

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Forging Faith, Following Jesus

Session #3 Jesus the True Worshipper

John Chapter 4 Verses 23-24

“Come, follow me, Jesus said...” – Mark 1v 17

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

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Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:

We are followers of “*The Way*” (Acts 9v 2; 22v 4; 24v 14). Being Christian is not about adhering to strict rules or attaining some kind of spiritual superiority, nor is it about anything particularly religious. Following Jesus means exactly that. He simply says, “*Follow me*” (Mark 1v 17) offering us an invitation to go God’s way instead of our own. In order to do this, we look to the Lord and, by faith, seek to walk in the Way marked out by Christ Himself. However, Jesus never expected anyone to attempt what He would not do. So, as we trust His lead and look to His example, we can begin to make spiritual strides on the roads to maturity.

By following in the footsteps of Jesus, we discover more about who He is and what He would have us do. *How did Jesus act? What motivated Him? What are the priorities He wants us focus on?* One thing is for sure, there can be no standing still in the Christian life! If someone seeks to walk with you and you lag behind, steam on ahead, or even attempt an alternative route, you no longer walk together!

In this short series, we will attempt to look at some lessons from the life of Christ: Each week studying Christ’s own example to see how He exemplified what He now calls us to do. For us to grow as a church, we will need to go beyond the sermon, seeking to apply these principles in our own lives. To help in this, there are some discussion questions and practical opportunities to explore further in these notes.

The only evidence of Christian growth in our lives is how much we are becoming like Jesus. This challenge should be one that continues to inspire our Christian walk through life until, in a coming day, we present all that we have done before Christ Himself. So may these life lessons from Jesus help us to forge faith, by following Christ.

Lessons from the Life of Christ #3: Jesus the True Worshipper

Worship is possibly the most talked about word within the Christian world. Perhaps because of its overuse, we have become equally over familiar in worship, yet unclear on what it actually is. We talk about “times of worship” “worship leaders” and “worship services” as though each form a distinct and necessary part of what is worship. However, worship is much more expansive, exciting and challenging than any of the rather meagre, man-made morsels we tend to manufacture and reduce it to.

The greatest lesson we have from the life of Christ is just that: A life lived as the ultimate act of worship to His heavenly Father. For Jesus, worship was never simply bound up with temple rituals or holy moments. Jesus knew it meant more than that. Worship isn’t something you simply convene, or contrive. Nor is it something we are. Worship ultimately is the whole of our lives offered back to God in Spirit and in Truth.

Read: John Chapter 4 verses 23-24

- **Jesus: A life of Sanctity - a holy life that is worthy in worship**
- **Jesus: A life of Service – a life dedicated to going God’s way**
- **Jesus: A life of Sacrifice – only what is offered at cost counts**

In John 4, the Samaritan woman encounters the living Christ. Among other things, He points her towards a new reality in worship: No longer bound by places, traditions or physical restraints, Jesus talks of the God who is Himself Spirit and who now seeks worship from hearts that transcend every religious restraint and people politic that has gone before: No longer “... on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.” (v21) Jesus heralded a new and living way that He had come to make available as the only way to worship the Father.

“Spirit and Truth” dovetail at the cross. This revelation leads to regeneration and response. Jesus inaugurated this way of worship through His own life, death and resurrection. The tearing of the temple veil symbolised the significance of what His ultimate act of worship brought about: Jesus’ costly sacrifice, a pure offering accepted by His Father, shattered not only sin’s shackles, but exposed every other approach to God as inferior and outdated. Now a new brand of born again worshippers are being invited, because of Christ, to come boldly, whenever, wherever, and live a life of worship. God is worthy of our worship and all that we see in the example of Christ, the ultimate worshipper, should inspire us to be the same.

Jesus: The True Worshipper

Jesus is the ultimate worshipper. His example is of unparalleled devotion and sacrifice to His Father. When we prioritise pursuing the glory of God, offering our lives daily on the altar of sacrificial service, we begin to embrace the great statement of John 4v 24: God is looking for a church who rediscover what it really means to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The question is, are you?

True Worship is:

- Realisation: God is worthy of worship simply because He is
- Recognition: God has done something crucial for you in Christ
- Responding: God deserves your worship in spirit and truth

Forging Faith by Following Christ:

- *What are your views on how we worship as a church? What do we do that aids us in our corporate worship? Could this be encouraged even more? If so, how?*
- *How much of our worship do you think is dependent on vehicles rather than vitality? (How much is dependent on style, not spirituality?)*
- *If worship is the whole of the Christian life, what is the point of worshipping together as a church on a Sunday? What should distinguish specific times of corporate worship from our ongoing everyday Christian lives?*
- *Suggest some ways we can remain focused on offering a living sacrifice of worship to God, instead of “switching off” when the “worship” is over. How can we avoid compartmentalising worship to merely a Sunday or occasional thing?*
- *What does vibrant worship look like? Do routines help or hinder us to worship in spirit and truth?*
- *How are you going to set about worshipping God this week? How will your offering to God reflect spirit and truth? Will yours be a balanced offering of sanctity, service and sacrifice?*