

## **The Amazing Jesus His Amazing Submissiveness**

**Intro: This year we're taking time once a month in a lesson to reflect upon the amazing character of Jesus. There are so many things about him that we need to admire and imitate. We've already talked about his amazing prayer life, his amazing compassion for people in their suffering, his amazing forbearance with his disciple's failings, his amazing patience with God's timing, and his amazing relationship with his family, and his amazing righteous indignation toward sin, his amazing meekness toward God and others.**

**We also in the Gospels the amazing submissiveness of Jesus.**

**The amazing submissiveness of Jesus begins with the incarnation.**

**One of the amazing features of the Godhead is the teaching that the Father, Son, and Spirit are equally deity; yet there is cooperation and subordination between them. Jesus shows that submissiveness in coming to the earth.**

He was sent by God.

*I know Him; because I am from Him, and He sent Me.” (John 7:29)*

Jesus yielded to the Father's wishes in being sent to this earth; and he had to give up a lot just to come to earth. Listen to Paul's discussion of Jesus' humility and submissiveness:

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)*

***Could there be a greater change than to go from being in the form of God to being in the form of a slave? Yet, Jesus humbled himself and took on this role. What amazing submissiveness we see just in the incarnation itself! That move would mean that Jesus would suffer all the trials and temptations of earthly life. It meant he would experience physical pain, emotional pain of rejection and mistreatment, and the spiritual pain of struggling against temptation.***

**The amazing submissiveness in obeying the Father's instructions.**

**Obedience to the heavenly Father was central to Jesus' life and thought.**

*Jesus \*said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. (John 4:34)*

*“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (John 5:30)*

*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (John 6:38)*

*“And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (John 8:29)*

**What we see in Jesus is a real love for the Father that led him to obey in all things:**

*“I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. (John 14:30-31)*

**Ironically, Jesus' incarnation would mean that He would place himself under the authority of the very creatures that He had had a part in creating.**

**Submissive to His parents.**

*And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. (Luke 2:51)*

Jesus did that not only because it was the right thing to do; it was an act of obedience to the Father's law to "honor father and mother."

**Submissive to governing authorities**

Jesus showed no inclination to disobey those in power, though they were often wicked and disrespectable people.

*Then He \*said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21)*

**Submissive to the Law of Moses**

*But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (Galatians 4:4)*

As a Jesus was subject to the law of God given through Moses. He obeyed it without sin.

*And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. (1 John 3:5)*

**His amazing submissiveness in the face of crucifixion.**

***Crucifixion was the most horrific thing a person could encounter. Anyone with a capacity to feel pain or shame would recoil at the prospects. And for Jesus the cross also meant bearing the sins of the guilty. But he came to earth for this purpose:***

*Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me; In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me ) To do Thy will, O God.’” (Hebrews 10:5-7)*

***His submissiveness is not diminished by his prayer in the garden. Instead it accentuates it.***

*And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39)*

***The Hebrew writer describes this submission:***

*Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, (Hebrews 5:8-9)*

***Paul wants us to see to what degree Jesus would obey God:***

*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)*

An obedience that cost his life!

An obedience that suffered death in the most horrifying way!

**His amazing submissiveness in the eternal kingdom.**

***Right now, because of His submissiveness, Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God and given rule over everything in heaven and earth.***

*And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, (Ephesians 1:22)*

***But Paul makes an interesting statement about the submission of Jesus.***

***When Jesus returns and delivers the kingdom to the Father, he will himself submit to Him for all eternity.***

*And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)*

**The Call to Submit Like Jesus**

If the Son of God could honor the will of the Father in submission, then surely we should do so. In fact we cannot enter God's eternal kingdom otherwise:

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)*

Like Jesus, we must respect God's order and submit to those entrusted with the care of others. In fact we are urged, "*and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)*

Should not our respect for Jesus' submission and our fear of displeasing him not motivate us to show submission to God's order?

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)*

*In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. (1 Peter 3:1-2)*

*Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. (Titus 2:9-10)*

*Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. (Romans 13:1)*

*Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)*  
*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)*

**Conclusion: What an example Jesus has left us! All throughout Scripture we are urged to imitate His character. Let's be submissive like Jesus!**

**What if Jesus had said, "I'm not willing to go to earth. I'm not willing to die for them. I'm certainly not willing to be executed on a cross?"**

**Without the obedience of Jesus we'd have no hope. He loved you enough to obey the Father's purpose that He die for you. Do you love Him enough to obey Him?**