



## Is Anyone Listening?

Guest Pastor Mark DeYmaz / July 29, 2018

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Holy God, thank You. Thank You for giving us Your word. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for giving us life. Thank You for giving us the way to eternal life. Thank You for giving us the desire to know and surrender to You, Lord. Thank You for being a giving Father, a giving God, and a giving Savior. Help us to be givers, also. To give like You give. To never tire of giving back to You and each other in Your son's blessed name. Thank You, Abba. Amen.

### Icebreaker:

86.3% of American churches do not have more than 20% diversity in their congregation. Identify one or more groups or organizations that you were or are a part of that are NOT racially, politically, or economically diverse. Why do you think this is?

### Encouragement:

Philippians 2:9-11 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.* Privilege, position, and power are attained by letting go of them. We can (and should) leverage whatever privilege, position, and power we have to advance the Kingdom. What biblical figures leveraged their privilege, position, and power to advance the Kingdom and how were they exalted?

### Scriptures:

In Philippians 2:6-8, Jesus emptied Himself in humility and obedience. Not emptying Himself of His own will but of His privilege, position, and power. How can Jesus do this and still be God?

Jesus is both God and man ([John 1:1, 14](#); [20:28](#); [Col. 2:9](#)). During His ministry in Jerusalem, He was cooperating with the limitations of being a man. As a man, Jesus walked and talked. As God He was worshipped ([Matt. 14:33](#); [28:9](#); [Heb. 1:6](#)), prayed to ([Zech. 13:9](#); [1 Cor. 1:2](#)), etc.

This is called the Hypostatic Union.

During His earthly ministry He moved in the power of the Holy Spirit and did His miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit and not by His own divine power (which He always had access to). He was made for a little while lower than the angels ([Heb. 2:9](#)) and had emptied Himself and taken on the form of a man ([Phil. 2:7](#)). Choosing not to draw on his own divine attributes Jesus demonstrated how it is possible for us to access the same power He relied on while in human form. This also explains why in [Matt. 12:22-32](#), when the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of the devil, Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would never be forgiven? Why? Because Jesus, as a man who was ministering completely as a man under the Law ([Gal. 4:4-5](#)), and did His miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:**

The church has earned little if any credibility and ability to influence the society around us. Why? Our messaging is not reflected in our behavior. In Philippians 2:1-5, we can see that our attitude is reflected in our behavior. We should live beyond tolerance. We should be caring about and caring for other "groups" as well as we do for our own. Our behaviors begin with how we perceive our importance compared to others.

Pray over each of these seven ways to reach out to an increasingly divided world. Asking the Father to renew our attitudes so that we can be an effective impactful peacemaker.

1. Avoid dogmatic statements: They invite confrontation.
2. Learn to ask good questions: It shows genuine interest & places value on them.
3. Assume the best in others: We can only see others actions, rarely their motivations.
4. Advance faith not fear: Motivation & relationships built on fear are not of God.
5. Always pause before you speak: That our words are true, will lift up & not tear down.
6. Acknowledge complexities: We may not see or understand the full picture.
7. Add balance to the discussion:

**Next Steps:**

Matthew 5:9 says "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God: Identify an area of conflict in your own sphere of influence where we can bring peace. Be blessed, be called a child of God. Know, grow and put to use your gifts through these ministry opportunities.

Life Class: <https://www.sdrock.com/LIFEclass>

Ironmen: <https://www.sdrock.com/ministries/mens/disciplespath/>

Rock School of Ministry: <https://www.sdrock.com/schoolofministry/>

**Notes:**

Father, thank You for loving us. Breathe new life into us by Your Holy Spirit that He may overflow out of us into the lost, the discouraged, and even into the enemies of Your kingdom. Help us to be peacemakers, healers, bringers of joy, and hope. Amen.

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