

Jesus Did Not Leave Heaven To...

Philippians 2:5-11 is an amazing text for any number of reasons, but vv.6-8 are central to them all. Think about what's being said:

- V.6a, *existing in the form of God* (spirit form);
- V.6b, *equal with God*;
- V.6c, but was willing to *let it go*;
- V.7a, *emptied Himself* (of the *spirit* form and *equality with God*- not *divinity* itself, cf. Col.2:9 and Heb.2:9-18);
- V.7b, taking a *servile/subordinate position*;
- V.7c, in *human form*;
- V.8a, *found* (seen and lived as) *a man*, cf. Luke 2:51-52;
- V.8b, *humbled Himself in obedience*;
- V.8c, *even to the point of death on a cross*.

“Why?” is the question.

- So that **He** could then be *exalted*, v.9? No, He had all that before He left heaven.
- So that *every knee in heaven, earth, and under the earth* would have to *bow* at His name, v.10? No, again, this could have occurred without His leaving heaven.
- So that *every tongue* would have to *confess Jesus as Lord*, v.11? No, I think this miss the mark also.

Then, “Why?” We’ll get back to this at the end, but let’s leave it for a few moments just now.

Jesus did not have to leave heaven to:

- ☒ Feed the hungry- He did so, John 6:5-15, but then said they only wanted *loaves* from Him, vv.24-26. God had provided *bread from heaven* before, cf. Ex.16:1-4ff.
- ☒ Heal the sick- He did so, John 6:2; 9:1-34, but He certainly did not have to be *physically present* to heal, cf. John 4:46-54.

- ☒ Raise the dead- He did so, John 11:1-44, but God had, from heaven, raised the dead previously, cf. 1Kings 17:17-22.
- ☒ Perform mighty miracles and wonders- He did so, John 20:30-31; 21:25, but God had been performing miracles, signs, and wonders from heaven for a few thousand years previously, cf. Ex.7-11; e.g.
- ☒ Better human society, or make the world a better place- He did so, Matt.7:12, but also said that even this was “*the Law and the Prophets*,” both of which had been inspired from heaven previously.

“OK, so why did Jesus leave heaven then? What did His coming to the earth enable that could not have been accomplished from heaven?”

Go back to our text in Phil.2:9-11 and look again. Note a couple of words specifically:

- ✓ V.10, “*that at the name of Jesus every knee **should** bow...*”
- ✓ V.11, “*and that every tongue **should** confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...*”

Jesus leaving heaven- and the *form of* and *equality with God* behind provided the **opportunity** for man to:

- ✓ Follow His example of *selflessness, humility, and obedience*, vv.1-5,7-9;
- ✓ *Bow at His name* in reverence and respect, vv.9-10; and,
- ✓ *Confess Him as Lord to the glory of God, the Father*, v.11.

Jesus left the glories of heaven and equality with God in humility to live and die as a man to provide the opportunity for man to be saved- to “seek and save that which is lost,” Luke 19:10. If you and we belong to Him, we will empty and humble ourselves, and do the same!

We have a gospel meeting beginning next Sunday morning. What will you do to *seek and help save* the lost?