

June 25, 2023

GATM: The Flash – Humility (Philippians 2:1-18)

Be humble. Focus on imitating Christ.

Bumper In – Trailer

Greetings (5min)

- Greeting and Connect Card (sermon notes)
 - o Less Young Adults (part of my heart)
 - o **Missio conference (instead of Refuel) – 2 days, 3 churches, outside speakers, dinner together, united for God’s mission lost, needs, global.**
- Great month of GATM – 15 first time visitors, over 20 returning new people, and 7 new people on Teams.
 - o Keep praying for God’s mission.
 - o Keep inviting others!
- ***Humility quote**
 - o Let [each person] begin to ask what would be the effect... if towards fellow-saints and the world, believers were really permanently guided by the humility of Jesus.
 - Andrew Murray, Humility (1895), pg.8.
 - o What would be the effect? What is holding you back?

Prayer – silence to hear from the Lord.

Plot and Themes (5min)

- Plot
 - o Barry Allen (the Flash) is part of the Justice League and can travel at super speed. His father is wrongfully imprisoned for the murder of his wife, and Barry is trying to prove his father’s innocence. He realizes that he can travel fast enough to go to the past and change the future – but this changes everything, including the past (a whole new timeline). He meets a younger version of himself, loses his powers, there is no Superman or Cyborg or Aquaman, but there is a different Batman and a Supergirl – they team up to try to stop bad guys from space (General Zod) – but they can’t, no matter how many times Barry goes back to try to change the past.
 - o He eventually learns to accept the past and his loss—including his mother’s death—as part of his life and who he is.
- ****Themes**
 - o Trying to change the past vs accepting the past (including your mistakes).
 - Batman’s line, “Don’t live your past – live your life.”
 - o Pain is part of your story and makes you who you are.
 - Line said multiple times, starting with Batman.
 - o Meeting a less mature version of yourself.

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- Barry meets himself in a different timeline, and he says, “Now I know what other people are talking about. I am annoying!”
- He loses his powers for a time, too – while his other version has powers.
- You can’t fix everything.
 - The more gifted you are, the harder this is to accept.
 - Barry can change the timeline, but it doesn’t make things better.
- → Today, going to talk about humility. Movie does not hit this directly, but it is an indirect theme.

The Humility of Our Lord (5min)

Philippians 2:5-11 (p.984)

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

- *Jesus was humble. (defining humility)
 - He is God—in very nature—yet did not cling to that position or privilege.
 - He emptied Himself (*kenosis*), not losing His nature but limiting His power.
 - Becoming human was humiliating – not that being human is terrible but that it was so much lower than His station as the eternal God.
 - Not just human – a slave! (Isa 53)
 - Not just a servant – convicted as a criminal.
 - Death on a cross – all about humility and shame for you and your family. (public, often naked, long an agonizing)
- Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:10 KJV)
 - God’s way is not our way, but it is the best way.
 - The Name of Jesus is the Name above all Names. (cf Isa 45:23)
 - Jesus—the humbled, crucified One—is the Lord over all and glorified above all.

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The Way of Humility (5min)

- *The humble way of Jesus is the way of true life.
- Humility in culture – then and now
 - The 1st century Jewish world moved people through fear of shame (even though OT praises humility).
 - Jesus was not fazed by this fear – He followed the Father even when it shamed His family or His name. (scholar NT Wright and others have highlighted this)
 - The disciples inherited this faith that overcame shame. Paul wrote Philippians from prison.
 - The Roman world did not see humility as a virtue.
 - In fact, it was seen as a bad thing to put yourself in a position below your station.
 - Scholar H.H. Esser (NIDNTT, vol2, 260) says that the Greek world had an anthropocentric view (humans in the middle) – so humility was a bad thing. The Bible has a theocentric view – so humility is the right way to view one’s self in view of the Lord.
 - Jesus and His followers woke up the ancient world to the way of humility, showing the way of serving (below your station) is the way to win the world.
 - Business – serve your customers.
 - Leadership – serve your employees and care for them.
 - Family – sacrifice for those you love.
 - Team – put the team before yourself.
 - Church – honor the Lord by showing up, serving, and caring.
 - Our culture/world appreciates humility...sometimes.
 - We have a Christian heritage...and a Roman one (dominate through force and fear).
 - **Choose the way of Jesus. Be humble. Imitate Christ.**
 - Don’t expect others to be humble (we all want others to). Choose humility out of devotion to Jesus.
 - Humility doesn’t mean you let people walk on you. It means you chose to serve and love them.
 - Don’t be humble only when it makes you look good (i.e. a strategy for personal glory). Really be humble.
- Humility works – but it is harder.
 - Forcing your way leads to results...and ruin.
 - Only possible when you love Jesus and depend on His help.
 - The Jesus way is not the way of the world. Every day you choose a way. (quotable)
- **Be humble. Focus on imitating Christ. – with family, at work, at church.**

Heart and How (10min)

- Story – Something or Nothing (1001 Humorous Illustrations, #480)

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- A religious leader and his associate were rehearsing a service. To make his point dramatic the minister fell to his knees, beat his breast and said, “I am nothing. I am nothing!” Then his associate fell to his knees, beat upon his breast, and repeated, “I am nothing. I am nothing!” The janitor witnessed this scene. Moved by what he saw and heard, the janitor fell to his knees and cried, “I am nothing. I am nothing!” When the minister and associate heard the janitor, the minister turned to the associate and said, “So look who has the gall to think he is nothing.”
- Church theologians – humility is the soil in which all other Christian virtues grow.
 - You have to admit you need help and cooperate with God’s work in you.
 - John 15:5
- *Focus on imitating Christ. (vv.5-11)
 - Focus on Jesus (not yourself or others) – the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).
 - Have the attitude of Jesus (v.5) – whoa. What does that look like?
 - Let God work in you (v.13).
 - C.S. Lewis (from *Mere Christianity*)
 - Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody.
 - Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.
 - If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a bigish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.
- *Take your next humble step. (vv.1-4, 12-18)
 - Work in unity with God’s people.
 - Don’t be selfish.
 - Don’t try to impress others.
 - Consider others higher than yourself.
 - Take an interest in others.
 - Obey God with reverent fear.
 - Never complain or argue.
 - Hold firmly to God’s Word.

Philippians 2:1-4, 12-18

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

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³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶ Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷ But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸ Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

*Punch – Your Turn (5min)

- Humility looks like serving those you love without being asked and without expecting anything in return.
- Humility is an attitude of gratitude for all the Lord has done for you – so you don't complain even when things are hard. People want to be around a person like that.
- Humility obeys and follows Jesus, even when it is hard. The commands of Christ are not optional addons but central to the humble person's life.
- Humility is the boss that serves others and the workers who do what it takes to help reach the goals. Humility is the heart of teamwork.

- *Be humble. Focus on imitating Christ. – with family, at work, church family*
 - o *Will you?*

Prayer

- Miracles series starts next week

Bumper Out – Miracle series bumper and music

Benediction – John 15:5

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