

**Text: Philippians 2:5-8**

**Title: “Making Adjustments”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As we prepare to enter a new year there are likely some adjustments that you intend to make to your lifestyle. Or maybe you're running a little behind. At this time last year you decided you needed to make adjustments in your life about your diet, your spending, or your exercise. Well you still have two days to accomplish that so you better get started.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Social media is buzzing with everyone's resolutions for the New Year. Here are a few that I ran across that were particularly challenging:

I will drive by a fitness center at least once a week.

I resolve to stop procrastinating *about procrastinating!*

I will stop sending Facebook messages and emails to my loved ones when they are in the same room as I am!

I will use my treadmill for something other than a place to hang my dirty clothes.

I will actually laugh out loud when I type “LOL” to the person I am messaging.

I will buy a more accurate scale. Mine keeps reading the same old numbers!

I will stop blaming the dryer for my clothes not fitting.

I will spend less than \$1825 for coffee at Starbucks this year.

To lose weight I will stop buttering my doughnuts.

Well there are always adjustments that God wants us to make in our lives as we pursue His will more faithfully. Open your Bibles to Philippians 2:5. I want you to think about the adjustments our Lord Jesus made as He fulfilled the Father's purpose for His life.

Before I read the text, let me set the context here for us. The letter to the Philippians was a four-chapter thank you note written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi for their faithfulness in supporting him in His missionary endeavors. Paul loved the church there, but he learned of a serious problem that needed to be addressed. There was some disunity and conflict in the church that threatened their fellowship and their witness ... and he has a simple solution to the dilemma. Here's what will get everyone on the same page:

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

The solution is for everyone to have the attitude, the mind-set, the way of thinking that Jesus Christ possessed. He is the pattern for the Christian life. And Jesus' attitude was revealed in the amazing thing He did at the Incarnation, when He stepped into a human body and became one of us, and one with us.

**Philippians 2:6 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

**Philippians 2:7 - but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

**Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!**

The Father had an amazing purpose and plan. It was to redeem the lost human race that had fallen in sin. And Jesus, the Son of Almighty God, made adjustments to fulfill the part He would play in the role of God's Redeemer. Let me remind you of the great adjustments that Jesus made when He came to this earth so you and I could be saved.

## **1. HE WHO WAS GOD BECAME A MAN.**

**Philippians 2:6 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

This tells us that of the great exchange Jesus made at the Incarnation. The Bible says that in the beginning there was the Word (Jesus). The Word was with God and the Word was God.

**John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

So Jesus, in becoming a human, did not lose any of His divine glory. In the face of Jesus you still saw the Father. But in doing this Jesus limited Himself. God squeezed into a human body meant that Jesus would take on the same limitations that you and I have to deal with ... but He would never sin.

As we think about adjustments we need to make in our lives to more faithfully fulfill God's will for our lives, there will be limitations that we put on ourselves so that others can see and know Jesus Christ.

But there's more:

## **2. HE WHO WAS IN HEAVEN CAME TO EARTH.**

**Philippians 2:6 - Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

Throughout the Christmas celebration we have been reminded of one of the names of the Messiah ... Immanuel. The angel told Joseph...

**Matthew 1:23 - “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”**

So in Christ, God came to be with us. So Jesus adjusted His location in order to be near those who needed to be saved. And as you and I think about adjustments we need to make to fulfill the mission of God for us, we may need to change our location. By that I mean that God may be calling some of us, at the very least, to adjust the traffic pattern of our lives so that we will come into greater contact with those who need Christ. Some of us will need to break out of our holy huddle. That’s what God did in the Incarnation.

For others of us, this may mean a more dramatic adjustment to your location ... perhaps to another part of the world where people need to hear about Jesus.

And it is true for our church as well. We need to continually look for ways to get out of our holy huddle and take the Gospel out into the community where people need Jesus.

But there’s more:

### **3. HE WHO WAS RICH BECAME POOR.**

In another place Paul talked about the adjustment of Jesus in these terms:

**2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

So Jesus didn’t think of His position and His pleasure in heaven as something to be grasped and selfishly clutched. He released all of those “riches” in order to become poor. Why? He did it so that you and I could become rich through the grace of God’s salvation. So Jesus made an adjustment in His level of comfort and convenience in order for people to be saved.

And if Jesus is our pattern, we will do the same. We will make adjustments in the way we spend our money and our time, limiting ourselves so that others may know Jesus.

But there’s another adjustment Jesus made in the Incarnation:

### **4. HE WHO WAS LOVE BECAME HATED.**

**Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!**

And Jesus did this because God so loved the world. And with the love of the Father pulsating in Him Jesus made an adjustment. He stepped into a world of hate.

The Bible says that the light of Jesus came into the world and the darkness could not comprehend it, and therefore rejected it.

**John 1:10 - He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.**

**John 1:11 - He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

Jesus reminds us that as we make adjustments to our lives and boldly take our stand for Christ in our world we will experience the same treatment He experienced.

**John 15:18 - “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.**

Let’s face it church: If we are as faithful to Jesus as we should be we will face the same treatment that He faced. We may have lost our homefield advantage here in the US. But that doesn’t excuse us from playing our hearts out in love for those without Christ.

But there’s another adjustment that Jesus made:

## **5. HE WHO WAS LORD BECAME A SERVANT.**

Before the Incarnation, the Son enjoyed the place of supremacy in all of the universe in the presence of the Father. When Jesus left heaven He did not relinquish that exalted title “Lord.” But the Lord became a servant.

**Philippians 2:7 - but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

And as a servant Jesus served to the ultimate:

**Philippians 2:8b - He humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!**

When you get a glimpse of the mercy and grace that has been shown to us ... the adjustments that Jesus made for us ... it has to move you to adoration.

And if Jesus humbled Himself in this way ... if He put aside His agenda, His preferences, His comfort, His convenience, His wealth ... we must do the same. What adjustments do you need to make to your life to become more of a servant like Jesus?

But there’s one more great adjustment I want you to see:

## **6. HE WHO WAS SINLESS BECAME SIN FOR US.**

**Philippians 2:8b – (Jesus) humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!**

In doing this Jesus was accomplishing the great work of our redemption.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

What an amazing adjustment Jesus made in fulfilling the Father's purpose for His life! And again, this should move us to worship. In fact, that is what we are going to do as we share together in the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a timeless observance that Jesus instituted as one of His last acts upon the earth before He was crucified and raised again on the third day. Remember that night before He was crucified Jesus gathered with His disciples:

## LORD'S SUPPER

**Matthew 26:26 - While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."**

**Matthew 26:27 - Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."**

**Matthew 26:28 - This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

## CONCLUSION

Just think of the adjustments Jesus made to fulfill the purpose of the Father for His life ... the purpose of redeeming lost humanity. What adjustments should we make in our lives to fulfill the Father's purpose of us ... which is the same purpose He had for His Son ... to redeem a lost world? As you think about the New Year, and the adjustments that you need to make to take your place in God's great purpose and plan of redemption in our world, let me help you get practical.

With the attitude of Jesus Christ:

- What adjustments will you make to your family life?
- What adjustments will you make to your financial life?
- What adjustments will you make to your calendar?
- What adjustments will you make to your relationships with non-believers?
- What adjustments will you make with your life plans?