**Therefore God Highly Exalted Him**

**The Word**

Read together Philippians 2:3-11

**The Big Idea**

Christ’s humble life of “downward mobility” and sacrificial service for our sakes at the crucifixion led to God granting him the highest place and the greatest name of all at the resurrection. We are similarly called to lives of humble service, trusting that one day God will exalt us at the resurrection.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you reflect on all of Easter Week last week, were there any parts of Jesus’ story or any aspects of the gospel that hit you in a fresh way this year?

2. Consider the downward mobility of Jesus’ life of humble service and the upward exaltation of him by God the Father in response. What about that journey is most impactful to you at this time?

3. Where in your life right now are you being called to practice humble service and sacrifice in order to look out for someone else’s interest? And what are the challenges or obstacles to doing that well?

4. Consider the idea of living your life in a way that wouldn’t make sense to other people if there was no “therefore” (no resurrection and eternal reward at the end). How specifically does this idea challenge you to live differently in this season of your life?

**Neighboring Question of the Week**

What is one specific way God might be calling to humble yourself and choose a servant’s heart with your neighbors (or one neighbor in particular)?

**Sermon Outline**

I. The world Jesus stepped into

 A. Selfish ambition and vain conceit (v. 3)

 B. The desire of the human heart for a “high place” and a “good name” (ala v. 9)

 1. We all want to carve out a high place for ourselves in this world

 A place of comfort, wealth, security, position, power, etc.

 2. We all want to establish a good name for ourselves in this world

 A name that is respected, revered, appreciated, etc.

 C. These quests often put us in conflict with each other

 = rivalry, jealousy, competition

 = it’s a zero sum game: if you’re at the top, then I’m not

II. Jesus’ journey of downward mobility for the sake of serving us (v. 6-8)

 A. His birth (v. 6-7)

1. From the heights and glory of equality with God in heaven for all eternity

2. To the obscurity and vulnerability of a little baby like any other

 B. His life (v. 7)

 1. Taking on himself the very nature of a servant

 2. Every day he poured himself out in service to other people

 3. His days were often tiring and challenging because of this

 C. His death (v. 8)

1. The cross is the opposite of a high place (rather, it’s a place of helplessness, pain, suffering, and hopelessness)

2. The cross gives him the opposite of a good name (a name of shame and embarrassment: a convicted felon, a moral failure)

 D. His purpose in all of this is to serve us

 1. He is living out v. 3-4: considering our needs ahead of his own

2. He sees our need for a savior/sacrifice, and he realizes that only he can meet that need. So he sacrifices his interests for ours.

 E. Imagine if there was no “therefore” in v. 9

 1. If there was no resurrection, Jesus should be pitied above all people

2. He had so much potential and could’ve spent his life in power on a throne in Jerusalem or retired on the Mediterranean coast enjoying life’s pleasures

III. God exalting Jesus in response to Jesus’ sacrificial service (v. 9-11)

A. Notice the “therefore”

1. God’s raising Jesus up is not incidental to what Jesus has done. It is God’s response to what Jesus has done.

2. God’s desire is to entrust the universe to a man who exhibits the humble, sacrificial heart of a servant, so he exalts Jesus to that position.

 B. God raises Jesus to the highest place

 1. First he raises him from the dead and gives him new resurrection life

2. Second he raises him up to heaven where he is now seated at the right hand of God, above every authority in this world

 C. God gives Jesus the best name

1. The name of Jesus could have been a bygone name of shame, but it is now the most revered name in the history of the world.

2. And one day everyone will acknowledge the name of Jesus as Lord of all

3. In quoting Isaiah 45:22-24, Paul is making a staggering claim: The God who tolerates no rivals and alone receives praise is now willing to share his glory and praise with the carpenter from Nazareth.

 D. There are all sorts of good implications

1. Sacrificial servant love is the power at the center of universe

2. The future of this world is in the hands of one who is a servant king

3. Each of our futures is in the hands of the servant king

IV. The call on our lives

 A. Jesus is our example to follow (v. 5, v. 3-4)

1. We can let go of the quest to secure a high place and build a good name and simply serve others in love

2. There are so many simple ways to do this with a life that isn’t flashy or largely noticed but is simple and faithful

 B. We can count on the “therefore”

1. Decisions for love and service that no one else sees, God sees, and one day he will reward us at our resurrection.

2. James 4:10: “Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you”

 3. Live lives that don’t make sense unless there’s a “therefore”

a. 1 Corinthians 15:17-19: If there’s no “therefore” (no resurrection) we should be pitied.

b. But “for the joy set before us,” we can choose humble service and love