

SERMON MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 9, 2018

Pastor Dennis Keating
CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE

The Infant Savior: At Home in Bethlehem
Philippians 2:5-8 (p. 1002)

THE MAIN IDEA → God made His home _____ in Bethlehem so that we
might find our home forever _____.

BY ...

1. _____ the interests of _____.
(2:7)

2. _____ the right of _____.
(2:6; John 1:1)

3. _____ the character of a _____.
(2:7; Mark 10:45)

4. _____ the weaknesses of _____.
(2:7; Heb. 2:17)

THE POINT → God _____ what it's like to be _____.
(Heb. 4:15; Heb. 2:18)

5. _____ the purpose of His _____.
(2:8)

OUR CHALLENGE → Think " _____."

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FROM THE DECEMBER 9, 2018 SERMON QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL PRAYER REFLECTION

Life Groups will be on break until the week of January 13, 2019. For this weekend's message, read *Philippians 2:5-8* and review your outline notes.

1. Contemplate for a moment on the fact that God the Son left the glories of heaven and came to earth so that you, by faith, might experience forgiveness for sin and be united with God.
 - What are your observations about Him doing this?
 - How does what He did make you feel?
 - Take a moment and tell Him your reactions to it all.
2. We saw that it cost God the Son quite significantly to come as the Son of God. Give prayerful thought as to how you might both drink deeply from, and follow, His example this week.
 - He surrendered His self-interest for the sake of others (v. 7; 2 Cor. 8:9). How does it make you feel to know that God surrendered His interests for you? What interest(s) can you surrender? For whom?
 - He waived His rights (v. 6). How do you respond to the fact that God waived His rights for you? What right(s) can you waive this week? For whom?
 - He took on the character of a servant (v. 7; Mark 10:45). God the Son came to serve you. What do you do with that reality? As you serve this week, what does it mean to do so with the character of a servant?
 - He embraced the weakness of humanity (v. 7; Heb. 4:15). Jesus embraced weakness so He could know how it feels to be you. How does that fact impact your relationship with Him? How does it impact your relationships with others?
 - Fulfilling the purpose for His birth (v. 8). He came to die ... for you. How might you respond to that by living an "I am third" kind of life this week?

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(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)

THE MAIN IDEA: God made His home **with us** in Bethlehem so that we might find our home forever **with Him**.

BY ...

1. **Surrendering** the interests of **self**. (2:7)

2. **Waiving** the right of **deity**. (2:6; John 1:1)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

"The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God." C.S. Lewis

3. **Embodying** the character of a **servant**. (2:7; Mark 10:45)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

4. **Embracing** the weaknesses of **humanity**. (2:7; Heb. 2:17)

"He had to be made like His brethren in all things;" Hebrews 2:17

THE POINT: God **knows** what it's like to be **human**. (Heb. 4:15; Heb. 2:18)

"... tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15

"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." Hebrews 2:18

5. **Fulfilling** the purpose of His **birth**. (2:8)

OUR CHALLENGE: Think "**I am third**."