

## Conformed to the Image of Christ

Romans 8:28-30

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** God expects His people to make a difference in the world; one of the key ways we achieve this is through the example we set.

**Matt. 5:13:** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”

**Matt. 5:14-16:** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Phil. 2:15:** “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”

2. There are so many worthy saints in the Bible that we can use as a pattern for our lives:

- A. Enoch: **Gen. 5:24:** “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” Why? Because “he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”; **Heb. 11:5:** “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”
- B. Noah: **Gen. 6:8:** “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Why? Because “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.”; **Heb. 11:7:** “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
- C. Abraham: **Rom. 4:3:** “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’” **Heb. 11:16:** “But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”
- D. Joseph: **Gen. 39:8-9:** “But he refused and said to his master's wife, ‘Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’”; **Heb. 11:22:** “By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”
- E. David: The sweet psalmist; how he treated Saul; how he recovered from a terrible fall; when told “Thou art the man” he admitted his sin and repented (**1 Sam. 13:14:** “But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart,”).
- F. Esther: **Est. 4:14:** “Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
- G. Nehemiah: **Neh. 1:4:** “So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”
- H. Peter: **Mk. 14:72:** “And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.”
- I. Paul: **1 Tim. 1:15:** “sinners, of whom I am chief.”; **1 Cor. 11:1:** “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

3. **3** But the ultimate example for us to emulate is our Lord Jesus Christ: **Rom. 8:29:** “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,”;

- A. We are instructed to “put” Him on, follow His example: **Rom. 13:14:** “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”
- B. If we remain faithful to His example, note our fate: **Phil. 3:21:** “will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,”

4. **4** To give us a greater appreciation for Jesus and His wonderful example for us, let's focus our attention on some things Jesus did so we can conform ourselves to His image.

## **II. DISCUSSION:**

### **One thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **1. 5 Obeyed his parents:**

- A. Luke 2 finds Joseph and Mary returning to Nazareth from the Jerusalem Passover feast. Jesus "was twelve years old" at the time (verse 42).
- (1) V. 51: "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them..."
- (2) Imagine that! Gen. 1:16 The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe humbled Himself even to the point of obeying His parents!
- B. There is a great need for children to be subject unto their parents today.
- (1) Paul said, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1).
- (2) Children, please listen: You're not being "square" when you obey your parents.
- (3) Not at all! You are imitating the Lord Jesus Christ! You are conforming your life to His life! There's nothing "square" about that!

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **2. \*\* Was baptized:**

- A. Luke 3:21 records, "... that Jesus also being baptized..." Matthew revealed, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water..." (Matt. 3:16).
- B. The fact that Jesus came up out of the water demands that He must have gone down into the water; thus, Jesus was immersed!
- C. The baptism of Jesus was not "... for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38), for He "...did no sin..." (1 Pet. 2:22), He was baptized "...to fulfil all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).
- D. Have you followed Jesus example regarding baptism?
- (1) Jesus requires us to be baptized to be saved (Mk. 16:16).
- (2) If you have not been baptized, then you are not "saved"! You're not conformed to the image of Christ!
- (3) It means you're lost; it means you're going to hell unless you submit to baptism!
- (4) Why not "put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27) in baptism today!
- E. Think! Why would any logical thinking person leave this service knowing they were lost?! Surely you're smart enough to understand that!

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **3. \*\* Resisted the Devil:**

- A. Luke 4:1-13 shows Jesus "Being forty days tempted of the devil..."
- (1) He was tempted through three avenues: "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." (1 Jn. 2:16).
- (2) The Lord endured the devil's temptation as He recalled Scripture saying, "It is written..." (vv. 4, 8, 12).

- B. Do you want to resist the devil? The Psalmist said, *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Psalm 119:11). That’s how Jesus resisted the devil and that’s how you and I can too!
- C. James writes: **Jas. 4:7-8**: *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”* That’s what Jesus did; can the same be said of you?

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **4. \*\* Taught and preached:**

- A. Luke 4:15 says, *“And he taught in their synagogues...”*
  - (1) Folks *“...were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power”* (Lk. 4:32).
  - (2) *“...he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God...”* (Lk. 8:1).
- B. The first century saints were cut from similar cloth:
  - (1) Jerusalem saints (persecuted!): **Acts 8:4**: *“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”*
  - (2) Saints at Thessalonica: **1 Thess. 1:8**: *“For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”*
- C. Every gospel teacher/preacher should do that...right? Yes indeed!
- D. But every Christian should follow the example of Jesus in teaching and preaching. Do you?

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **5. \*\* Read the Scriptures:**

- A. Do you know what Jesus’ custom was? *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”* (Lk. 4:16).
  - (1) Paul told Timothy to read the Scriptures: **1 Tim. 4:13**: *“give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”*
  - (2) Why such an admonition? **2 Tim. 3:16-17**: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*
  - (3) Paul wrote the Ephesians, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 4:3).
  - (4) John declared, *“Blessed is he that readeth...”* (Rev. 1:3).
- B. Shouldn’t it be our custom to read the Bible, the word of God also?!
  - (1) Some Christians are afraid to be caught carrying a Bible, much less reading it.
  - (2) Paul was not like that! **Rom. 1:16**: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,”*
  - (3) How about you? Are you “ashamed” of the gospel? We can’t if we desire to “be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29).

### Another thing Jesus did was He...

#### 6. **\*\* Fulfilled Scripture:**

- A. Do you remember when Jesus went into the synagogue in His home town early in His earthly ministry? Lk. 4:16ff
  - (1) The custom was for men to read from the Scripture.
  - (2) The men of the synagogue invited Him to read a passage from the Scripture.
  - (3) He read from **Isaiah 61:1-2**: *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; I 9 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*
  - (4) Do you remember what He said after that reading? *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears"* (Lk. 4:21).
- B. A number of times in the gospels Jesus says or does something and the text tells us He did it or said it: *"...that it might be fulfilled..."* (Matt. 1:22).
- C. In fact, Jesus said, *"...that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me"* (Lk. 24:44).
- D. It should be the heart's desire of every Christian to *"fulfill"* all Scripture that is applicable to them as a Christian; all Scripture that describes the Christian's duties and manner of life.
- E. How about you? Is your heart's desire to be conformed to Jesus in this way?

### Another thing Jesus did was He...

#### 7. **6 Cast out devils:**

- A. Do you remember the account in Luke 4:31-36?
  - (1) The text finds Jesus in *"a city of Galilee"* *"Capernaum"*; which became Jesus' *"own city"* after He was thrown out of His hometown, Nazareth (Lk. 16:28-30).
  - (2) Jesus, as He did in Nazareth, entered *"the synagogue"* and found *"a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon"* (Lk. 16:33).
  - (3) The demons cry out to Jesus *"Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"* (Lk. 16:34).
  - (4) Then Jesus cast out the demon and the people were *"amazed...spoke among themselves, saying, 'What a word this is!'"* (Lk. 16:36).
- B. We don't have the power to cast out demons. In fact, I believe the Bible teaches that *"demons"* are no longer permitted to possess people.
  - (1) So, what possible parallel is there between Jesus casting out this demon and how we as His saints might imitate such behavior?
  - (2) We can imitate Jesus behavior when we stand up and fight against evil. For example:
    - (a) Speak out against sin (e.g., abortion, homosexuality, alcohol, recreational drugs, etc.).
    - (b) Stand up and oppose false teachers and false teaching (**2 Cor. 10:4-5**: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"*; 1 Jn. 4:1; Eph. 5:11).

C. Are we up to the challenge? **2 Cor. 2:16**: "...who is sufficient for these things?"

**Another thing Jesus did was He...**

8. **\*\* Healed the sick:**

A. Do you remember Peter's mother-in-law?

- (1) Her illness is recorded in the synoptic gospels (Matt. 8:14-15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39).
- (2) Luke records: "...Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever... he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them" (Lk. 4:38-39).
- (3) Luke (4:40) records, "Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them."

B. You and I don't have the ability to miraculously heal the sick.

- (1) Further, I'm not a physician, so I can't help others in that way (take 2 aspirin and call the doctor!).
- (2) But, I can imitate Jesus by providing comfort to the sick. Visit, pray, give transport them to treatment, help pay doctor bills, etc.

**Another thing Jesus did was He...**

9. **\*\* Prayed:**

A. Jesus was definitely a praying man:

- (1) Luke 5:16 says, "And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed."
- (2) Luke 6:12 records, "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."
- (3) Matthew 14:23: "And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray." (cf. Mk. 6:46)
- (4) I've read there are at least 27 times recorded in the gospel accounts where Jesus prayed.
- (5) When He chose the twelve apostles, He "continued all night in prayer to God" (Lk. 6:12).

B. Christians are also to be praying people.

- (1) Paul commands us to "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17).
- (2) Recall the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught the disciples to pray (Matt. 6:9-13).
- (3) But Jesus also expressed concern that we will do as we should regarding prayer: **Lk. 18:8**: "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

C. Are you and I praying people like Jesus?

- (1) Do we "pray without ceasing?"
- (2) Regarding our prayer life, "will He really find faith on the earth?"

**Another thing Jesus did was He...**

10. **\*\* Chose twelve apostles:**

A. "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles" (Lk. 6:13).

- (1) We noted when He chose these men He agonized over it all night in prayer (Lk. 6:12).

- (2) To the men He selected He gave "...power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases." (Lk. 9:1)
- (3) He then "sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick" (Lk. 9:2).
- B. How can we imitate Christ in this regard?
  - (1) We too can "preach the kingdom of God" to anyone who will listen.
  - (2) We also can choose our friends carefully; choose people that truly love the Lord, that love the souls of others, and are determined themselves to go to heaven and determined to help everyone possible to do the same!

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **11. \*\* Forgave sins:**

- A. On several occasions Jesus forgave sin:
  - (1) Palsied man: Jesus totally shocked the scribes and Pharisees when He said to a man taken with palsy, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." (Lk. 5:20). Why? **Lk. 5:24**: "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"
  - (2) Woman who wiped His feet: Remember, she wiped Jesus' feet with "fragrant oil" and "her tears"? (Lk. 7:37-38). Then He said to the ministering woman, "Your sins are forgiven." (Lk. 7:48).
  - (3) Paralytic man: Once again He blows the minds of the scribes and the Pharisees: **Matt. 9:2**: "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."
  - (4) Man lame 38 years: **Jn. 5:14**: "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.'"
  - (5) Woman caught in adultery: **Jn. 8:11**: "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."
- B. You and I don't have the power to forgive sins in the same sense Jesus did.
  - (1) However, we can forgive those who sin against us. **Eph. 4:32**: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."
  - (2) Paul says forgiveness on our part is a "must"! **Col. 3:13**: "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
  - (3) If we don't forgive others, God won't forgive us! **Matt. 6:14-15**: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
- C. The next time someone sins against you, before you get your nose all out of joint, think about how many of your sins God has forgiven.
- D. We live in a harsh and unforgiving age. We let our light shine when we show mercy and compassion on those who sin against us. Just like Jesus did!

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **12. 7 Raised the dead:**

- A. To my knowledge, Jesus raised three people from the dead during His earthly ministry:
  - (1) \*\* Widow of Nain's son: Lk. 7:11-15
    - (a) Jesus came to the city of Nain, where a dead man was carried out (Lk. 7:12).



- (b) The dead man was *“the only son of his mother, and she was a widow”* (Lk. 7:12).
- (c) Jesus had *“compassion on her”* *“Then He came and touched the open coffin...and...said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.”* (Lk. 7:14-15).
- (d) It caused such a stir among the people that they said, *“A great prophet has risen up among us”; and ‘God has visited His people.’”* (Lk. 7:16)
- (2) **\*\* Jairus’ daughter: Matt. 9:18-19**
- (3) **\*\* Lazarus: Jn. 11:1-44**
  - (a) Lazarus had been dead four days (v. 39).
  - (b) Yet when Jesus said, *“Lazarus, come forth!”* (v. 43), *“...he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.”* (v. 44).
- B. Imagine! In all three cases...what a scene!
  - (1) Sometimes I think we take these events somewhat for granted.
  - (2) Can you imagine if the same thing happened today?
  - (3) Cell phone pictures, tweets, Facebook posts, etc.
- C. You and I cannot raise the dead in the sense Jesus did.
  - (1) But those who are lost in sin are spiritually dead: **Eph. 2:1**: *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,”*
  - (2) Christians who are overcome by sin are spiritually dead: **Jas. 5:19-20**: *“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”*
  - (3) We can imitate Jesus by sharing the gospel with the lost and by restoring the wayward.
  - (4) Do you have the love of the souls of others to do either?

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **13. \*\* Calmed the storm:**

- A. Do you remember when the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat?
  - (1) This is recorded in all three synoptic gospels (Matt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25).
  - (2) Luke records that as the disciples sailed, *“...a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.”* (Lk. 8:23-24).
  - (3) There was a problem, however: *“...as they sailed He fell asleep.”* (v. 23).
  - (4) Can you imagine being out on large body of water in a small boat in a storm? I’ve been there and done that. It is quite frightening!
  - (5) But the disciples awakened Jesus and *“...He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: And they ceased, and there was a calm.”* (Lk. 8:24)
  - (6) The disciples were comforted by Jesus’ actions.
- B. You and I cannot rebuke the wind and calm the waves like Jesus did.
  - (1) However, you and I can help other Christians weather the storms of life.

(2) Paul stated it this way: **2 Cor. 1:3-4**: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

C. How about you? Do you seek to comfort others in their time of trouble? **Gal. 6:2**: “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### 14. **\*\* Fed the multitudes:**

A. On two separate occasions Jesus fed a multitude:

- (1) Feeding 5,000: in this miracle Jesus fed the multitude with “only five loaves and two fish” (Matt. 14:17) and is recorded in all four gospel accounts (Matt. 14:13-21; Mk. 6:31-44; Lk. 9:12-17; Jn. 6:1-14).
- (2) Feeding 4,000: in this miracle Jesus fed the multitude with “Seven [loaves] and a few little fish.” (Matt. 15:34) and is only reported by Matthew (15:32-39) and Mark (8:1-9).

B. In both cases, everybody got plenty to eat!

- (1) In the feeding of the 5,000 Luke tells us everyone got plenty to eat and plenty was left over: **Lk. 9:17**: “they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.”
- (2) In the feeding of the 4,000 Mark tells us everyone got plenty to eat and plenty was left over: **Mk. 8:8**: “So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.”

C. You and I might never be able to feed thousands.

- (1) However, there are people, and many saints, that don't have a full refrigerator.
- (2) They don't know from one day to another where their next meal will come from.
- (3) We know if we “seek first His kingdom and righteousness” (Matt. 6:33) that God promises to provide for our needs. How does He do it? Through His providential care.
- (4) We who are blessed with plenty of food need to realize we are God's tools in regards to His providence (**1 Jn. 3:17**: “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”).

D. Are you imitating Jesus in this regard? Do you help the needy?

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### 15. **8 Gave thanks:**

A. The Lord was thankful. For example:

- (1) Feeding of the 5,000: **Jn. 6:11, 23**: “And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples,”
- (2) Feeding of the 4,000: **Matt. 15:36**: “So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks,”; cf. Mk. 8:6
- (3) Institution of the Lord's Supper: **Lk. 22:17**: “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks,”; v. 19: “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them,”; cf. Matt. 26:27; Mk. 14:23



- (4) To the Father for His teaching: **Matt. 11:25:** “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.’”; cf. Lk. 10:21
  - (5) Before raising Lazarus from the dead: **Jn. 11:41:** “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.’”
  - (6) I’m sure there are probably others which I’ve missed.
- B. The Scriptures teach us:
- 1 Thess. 5:18:** “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- Eph. 5:20:** “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”
- Phil. 4:6:** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”
- Col. 3:17:** “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- Heb. 13:15:** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”
- C. It is so very important that we give constant thanks to God!
- (1) Every good thing we have in life comes from Him!  
**Jas. 1:17:** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
  - (2) Ingratitude is a sure sign of infidelity, of unbelief!  
**Rom. 1:21:** “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”  
**Psa. 107:31:** “Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”
- D. Are you imitating Christ regarding being thankful?

### **Another thing Jesus did was He...**

#### **16. \*\* Was transfigured:**

- A. Jesus took Peter, James and John up into a high mountain apart, and “was transfigured before them” (Matt. 17:1-5).
  - (1) “...the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening” (Lk. 9:28-35).
  - (2) Peter describes this scene in his second letter: **2 Pet. 1:17:** “For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”
- C. I think there are at least two lessons to take away from the transfiguration.
  - (1) First, is the fact this incident showed Jesus to be God’s divine spokesman in these last days was impressed on the mind of those three men (**Matt. 17:5:** “a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’”).

- (a) Initially, Peter was confused and wanted to pay homage to Moses and Elijah along with Jesus.
- (b) God's pronouncement made it clear who they were to listen to: *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him!"*
- (c) The same is true for us! **Heb. 1:1-2:** *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."*; **Matt. 28:18-20: v. 20:** *"observe all things I have commanded you..."*
- (2) Second, as God's appointed representative, the Hebrew writer says of Jesus is *"the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"* (Heb. 1:3).
- (a) When we live the Christian life as we should, we reflect the glory of Christ and glorify God: **Matt. 5:16:** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*; **1 Pet. 2:12:** *"having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."*

D. When people see my life is there even a remote reflection of Christ's character?

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### **17. \*\* Wept:**

A. The gospels record at least two times when Jesus wept.

(1) Wept over Jerusalem: Luke 19 records of Jesus riding into Jerusalem.

- (a) As Jesus comes into the city He anticipates the coming Roman destruction of the city and Luke records: **Lk. 19:41-44:** *"Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'"*
- (b) Jesus wept because He knew that there would be terrible, needless suffering, because they had rejected God! **Matt. 24:21-22:** *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."*

(2) Wept over Lazarus:

- (a) The shortest verse in the Bible records: *"Jesus wept."* (Jn. 11:35)
- (b) Why? *"Then the Jews said, 'See how He loved Him!'"* (Jn. 11:36)

B. I think sometimes we only see Jesus as a divine being and in possession of great strength.

- (1) No doubt Jesus is divine (**Matt. 1:23:** *"...Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"*)
- (2) But it also shows His humanity and His compassion for others (**Matt. 9:36:** *"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.").*

C. We need to reflect Jesus' character regarding showing compassion for others.

- (1) Toward the needy: **Prov. 19:17**: “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.”; **Heb. 13:16**: “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
- (2) Toward the lost: **Jn. 4:35**: “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

D. How about you?

- (1) Do you care enough about the needy to share a portion of your bounty with them?
- (2) Do you care enough about the lost to share the gospel with them?
- (3) Jesus did!

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

18. **\*\*** Cast some out of the temple:

A. Jesus cleansed the temple on two occasions.

- (1) Early in His ministry: **Jn. 2:13-22**; **v. 16**: “And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!’”
- (2) Late in His ministry: last week of His life: **Matt. 21:12-17**; **Mk. 11:15-19**; **Lk. 19:45-48**; **Matt. 21:13**: “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

B. Two things stand out to me in these two incidences:

- (1) At the first cleansing: **Jn. 2:17**: “Then His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.’”
- (2) In both incidences, there was a huge negative reaction by the scribes and Pharisees: **Lk. 19:47**: “But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,”

C. Jesus had a zealous love for God and stood up for the truth despite the opposition. Do we?

- (1) A great deal about the truth is not “politically correct” (e.g., one true church, homosexuality, sobriety).
- (2) When we stand against error, the world can be downright mean in return! **Jn. 3:19-21**: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”
- (3) Are you up to it? Jesus was! **2 Cor. 2:16**: “To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

19. **9** The Father’s will:

A. It was His petition, “...not my will, but thine, be done” (**Lk. 22:42**).

B. Jesus would have preferred some other way:

- (1) He told the disciples: **Matt. 26:38**: “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”
- (2) He prayed: **Matt. 26:39**: “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

- (3) He prayed for the cup to pass from Him three times! Matt. 26:42, 44
- (4) He knew exactly how hard it would be (shame & pain).
- (5) Yet, what He wanted didn't matter as much to Him as what the Father wanted!
- C. There is a great deal of "cafeteria-style" religion practiced by people claiming to be Christians.
  - (1) Oh, they are willing to do what God says...when it pleases them.
  - (2) But, if it doesn't please them, if it doesn't suit the lifestyle they want to live, forget about it!
- D. God requires unqualified obedience; Jesus understood that. Do you?

**Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

20. **\*\* Spoke in parables:**

- A. Jesus used earthly stories with heavenly meaning to teach men important spiritual truths.
- B. One source says Jesus spoke 46 parables in the gospels.
- C. Why? **Matt. 13:10:** *"And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?'"*
  - (1) He answers in Matthew 13:11-17
  - (2) I suppose there are many reasons:
    - ☛ It was a popular style of teaching in His day.
    - ☛ Made His teachings easier to remember and apply.
    - ☛ More enduring than speaking like some law book.
    - ☛ Allows a teacher to make statements that would otherwise get you in trouble.
    - ☛ Parables are enduring, unchanging stories to tell enduring, unchanging truths.
    - ☛ Time release effect; they plant seeds that sprout later (i.e., light bulb effect).
- D. I think one of the most important reasons is that parables separate those with great interest in the gospel from those with only a passing interest.
  - (1) The point of a parable is not always apparent at the first look.
  - (2) The person with only a passing interest might mull over a parable for a short period of time, but will soon dismiss it as the ravings of a fool or lunatic.
  - (3) On the other hand, a person with great interest in the gospel will dig and dig until he learns the real meaning of the parable.
- E. All of us need to examine ourselves insofar as our true interest in the gospel is concerned.
  - (1) Is our interest small or great?
  - (2) Are we willing to give the gospel more than a passing consideration?
  - (3) When the gospel requires something difficult will we walk away? Or, "stick it out"?
- F. Jesus gave everything He had for us: **2 Cor. 8:9:** *"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."*

- G. If we would come after Jesus we must give it our all! **Matt. 16:25:** “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

**Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

21. \*\* Walked on water:

- A. Jesus walking on water is recorded in three of the gospels: Matt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:15-21
- (1) In each case, Jesus had sent the disciples out onto the Sea of Galilee for a night crossing.
  - (2) The accounts tell us “the sea arose because a great wind was blowing” (Jn. 6:18); “the boat was in the middle of the sea” (Mk. 6:47); the boat was “tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary” (Matt. 14:24).
  - (3) Undoubtedly the disciples were in a pickle!
  - (4) Just before dawn, in the darkest hours, “...Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea” (Matt. 14:25).
  - (5) Jesus comes walking on the water and rescues them! **Matt. 14:27:** “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”
  - (6) The Savior saved them! **Jn. 6:21:** “Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.”
- B. I think there at least two important lessons:
- (1) Obvious: Do you and I have faith the Lord will help us through the difficulties of life?
  - (2) Less obvious: Lessons from Peter:  
**Matt. 14:30-32:** “But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.”
    - (a) If you had been Peter, would you have gotten out of the boat?
    - (b) We must keep our focus (faith) firmly fixed on the Lord. What happened when Peter didn’t?
    - (c) No matter how dire the circumstances, the Lord can save! Eph. 3:20 He did in Peter’s case.

**Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

22. \*\* Forgave His enemies:

- A. One of the most amazing scenes in the entire Bible is when Jesus was being crucified at Calvary and said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34).
- B. Think of how much love it must have taken to say that and mean it!
- C. One of the most difficult things the Lord calls on us to do is to imitate Him in this quality of character: Consider the Sermon on the Mount:  
**Matt. 5:11-12:** “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**Matt. 5:43-48:** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

- D. Jesus was up to it! Are you and I?! **2 Cor. 2:16:** “To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### 23. **\*\* Gave Himself for us:**

- A. Contemplate the sacrifice of Christ:

(1) Paul wrote, “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity...” (Titus 2:14).

(2) He “...gave himself a ransom for all...” (1 Tim. 2:6).

**Rom. 5:8:** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- B. Paul exhibited a similar sacrificial love toward others:

**Phil. 2:17:** “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.”

**2 Cor. 12:15:** “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”

- C. Are you and I willing to show such sacrificial love toward others? **Phil. 2:3-9**

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### 24. **\*\* Rose from the grave:**

- A. We sing, “Up from the grave He arose!”

- B. One of the fascinating facts of the gospel is “...that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:4).

- C. By doing so:

(1) Son of God: **Rom. 1:4:** “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

(2) Founder of the church: Matt. 16:18

(3) Lord and Christ: **Acts 2:36:** “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

(4) Author & finisher of our faith: “the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2); how did He make it to the resurrection? **Heb. 12:2:** “who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- D. Christians are promised a resurrection to eternal life (1 Cor. 15).



- (1) But, like Jesus, we won't get there without going through our Gethsemane and Calvary.
- (2) No glorification without humiliation! Phil. 2:5-11
- (3) We have to muster the faith: "*for the joy...set before [us and] endure*" so we too can sit down in the very presence of God.

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### 25. **10** Appeared:

- A. Mark is careful to mention in his gospel account that Jesus, after His resurrection, "...He appeared..." (Mk. 16:9, 12, 14).
- B. Paul penned, "...he was seen..." (1 Cor. 15:5-8).
- C. The resurrection of Christ is the central doctrine of Christianity!
  - ☛ Without the resurrection, the entirety of Christianity folds like a house of cards!
  - ☛ No resurrection...Jesus is not God's Son.
  - ☛ No resurrection...Jesus is not "*both Lord and Christ*"!
  - ☛ No resurrection...no church established!
  - ☛ No resurrection...no salvation for anyone!
- D. Luke labels the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection as "*infallible proofs.*" (**Acts 1:3:** "*to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many **infallible proofs**, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*")
  - (1) Thayer defines it as: "that from which something is surely and plainly known; an indubitable evidence, a proof."
  - (2) Something "indubitable" is "incapable of being doubted, unquestionable" (*Dictionary.com*).
- E. Jesus wasn't afraid to be seen after His resurrection, because He certainly knew it was true!
  - (1) Luke was confident the gospel is true and conveyed that notion to Theophilus: **Lk. 1:3-4:** "*it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*"
  - (2) So was Peter: **2 Pet. 1:16:** "*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*"
- F. We need to "*appear*" by not being afraid to show our faith to others; by not being afraid to take the gospel to a lost and dying world with the same confidence!

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### 26. **\*\*** Ascended to heaven:

- A. Luke graphically describes Jesus' ascension to heaven in his gospel and in the book of Acts:
 

**Lk. 24:51:** "*Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*"

**Acts 1:9:** "*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*"

- B. One day, a certain group of people will have the same experience: **1 Thess. 4:16-17**: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
- (1) That same group will hear Jesus say to them: **Matt. 25:21**: “Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your lord.”
  - (2) That same group will receive from Jesus “the crown of righteousness” (2 Tim. 4:8).
  - (3) That same group will be ushered into the eternal presence of God “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:4)
- C. Only faithful Christians will receive these wonderful blessings. Are you a faithful Christian?

### **Another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### **27. \*\* Sat down on the right hand of God:**

- A. The Hebrew writer makes mention of the fact that Jesus “...sat down on the right hand of God” (Heb. 1:3; 10:12).
- B. Peter preached Jesus “...by the right hand of God exalted...” (Acts 2:33).
- C. In the Roman letter Paul says: “heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Rom. 8:17)
- D. Have you ever contemplated the glory Jesus has in heaven?
  - (1) It’s indescribable in words!
  - (2) Think of it: we’ll be glorified in the very same way **IF** we are Christians who remain faithful! **Col. 1:21-23**: “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,”

### **Finally, another thing Jesus did was that He...**

#### **28. \*\* Set a good example:**

- A. Jesus told His disciples, “I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done...” (Jn. 13:15).
- B. The Holy Spirit revealed, “...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).
- C. One of the most important objectives of this lesson was to remind us of ways in which we must be like Christ (i.e., follow His example):
  - (1) Paul tells us we are to be: “conformed to His death” (Phil. 3:10)
  - (2) Paul tells us we are to “be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29).
  - (3) If we do these things then we will “be conformed to His glorious body” (Phil. 3:21) on the Day of Judgment.
- D. Does that interest you? If yes, then this lesson has given you some valuable information on how to achieve that worthy goal. The goal of life!

### III. CONCLUSION: ! !

1. We could go on for quite some time with this topic: **Jn. 21:25:** *“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”*
2. Peter expressed all that Jesus did in four short words, He *“...went about doing good...”* (Acts 10:38).
3. Let us be determined to follow His example; if we do, we’ll receive His same eternal glory! **Phil. 3:21:** *“who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”*

Adapted from two articles (*Some Things Jesus Did* and *Some More Things Jesus Did*)  
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