



Unwrapping the Spirit of Christmas The Cross: The Spirit of Sacrifice

Philippians 2:8

UNWRAPPING the SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS • An Advent Study of Philippians 2				
Advent	Philippians 2	The CHRIST of Christmas	The THEOLOGY of Christmas	The SPIRIT of Christmas
1st Sunday	5-7	In the Cradle	His Incarnation	Serving Others
2nd Sunday	8	On the Cross	His Crucifixion	Sacrificing Ourselves

So WHY Did Jesus Do It?

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:8

Unwrapping the Spirit of Christmas and Finding a Cross

1. The Shadow of the _____ over the Cradle. (Mark 10:45)

- Jesus was _____!

For example:

- When Simeon prophesied to Mary at the presentation of Baby Jesus at the Temple– the shadow of the CROSS was cast over the baby who was only 6 weeks old. *Luke 2:34-35*
- When the Wisemen brought their gifts to Jesus, the shadow of the cross was cast over the Child who was around two years old! *Matthew 2:11-12*

- Unless we see the cross _____ the cradle, we have lost the real meaning of Christ's birth. *Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 2:14-15*



**THE SON OF GOD (v. 6)
EQUAL TO GOD &
CLOTHED IN HIS GLORY**



EMPTIES HIMSELF = INCARNATION (v. 7)
Becomes fully human without becoming any less God

HUMBLES HIMSELF = HUMILIATION (v. 8a)
Being treated as only human, He humbles Himself
by being obedient to the point of death

IS OBEDIENT EVEN TO DEATH = CRUCIFIXION (v. 8b)
Not just any death but a CROSS DEATH, a SLAVE'S
DEATH, the most SHAMEFUL WAY TO DIE at that time.



2. The Spirit of Christmas is seen in the Cross of Christ's _____ . (2:8)

How Low Would Jesus Go to Obey God and Serve Others?

1) Jesus, being seen and treated as only human, _____ further.

2) Jesus humbles Himself by being _____ to the Father for the sake of others, who did not deserve it or even know they needed it.

Hebrews 10:5-9

3) Jesus becomes obedient to the point of death, and not just any death, but a _____!



3. The Spirit of Sacrifice is seen in our _____ to God in serving others.

1) Obeying God in serving one another will often mean being _____ than we really are in Christ.

- What do we do when that happens to us?
- We should humble ourselves like Christ did and stay focused on remaining obedient to the Father for the sake of serving others—even those who see us and treat us as less than we really are!

2) Obeying God to serve others will often result in being _____ from the “good life” in the world’s eyes.

- Obedience often means _____ to our dreams to fulfill God’s will for us—which in the end will be far better than what we desire or had planned or what the world says is the “good life” or the “American Dream”!
- Sooner or later obedience to Christ and the Word of God will mean we must die to something or someone— we will have to **separate** from those things and those people that seek to hold us back from doing the will of God!
- Ultimately, obedience to Christ in serving one another means dying to _____!

3) Obeying God will sometimes mean being _____ in public.

- Can you relate to be shamed in public for following Christ and obeying God?
- But for most Christians around the world this is very real and an every day occurrence in obeying the Father and following Jesus!

Have You Unwrapped Christmas Yet and Found a Cross?

Your Life Can Show Forth a Spirit of Sacrificial Obedience to God in Serving Others Like Christ Did for You!

In serving others within our church family and outside of it...

How do I need to humble myself to be more of a servant to others?

Like Paul, what do I need to sacrifice or count as dung in order to know Christ better and be more obedient to the Father? *Philippians 3:7-11*

Like Paul, am I willing to keep serving through hard times and not just check out until Jesus comes for me? *Philippians 1:21-25*

Like Epaphroditus, do I serve others with an attitude that is willing to even sacrifice my own life to meet their needs in Christ Jesus?

Philippians 2:25-30; see also Philippians 2:17-18; Romans 16:3-5