

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Forging Faith, Following Jesus

Session #5 Jesus the Model Intercessor

Luke Chapter 22 Verses 39-46

“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 #5: Jesus the Model Intercessor

Jesus is the model intercessor. Something about the way He prayed intrigued people. Indeed, the disciples' request says it all: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) Was it the words He used? What of His demeanour in prayer? Perhaps the fact that, for Jesus, prayer was just so natural compelled others to watch Him engage in this vital, vibrant expression. Inviting heavenly intervention within our world of worries, Jesus' prayer life revealed the quality of His relationship with the Father: Beautifully intimate and resulting in a life and ministry that simply flowed from the powerful, passionate, place of prayer.

In Luke 22, we discover the perfect man at prayer in a power encounter. It cost Christ to pray in this way, it hurt and yet it gives us insight into just what Jesus went through for us and what the serious role of intercession requires. Jesus entered the crucible of true prayer, not for the fickle or faint hearted! Here is the Christ, battling every which way before the Father's throne, giving of Himself, interceding on our behalf.

Read: Luke Chapter 22 verses 39-46

- Frequent prayer: rhythm in Jesus' prayer life – v39
- Focussed prayer: submission in Jesus' prayer life – v42
- Forceful prayer: perseverance in Jesus' prayer life – v44

To intercede means "to intervene on behalf of someone else." That is, to plead with someone on behalf of someone else. Just as a lawyer represents his client to plead his case, intercession is an essential aspect of prayer, where we pray on behalf of the needs of others. Jesus is the model intercessor: as prophesied in Scripture, He, "... bore the sin of many and made intercession for transgressors." (Isaiah. 53v 12) We are also reminded in the New Testament, that the intercessory work of Christ is ongoing and for us. (Romans 8v 34 and Hebrews 7v 25)

Jesus modelled authentic prayer. Yet, like countless disciples before us, we struggle to retain discipline and know breakthrough in prayer. If we look again at this lesson from the life of Christ, we discover not only how to pray, but glimpse the great motive that lies behind it; that is, to come in close communion to the Father, to hear from Him and also to bring the needs of our fractured world before the God who not only cares to hear them, but ultimately moves to let His kingdom come and His will be done.

Jesus: The Model Intercessor

Jesus has interceded for us. He pleads our case before God and opens the way for us to take up the ministry of intercession in His name. As priests before God, we can know the privilege and responsibility of bringing our own requests and the needs of others to our Father in heaven.

The Ministry of Intercession:

- The promise we have: *Jesus intercedes for us*
- The privilege we have: *We can intercede for others*
- The problem we have: *Learning to intercede like Christ*

Forging Faith by Following Christ:

- *How is your prayer life?*
- *What should a healthy prayer life look like?*
- *What can we learn about prayer Luke 22?*
- *According to this passage, one reason to pray is to avoid falling into temptation. What does Jesus mean? How does praying help overcome temptation? (Does prayer prevent temptations from happening, or does it strengthen us within them?)*
- *If Jesus already knew about the cross and was prepared to endure its grisly prospect, why did He pray this prayer?*
- *What percentage of your prayer life is made up of intercession?*
- *How do we know if we have been successful or effective in prayer?*
- *What is happening when prayer seemingly goes unanswered?*
- *If God knows everything already and is Sovereign over everything that happens, why pray?*
- *Think of something you are currently interceding in. Do you really believe God will bring change? Reaffirm your faith in God's absolute power and control in every situation. Think again about how Jesus models prayer in Luke 22 and seek to apply yourself to frequent, focused and forceful prayer in your own life.*