, such a horrid cloud to have hanging over anyone. What would be – should be our motivation for doing this? It is the Lord clearing away my debt.
- Some of you do not have very good health, but your mind is good and you can sit down and give time and advice.

You won't find the motivation to do this by reading books about Jesus, you must know him and His power – the mark that you know Him is that you are like Him.

Those who have the same love and humility will one day too be lifted up to heaven.

Christ is raised up

- Justin Welby reminded the world in his sermon: [Christ rose from the dead](#) and offers life to all, abundant life now and life with God in eternity.

Yes v 9-11 God **exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Note: **exalted him to the highest place** - You cannot go higher than highest! **the name that is above every name**, 'name' denotes dignity and honour. **above every name** is very emphatic. The 1000 pages of the OT have one message: there is One Name the **most High** name over every name yet here Jesus Name **is above every name**.

Every knee will bow before Jesus, every knee, every where, over all time. Yes you too!

Jesus Christ is Lord, There is but one Lord, one who will not share his glory with another - this Lord is the Lord mentioned over 6000 in the OT is actually the one who became flesh, Jesus is the Lord.

Let us 'look up, x2' to the one enthroned on High

The psalmist said When I beheld his Glory all made sense Ps 73

Having finished his work of humiliation we see the restoration of that glory, and yet there's more: there's additional honour conferred on him. the added

glory resulting from the work which he had performed in redeeming man. And taking that human nature – my human nature - with him to Glory!

He exalted his whole person, the human nature as well as the divine;

With his Glory so His humanity was raised up and along with him all who are in Christ. The elevated place of man with Christ.

So we read in Ephesians that God the Father **raised him from the dead that is physically and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**" Eph 1:20-21

In a word, as man was in the beginning at the head of all the creatures of God, Jesus Christ, by assuming human nature, suffering and dying in it, has raised it to its *pristine state*. And as Christ lead the way, the leader and forerunner so now with him all who have loved and served as he did.

Finally Do you know it?

- ✚ Does your life display this Like-mindedness – and low-mindedness

humble yourself now, Look to the Lord who will one day raise you up and take you to himself.

- ✚ Churchill is reputed to have said: 'The further you look back into history the more able you able to see what is ahead' (With the amount of interest and books he wrote on history I can believe that.)

Maybe we can say the more we look up the more able we are to see where we are going.

Lord show me your Glory, let me see what is ahead to better serve you today.

The future hope of a Christian is one of bodily resurrection,

- **Our servant Queen is now with the King She served**

The Queen is among those whom the Lord will receive with the words "good and faithful Servant"

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