

10/02/10 - Humility or Pride?

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Philippians 2:1-11

Death is not something we like to imagine. A slow, painful death is definitely not what we like to imagine. In the culture of Jesus' day, it was one more step down to be put to death on a cross. This culture was filled with people who wanted to be honored no matter the cost. Humbleness and humility were not honorable traits either. Jesus was not even fighting against people that were going to kill Him, even though they had no offense against Him.

How confusing this must have been for the average person, who assumed everyone was striving for the same things: honor and power. The whole life of Jesus was opposite of what other people were trying to do. Why would Jesus want to be humble, become like a slave, and be willing to die on a cross?

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are amazing in any culture. But in the culture of Jesus' day, they were even more upside-down. As you read the scriptures, think about what you can do for others that has nothing in it for you, even if it goes against what culture sees as dignified or honorable.