
September 2023,

*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.
Philippians 2:5-7*

If you've been following our newsletter since last year you may be confused why I am quoting Paul above and not the words of Jesus. For years now I've been challenged by how Paul digested the teachings, in word and deed, of Jesus Christ. By the end, I hope to show you how these words of Paul's to the Philippians are so central to Jesus' teaching that you'll understand my use of them in place of Jesus' own.

In this section of Paul's letter, he is teaching the centrality of the cross in the life of Christ. For Paul, this was immensely backward! He was deeply committed to God's revelation and devoted his life to live under God's instruction contained in the scriptures. It is very likely that Paul had looked at the end of Jesus' life and remembered God's declaration, "For the one who is left exposed on a tree is cursed by God." (Duet. 21:23). Paul likely thought, "Simple enough, Jesus claimed to be something that he wasn't and God showed that he was actually cursed in his dying, chapter closed." So then Paul in this conviction of the truth of scripture starts correcting Christians of their error so it wouldn't corrupt the Jewish religion. All of this is turned upside down when the resurrected Christ appears to him in glory. Now, Paul had to rethink some things.

Consider Jesus' words to his disciples: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Matthew 16:24-25. Give your life up and you will find it. This calls for a letting go of control, the yielding of the use of our power, and ultimately deep trust into the hands of the one we are giving all these things to.

Paul with just as much zeal as he taught against following Jesus because of his death on the tree, is teaching the beauty of the centrality of the cross of Christ! Elsewhere Paul says, "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18). The very power of God, the apex of God's revelation in Jesus is found here.

So what would it mean to put Paul's words into practice? I think we need to begin by knowing who you are in God and the power and privilege that comes from that. Not holding onto our

privileged positions of power and strength, but giving them up for the sake of others. This in essence is Paul's appeal, let Jesus' mindset be your mindset. Allow the message of the cross, and the power of giving control of your life over to God, time and time again, to be central in your thinking. And as Paul exhorts in the verses following those above, fully trusting God himself will do the exalting after. If you don't chase the exaltation and give it all over in full trust then God will do it in his time and in his way.

We are called to take whatever power, connections, position, and possessions we have and use them in service of others. Jesus loves us deeply, he came to teach us the way of true life, like Paul teaches, it can often sound like foolishness but if we trust Jesus and his teaching us he will show us it is the way of true life in God. As I think about this teaching I am encouraged that JJM has a legacy of using its power, connections, and possessions to bless others over exalting itself. I pray it will continue that way. We welcome your prayer for discernment and humility as we seek to serve those who walk through our doors.

Current realities

We've seen record numbers of new shoppers. We are working diligently to continue to serve each one who comes to JJM to give witness to God our Provider. We are currently nearing 700 shoppers utilizing our ministry this year. On top of that, we are striving to supply our 9 partnering food ministries with fresh produce as they continue to see record numbers of sign ups.

We trust God's provision for us as we seek to provide for all who come through our doors. We want to invite you to continue to join with us in our efforts!

-Would you join us to feed one, two, or more of these families?

A monthly gift of \$40 supplies the needs to provide food for one family, with \$120 a month we can feed three families. If you are excited to help us in this work you can set up giving here - jjmwm.org/donate

-Would your church take an offering for our ministry this season?

If it would be helpful we would love to get our video to you to show the work we do!

-Would you pray for our upcoming community event?

Oct the 16th we are gathering together some community members who aren't yet involved with us. Please pray for our night, a shared kingdom vision, and increased involvement with our work for those in need in our community!

Current supply needs

Inside our glass double doors, there is a shelf to the left with labeled bins for supplies.

Egg cartons - If you can, please drop off any clean 12-count egg cartons (no jumbo).

Shopping bags - We would happily take any clean shopping bags for our shoppers to use.

Current biggest volunteer needs

Please see our current volunteer needs on our website - jjmwm.org/biggest-volunteer-needs

With Gratitude,



Geoff McGannon - Executive Director

Year to date financial update:

Budgeted income: \$99,073 **Contribution income:** \$92,550 **Current deficit/surplus:** -\$6,532