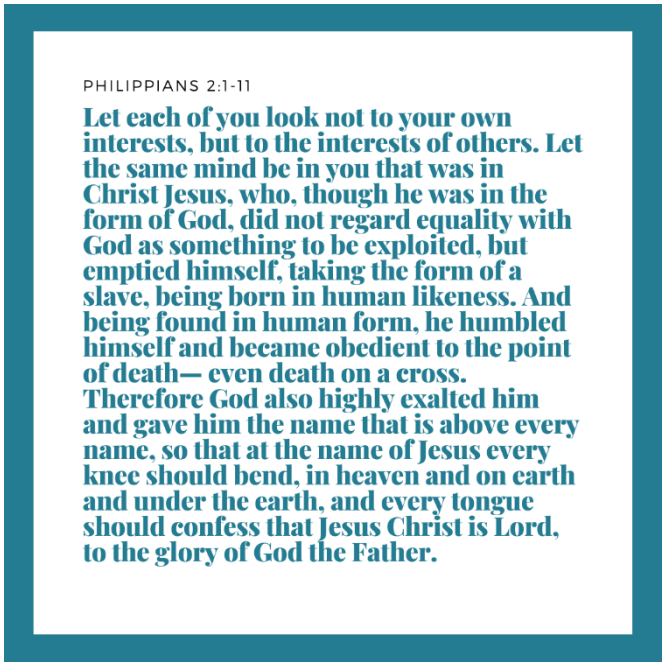
March 26, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Philippians 2:1-11 – “Let the Same Mind be in You”
By: Celeste Wilson, Christ, Fredericksburg

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.



Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

-Philippians 2:1-11

Reflection

I have read these verses many times and as I read it this morning, it still brings more truth than before. The invitation to follow Jesus is a neglection of our own interests and needs for the sake of our Lord and others. Sometimes, this is not the easiest thing to accomplish. Jesus lived through humility and selflessness of others. Through the rest of the reading, we can see how Jesus fulfills his life and Paul suggests the Church in Philippi to follow the same path of love. Paul recognizes the mind and love you must have for one another and he guides the Church on the path that Jesus lived.

Jesus could have considered himself to be God's equal, but Jesus emptied his life and became a servant of God and to all. Jesus became the servant to all, and he was obedient and respectful to our Father and Lord and continued to serve until he gave his life up for all. Jesus always lived in humility and a selfless life to serve others and God. Jesus was living a humble life, and by living a humble life, he taught others to be humble. God transformed the heart of Jesus and humility is the testimony of our Lord in our lives. Without the Lord and his teachings in our heart, we would never be able to look towards the interests and pursuits of others. Without Jesus in our hearts, we would not be able to live humbly and selflessly.

As children of God, we can be humbling people. Our hearts are being transformed, renewed, restored, and reflect the ways of Christ. Jesus even states this in the two biggest commandments. It is our responsibility to love the Lord your God and to love our neighbors. This requires us to look beyond our self needs and desires, humble ourselves, and rely and count on God and others more than the person you see in the mirror. God wants us to be selfless and serve others in order to truly follow the path of Christ.