



What Would Jesus Do # 2

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." In our last article, we talked about what it might look like to represent Jesus well on this earth. The inspiration for this subject came from a wrist band I used to wear bearing the initials - "WWJD" (What would Jesus do?).

Today, let's start by saying that Jesus lived out of a rock solid identity. He knew that He was the Son of God and it shaped Him as a person. After Jesus was baptized, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Jesus was first a son, then a Saviour. His relationship with His Father was set in stone and absolutely unshakeable. He said, "I only do what I see my Father do." He also said, "I only say what I hear my Father say." In order to know what the Father says and does, it takes a hearing ear and a seeing eye.

It is impossible to imitate Jesus on this earth without the same unshakeable identity. Last week, we talked a bit about knowing and understanding the love of Father over us. Out of this love, our identity is born. Only then, can we love as Jesus would have loved. A "love encountered" lifestyle constitutes the first order of business when talking about imitating our Lord. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We need to consistently make time to be encountered by the love of the Father. Sit and let Him love you. Soak up His love. Hear His words over you. Listen to His song over you. Know His thoughts over you, more numerous and beautiful than the sands of the seashore. Know and believe the love the Father has for you. Let His love alone be the foundation for your self-worth. Then live out of this heaven charged identity.

We also discussed how we, as humans, spend much energy trying to rise above the "worthiness" line. In other words, we feel unworthy for much of our lives. This, in turn, renders us ineffective as a representative of Jesus.

Unworthiness is a key strategy of the devil. Let's say you have a freshly charged battery, all ready to go. Then, you take a metal object and deliberately cross the positive and negative terminals. You have just short circuited your battery. You will drain out all of its life in a few seconds with this action. If it is a large battery it will spark, heat up, and possibly even explode. You may also have just done it irreparable damage. This is the effect of unworthiness in the life of a believer. I beg you, do not go to places of unworthiness or feeling bad about yourself. If you have sinned, take it to Jesus, then put your eyes back on Him, not yourself. There is no way we can represent Jesus in this state.

Representing Jesus in a human vessel of clay, takes nerves of steel. The devil will constantly be trying to make you feel like you are not worthy or able. Do not listen to him. He is a liar and the father of lies.

Now, let's talk a bit about doing what the Father does, and saying what He says. There is a verse in the book of Proverbs that reads, "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both." If the question is "WWJD?" then we have no choice but to imitate Jesus by hearing and seeing the Father. This dual action is going to take somewhat of a prophetic understanding. We are going to have to take up a position in the heavens where we can see, hear, and know the heart of the Father. Once we have this understanding, we can take it back and release it here on our earth.

When we pray, rather than saying things that we hope God hears, we need to listen more. We also need to ask for the eyes of our heart to be opened and for the eye salve of Revelation chapter 3 to be applied. We need to be opened up to the seeing realm. It is here that we will see what the Father is doing. Prayer time is time in the presence. It is the time where we put ourselves in a position where the face of God can shine on us. We need to "keep watch to see what He will speak to us." (Habakkuk 2:1). In order to see what someone speaks, you can't just be listening through a telephone. You have to be face to face with them. In order to represent Jesus, this is a must. It is all about seeing and hearing in heaven first, then letting it be on earth as it is in heaven.

Now, I would like to talk about the miraculous. It is impossible to represent Jesus without an element of power in our lives. Much of the gospels are dedicated to stories of the miraculous. These stories are not just there for us to read, but to imitate. Friends, it makes no sense to attempt to imitate the character of Jesus, or His teachings, without the element of the miraculous. We will be missing much of what Jesus would do. For instance, if I come in contact with a sick person and I ask the question "WWJD," then I have no option but to heal that person. It is what Jesus would do, after all. Here is what the apostle Paul had to say about this matter:

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

I am always baffled at how someone could attend years of bible school and seminary, learn how sermonize, yet never learn to heal the sick. The quest to imitate Jesus must include the element of power and the miraculous. I would like to say that rather than this being a "supernatural" element, it should be a "natural" one. By this, I mean that healing and miracles should flow naturally out of the life of every believer who asks the question "WWJD." There is no other way to imitate our Lord.

To close today, I would like to say that imitating Jesus is really a co-labouring process. Just before Jesus left this earth, He left this charge: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you." He then breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." He also said it was better for us if He would go because then the Holy Spirit could be sent. The Holy Spirit has been given to us to come along side and to fill us. This, in turn, makes us now representatives of God on this earth. We are sent in the same manner as Jesus was sent and we go with the same tools.

The Holy Spirit wants to co-labour with us to re-present Jesus to our world. He wants to take each of our unique personalities and then partner with us to present an image of Jesus that is real and touchable. When we come across a situation where we are left asking "WWJD?" we only need ask the Holy Spirit. He is right there, just like He was with Jesus. If we listen, He will speak to us and tell us what the Father is saying or let us see what the Father is doing. Then, there is only one thing left to do - step out in faith.

Soooo much fun!!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can re-present Him well.