

# Jesus and Other-centeredness

## SHOW PICTURE OF FAMOUS ARCHITECTURE

Does anyone here recognize this building? We are so used to seeing it, we hardly notice it. The wonder diminishes with familiarity.

Spurgeon says, "If I had a tale to tell you this day, of some king, who, out of love to a fair maiden, left his kingdom and became a peasant like herself, you would stand and wonder, and would listen to the charming tale; but when I tell of God concealing his dignity to become our Savior, our hearts are scarcely touched.

Friends, we know the tale so well, we have heard it so often. And unfortunately, some of us tell it so badly that we cannot expect that you would be as interested in it as the subject demands.

But surely, as it is said of some great works of architecture, that though they be seen every morning, there is always something fresh to wonder at; so we may say of Christ, that though we saw him every day, we should always see fresh reason to love, and wonder, and adore.

*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.* *2 Corinthians 8:9*

## Here I Am To Worship

Jesus is our hero when it comes to being selfless, of being other-centered. And the example he set while here on earth is our model for considering others better than ourselves. Let's look at Jesus, and follow his example.

*It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified:*

*"What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet."*

*In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

## Great God Of Love

*In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says,*

*"I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."*

*And again, "I will put my trust in him."*

*And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."*

*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

*For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

*Hebrews 2:5-18*

## My Savior My God

### PRAYER

Jesus Christ, Prince of Light and Majesty, we are amazed that you would shroud yourself in clay and become a baby, to live and die! That you whose crown was once bedecked with stars would lay that crown aside! On your shoulders was cast the purple of the universe, and you exchanged it all to become a man dressed in a peasant's garment!

You who are everlasting and immortal agreed to be nailed to a cross? And it was all for our sakes that you became poor. You said "I do not disdain the virgin's womb," and you descended to earth to become a man. It's no wonder that the heavenly host sang "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men." They knew what you were giving up.

You, upon whose shoulders the universe hangs, you hung at your mothers breast. You who created all things, and bears up the pillars of creation, you become so weak that you had to be carried about from place to place! You said no to the best room in Caesar's palace. This was no cradle of gold that was prepared for you, no down pillow on which to rest your head.

You now lay where the oxen fed, in a dilapidated stable, in the manger, swathed in the swaddling bands of the children of poverty!

And as an adult, you often went hungry; and were consistently dependent upon the charity of others. You who dug the springs of the ocean sat upon a well and said to a Samaritan woman, "Give me to drink!"

You had no place to lay your head.

You who previously had once been waited on by angels became the servant of servants. You took a towel, wrapped it around yourself and washed your disciples' feet!

Who can measure the distance between sitting on that throne in heaven, and dying upon that cross! Help us to see your poverty, so poor that you have been stripped naked from head to foot, and exposed him to the face of the sun! So poor, that when you asked for water you were given vinegar to drink instead! Son of Man, we don't know which to admire most, your height of glory, or the depths of your misery! Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, we must exalt you. God over all, blessed for ever, should we not give thee the loudest song?

## **Above All Righteous One**

### **OFFERING Love Never Fails**

### **SERMON A Life Of Love**

#### **Benediction**

(based on the Prayer of St. Francis)

**May the Lord make you an instrument of His peace this week. Where there is hatred, may you sow love. If injured in some way, may you sow pardon. When you come across doubt, may you sow faith; if despair, then hope. May the Lord free you to be able to console others, to understand others, to not so much look for love as to love others. For in giving we receive, when we pardon we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.**

