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Our Example and Focus

Philippians 2:5-30

1. Have you been the recipient of a servant-hearted act recently? Share.

2. Read Philippians 2:5-11.

3. What does Paul say in verse 5? How does this provide context for verses 6-11?

4. Verses 6-7 contains a profound truth about Jesus' example. Where is the emphasis in these two verses? What is the wisdom of Jesus in this?

5. Verses 8 could lead to some dangerous thinking. What is the wisdom of Jesus' example for our relationships here?

a. Would the original readers have thought it wise?

b. Do we take it as metaphorical or literal for us?

6. What is the reward for Jesus' work? Are verses 9-11 just for poetic purposes, or should we consider this as part of Jesus' example for our relationships?

7. Read Philippians 2:12-18. What does it mean to 'work out your salvation with fear and trembling' (v.12)?

8. What are the implications of doing everything without grumbling or arguing? (v.14) Discuss if this a promise for our Christian life?

9. Read 2:19-30. What is to be admired about Timothy in Paul's eyes? How do we cultivate that character in our life?

10. Paul mentions both the example of Timothy and Epaphroditus. How does this relate to what Paul says in verses 12 and 13?

11. Do you connect in any way with the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus? Why, and if not, then what examples of Christians do you admire?

12. What is one insight or application from this study that you will take into the week?

13. Pray for each other.