

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #32 — JESUS IS OUR BEST FRIEND: HIS LIFE, PART 2

We're thankful that you're loving the Lord enough and care enough about Him and His kingdom, that you're looking into these important subjects from God's Word. We're on our second lesson, we're talking about Man's problem with sin from the beginning of time, and God's wonderful solution, Jesus, the Christ, our Lord, our Savior. The one who left heaven to come to this earth, to live for us in such a wonderful way. We're thankful that we're able to look into some wonderful reasons that the Christian can know that Jesus is the best friend that we could ever have.

When we finished class last time, we were talking about the first reason that we can know that Jesus is the Christian's best friend, and that is, His life upon this earth. And one of the passages of Scripture that we talked about was 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 21, where God tells us that Jesus is our perfect example, that we should follow in His steps. And so we're thinking about one of the things that is associated with Jesus' life on this earth was the example that He provided for us. We've seen that in John 6, verse 38, He said that He came down from heaven, not to do His own will, but to do the will of the Father who sent Him from heaven. So he was one who wanted to do the Father's will.

Then we looked at Matthew chapter 3, verse 15, which we ended our class on last time, and saw that Jesus was willing to submit to baptism, even though He had no sins to be washed away in baptism. But, He did it to fulfill all righteousness. That is, He wanted to fulfill that which was right in God's sight. And we want to continue on this theme of the example that Jesus provided to us by looking at several other passages of Scripture.

Let's look now in the book of Acts, in the 10th chapter, and verse 38. Acts 10, verse 38, and see what God has to say to us in this particular passage of Scripture. "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Now the part that we want to focus in on this verse is where it says that Jesus went about doing good. What a wonderful summary of the life of Jesus upon this earth. And what a wonderful example He provides for us. Went about doing good. Can you see the eagerness of Jesus to do good? Can you see that that was a regular and consistent part of His life. That's what God is portraying to us in this verse. He went about doing good. He didn't wait for someone to come to Him and suggest to do this or to do that. Instead, He took the initiative. He took the initiative to go about doing good. Well, we need to ask ourselves, how do we determine what is good? Of course we know the answer. We go to the Scriptures, the Word of God and do what God says to do in His Word, because He is good. He is perfect. He is without sin. And He has revealed to us the way that we ought to conduct our lives, the good deeds that we ought to do.

Christians ought to be ones who are zealous for good works (Titus chapter 2, verse 14). We ought to be careful to maintain good works as Paul said to Titus, in chapter three. We ought to

be the ones who are going around seeking in our local congregation, in our family, where we work, where we go to school, everywhere that we have involvement with people in our daily life, doing good. There are people who are sick, who need to be encouraged, who need to be visited. We have people who are spiritually sick, who need to be exhorted, who need to be treated with love and kindness, but also need to be rebuked, that they might turn from their spiritual sickness. We have people who need to know the truth of God, His Word, and we need to study with them. There are new Christians who need to be built up and strengthened in the most holy faith. Don't ever let us be found guilty of saying, "I don't know what I can do. What good can I do?" Just look around, there are lots of good things that we can do. And if we're going to follow the example of Jesus, we need to be those people who are always striving to go about doing good.

Then in the book of Philippians, another example for ourselves to imitate Jesus. Philippians chapter 2, we want to look at verses 5 through 8. Philippians 2, verses 5 through 8. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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."

See how many great things are shown to us through God in this particular passage of scripture concerning our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the example that he provided for us. Verse 5 — God gives us a challenge and a command that we should let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. How am I going to do that? I'm going to have to want to think like Jesus, I'm going to have to have that desire in my heart. And I'll only have that desire if I love Him with everything that I have. Then I'm going to have to take control of my mind. I'm going to have to make sure that my mind is thinking upon the words, the actions, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And I'm going to have to fill my heart, my mind, with his Word, so that that Word permeates my life, it fills my life, and it motivates me, and channels me, in the direction of Jesus. And I'm going to have to pray. I'm going to have to pray that through that process, God will help me to develop the mind of Christ, to have the habitual way of thinking, the manner, the attitude, the disposition, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We need to strive to have the mind of Christ to think like Him and to speak and to act like Him.

But what example did He provide in terms of His mind, talking about in verse 6 and following? In verse 6, the idea is, Jesus was in the form of God. He was God. He had divine characteristics and attributes. He was in all ways equal with the Father. But he didn't think that that was something that had to be held on to at all cost. He was willing to give up His equality with the Father, by coming to this earth, and living a life in the flesh. Jesus gave up His equality with the Father. He gave up, the majesty, the power that He had in heaven. He gave up the glory which He had from before the beginning of time, as we know it. He gave all those things up. What a wonderful example He was in terms of humility. One who was willing to give up things for others, and One who was not filled with false pride. But He was willing to give all those things up. He emptied Himself. He took the form of a servant. Now think about that for a moment, please. Who deserved to be served more than Jesus the Christ while He was on this earth? But Jesus didn't look at it that way. He said, "I am come, not to be served,

but to serve, and to give my life a ransom for many.” Jesus deserved to be served, yet He denied that privilege, that right, that He had. And instead, He made Himself the servant, and even gave to the point of giving His own life, as a ransom, as the price, to buy people back from slavery to sin. Jesus was a servant. He wants us to be a servant, as we've seen in other passages of Scripture that we've studied.

And notice that He not only humbled Himself, but He was obedient. How obedient was He? God says, through Paul, He was obedient to the point of death. He was so intent on doing the will of the Father. He loved the Father, and you and I so much, that He was willing to die, to show his obedience to the Father, to make our salvation possible. So He was obedient. But God didn't stop at that description. He said, He was obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross, he was willing to die the worst form of death for you, and for me. He was obedient to the point of death, the death that is cruel, and cursed, the death on the cross.

So what kinds of examples do we have here? Jesus was humble. Jesus was a servant, one who served others. And Jesus was obedient, one who was willing to obey, even to the point of death. And that's the kind of example that He set, and that you and I should strive to follow to the best of our ability.

Then in Mark's account of the gospel, in Mark, chapter 7, verse 37. Mark the seventh chapter, and verse 37. “And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done all things well.’” Notice, that's the description of the Lord Jesus Christ. These people were astonished at His life upon this earth. The point that they were astonished about here, that is mentioned here, is that He did all things well. Jesus always did the best He could do. He was not satisfied with less. He always wanted to do the very ultimate, the highest, the best. He did all things well. That's a perfect example for you and me. We should not be satisfied with second best, or with less than what we're able to do, what we're capable to do, what we have opportunity to do.

Paul would say in Philippians, chapter 1, verse 10, that Christians ought to put our approval on things that are excellent. There's the idea that we see concerning Jesus in Mark 7:37. He did all things well. Christians should strive to excel. What does it mean? Excel? What do we mean when we use that word? We mean to do better than good. To do the best we can do, to reach for the highest goal and strive to achieve that goal, to the best of our ability. We ought to be those who try to excel in all that we do. Are we doing that for our own glory, for pride, for recognition by men? If we do we have the wrong attitude. That's not our attitude. That's not our goal. Our goal ought to be to excel for Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us. So we ought to be those who strive to do all things well, strive to excel to do better than good. To do better than average.

So there are some examples of the pattern that Jesus set for you and me, ways in which we can follow in His steps, and try to be better people: By doing the will of the Father, by trying to fulfill all righteousness, by being humble, being servants, being obedient, and by striving to do all things well, always going about doing good.

But another thing about Jesus' life on this earth, is found in 1 John. 1 John, the third chapter, and verse 8. 1 John 3, verse 8. “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” Now, we'll not talk about the first part of that verse, because we're

focusing on the last part. God says that for this reason, for this purpose, Jesus was manifested. He appeared before men, He was born and brought into the world. His example was shown to all. Why was Jesus manifested? Why did he come to this earth and live? God says He did it to destroy the works of the devil, to destroy the things that Satan had been doing since the beginning of time. And think about how Satan worked from the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, as we've studied in this lesson. That he tried to tempt man, he tried to tempt man to sin, to fall away from the glory of God. And he had the power of death. Through sin death was brought into the world. And God tells us in Romans chapter 5, that Satan reign through death; he had that power over man. But Jesus came to destroy that power. How? By living a perfect life, by dying a death that He substituted for me and for you. And by being raised from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. So Jesus came to earth, to destroy the works of the devil. And that's one of the things about His life that lets us know He is the best friend we could ever have, or ask for.

And then one final passage in 2 Corinthians chapter 8, verse 9. 2 Corinthians 8, verse 9. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes, He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." Here, God talks about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. And of course, the word translated grace means the gift, a free gift, one that we don't earn. Now we know we must meet conditions in order to receive that gift, but we don't earn it by doing the things that God says. But he talks about the grace of Christ, "that though He was rich." Now think about what he's saying there. What is he talking about? He was in heaven. He was the Creator. He had all power, all glory, all authority. He was there in heaven, as the possessor of all the things in the earth. That's what we believe he's talking about: He was rich. But he says that He became poor. What's God talking about there? That Jesus left all of that in heaven and came to this earth and put on human flesh, became a man, and lived a poor life, that is, from the standpoint of not having a great deal of material things. Being willing to give up those material things that others were so busily trying to acquire. Jesus became poor. Why did he do that? The Scripture tells us that He became poor, that through His poverty, we might become rich. Now, what is he talking about there? By Jesus coming to this earth, living here, suffering, bleeding, dying, being buried and raised again, from the dead, He made it so that we could become rich, spiritually. That He could make possible salvation, redemption, reconciliation with God, justification, that is, being declared innocent. He made it possible for all of that, to come to us, that we might be rich spiritually.

We may not have one cent of this world's goods, but if we have Jesus, we're rich. And that's what God is talking about here. And it happened, because he was willing to come and live a simple life, a life of poverty on this earth, that we might be rich spiritually. Again, this ought to fill our hearts and minds, and help us to be more thankful than we've been in the past, as we think about the blessings of the life of Jesus, and how that life shows us that He is the best friend we could ever have.

Now, we've looked at a lot of passages of scripture on this subject. And to get the full effect of those passages, we'd like to go back and review what we've said on this subject. Let's look, first of all, at reasons His life upon this earth shows us that He is our best friend.

Luke 19:10. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. That is, He came to seek and save me and you who are lost in our sins.

And then in John 6, verse 33, through 35, He came to be the bread of life, to be the spiritual nourishment and strength that you and I need to survive, to be happy and prosperous on this earth.

And John 6, verse 68, He came to speak the words of eternal life, and to reveal those words of eternal life, through the Holy Spirit and His inspired apostles and prophets. The words, which, if we will obey, we can receive that eternal life.

John 8, verse 12, is the next passage. He came that we might have the light of the world, that He was the light of the world. And then if we walk with Him, then we'll not walk in darkness, but we'll have the light of life.

And then in John 10:10, He came that we might have the more abundant life, life, and that more abundantly. Here, and in the hereafter.

Then in John 11, verse 25, He came to be the resurrection and the life. And anybody believes and follows him, they will not die spiritually. They will live forever in Heaven with Him and the Father and the redeemed of all ages.

Then in John 14, verse 6, he came to be the way, the truth, the life, the one way to the Father. The complete truth, the complete source of life, for you and me.

Then in 1 Peter 2:21, He came to provide us with a perfect example, an example that included many things, and we don't have time to study all, but we did study several. First of all, to do God's will (John 6, verse 38). Matthew chapter 3, verse 15 — to fulfill all righteousness, all that God says is righteous in His Word. Acts 10, verse 38 — He went about doing good. What an example He provided for you and me there. Then we studied Philippians, 2, verses 5 and following, to study His example there. That He gave up His equality with the Father. He became a servant, He humbled himself, and He became obedient unto death, even the cruel, terrible, horrible death of the cross.

And then the final part of His example that we studied — Mark 7, verse 37 — He did all things well. He always was striving to excel to do better, to improve.

And then in 1 John 3, verse 8, He came, was manifested, to destroy the works of the devil, by His perfect life, His suffering, death, and His resurrection from the dead.

And in 2 Corinthians 8, verse 9, we've studied about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, He became poor, that we through Him might become rich, the kind of people that would be blessed by His life upon this earth. So there are some passages of Scripture, which hopefully will help you and I to be more motivated to live for Jesus. Because of His life upon this earth, we know that He is the best friend that we could ever have.