***Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.***

We’re back in Jerusalem this morning.The tomb is empty. Male and female followers are coming forward, telling of encounters with the Risen Christ. The disciples, save Thomas, have seen Him in their midst, heard Him speak, had the Holy Spirit breathed upon them. He is alive! He laid His life down and took it up again. He promised to rise, and He has. He’s made a promise to us who believe as well – He has gone to prepare a place for us. One day, He’ll receive us, that we may be where He is. If today is your last, does Jesus have an appointment scheduled with you? Make no mistake, there is an appointment – with who is the only question.

 Philippians 2:5 says - *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus*. This doesn’t mean only think like Jesus. Years ago, there was a marketing campaign that said, “Be like Mike.” This is not saying just “be like Jesus, think like Jesus”. That is flesh and blood effort that will never work. No, this has the idea of ***Cherish the mind of Jesus***, adore the mind that humbled Himself, seek at all times to be exactly like Him, following His example. Of course, we know this is only possible by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Nothing in our worldly body is like Christ until the Holy Spirit enters in.

 Verse 6 - *Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.* Who being - meaning existing in the very form of God in all ways. Christ is the Word – John 1 - He was with God, He was God. He was in the beginning with God. He was equal. He had no desire to grab at glory. He is Glory. Contrast this mindset with Satan who, Isaiah 14:14 tells us said, *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High*. Jesus, already existing in the form of God, set His sights on humility and service. Satan, being created, set his sights on his own pride and glory. We, as humans, have both mindsets inside of us. Which do we spend our time cherishing? Christ or Satan? Spirit or Self? One seeks to serve; the other to be served. Christ said the person that will be first in Heaven must be a servant here on earth.

 Verse 7 *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.* From the likeness of God, the very form of God, to the likeness and form of the lowest kind of servant. He emptied Himself completely and took on the likeness of flesh, tempted in all the ways we are tempted, facing hunger, pain, emotion, stress, just as we face. He understands us because He was tempted like us. Hebrews 2:17 says this of Jesus, our High Priest and Mediator - *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation (*atonement*) for the sins of the people.* Jesus not only emptied Himself of His form of God and the glories of that station, but He emptied Himself of the worship due Him. He became a man among a multitude of men, serving those that, by all divine right, should be serving Him. It occurs to me that, in Genesis, the man Adam was made to be the image bearer of God. God the Son was made the image bearer of man, offering His life to bring fallen man back into relationship with God. Jesus completed the circle.

 Verse 8 *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.* Christ, the Image Bearer, not particularly beautiful, found in the likeness of a common man. Isaiah 53 says *He has no stately form or comeliness (splendor); And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* Nothing in His looks attracts people. He humbled Himself from God to man. Humbled Himself still further from man to bondservant. Now, still further from bondservant to atoning sacrifice. Obedient. 1 Samuel 15:22 tells us obedience is better than sacrifice. Sacrifice is possible with Obedience nowhere in sight, but Obedience cannot happen without Sacrifice.

 And so Christ completes this beautiful circle. Man broke his relationship with God. God, coming by way of woman, born as a man, reestablished the relationship, returning on High as God, having been crucified as man. The way to God is now open because of the work completed on the Cross. Christ appeared as man on earth so we may one day appear in the form of His righteousness before God in heaven. This is the mind we must ***Let be in us***– the Spirit we must cherish and adore. May we bend our knee and confess the Name of Jesus, exalting Him, for truly He traveled the road I couldn’t that I may one day live in the Presence of God, though my sin says I shouldn’t.