



## The Secret of Emptying...Being Right

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor

December 13 & 15, 2013

journeymcommunitychurch.com  
edsjourney.org

**Kenosis:** The look *behind the scenes*... and the *"secret"* — both summed up in Emptying — is SO LIKE GOD!

Emptying...*"Being Right"*

### MISERABLE-TOE — 4 Steps to *staying miserable*

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

- ▶ Note: Jesus *existed as God*... who is, if nothing else, is *always "right"*.
- ▶ Jesus' invitation: *"Follow me."* ("Focus, look me in the eye")

### EMPTYING...BEING RIGHT

1. Decide now: I really am O.K. with *being misunderstood*.
  - ✓ Practice the discipline of *"not having the last word"*.
  - ✓ Spend time alone with God letting Him *tell you who you are*...
  - ✓ The compulsion to straighten things out may be *just that*... a *compulsion, resist it!*
2. Adopt God's *rating system*.

\*Remember: *Pride* is a much greater *danger to our souls* than being perceived as wrong!

3. Emptying means... *letting it go*... forgiving, overlooking AND *entrusting myself to Jesus*.

### THE "I WAS WRONG" THAT CAN *CHANGE EVERYTHING!*

## The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

*"... I bring you good news of great joy . . ."*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and [the shepherds] were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord [or Anointed One]. This will be a sign to you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."* Luke 2:8-12

Shepherds are my favorite people group in the scriptures. Without guile or spin, they are people of the earth. Hands-on, working the day through, taking their pleasure along the way, like a warm fire and good meal. They have their share of hardships, but as the days go by, theirs is not a bad life. And then, to one nondescript group of shepherds, during an ordinary season, on an unremarkable hillside, in the middle of the night, the heavens open.

The message is precise; over there you will find something astonishing. They went—left their sheep; I always wondered if they left someone behind. Who would stay? Would you, after that message? They saw—it did not take them long—strangers, with a baby, in the manger. They found a baby just as they had been told by the angels—listen to yourself! Angels!

They worship! What joy must have filled their hearts! See them now—gathered around the manger; some kneeling, all in wonder, one with a wayward lamb over his shoulders. As they peer over the rough plank of a feeding trough, do the words of the angels replay in their hearts? A Savior, Christ the Lord...What do they see in the tiny eyes of Almighty God?

Taking their leave with reverence, can you hear them rambling back along the way—loud, good humored, boisterous shepherds—regular people, singing songs of praise and worship? "Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!" They go on their way with great joy telling the news to anyone who will listen. They return to their lives, "praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke 2:20)

If God of the bible spoke directly to you as he did to Jeremiah or Isaiah, or an angel of the Lord appeared at the foot of your bed, would you pay attention to what God wanted from you? Or would you turn over and go back to sleep? Will it require an angelic visitation for you to understand the depths of his love for you? Can you, will you, quiet yourself and listen as Jesus calls your name? (John 20:16; As Jesus speaks her name Mary recognizes him.)

Written by Charles Phillip Roof



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**MISERABLE-TOE** — 4 Steps to \_\_\_\_\_

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- ▶ Note: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_... who is, if nothing else, is \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Jesus' invitation: \_\_\_\_\_ ("Focus, look me in the eye")

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  - ✓ Practice the discipline of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ✓ Spend time alone with God letting Him \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_...
  - ✓ The compulsion to straighten things out may be \_\_\_\_\_... a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_!
2. Adopt God's \_\_\_\_\_.

\*Remember: \_\_\_\_\_ is a much greater \_\_\_\_\_ than being perceived as wrong!

3. Emptying means... \_\_\_\_\_... forgiving, overlooking AND \_\_\_\_\_.

**THE "I WAS WRONG" THAT CAN \_\_\_\_\_!**

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