

There's No One Like Jesus

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[0 : 00] Let's turn back to the chapter that we read, Epistle of Paul to the Philippians, Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2.

This evening, for a few moments, we're going to look at the section from verse 5 down to the end of verse 11. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing. Made himself nothing. It's right and proper as we look forward to a weekend where we remember the Lord's death till he comes, when we obey the command that he gave on the night before he was crucified, the night he was betrayed.

It's right and proper that as we prepare for the Lord's day that we think about, we consider our Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Because there's nobody like him. You know that. I know that. There is nobody like him. There's been nobody else like him. In the whole history of this planet, since it was first set going, billions upon billions of people have lived.

[1 : 40] And they've died. And many have left their mark. But no one has made such an indelible and unmovable mark as this humble Jewish man, this carpenter from Nazareth called Yeshua, Jesus.

Now, if Jesus had just been an ordinary man, the world would have forgotten all about him as soon as he was executed, as soon as his body was disposed of, they would have forgotten all about him as nothing special.

But Jesus was no ordinary man. Even the world says that he was no ordinary man. Let me give you a couple of quotes. H.G. Wells, some of you will know that name.

H.G. Wells was a writer. He was a novelist. Probably his most famous work was called The Time Machine. And he said this.

He said, I am not a believer. But I find that the most significant figure in human history is the man from Galilee, Jesus Christ. H.G. Wells was not a believer.

[2 : 50] But he could not get past the significance of Jesus. Napoleon, the great but very small French general.

He said this. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But in what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force.

Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love. And at this hour, millions of men would die for him. Nobody would die for Napoleon today.

Nobody would die for Charlemagne or Alexander the Great. Nobody would go that far for these men. But it's true today that millions would die for Jesus.

This evening, as we look forward to the Lord's Day, when Jesus' death will be commemorated.

When our focus quite rightly should be and will be on Jesus. I want to take a few minutes to look at this joiner, this carpenter from Nazareth.

[3 : 54] This man from a backwoods village from nowhere. Who sacrificed himself for us. Because there is nobody like Jesus.

These verses that we read in Philippians tell us why he is so different. There's nobody like Jesus in the way that he came and how he came.

His coming was humble. Now granted it was spectacular. No other birth has been heralded by angels and visited by shepherds and wise men.

But his coming was humble. Look at the marvelous words in verse 6 of the section that we read there. Did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

Didn't count equality with God the Father something to be held onto at all costs.

[4 : 55] Look at what Jesus was willing to put to one side for you and me. Now let's be clear. We worship one God. In the Old Testament he's called Yahweh.

He's called Jehovah. He's the covenant keeping God. The God who keeps the promise that he makes to his people. And in Deuteronomy chapter 6. There's a line.

There's a phrase. It's called the Shema which says this. Hear O Israel. The Lord our God. The Lord is one. But our one God is made up of three persons.

If you know your catechism. You'll remember that there are three persons in the Godhead. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. God the Son. God the Father. God the Holy Spirit. We call them the Trinity.

And also if you know your catechism. You'll know that they are the same in substance. Equal in power and glory. There is an equivalence between the three persons. In the Godhead.

[5 : 59] So Jesus is God the Son. In the flesh. He is the second person of the Trinity. Became man. So although he was equal in power.

And glory. To God the Father. He was willing to submit. To everything. That God the Father wanted. By his coming into this world.

Look at how he let go. If you like. Of that equality. Made himself. Nothing. Jesus voluntarily. Wasn't forced to do it. Didn't have to do it. Voluntarily laid aside. Some of his divine rights. When he came into this world.

To save you and me. Jesus was present. At creation. John chapter 1 verse 3. Says that all things were made through him.

[6 : 57] And nothing was made without him. That was made. But. And this is a truly amazing thing.

When you think about it. When Jesus came into the world. As an infant. As a baby. He. He. He. The creator. Was dependent. On one of his creatures.

For sustenance. And for nourishment. And for protection. Made himself. Nothing. Did not count equality with God. Something. To be grasped.

To be hung on to. At all costs. Taking the form of a servant. That's another. Another thing there. To look at Jesus.

Would just have been. An ordinary. Mediterranean. Working man. You wouldn't probably. If you didn't know who he was. You maybe wouldn't have given him. A second look in the street. Isaiah.

[7 : 53] In chapter 53. Calls him the servant. Speaks of him in quite low. Vocabulary. And this suffering servant.

Jesus. God in the flesh. He was rejected. Spurned. By the very people. Who claimed to worship. And to serve. And to love him. He came to his own.

And his own people. Rejected him. But they did more than reject him. They hated him. They despised him.

They dragged him out of the city. And they nailed him to a cross. And they killed him. Made himself. Nothing. Born in the likeness of men.

Says Paul. Likeness. Means in the image of. At creation. God made man. In his own image.

[8 : 49] Let us make man. After our own image. Genesis chapter 1. Verse 26. When Jesus. Was born in Bethlehem. When the son of God.

Came into the world. God made himself. In man's image. Being found in human form. Look at how far.

He was willing to go for us. How far from glory. He was willing to go. For us. Jesus was born. As a human.

Lived. As a human. Suffered. As a human. Died. As a human. He was. In every sense of the word. A real. Genuine. Bonafide.

100% human man. He experienced pain. New poverty. Sorrow. Loneliness. And ultimately.

[9 : 43] He knew rejection. And death. He knew rejection. Even from his father. With whom he had been. Face to face. In glory. My God.

My God. Why have you forsaken me? What's that? But rejection. And isolation. He experienced. Every.

Aspect. Of human existence. And beyond. But with one. Vital difference. He did not. Know. Sin. He voluntarily.

Came into this world. He voluntarily. Subjected himself. To a human life. So that he could. Identify. Stand with. You.

And I. Did not. Count equality. With God. A thing. To be grasped. It's one of the most. Beautiful. Phrases. In the whole. Of the New Testament.

[10:38] If not the whole. Of the Bible. What he was willing. To set aside. He didn't see. Of being of the same essence. As God. Something to be held on to.

At all costs. So he willingly. Freely. Voluntarily. Turned that loose. He let it go. For us. For you. And for me.

He did it. To save us. He did it. To understand us. And he did it. To help us. He did it. So that we would not.

Have a high priest. Who is. Unable. To sympathize. With our infirmities. Hebrews chapter 4. He did it. For us. He was willing.

To do that. For us. Jesus. And his arrival. Was holy. It was humble. But it was also holy. While God.

[11:32] The son. Jesus. While he became man. He never stopped. Being God. He was 100% human man. And he was 100% God.

At the same time. There was no stop. In his deity. In his godliness. So that he could become. A human being. He merely concealed.

His heavenly glory. In an ordinary human body. A true body. A reasonable soul. Again. As the catechism says. But every now and then. As you read through.

The gospels. Every now and then. You can see his deity. You can see his. Godness. If you like. It just comes shining through. It can't be hidden. One of the great examples of that.

Is on the mountain of transfiguration. When he meets with Moses and Elijah. And he's trained. He's transformed. And he's radiant. And he's speaking with these great patriarchs.

[12:30] About the exodus. The going out. That he's about to perform. From the world. To go back to his father. Just couldn't hide. There.

That he was God. And Jesus' arrival was holy. Because when he was born in Bethlehem. God. Actually. Came into the world.

God. Lived. And worked. Amongst his creatures. Amongst. Human beings. John chapter 1. The word became flesh. And dwelt among us.

Ever since Adam and Eve. Had sinned in the garden of Eden. Ever since they had broken. The fellowship with God. That they enjoyed. Way back in Genesis.

Chapter 3. Ever since that. That sentence. Had been. Had been. Carried out on them. They were. Thrown out of the garden. And. Ever since then.

[13:29] God had begun. Drawing closer. And closer. And closer. To his people. The fellowship. Had been broken. In Eden. But God. Had come amongst his people.

In the tabernacle. In the wilderness. After he drew them out. After he. Led them out. Through Moses. From Egypt. Where he dwelt. In the tent of meeting.

In the tabernacle. Where he. He lived behind. His presence. Was behind the great. Curtain in the most holy place. And it was the same. In the temple. In Jerusalem. Where sacrifices were made.

God was there. His presence was there. Behind. The curtain. In the holy of holies. In the most holy place. But only one person. Only one man. Could go to where God was.

Only the high priest. Could go. And he could only go. Once a year. And he could only go. With blood. And he had to go. Every year. But here.

[14:27] In Bethlehem. In that stable. With Jesus. God was actually coming. Actually dwelling. Actually living. Amongst his people.

Nobody ever. Had an arrival. Like his. And there's nobody. Like Jesus. In what he did. Look at the pain. Of what he did. Verse 8.

Tells us. That Jesus. The God. Man. Willingly. Allowed himself. To be overtaken. By death. Willingly. Allowed himself. To be overtaken.

By death. He's called. The prince of life. In Acts chapter 3. Verse 15. But he willingly. Entered the jaws. Of death. Why? For you and me. Jesus.

Did everything he did. For you and me. He's called the resurrection. And the life. In John chapter 11. But he allowed the cruel fingers. Of death. To wrap themselves.

[15:26] Around him. Why? So that you and I. Can have. His. Life. He takes. Our sin. He dies. Our death.

He experienced. Our hell. An eternity. Of our hell. On the cross. So that we can have. An eternity. Of his heaven. With him. Jesus' death.

It was no ordinary death. We read there. That it was. Even the death. Of the cross. Paul said. It's a cursed death. It was a humiliating death.

It was deeply brutal. It was a humiliating. Execution. It was a punishment. That was designed. To humiliate. The people.

Who were. Who were. Crucified. It was agony. It was humiliation. It was embarrassment. There was no dignity. About it.

[16:26] And it was a long. Drawn out process. It could take. Days. Days. Days. For a fit young man. In his thirties. To die.

Jesus died. In horrible agony. But it wasn't just. Physical agony. That he died in. There was spiritual agony. As well. Isaiah says.

You will see. The anguish. Of his soul. The anguish. Of his soul. As he went through. The isolation. As he went through. The father. Pouring out. All of his wrath. And anger. And hatred. For sin. Focusing it. On to Jesus.

On the cross. It wasn't that long. Since God. Had proclaimed him. My beloved son. And whom I am. Well pleased.

[17:24] And now. He stood there. Pouring out. All of our hell. Onto his beloved son. He became. Sin. For us. You will see. The anguish. Of his soul. And you will be. Satisfied. Jesus. Is enough. Because what he did. Is enough. It's enough. For you. And me. So that we can live. In boundless glory. If we believe. And trust in him.

And look at the power. Of what he did. By his death. Jesus redeemed. All people. Who believe on him. It's not just all people.

Who have believed on him. Since Jesus was here. It's not just all people. Who live. In.

[18:25] A.D. It's also all people. Who believe in him. Who live B.C. It's those who look forward. To his coming. Abraham. The patriarchs. Those who could see.

Through the. Through the sacrifices. And the symbols. And the signs. That there was. In the old testament. That rescue was coming. Those who could see.

In the ark. Noah. And his family. Who could see. That there was. Rescue. Coming from the judgment. To come. Those who could see. Forward.

That the seed. Of the woman. Was coming. To crush. The head. Of the serpent. All who have believed. In Jesus. Have been saved. By his blood.

And will be saved. By his blood. The psalmist said. Generations. Yet unborn. Will praise. And magnify. The Lord. There's still. Generations. To come.

[19:22] There's still. Room. There's still. The promise. There's still. The power. Jesus. Showed. God's. Unlimited. Love.

For sinners. When he died. On the cross. It always. Amazes me. That it's. While we are still. Sinners. That Christ. Died for us. It's. While the prodigal. Son.

Was still. Covered in the rags. Stinking from the pigsty. That the father. Wrapped him. In the robe. Of his righteousness. Didn't make him. Wash. Didn't make him.

Clean. Didn't. Make him. Improve himself. Didn't give him. Any time. Of probation. While we were. Still sinners. Isn't that wonderful? Thank God.

That's written down. He opened. The way. To the father. To God. For all. Who want. To be saved. And look at the price. Of what he did. Jesus.

[20:17] Didn't simply. Become a human. For his. Time. On earth. For the 33 years. Or 35 years. Or however long it was. Even after dying. Rising again.

And ascending. To heaven. He still. Carries. His humanity. He is still. The God. Man. He still. He still. Stands.

Between us. And the father. I believe. In heaven. Today. That Jesus. Still bears. The marks. And the wounds. Of his suffering. At Calvary. There's that picture.

That John gives us. In Revelation. Chapter 5. Put yourself. There for a moment. When we see. Jesus there. When we stand. In the middle. Of the crowd. The host. That no man. Can number. In front.

[21:14] Of the throne. Of heaven. We'll see Jesus. As God. We'll see Jesus. Also. As the man. Who died. For our sins. On the cross. But we will. Also see him.

As the lamb. Of God. Who has taken. Away. The sin of the world. The lamb. Of God. Who still bears. The marks. Of that experience. In his body.

Revelation 5. Verse 6. Says the lamb. Standing in the middle. Of his throne. As if it had been slain. We will see the evidence.

Of Jesus love. For us. Staring back at us. All through eternity. The spotless bride of Christ. You and me.

We will be reminded. Of the price. That was paid. For our redemption. Nobody has ever. Accomplished. What Jesus did. There is nobody like Jesus.

[22 : 10] In his. Advancement. In one of his books. Stolen McLeod asked. Who was the cross. Meant to impress.

I remember reading it. And thinking. That is a strange question. But who was the cross. Meant to impress. The answer is. It was to impress. God the father.

It was to impress. The father. Because of Jesus obedience. And what the father. Asked him to do. Because of the love. The unstinting love. He showed for us.

And because of the price. He was willing to pay. And the price. That he did pay. Because of all of that. God the father. Has highly exalted. Jesus.

Highly exalted him. He's raised him. To the utmost. Of majesty. There's three areas. Mentioned in these verses.

[23 : 08] In which God the father. Has highly exalted his son. He's exalted. In his name. He's been given a name. That is above. Every name. And at the mention.

Of Jesus name. That wonderful name. Lives have been changed. Blind eyes. Have opened. Deaf. Ears. Have unstopped. Sins.

Shackles. Have fallen away. Night. Has been turned into day. Defeat. Has been swallowed up. In the jaws. Of victory. And hope.

Has replaced. Emptiness. Dead men. Have come to life. Lost men. Have been found. Devils. Have trembled. That's a powerful name.

To do that. To the devil. Devils. Have trembled. Sinners. Have been broken. And saints. Have shouted. And angels. Have bowed. More has been done. By the power.

[24 : 02] Of that name. Than of all. Of the names. Of all. Other human beings. Combined. Do you ever wonder.

How come. That name. Nowadays. Is more often. Used as a swear. Or an oath. It's all part. Of the devil's plan.

To bring down. The kingdom of God. It's all part. Of Satan's strategy. To minimize. The glory of God. As best he can.

In God's kingdom. In God's world. If you ever. Wonder. About Satan's attitude. To this world. Go back to Job chapter one.

And there's a convocation. In heaven. And Satan is there. And God. God says to Satan. Where have you been?

[24 : 59] And Satan says. I've been stamping up and down. All over your world. I've been going to and fro. Doing what I like. In your world. God. God. That's what happens.

When somebody. Is taking. Jesus name. In vain. It's the devil. Trying to stamp. All over. God's creation.

He's trying to bring down. God's glory. He's trying to belittle. That name. That name. That is above. Every name. There's really something.

Special. To a believer. About that name. How sweet. The name of Jesus. Sounds. On a believer's ear. It soothes our sorrows. Heals our wounds. And drives away our fear.

It's a beautiful name. It's a wonderful name. That name. Is cause for joy. In heaven. It strikes fear. Into the inhabitants. Of hell. That was. That name.

[25 : 57] Is what changed. My life. 28th of August. 1978. In that middle. Passage there. The name. Of Jesus. Lifts us up.

Something special. About that name. And Jesus. Is exalted. In his fame. If this was. An ordinary man. We wouldn't know.

About him today. How many other people. How many thousands. Of people. Were crucified. By the Roman Empire. How many of them. Can you name.

One. One. We're told. That there's a day coming. When every single person. Who has ever lived. Whether they believe. In Jesus or not. Will bow before him. And confess him. As Lord and Savior. They will confess. That he is Lord.

[26 : 54] To the glory of God. The Father. Every lost sinner. Everybody. Who went through their life. Adamant. That there was no Jesus. No God. No salvation.

Will be forced. To confront their folly. Will be forced. To give him glory. As these. As he sends them. Into a lost eternity.

And one day. The devil himself. Will bow before Jesus. And honor him. Every demon. Demon of hell. Will confess. And acknowledge.

Jesus as Lord. All throughout history. Men have ridiculed him. Mocked him. Ignored him. And he's still mocked. And ignored. By this world. That we live in.

That we're passing through. But there's a day coming. When his name. And the person. That that name represents. Will receive. All of the honor. All of the glory.

[27 : 49] That he is worthy of. Because he is. And he's exalted. In his claim. God declares.

Jesus. Lord. So if he is. Lord. Then he's worthy. To be loved. To be served. To be worshipped. To be obeyed.

If he's our Lord. If he's your Lord. If he's my Lord. Then he deserves. All of our time. Our talents. And our treasure.

He deserves. The first place. In our hearts. And in our lives. And if he's Lord. He must be exalted. He must be praised.

He must be loved. Because he loved. Is enough. To die for us. Nobody. Nobody's ever loved me. That much. Apart from Jesus. Has anybody loved you.

[28 : 46] That much. That he was willing. To die for you. Before you ever. Set eyes on them. If he's Lord.

Then let him be Lord of all. Let him be Lord of every inch. Of your life. Because if he's not Lord of all. Then he's not Lord. At all.

It's all or nothing. He wants it all. And he wants it or nothing at all. I still remember the first thing. That I learned in Sunday school.

At five years of age. Which was an awfully long time ago. The very first thing I learned was. Man's chief end.

Is to glorify God. The first catechism. And as a five year old. You learn it. And. You don't understand what it means.

[29 : 43] You do wish that it was written. In easier language. But it's funny the way. That it sticks with you. So 50 years later. It's still there.

And do you know what the first catechism. Actually is. It's the meaning of life. People search. For the meaning of life.

Philosophers wrestle with the question. As to what the meaning of life is. What are we here for? Why are we here? What's life about? We teach it to five year olds.

Man's chief end. Man's main purpose. The meaning of human life. Is to glorify God. That's what our lives must be about.

That's what we're here to do. That's what life is all about. Nothing else. We are here to glorify God. We're here to bring glory to him.

[30 : 42] Not us. Yes. And if we do that. If we're do. If we do what we're made for. If we do what we're designed to do. Because we're designed to do that.

We're designed in the image of God. To do that. Then we will be with him. In eternity. We will enjoy him. Forever. He's the Lord of creation.

Jesus is. And if we believe in him. There's not a single inch. There's not a single moment. Of your life. Or my life. That Jesus. Does not rightly say.

That's mine. Bible says. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And you will be saved. You will. Be saved.

Simple fact is. That Jesus is Lord. Lord. Whether we acknowledge it or not. It's not us who makes him Lord. But how much better our lives are.

[31 : 42] How much better eternity will be. When we give him the love. And the honor. And the adoration. That he is. Jew. That he deserves. Nobody else deserves it.

He deserves it. Have you done that? Do you do that? Every day. Do you remember. What you're here to do. On this planet. While you've still got breath. In your lungs.

To glorify him. With your life. In every conversation. In every business deal. Nobody's ever been advanced.

Like him. I hope this evening. These words. Our text. These thoughts. Have reminded us. That there is nobody.

Quite like Jesus. We should give thanks. And praise his name. That he came into this world. He didn't need. To do it. He didn't have.

[32 : 41] To do it. He didn't need to die. He didn't have to die. He died for us. Didn't die for himself. He died. For us. For us. He came into this world.

Was born without sin. Lived. Without sin. And died. For sin. And in his death. Became. Sin. Sin. Sin. Sin. So that when. God looks at us. Because of what Jesus has done. He doesn't see our sin. Because we're not perfect.

I'm not perfect. And every day I'm not perfect. When he looks at us. He doesn't see us in our sin. He sees Jesus in his love. And in his suffering.

And in what he's done for us. The prodigal son. When he came to the father. Stinking of the pig's dye. Covered in rags. Filthy. The first thing the father sent for.

[33 : 39] Was the robe. His robe. That covered up all the stains. All the marks. All the rags. All the history. Of a life.

Lived. In rebellion. It covered and hid. All of these things. And that's what Jesus blood does for us. It's his righteousness that comes. In his blood. And it covers our sin from the father's sight. So when he looks at us. When he looks at you.

When God the father looks at you. He sees. Jesus. He sees. What Jesus has done. And he knows. That Jesus has done it for you.

And for me. Anybody loved you that much? Anybody made you feel that loved? We should thank God that he rose.

[34 : 37] From the dead. That he ascended back to heaven. For our redemption. That he's there right now. At this moment. Making what the Bible calls. Continuous intercession.

In other words. He's praying for us all right now. As we're met. Worshipping him here. He is praying for us. There.

At the court of his father. He's our man on the inside. Wasn't enough. That he came. And did everything.

That was necessary. For us to be saved. But now he's with a father. He's still working for us. He is our advocate. He is the lawyer.

Who pleads our case. At the highest court there is. And when Satan comes. And says. Look at what your daughter has done. Look at what your son has done. I thought they were believers in you.

[35 : 33] I thought they were Christian. How could a Christian do that? Now. Our advocate. Our man on the inside. He pleads our case.

And he says. I died for that sin. My blood covers that sin. The marks in my hand. And my feet. And my side. And my head.

Are for that sin. And our father. Our heavenly father. Says case dismissed. Because of what Jesus has done.

Because of the love that Jesus has. For you and me. Praise God. For his unspeakable gift. You know what they say.

The gift that gives on. Keeps on giving. Jesus is the gift. That keeps on giving. That keeps on working. That keeps on living. He never stops.

[36 : 30] He never rests. Doesn't take a bank holiday. Doesn't take a Friday afternoon off. 24, 7, 3, 6, 5.

Our man on the inside. Is working for us. And will rejoice. When we are finally home with him. And we see him.

Whom. Who loved us. And gave himself for us. Do we know Jesus?

Do we all know Jesus? I hope we do. Do we all thank him. For what he's done. Before we were thought of. Before we were thought of.

You know when you. When you're. When you're. Thinking about your family. Three. Maybe you can go back. Two or three or four generations. Well way.

[37 : 32] Way. Way. Way. Way. Back beyond. Four or five. Or six generations. Or however far back. You can go. Jesus saw you coming. Jesus saw that you needed.

A savior. Jesus saw. That he was going to die for you. Because he loved you. Wouldn't be. The greatest thing.

If you're here tonight. And you don't know him. If you're here tonight. And you haven't. Testified that you're his. Wouldn't it be the greatest thing. If you were able to see.

My Lord. My God. About Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful. If you could say. He died. For. Me.

He loved me. And he died. For me. Maybe. You need. To come. You need.

[38 : 31] To testify. You need. To proclaim. Whose you are. You're bought. With a price. The precious blood. Of Jesus Christ. Maybe. You need.

To come. And publicly. Show. How thankful. You are. For what he did. To show the commitment. That you have. In your soul. In your heart. For him. Because there really is.

Nobody like. Jesus. Let's honor him. With our lives. Let's honor him. With our testimony. And our profession. And our walk.

As if that's true. Amen. Let's pray. Eternal father. We thank you. And praise you. And bless you. For your son. Jesus Christ. He who knew no sin.

Didn't. Know sin. But was. Willing to become. Sin. Became the focus. Of your wrath. And curse. And hatred. For sin.

[39 : 26] Experienced. An eternity. Of our hell. So that we could have. An eternity. Of his heaven. Lord.

That hardly seems. A fair swap. But we know. That it was a swap. That pleased.

You. Because you saw. Of the anguish. Of his soul. And you were satisfied. Your law. Was satisfied. Your justice. Was satisfied. And you exalted him.

And gave him a name. Above every name. Lord. This evening. That we would all. Exalt him. That we would all. Show our love for him.

And that we would all. Proclaim his name. As my Lord. And my God. For Jesus sake. Amen. Good.