

## Honor in Humility

It happens every year. Out of millions, one is chosen. Scouts are sent out to find the perfect one. Not just anything will do. Because what is chosen is going in a highly prominent and important place.

What we're talking about, of course, is the White House Christmas tree. Each year a tree is selected from around the country to be hauled all the way to Washington, D.C. and placed in the Blue Room of the White House. This tree goes from being an ordinary, one-in-a-million evergreen tree to one that is specially honored by its placement in the residence of our nation's president. While it may be larger, or fuller, or more perfectly shaped than most others, it is still in many ways like all the others. But not anymore. Not once it is brought to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Bible tells us that in a similar way, Jesus in some ways had nothing that really set him apart from other people. Though he was God, yet he entered our world in a most humble way. In fact, the angels who announced his birth were of greater honor than the One who was born in Bethlehem. *"We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone"* (Hebrews 2:9).

So the One who created angels was made lower than the angels upon his entry into our world. The angels have special honor as God's holy messengers. They are the mighty warriors fighting against evil and protecting God's people from harm. Biblical examples of angels speaking to humans always show the person acknowledging the greatness of God's messenger. Jesus was no different. Though he was and is true God, in his state of humiliation he was lower than the angels.

Why was this so? Because he had to taste death for everyone. Jesus had to suffer and die, not for his own sins but for a world full of sinners. Angels do not and cannot die. But Jesus was willing to subject himself to the horrors of hell and the disgrace of dying. His love drove him to be lower, but then by his redeeming work for us he was honored and glorified.

So as lowly as he was, being even beneath the angels, how much greater the honor he received upon being the Savior of the world! No angel can say that! Jesus came to forgive sins, to overcome the power of death, and to crush the work of the devil. No wonder he is now crowned with all glory, honor, and dominion. He has authority over all things in heaven and earth, including the angels.

So a typical tree in an evergreen forest gets selected to stand in the White House. It goes from ordinary to extraordinary. So Jesus was made a little lower for a time in order to save us. But he went from humiliation to exaltation. He went from lower than the angels to exalted over them. He therefore brings honor to humility. He reminds us that though we may not have the top places in worldly positions, that there is honor waiting for those who live by faith in Jesus. For because of Jesus, God will one day raise us from this lowly life and give us a place in eternal glory that will far surpass even that of the angels.

Be sure to join us in December for our special worship opportunities to hear about the coming of our humbled yet honored Savior!

- Advent by Candlelight (Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00pm)
- Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24 at 7:00pm)
- Christmas Day (Monday, December 25 at 10:00am)

Pastor Meyer