

Our Scripture reading for this morning can be found  
in Philippians 2:1-11.

This is the reading of the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



# CONTEXT



# HONOR/SHAME CULTURE



# **REDIRECTION & DOWNWARD MOBILITY**



**Although (x), not (y), but (z)**

**Although (equality with God), not (selfish exploitation), but (self-emptying slavery and self-humbling death)**



# STATUS ANXIETY



1. We want to be loved
2. We want to be respected
3. We have high expectations of life
4. We want to be winners
5. We know there are many things outside of our control



# PRIVILEGE





# INTERSECTIONALITY



# WINNER'S SCRIPT



In the vocabulary of the world, “down” is a word reserved for losers, cowards, and the bear market. It is a word to be avoided or ignored, and certainly not discussed seriously, especially in polite society. It is a word that colors whatever it touches, even the otherwise proper company of words that it keeps: down and out, downfall, downscale, downhill, downhearted, and worst of all, down under. A word, it seems, only on the unfortunate lips of the weak, the poor, or the dead.



If all that weren't enough, there is this crowning blow against the word: its antonym is "up." And up, in our high voltage society, is a word that has come to be cherished, almost worshiped. It is a word reserved for the winners, heroes, and those who know their bill. It is a word to be admired and pursued, the unspoken talk of the party, the way to influence whoever is present: upscale, up and coming, upwardly mobile, upper class....Up, clearly, is the direction of greatness.

Rob Wilkins



**THE POWER OF  
REDIRECTION IN OUR  
CULTURAL MOMENT**



There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28



# HOW DO WE FOLLOW THE WAY OF JESUS?



# NAMING





# RENUNCIATING



- Assume status-seeking really isn't a problem for you.
- Generally think you're smarter, more talented, more competent, more "high capacity" than everyone around you.
- Often thinking that opportunities should've been given to you instead of someone else because you would do a better job.
- Spend mental energy in conversations waiting to turn the conversation to yourself - what you've done, you're "one-up" story, your grievances.



- Don't listen well and you're constantly interrupting other people
- Critical of others but have a hard time receiving criticism.
- Reluctant to learn because you're confident in what you already know
- Pursue mentoring and learning opportunities from recognized "thought leaders," but rarely submit to or learn from those with less power or recognition (peers, neighbors, co-workers, grandparents, pastors/church members,



- Talk a lot about how over-scheduled, busy, productive you are and rarely have margin to invest in hidden, unseen work of prayer, sabbath, serving the poor, showing up for your community.
- Spend a lot of time with and serving with those of your same social status or higher who can advance you, and you avoid talking to or spending time with or serving those who you perceive to be lower standing/more difficult/don't measure up/can't advance you.



- Find it difficult to celebrate the successes of others.
- Constantly comparing yourself to the experiences or stories of others and either feeling better or worse than them.



# HUMBLING



Humility is the noble choice to forgo your status, deploy your resources or use your influence for the good of others before yourself. The humble person is marked by a willingness to hold power in service of others. First, humility presupposes your dignity. The one being humble acts from a height, so to speak, as the “lowering” etymology makes clear. True humility assumes the dignity or strength of the one possessing the virtue, which is why it should not be confused with having low self-esteem or being a doormat for others.



In fact, I would go so far as to say that it is impossible to be humble in the real sense without a healthy sense of your own worth and abilities...Second, humility is willing. It is a choice, Otherwise, it is humiliation. Finally, humility is social. It is not a private act of self-deprecation - banishing proud thoughts, refusing to talk about your achievements and so on. I would call this simple modesty. But humility is about redirecting of your powers, whether physical, intellectual, financial, or structural, for the sake of others.

John Dickson





# EMPTYING

