

What Would Jesus Do?

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I remember when I was younger, I got into the phase of saying "What would Jesus do?" when trouble would come my way. If someone said something nasty, I would ask myself what would Jesus do. The problem with doing this is we get into the habit of asking this question after we have done something and then it's too late. The Park had a meeting with York Water Company at the new Lake Williams Dam that was done last year. I was invited along for some reason and we met at the new dam. The supervisor from the York Water Company told us how the dam had to be redone so that it could handle a Noah type flood. I made the comment that the Bible tells us that won't happen again. I haven't been invited to another meeting. If they had known Scripture, we won't have had to spend millions of dollars on a new dam. So, we get into the habit of asking this Jesus question after the fact. However, we have to understand something today as Christians. We should be asking this Jesus question because we are to be like Jesus in the world that we live in. We've been talking about prayer and how Paul wanted the Church to be praying for each other so that they would grow in their faith, love, and in unity through the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Paul wanted the Church to be unified so that the mission of Jesus could be accomplished. Paul didn't want something new. He was only teaching what Jesus wanted from His Church. Jesus wants us to unite as one. Jesus said this in John 17: 11, "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one" (NIV). Jesus states it again in verse 21, "that all of them be one" (NIV). Then, Jesus states it again in verse 23, "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (NIV). We see here that Jesus commands His Church for unity. Jesus mentions it three times here so we know it's very important. Plus, Jesus adds Himself into this mix. We are to be unified together in Christ and His Spirit holds us all together like glue. So, we've

learned in the past few weeks that praying for each other helps us to be united and this is good for a church. There are a few key elements that we need to be unified. These elements need to be found in us. Paul talks about this in his letter to the Church in Philippi. We read this in Philippians 2: 1-11, "2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We see here that Paul continues with what we had talked about earlier on what Jesus wanted from His Church. Paul states, "united with Christ". The Church of today doesn't take this seriously enough. All of us in this church should be united with Christ. This is what Paul wanted because this is what Jesus told us He wanted in the Book of John. Then, Paul tells us that there should be "common sharing" in the Spirit in verse 1. If this is to happen, then we all need to be filled with His Holy Spirit. We need to be entirely sanctified in Jesus. If the Church family is enjoying this, then and only then can they have "common sharing" in the Spirit. This is one of the ingredients for revivals getting started. This is so important that in verse 2, Paul restates this again by saying, "Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind"(NIV). We become "like minded" in the Spirit and through Jesus. We'll want what He wants. A good way to see what we should be like-minded on can be found in the seven letters to the Churches in Revelation 2 and 3. I'll list some of the good things Jesus saw in His Church that they were like-minded on: hard work on doing the Great Commission, patient endurance, don't tolerate evil, examine claims from false teachers, patiently suffer without quitting, faithfulness while suffering, being loyal to Jesus, refuse to deny Jesus, Christlike love, faith,

service, and obey His Word. These things a whole Church family can agree on through the Spirit of God. I was told a story about an old country church that would spend their Sunday evenings in the old church cemetery kneeling down together as one to pray out loud for unsaved friends, relatives, enemies, or we can say anyone that needed Jesus was prayed over. That old country church was like-minded and being one in the Spirit. They all had a concern for the lost. Plus, from what I heard, they did this in any kind of weather. Jesus wants us to be like-minded even if we aren't always one in our opinions or preferences. Wesley Commentary uses this illustration: Have you ever seen a mosaic? Those little bits of colored glass or stone are different sizes, different shapes, and different colors; artists use their differences to create a beautiful picture. Sameness would be a liability to the artist. Same size, same shape, and same color is fine for a vinyl floor, but it's not a work of art (Wesley Commentary). This is like being one with Jesus – being united as one through His Spirit. Even though we are all different, we can enjoy this special relationship that can only be found through the Holy Spirit.

Then, Paul continues by using Jesus as the example of how we can be united as one. Paul talks about in verses 6 through 8 how Jesus, who was in very nature God, did not use that to His advantage. Paul tells us this because in the verses before that, Paul tells us that we are not to do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, rather in humility, value others above yourselves. For us to be united as one with Jesus, our pride has to be under control by the Holy Spirit. If not, we can't be unified. Pride is what has destroyed many churches through the years. Selfish ambition and vain conceit is the opposite of what Jesus wants from His Church. If we are humble like Jesus, who humbled Himself to walk on this earth in human form, we will be building each other up instead of tearing each other down. Paul tells us in verse 8 that Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross. This is why it is so important that we continue to pray for the filling of His Spirit upon each other because His Spirit gives us the ability to be humble in the Jesus way. I remember I was sent to one Weis Market store that had some issues. The main issue was the store didn't make a profit. The first week I was at the store, I had a department meeting with

all the department managers and I told them my vision for the store. It was not a new vision; it was the vision the owners wanted from this store – to start making a profit. Most of the department managers were excited about the changes that were to be made. However, there were two department managers who did not like the changes and didn't care if the store made a profit or not. Over time, I was able to fire them legally because of illegal things they were doing. I then promoted one and hired another who believed in the mission for the store. Let me tell you, when those two bad apples left, that store started to run so much better. I had another store with the same problems. Churches have the same problems as well. If we start tearing down each other, it hurts the mission of Jesus Christ. Paul didn't want that and Jesus commands us to be one with Him. Jesus set the example for us and we must follow suit. We must be humble with each other. Jesus became a servant. We must become a servant to each other. If someone rubs you the wrong way or you don't like something, pray about it instead of saying nasty things or spreading gossip which goes against the teachings of Jesus. Why do church people say nasty things about other church people? It's because of pride. Unhealthy pride causes division within the church and the devil is the one who drives this division. I remember watching an old movie about a pastor's family and at one church they were at, the pastor did something that made some of the older members mad. He had started a children's choir and they sang better than the old choir. The old choir was not happy. So, to get back at the pastor, some of the members spread some false rumors about one of pastor's children. This is not what Jesus wants from His Church. Those choir members should have been more worried about doing the Great commission than trying to get even with the pastor. Again, if someone in the church makes you mad, if the pastor does something to rub you the wrong way, get yourself into the habit to automatically pray about it. The Holy Spirit will guide you to do the right thing. Your human nature will do the opposite and it will cause problems. We all are to have the same mindset of Jesus. Be humble.

What's the big deal about the church family having the same mindset as Christ? Why does Jesus want us to be humble with each other? Paul gives us the answer in Romans 14: 10, "So why do you condemn another Christian? Why do

you look down on another Christian? Remember, each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God. 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow to me and every tongue will confess allegiance to God.' (Paul is quoting Isaiah 45:23). Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God. So don't condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian's path. (NLT, 1794)" What Paul is saying here goes along with what Paul states in Philippians 2: 9 – 11 where Paul quotes Isaiah 45 again about every knee will bow before God on Judgment Day. Instead of wanting to tear each other down, we should want to build each other up knowing that each one of us will have to bow before God on Judgment Day and if we are humble enough, we should want each other to have a victorious day that day. Paul saw the bigger picture. It's like those old choir members who got mad at the pastor and took it out on his one child. They should have prayed about the situation first and should have tried to help that pastor kid grow in their faith instead of trying to destroy it. Paul wanted the Church to be humble with each other and support one another because one day all will have to stand before God and we should want each of us to be victorious that day. So, when a church member gets you mad or the pastor gets you mad, what would Jesus do? He would humble Himself and become a servant. Jesus is our model.

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc: Wheaton, 1996

Wesley Bible Curriculum. Wesleyan Publishing House: Fishers, 2024