

LESSONS FROM THE TABLE:

"The Main Thing"

June 26, 2022

Overarching Theme: 2022 – *The Year of the Lord's Favor* (Luke 4:19)

Instructions:

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

Core Point for 2022:

As the world begins awakening from 2 years of pandemic stupor, the words of Jesus proclaiming "the year of the Lord's favor" is a message whose time has come. This passage from Luke 4 harkens back to the 'year of jubilee' of Leviticus 25 and Isaiah 61, a year of a fresh start, a clean slate and reset for everyone who can envision new *possibilities* with God this Pentecost season and always.

Reflect on this Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13 NIV

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

This Week: Philippians 2: 1-13

Poetic rhythm sets Philippians 2:6-11 apart as one of our earliest examples of the church's worship. This passage, which is perhaps a hymn, shows that the early Pauline churches understood Christ to be a preexistent being who was obedient to God. His extreme obedience and humiliation are seen in his death on the cross, God responds to that obedience by exalting Christ to the highest position in the universe. There Christ defeats the powers of evil and is in a position to grant salvation to those who have faith in him. Paul quotes this worship text to remind the Philippians of Christ's willingness to accept disadvantage for the good of others and to set up Christ as the example of the way they should relate to one another.

- The CEB Study Bible, page 377 NT

Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:

1. Review Philippians 2:2-4. List the specifics of Paul's exhortations to the Philippians regarding love and humility among believers.
2. Paul states in vs. 5: "*in your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.*" How does this apply to us today? What would specifically change about our daily relationships and encounters if we were to apply Paul's challenge?
3. Jesus "self-emptied" himself (The Greek word for "self-empty" is *kenosis*). What things do you need to self-empty in your own life to allow you to have the mindset of Christ in you?
4. Reviewing vs. 7-9, list the specific ways that Jesus humbled himself. How did God the Father respond to Jesus' humility (vs. 9)? What does Paul say about the ultimate response of all humanity to the exaltation of Christ (v. 10-11)? How then should we respond now (v.12)?

Activity for the Life of a Disciple:

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC
2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: Philippians 2:9-11. *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.*