

**North Weekly Devotional**  
**Kelley M. Lowder**

**Song:** [He Leadeth Me](#)

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you that Christ has set the example as to how we should live. I pray you work out Phillipians 2:3-4 inside of me. Remove my selfish ambition and conceit, and give me the attitude to acknowledge you are the good in my life, and I am just a product of your grace. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Text:** *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* - Phillipians 2:3-4

**Explanation:** In Esther, we are given an example of a leader of the nation, Haman. Haman was a self serving leader. Through his manipulation of the King, he had managed to create an edict to kill all Jews. He also demanded that all bow in his presence. Although he was not the King, he aspired to live and have the power of a King, and therefore used his position in the court to demand others bow to him. When Mordechi refused to bow, Haman’s pride and ego were so damaged that he plotted to make an example of Mordechi. Centuries later, Christ—God in human form—came to earth as an insignificant carpenter's son. There was no pomp and circumstance, no command to bow and no authority in his position. Although He would have been justified, as King of Kings, to demand worship, he took quite the opposite approach. He did so to show *us* how to live. A great example is when he asked John the Baptist to baptize him. Why does God need to have man baptize him? For no other reason than to be an example for us of what we, as Christians, should do.

**The Point:** Jesus was tempted by Satan with worldly promotions and advancement, but Jesus knew his purpose was to serve others, not himself. You and I often face those same temptations. His eyes were on the Salvation of man, and getting caught up in the ways of the world would have given humanity no chance at reconciliation with God. As we, as Believers, walk this earth, there are times when reaching goals, earning more money or gaining the world's approval will require us to choose between the example given by Jesus and the way of the

world. It's advisable to approach our lives from the direction of Philippians 2:3-4. First, making sure our motivations are pure, rather than self serving. Secondly, making sure we recognize the value and worth of other's is assigned by God, and therefore no one is inferior. Lastly, making sure our decisions are guided by how they will affect, not just ourselves, but others.

**Application:** Satan will make his promises of instant gratification, and appeals to selfish ambition and conceit. The way of Jesus looks beyond our immediate gratification, and puts God's purpose first.

**Pre-K & Elementary Age:** [I Am A Promise](#)—learn to hear God's voice and choose His ways

**Middle & High School Students:** The challenge is for you to give up 10 minutes on the Xbox (or phone) before supper, and set the table for your parents. Voluntarily, and with gladness, clear the table after the meal as well. It will only take a few minutes out of your day, but make a big difference in the way your parents feel.

**Young Adult:** Right now, your time is more of your own than it will be in the future. There's time for you to volunteer! Sign up for Meals-On-Wheels, help out at the Special Olympics or fundraise for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Chances are the relationships you form through volunteering will be as beneficial to you spiritually, as they are to the ones you service (but don't let that be your motivation).

**Adult:** It's time to switch your wardrobe from hot to cold weather. This time, instead of taking a load to consignment, gather and donate items for free to the Stanly County Clothing Closet. Perhaps this year, you even dive into those seasonal clothes that are still in good shape and decide if you will truly wear them, or if they would help a struggling family.

**Empty Nesters:** At this point in your life, you may find more and more time to fill. Why not dedicate an hour of prayer, specifically, for future generations? There is a lot pulling on the youth of this world. Pray specific prayers for specific youth to discern God's plan for their life.

**Song:** [\*There Was Jesus\*](#) by Zach Williams/Dolly Parton

**Prayer:** Forgive me for the times that I have fallen short of your humble example. Lord, when I start to think I am better than others, deserving of praise, or special in my own right, remind me that it's your ultimate sacrifice that has given me *any* rights in your Kingdom. I know that You are good, kind and humble. Let me reflect You into this world, and ultimately, fulfill your purpose for my life here. I choose to live for You, and not for myself. Thank you Lord, that what you have planned for me is more rewarding than anything I could achieve on my own.