

**“Possessing True JOY”**  
**Philippians: A Book Study (6)**  
**“Descending Into Greatness”**  
**7/6/08**

**Text: 2:5-11**

*“<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (ESV)*

We move forward in the book of Philippians to chapter two. This chapter may be the most counter-cultural chapter in the Bible. Simply stated, the message of Philippians is this: If you want to be truly great, then the direction you must go is down.

What Paul has been pleading for among his friends at Philippi, he illustrates in Jesus Christ.

Contrast Jesus for a moment with another king: Herod.

Both Herod and Jesus possessed immense power, but how they chose to use it revealed the hearts of two radically different men.

<u>HEROD</u>	<u>JESUS</u>
Bent on _____	Bended in _____
A tyrant	A servant
Consumed with _____-interest	Focused on God and anyone _____ than Self
Manipulated, slandered, deceived	Healed, touched, taught, loved

When it came to the management of power, there was only one thing Herod and Jesus shared in common: They both believed there was nothing that \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't cure. Only one knew the pathway to JOY.

**BELIEVING IN THE POWER OF “DOWN”....**

**Reason #1 – F \_\_\_\_\_ the L \_\_\_\_\_**

Jesus' life and death as a man violated every tenet of the world's system –

- The Highest came to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Creator and Sustainer of all things came to pour Himself out.
- The One who possessed everything became nothing. From the world's perspective, the cross became a symbol of foolishness. Yet....

**Reason #2 – L \_\_\_\_\_ as He L \_\_\_\_\_**

- v.5

**APPLICATION TIME:** God is calling on Christ-followers to develop the discipline of losing. What does that mean???