

# knightwatch weekly



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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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## He Made Himself Nothing

As quickly as it began, our semester has come to an end. MLC students have returned their textbook rentals to the bookstore and submitted final exams, papers, and projects—the evidence of all they've learned these last few months.

In one of my classes, High Middle Ages, I learned about a pretty controversial figure in 12th-century church history, a man named Thomas Becket. As a result of his friendship with King Henry II of England, Becket ended up holding two very prestigious positions at once—Chancellor of England and Archbishop of Canterbury. He held tremendous influence in the church and the state simultaneously, a unique privilege that many would covet. Yet, in spite of all this, at the pinnacle of his power and potential, Thomas Becket resigned his chancellorship, supposedly to avoid a conflict of interest between his positions. Why would a man who held so much authority in his hands give it all up? Did Becket really love the church that much? Historians have grappled with these questions ever since the Archbishop made his decision.

The notion that anyone would want to relinquish a position of power in exchange for a state of humility or weakness is dumbfounding to us as humans. But the greatest example of this kind of surrender was found in a manger in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, and we need not be confused about the motive that put a precious child there. It was perfect love.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:6-7 about Christ: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” This Messiah would go to even greater lengths to show his sacrificial love to the world. Paul continues, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Thank God that we get to celebrate this Child each Christmas season. Thank God for the sacrifice he makes for you and me. And thank God that his grace is ours all year long. Jesus truly is the reason for the season—and the reason that MLC exists. It's because of his love that we equip Christian witnesses just like you to serve our Savior as pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. Merry Christmas to you from your friends at *Knightwatch Weekly* and Martin Luther College!

