

## Following in the Footsteps of Jesus: Part 2

***“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” – 1 Peter 2:21***

### **I. This morning we are going to continue the study which we started last week entitled: “Following in the Footsteps of Jesus”**

- a. As Christians, we are called to follow closely in the footsteps of Jesus Christ
  - i. One of the purposes why the Son of God became a man and came to earth was to teach us how to live...
  - ii. In **John 13:15**, the Lord Jesus declared, ***“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you”***
  - iii. All that Jesus did on earth was done as a perfect example for us to follow, and as Christians, we are expected to follow that example
- b. Now, last week, we looked at the example Jesus gave us in our relationship with God
  - i. If you recall, we looked at ***“Seven Things”*** about the life of Jesus that serves as our example and pattern for our relationship with God
  - ii. As Christians, this is how we are expected to act towards God...
  - iii. Jesus was in *constant communication* with God, He had a *high reverence* for the Word of God, He *delighted* in God, He *obeyed* God, He *depended* upon God, He was *passionate* for God, and He *loved* God
- c. Now, this morning, we are going to continue our study and look at the example Jesus gave us in our relationship with each other
  - i. Not only did Jesus show us how to act towards God, but He also showed us how to act towards each other
  - ii. We are going to look at ***“Seven Things”*** about the life of Jesus that serves as our example and pattern for our relationship with each other

### **II. 1<sup>st</sup> – “Jesus walked with godly character before others”**

- a. Jesus’ character was absolutely blameless and holy – “He was sinless”
  - i. He never compromised His integrity or character, but consistently walked in absolute holiness before God and before man
- b. Throughout the New Testament, we find countless testimony concerning Christ’s godly character (\*it stood out\*)
  - i. In **2 Corinthians 5:21**, the apostle Paul tells us that Christ ***“knew no sin”***; in **1 Peter 1:19**, the apostle Peter describes Christ as an ***“unblemished and spotless lamb”***; in **1 John 3:5**, the apostle John said concerning Christ, ***“In Him there is no sin”***
  - ii. Even His accusers couldn’t find anything wrong with His character – Pilate declared, ***‘I have found no reason for death in Him’*** - **Lk. 23:22**
- c. Jesus’ walked with godly character and perfect integrity before others

- d. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and walk with godly character before others
  - i. We must be man and woman of integrity, character, and godly principle – ***“Be holy, for I am holy” 1 Peter 1:16***
  - ii. As Christians, we have been called to live a life of holiness and purity – ***“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness” 1 Thess. 4:7***
  - iii. Therefore, we must never compromise our integrity, but follow the example of Christ and walk in integrity at all cost
- e. Your life will be the most effective witness to others (\*Reality of Christ\*)

### III. 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Jesus made intercession for others”

- a. Throughout His earthly ministry, we constantly find Jesus praying and interceding on behalf of others
  - i. He understood the power of prayer, and He understood the needs of the people, therefore, He constantly offered up prayer on behalf of others
  - ii. In **Luke 22:31-32**, the Lord declared to Simon Peter, ***“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail”***
  - iii. In **John 17:20**, the Lord declared to His Father, ***“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word”***
  - iv. Now, not only did Jesus intercede for others during His earthly ministry, but presently He intercedes for us at the right hand of God
- b. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and make intercession for others (\*pray for others\*)
  - i. **1 Timothy 2:1** declares, ***“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men”***
  - ii. As Christians, it is our responsibility to intercede on behalf of others – to come before the Lord in prayer on behalf of family members and friends
  - iii. If I don’t intercede for my children, for my family, for my friends, for my church, for my country – **Who Will?**
  - iv. Never forget, pray changes things, but also changes people...

### IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Jesus showed indescribable compassion for others”

- a. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus showed indescribable compassion and affection for the multitudes (\*He had a compassionate heart\*)
  - i. In many cases, His compassion for the people motivated Him to minister to the needs of the people
  - ii. Jesus was always sensitive to the needs of others and He wasn’t afraid to reach out and meet those needs...
  - iii. **Mathew 9:36** declares, ***“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd”***

- iv. **Mathew 14:14** declares, “*And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick*”
- b. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and have compassion for others
  - i. As Christians, we must be sensitive to the needs of others and not be afraid to reach out and help (Material, Emotional, and Spiritual)
  - ii. We all have been called to serve in a “*Ministry of Compassion*” – “*Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous*” - 1 Pet. 3:8
- c. When I think of the “Ministry of Compassion,” I think of Mother Teresa...
  - i. For over 45 years, she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying in the streets of Kolkata India (her compassion motivated her to act)
  - ii. She was famous for saying, “*I see the face of Jesus in every sick and dying person I help*”
- d. Jesus had compassion for us, therefore, we should have compassion for others

#### V. 4<sup>th</sup> – “Jesus humbly served others”

- a. In Mark 10:45, the Lord Jesus declared, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”
  - i. In the life of Christ, we see the true meaning of what it means to be a humble servant
  - ii. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and yet, He came as a Humble Servant to serve His people
  - iii. This we see perfectly illustrated in John 13 where we find Jesus washing the feet of His disciples
  - iv. After washing His disciples feet, the Lord declared to them, “*You call Me teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet*” – John 13:13-14
- b. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and humbly serve others
  - i. If you want to be great in the Kingdom of God, learn to be a servant – God’s Kingdom is composed of servants...
  - ii. **Galatians 5:13** declares, “...*Through love serve one another...*”
  - iii. It is not about what others can do for you, but it is all about what you can do for others, therefore, be great, be a servant!

#### VI. 5<sup>th</sup> – “Jesus demonstrated a gentle spirit towards others”

- a. In describing Himself, Jesus declared, “I am gentle and lowly in heart” – Mathew 11:29
  - i. Jesus was never rude, cruel, or impolite towards others, but He always conducted Himself with a gentle spirit...

- ii. In **Mathew 12:20a**, we read this description concerning Christ, “*A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench*”
- iii. Those who were bruised, afflicted, and discouraged, were gently handled by the Lord Jesus – “*A Perfect Gentleman*”
- b. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and be gentle towards others
  - i. **2 Timothy 2:24** declares, “*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all...*”
  - ii. In your dealings with others, make sure you are being gentle, kind, respectful, and gracious (\*especially w/ your wife or husband\*)
  - iii. You should never be rude, unkind, cruel, or harsh, but treat others in the same way you would want them to treat you
  - iv. Be a gentleman, be a lady, be a Christian...

## VII. 6<sup>th</sup> – “Jesus genuinely forgave others”

- a. This we see illustrated on the cross, for as the Lord hung on the cross, He declared, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do” - Lk. 23:34
  - i. As the Lord hung on the Cross, He could have uttered curses over His enemies, He could have called down angels to slay His enemies, or He could have commanded the earth to swallow up His enemies
  - ii. However, that is not what He did, but in the midst of unspeakable shame and agony, He forgave His enemies...
- b. In the same way, we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and genuinely forgive others
  - i. In **Luke 6:37**, the Lord Jesus declared, “*Forgive, and you will be forgiven*”
  - ii. Sadly, so many Christians never learn how to forgive others, but store up bitterness, animosity, and resentment towards others
  - iii. Learn to forgive! God has forgiven us much, therefore, we should also forgive others much (\*It is healthy to forgive\*)

## VIII. 7<sup>th</sup> – “Jesus had a supreme love for others”

- a. Ultimately, His love for others was demonstrated on the Cross
  - i. In **John 15:13**, the Lord Jesus declared, “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends*”
  - ii. Jesus’ love for us was so great that He allowed Himself to be crushed, shattered, wounded, maimed, injured, smashed, crippled, demolished, fractured, handicapped, and ultimately killed, on our behalf
  - iii. His love for us surpasses all understanding and knowledge Cf. Eph. 3:19
- b. And, this morning, before you leave, God wants you to know that “He loves you, He loves you so much”
  - i. And because He loves you, you must love others (\*Share His Love\*)

- ii. God has poured out His love into your heart and He wants you to pour out that same love upon the life of someone else (\*Demonstrate His Love\*)
- c. Be known for your great love for God and your great love for others...

IX. In conclusion, I end this morning by saying this, “Make sure your following in the footsteps of Jesus” (\*Call Jonah to Stage\*)

- a. This week show the world what it means to be a true Christian – ““The world does not need a new definition of Christianity, but a new demonstration”
  - i. Walk in integrity, pray for others, be compassionate, be a servant, be gentle, be quick to forgive, and most importantly, love others
  - ii. This week, allow Christ to live His life in you and through you...
- b. Let’s pray as our brothers prepare for communion