

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

Enslavement (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God,
did not count equality with God something to be grasped,
but he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
becoming as human beings are.
And, being in every way like a human being,
he was humbler yet, even to accepting death,
death on a Cross.

And for this, God raised him high
and gave him the name that is above all other names,
so that all beings, in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus,
and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

“Unless”

(*To Nicodemus, Jn 3:5*) Unless you are born again by water and the Spirit you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

(*To Jews, Jn 6:53*) Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

(*To Peter, Jn 13:8*) Unless I wash you, you can have no share (*inheritance*) with me.

(*To the crowds, Lk 14:26*) Unless you come to me hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and your own life too, you cannot be my disciple. Unless you carry your Cross and come after me, you cannot be my disciple.

(*This last is Jewish hyperbole or exaggeration: Jesus is saying that absolutely nothing can be preferred to him, however sacred: and this may contain a veiled claim to divinity on his part: throughout Scripture, nothing is to be preferred to God*)