Phil. 2: 5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

LIKE-MINDEDNESS OF CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN

Friends, I would direct your attention today to the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Behold Him hanging there on the Cross FOR YOU AND FOR ME! Notice His hands and feet, pierced through with nails! Watch the blood trickle down His face! -- FOR YOU AND FOR ME! See Him wreathing in pain and agony; forsaken of God, suffering the damnation of hell itself -- FOR YOU AND FOR ME! Is your heart not filled with wonder and amazement as you behold the very essence of LOVE -- God dying on the accursed -- TREE FOR YOU AND FOR ME? Was there ever another day like this -- when the power of almighty God clashed with the forces of hell FOR YOU AND FOR ME? Was there ever another day like this -- when nature itself threw up its arms in protest; when the sun refused to shine; when the ground trembled and shook because of the abhorred conflict between holiness and sin? All the horribleness of GOOD FRIDAY was for you and for me. The crown of thorns, the beatings, the mockery, the nail-torn hands and feet, the blood, the suffering, the agony, the despair, the literal hell which our Lord endured was for YOU AND FOR ME.

Thus it is that with sincere gratitude and thankfulness we are assembled here to pay tribute to our Lord's Crucifixion. Certainly there is no other date on the Church Calender which is more soul-stirring, more heart-warming, more thrilling than Good Friday; for it is today that we ponder the priceless Passion of our precious Savior. It is on this day

that we are struck with the full significance of the Gospel of Redemption. It is on this day that the flood-gates of sin were opened wide with all its wretchedness and savage brutality and hurled with relentless fury at the Lamb of God. Can we do otherwise than simply gaze at that Cross with reverent awe? What other reaction can we have when we consider the boundless LOVE of our Lord Jesus Christ? Must we not bow our heads, smite our breasts, and whisper with humble gratefulness -- "FOR ME! ALL THIS THE LORD GOD ENDURED FOR ME!"

And friends, that is exactly the attitude which the Lord Jesus wants you and me to have toward His cross. He wants us to be like-minded with Him. He demands that we be humble even as He humbled Himself; He demands that we deny ourselves even as He denied Himself of the honor and glory which was rightfully His; He demands that we bear our crosses even as He bore His. The forcefulness of this truth and its powerful significance rings out loud and clear in the words of our text: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." As Christians we are to be of the same mind, think, and act the same way Jesus did. He has paved the way. We are to follow His example. "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus!"

Mark the humility of Jesus! Here was God manifested in the flesh. He thought it not robbery to be equal with God; for He was God from eternity. Equality with God was nothing to be grasped for Him. At His feet the angels bowed and sang their praises. But He did not make a show of His power and authority. He humbled Himself. He put aside the glory; He refused to claim the majesty which was His. He "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." Born in a

lowly stable, He was raised in poverty. Can you imagine a millionaire living in the bowery, amid all the filthiness and uncleanness of the slums? That is exactly what God did. He who had claim to everything that exists -- all the wealth and riches of heaven and earth -- He made Himself of no reputation. He confessed of Himself: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Was there ever greater humility than this?

God became man in the person of Jesus Christ to be man's servant, man's slave. Jesus spent His whole life in the service of others. He healed the sick, made the lame to walk, the blind to see. He was always ready t o lend a helping hand. Above all however, He served all men for all time by subjecting Himself to the wrath and punishment of God for the sins of the whole world. As a humble and lowly slave, He permitted Himself to be despised and rejected of men, mocked, cursed, spitted upon, and even forsaken of God. As a servant to each one of us, He bore the load of our iniquity, of our guilt, of our sin. In our stead He "Humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." Look upon Him extended upon the Cross. Look upon Him, and behold your Savior! Look upon Him, and remember that He is shedding His blood that all of your guilty stains might be washed away.

Contrary to popular opinion, Christians are the kind of people who know that they are not good. Some people think that Christians are people who regard themselves as good. The truth is, of course, the other way around. Christians know that they are not good. That is why they come as humble sinners to Christ and trust in Him as the One who has taken their sins away.

Before the service of Christ's Cross, before the agony of His sufferings, before the redeeming grace of His Crucifixion can mean anything at all to us; there must sweep over us the realization of our complete depravity and utter worthlessness. Only the sick man goes to the doctor.

Only the soiled garment is put in the wash. So also only the person who recognizes his sinfulness and wretchedness will have a need for a Savior. And it is on this very point that the devil leads so many away from the healing strength of Calvary's Holy Cross. You and I don't like to be told that we are sinful. We don't like to be told that we need the saving salve of the Savior's bloody sacrifice. Our vanity rebels, we become indignant, we protest! --

Pride takes his stand in our hearts and says: "You, Sir, you have worked hard for everything you've got. With diligence, concentration, and hard work you have gotten everything you own. There is nothing lazy about you. Now certainly compared with the bum on Skid Row God will look upon you with more favor." Again pride will say: "You, Sir, you have led a morally decent life. You have not committed any outrageous crime. You have not stolen, committed murder, or harmed your neighbor. Certainly God will prefer you to the prostitute or the condemned criminal." A third time pride will speak to you and say: "You, Sir, you certainly have done a great deal for your fellow man. You have given quite liberally to church and charity. Certainly God will bless you for this deed." Pride would set us apart from the bum on Skid Row, the drunk in the gutter, the prostitute, and the criminal. Pride would tell us how much better we are than others. Pride would try to make us believe that with our good living we could even approach the thrown of Holy God.

It was such pride that nailed Jesus to the Cross on that first Good Friday. The chief priests and elders of the people, the scribes and pharisees did not want a Savior from sin. They were too good to be sinful. And so, when Jesus pricked their vanity, they turned on Him with contempt and hatred. Their ego was hurt. Their pride was bruised. One thought surged through their minds -- how to get rid of this KILL-JOY, the VANITY CRUSHER. Filled

with bitter antagonism they sought to do away with Him, to crucify Him. They were determined to stop at nothing.

Pride is self-centered. It cares about nothing elde than the elevation of self. It exhibits no love either for God or for neighbor. Like a mighty hammer it drives the spikes into the hands and feet of the loving Savior. Thus it is that the apostle exhorts us: "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus!" To be a Christian and a child of God pride must be dispelled from our hearts -- humility must take its place. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Let us each honestly examine our own soul, holding the Law of God before us. Let us note both those things that we have done wrong and also those things that we have neglected to do which are right and God-pleasing. And then let us hasten to the cross of our Crucified Redeemer and find forgiveness and salvation; for "He was made to be sin for us Who knew no sin, that we might receive the righteousness of God in Him."

Dear Christian Friends, as you stand humbly and penitently under the shadow of the Cross, seeking pardon for your many wrongs; there will sweep over you an electrifying consciousness of your Redeemer's great Love. Out of love for you and for me He became man. Out of love for you and for me He traveled the road of sorrows, permitting Himself to be mocked, scurged, spit upon, and finally nailed to the Cross. Out of love for you and for me He wrestled with the forces of darkness, sweating blood under the damning weight of our our sin. Out of love for you and for me He bore the full load of our iniquity, dying that we might be freed from the condemnation of our guilt.

And now, in token of the completed task God has exalted Him. Our text concludes with this grand finale: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of

Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." The saints and the angels, the believers and the unbelievers, the devils and the damned -- all shall be made to bow before Jesus and acknowledge Him as the Lord, the almighty Ruler of heaven and earth, to the glory of God the Father. Whether willingly or unwillingly -- all shall confess that He is Lord.

On which side of the fence do you stand? I pray God the Holy Spirit that He would enlighten the hearts of each of you so that willingly you bow in humble reverence before Christ and acclaim Him your Lord and King. I pray God the Holy Spirit that He would make each one of you LIKE-MINDED with Jesus -- completely destitute of all pride and conceit. Oh, that neither you nor I ever think ourselves too good to sit in the gutter with the bum and tell him of the love which his Savior has for him. May the precious blood shed for you and for me on that Friday afternoon some Nineteen Hundred years ago fill us with a longing desire to confess at all times and in all places that the Name of Jesus is above every Name, that He is Savior, that He is Lord. Let us show by word and by deed that our Crucified Lord is the One Being in heaven and in earth who is completely indispensable to us, that without Him we cannot live, and that whatever looks like life without Him is only death. Morning, Noon, and Night let us hold His Cross before us, let us bow down and worship Him, let us burst forth in praises of heart-felt thanksgiving for His dying love.

Illustration Prefis '36 p. 335

Leola & Larry Lake

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
Unite my thankful heart with Thee
And reign without a rival there.
To Thee alone, dear Lord, I live;
Myself to Thee, dear Lord, I give.

Oh, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell but Thy pure love alone!
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,
My Joy, my Treasure, and my Crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My every act, word, thought be love.

Amen.