

Mistaken for Jesus
The Upper Room – February 2, 2013
<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional>

Philippians 2:1 - 11

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the
Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and of
one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than
yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ
Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not
regard equality with God as something to be
exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness. And being found
in human form,

8 he humbled himself and became obedient to
the point of death -- even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and
gave him the name that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bend, in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PERSONAL STORY

Doug, my four-year-old son, accompanied me to
the communion rail. At the rail, we knelt together
and opened our hands, preparing to be served.
The pastor broke a piece from the loaf and
placed it in Doug's hands. When he broke the
bread for me, crumbs from the loaf fell to the
floor. "You spilled it, Jesus," Doug whispered to
the pastor.

"I know," he replied. And he picked it up and
continued to serve the rest of us, as Christ had
served the disciples.

Later, I asked the pastor, "Have you been called
Jesus before?"

"Yes," he replied, "several times, by little ones."
Being mistaken for Christ seems unlikely. Yet
shouldn't we want to live as Jesus did, so that
others see him in the way we treat one another?
Our call is to be like him, as much as we are
able.

I profess to be a Christian, but I don't always
behave as one. When I'm unloving or
judgmental, I'm not living as the gospel teaches.
Participating in worship and assisting with
various church projects helps me behave and
feel like a Christian. But away from church, it's
more difficult.

I need reminders through daily scripture study or
other spiritual reading. Each day, I pray that in
my attitudes and behavior I will be more like
Jesus. I want to be mistaken for Christ.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

In what ways can I reflect Christ each day?

PRAYER

Merciful God, help us to remember what Christ
taught us and to follow his example. Help us to
love one another as you love us. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pastors