

The Jesus Approach  
Wednesday, October 28, 2020

- \* It is so amazing that we have developed certain behaviors in our life of faith that is not in line with the attitude of Jesus!
  - \* We have stepped so far away from the life of Christ and the way He approached His world and those around Him that our behavior cannot be identified as “Christian!”
  - \* We have asked the question, “What WOULD Jesus do” when we should be asking, “What DID Jesus do?”
  - \* Listen to His sermon (on the mount) and observe His life! It is really that easy!
- I. We DO NOT approach life and people the way Jesus did...yet, we are commanded to as we strive to be Christ-like!

1 John 2:6 (NLT)

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

John 13:13-17 (NLT)

You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.  
17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

John 14:15 (NLT)

“If you love me, obey my commandments.”

Luke 6:46 (NLT)

”So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?

- A. So, it seems to be pretty clear that we are to strive so that our attitudes and behavior are like our Lord! Christ-like!
  - 1. Having settled that by looking at only a small portion of scripture, let’s notice a few things about Jesus and how He dealt with and lived among a world that was contrary to His Kingdom!
  - 2. This is our struggle today! Living in a world whose standards do not reflect that of God’s Kingdom!
- B. This is more vividly seen at this very time in our nation as we prepare every 2 to 4 years to elect our leaders!
  - 1. How did Jesus deal with those with different beliefs?
  - 2. How did He deal with open opposition? We will actually look at this in more detail in an upcoming message!
  - 3. Let’s take a look at Jesus’ approach to life!
- II. Rather than attacking individuals, Jesus always spoke of “broken systems” and cities or regions!

Mark 11:15-17 (NLT)

15 When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. 17 He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

Matthew 11:21 (NLT)

21 “What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse.

Luke 13:34-35 (NLT)

34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. 35 And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

A. So, what am I saying?

1. Jesus always gives room for “individual repentance!”
2. Rather than condemning, He deals with people in such a way as to not hinder their ability to repent/change!
3. It seems that today, it’s all about tearing down the individual...which disallows any positive influence we might have on them!

B. Because of this, many see Jesus and His approach “as weak and ineffective to bring about any real change!”

1. That's where we are today! If we are kind and friendly with those who may not exhibit behavior that fits what we think Kingdom behavior is....we are compromising!

1 John 1:8-10 (NLT)

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

2. What we actually do...and we do it pretty darn well, is categorize sin!
3. This sin is the worst...but this one here...not really a big deal!
4. I have watched "these categories" change in my life time!
5. Did God's standards change? No, but our standards do!

III. One of the most detrimental things the Church does is allow itself to be co-opted by groups, movements and belief systems!

A. God is not Baptist and Jesus is not Episcopalian!

1. Most often we are a part of a particular belief system because that system aligns with what we understand accurate christian expression to be!
2. That is fine and good as long as our purpose is to authentically express our worship as far as our understanding goes!
3. What's NOT okay is to become exclusive and decisive

as we pretend to have “the corner on the market” of all eternal truth!

- B. Remember, like Paul encourages the Church in Colossians, we need to stay focused on the HEAD OF THE CHURCH... JESUS CHRIST !!!

Colossians 1:9-12 (NLT)

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. 11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, 12 always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.