

The “V” of Jesus’ Mission

1. His Humiliation
2. His Exaltation

- On PS, as see J ride into Jrslm, we obsrv prdx; obsrv 2 truths at work, seemngly contrdctry. On 1 hand: we have glory, majesty, exaltn. J rides in like king; even called king; Gos Mt: “**See, your king comes to you**” (Mt 21:5). Ppl praising J as king; covering road cloaks/palm brnchs; shouting, “Hosanna, son/David, in highest.” There’s glory, exaltn. But other hand: have lowliness, humility. “**See, your king comes to you, gentle;**” propht Zech, “**lowly and riding on a donkey**” – not on war horse, not in mighty chariot or in military parade. No, he’s gentle, lowly; comes in meakns not in might; comes to bring peace, not to conquer; humble. So have this prdx: exaltn & humility.
- And see that same prdx, these same seemngly contrdctry truths at work, not only PS, but also thruout entire life/min/mission of J. J’s mission to save mankind can be viewed, theologically, in 2 phases, stages, “states:” 1st, state humiltn; then, state exaltn. And these 2 phases of J’s mission (humiltn, exaltn), I think, can be displayed visually & understood more easily, when think of letter V. 3 points. Keep that in mind as today we think re V of J’s mission: his humiltn & exaltn.
- Nowhere in Scrptr is this taught more clearly than in Php 2. Here, Paul: CJ, **being vs. 6-7a**. Picture V. Up here is J; dwells in hvn; issues orders to angels; governs unvrs that he created bec he is “**in very nature God**” (J=God!). But **vs. 6b** (here trnsln: little diff); **something to be grasped; a prize to be displayed**. Idea: J not use divinity to serve self. Could have – is God after all! When J walked earth, could’ve had whatever wanted, any luxury you could psbly imagine. But didn’t consider his divinity **vs. 6b**; instead (sermon 2 wks ago) **Mt 20:28 be served/serve**; or, as Php 2 says: **vs. 7a**; lit., emptied self, humbled self, moved self from top V to bottom.
- In theology, this called J’s state humiltn. And by humiltn, don’t mean embrsd/humiltd bec tripped, fell or someone made fun (that’s how we use “humiliate”). No, J’s state of humil: that phase of his mission when J purpsfly, intntnly did not make full use of divine power; set power to side. When teach Cat: use jacket as illstrtn; reps divine power; take off, set to side, like J; still his; still could use anytime wanted (did: miracles, transfig). But during J state humiltn, kept divine power over here, didn’t make full use of it; set it to side & humbled self; went from top V to bottom.
- And Ap Crd outlines how he did this. Remem: I bel JC...who (watch how we move down V):
 - concvd HS; J became tiny, helpless little embrio in mother’s womb;
 - born VM; and born in humblest circmstncs, born in animal shelter, placed in feeding trough;
 - suffd PP; but b4 get to Pilate, think re J’s entire life – had learn walk, talk; be potty trained; got sick, sad, scared, tempted to sin – suffd throughout life; and of course...
 - suffd PP – think whips/thorns, punches/spit, mockery/nails – and of course cross!;
 - curefd, died, buried. From top of V to bottom.
- **Vs. 7ab** (servant: think Isa 53, suffng servant, who stricken, smitten, afflicted). **Vs. 7c-8**. Back then, didn’t hang cross on wall as artwork or around neck as jewelry. Cross: instrmnt of most shmfl/terbl form executn imagabl. But J endured cross for us, to pay not for his sins, but for ours! See depths of Xp’s love for us, in his state humltn, that he **vs. 8b**. This is how J shows his love for us; this is what J wants be known for – he wants us to know him as God who loves us so much that willingly endured shame of cross, to rescue us from Stn/sin. And, did it purpsfly; was no accident. He was in charge whole time; could’ve stopped any time; certainly had power to do so. But stuck to plan, faced cross, for us, to save us. From top of V to bottom: this is J’ state of humltn.

- But doesn't stop there. Letter V goes back to top. And the V of J's mission brings him from depths of crucifixn/death back to heights of hvnly glory. This is 2nd phase of mission: state exaltn. **Vs. 9-11**. See V of J's mission? And again, Ap Crd outlines how this happened. Remem: suffd PP, cruc, died, burd. But then V starts head back up.
 - Dscndd hell; which sounds bad, but J already suffd hell on cross. So when J dscndd hell, actually went there to proclaim vctry over Stn. Like if fav football team won superbowl, then victry parade, not thru hometown, but right thru hometown of opposing team – in sim way, J had victry parade right thru middle hell, when descended into hell.
 - On 3rd day rose again; J came back life, defeated death, firstfruits of res, means someday we will follow him; won't stay dead but we'll rise, live with J forever in hvn, all bec on 3rd day rose again from dead.
 - Ascndd hvn, seated right hand God Fr Almtly; returned home to hvn, so could govern universe from there, and prep place for us there.
 - Finally, from there come judge livng/dead; on Last Day, Jgmnt Day – and we'll see exaltn of J with own eyes.
- **Vs. 9; “There is no other name under hvn given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Ac 4:12)**. We praise name J bec J's name means salvtn for us! And so **at name vs. 10** – saints/angels; humans here; even demons/condmnd; **vs. 11**. Who's your Lord? Who's one in charge of life? Not: Ceasar; you; your sin; COVID-19! Your Lord, who rules all things in wisdom/love, incl your life & lives of everyone in world, is J! Don't forget that J still in charge. Right now, during this health emrgncy, if you're stuck at home; lonely; pulling hair out bec kids bouncing off walls; if afraid of financial future; if scared about getting sick; if anxious about what future holds, for you or family, for unborn child or friend in failing health, remem: J still in charge. From his throne in hvn, knows exctly what's hapnng here on earth, and knows exctly how solve our problms. He's seen crisis before; and he's never abandond his ppl; he's always seen his Church thru diff times. Who's your Lord? Let **every tongue vs. 11**. He humbled self and was exalted, to save you. This is the V of J' mission!
- Call it paradox, call it God's plan – today on this PS, we see glory/lowliness; majesty/humility; Son of God, riding donkey; hear shouts of praise, as enters city of death. This Holy Week we will see Creator of world, crucified by his creatures, for his creatures. And we will see J risen from dead. This was his plan all along; this was his mission. And it looks like V: humiltn & exaltn. And V is for victory; J won victory! **“Thanks be to God! He gives us victry thru LJC.”** In name FSHS.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.