

☞ WWJD series

Review last week: Philippians 2:1-11 **The Character of Christlikeness**

Selfless; Humble; Obedient

☞ The Conduct of Christlikeness

1 Peter 2:18-25

v. 21

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

What was his example? How can we be more like him?

1. ☞ **Be a servant (v. 18-23a)**

Slave = household servant

Revelation 1:6

and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father

Galatians 5:13

serve one another in love.

Listen to what is expected of a servant...

(18) Servants submit = to put under; obey

(18) Servants respect

(19) Servants bear up = undergo hardship

(19) Bear up under pain = sadness; grief; sorrow

(20) Endure = persevere; fortitude

Practice being a servant. Why? Because in heaven we're going to be serving. Oh, you thought we were going to be sitting on clouds playing harps? We're going to be serving in heaven. The most Christ-like picture you will find in Scripture is of Jesus putting the towel around His waist and washing the feet of the Apostles. And God tells us, "I want you to be like Him."

☞ **By serving, you fulfill God's purpose for your life.**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The term "workmanship" is the same word we get the word poem from. In essence, you are God's poem, or work of art. And, God's design for you began before you were born.

1 Peter 2:9

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God

When a person was a priest in the Old Testament – it meant they had a job to do. And not every priest had the "high profile" jobs of handling the sacrifices and burning offerings before God - that was only for the descendants of Aaron. In addition to the family of Aaron, there were 3 other families of Levites who had other jobs to do (Numbers 4): The Kohathites took care of all the furniture in the tabernacle. The Gershonites cared for the coverings and the curtains. And the Merarites cared for the poles, the ropes, the bases and the cross bars.

I'm telling you this because I want you to understand that every priest had a job to do. Every priest ministered to God, and many of those priests had very basic jobs. Now, we are the priests.

☞ By serving, you reflect God's glory.

As we serve others, they get a picture of our heavenly Father. 1 Peter 2:12 says, "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." Jesus gave us an example of servanthood for us to follow in John 13. And in verse 15, he said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Jesus has called us to serve so we may be an example to others.

☞ By serving, you contribute to eternity.

God takes the ministry we do and uses it to influence the course of eternity in the lives of others.

1 Corinthians 13:31

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

You're not just changing a diaper... you're making it possible for a young mother to hear the word of God and be transformed into the image of Christ. You're not just cleaning a

restroom... you're making this an attractive place that a newcomer would be happy to visit again.

Now, being a servant is not a bed of roses. Christ promised difficulties and suffering. When you commit yourself to Christ, sometimes the world will actually treat you like a servant. And, that isn't always fun.

(20-21) We are called to suffer; Jesus did, so will we

(23) Don't retaliate or threaten; simply serve

This is counter-cultural. Our society is very much about defending your own rights and standing up for yourself. But, Jesus calls us to be counter-cultural. In fact, some suffering is ☞ part of his plan for our lives. **Troubles and suffering can help develop you.**

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

A beekeeper once told F.B. Meyer how some of the young bees are nurtured to ensure their healthy development. The queen lays each egg in a six-sided cell which is filled with enough pollen and honey to feed upon until it reaches a certain stage of maturity. The top is then sealed with a capsule of wax.

When the occupant has exhausted its supply of nourishment, the time has come for the tiny creature to be released from its confinement. But what wrestling and straining it endures to get through that wax seal. The opening is so narrow that in the agony of exit, the bee rubs off the membrane that encases its wings. Thus, when it finally does emerge, it is able to fly! The man telling F.B. Meyer the story said that one time a moth got into the hive and devoured the wax capsules. As a result, the young bees crawled out without any effort or trouble, but they couldn't fly. Soon the mature insects, seeing the pitiful, unproductive state of new arrivals, instinctively proceeded to sting them to death.

Meyer drew from this information a spiritual application. He asks, "Are you congratulating yourself on having an easy time in life with no hardships or difficulties to bear? Then beware, lest you lose your 'wing power' like the handicapped bees, and perish miserably in the dust of defeat."

Be a servant

2. ☞ Trust God (v. 23b)

Jesus entrusted himself to God = surrender; yield; give self

--James Dobson... Trust involves letting go and knowing God will catch you.

Psalms 37:5-9

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil. 9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

--Oswald Chambers... *Trustfulness is based on confidence in God, whose ways I do not understand. If I did, there would be no need for trust.*

God, who judges justly = makes fair & holy decisions

☞ **Isaiah 55:8-9**

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

☞ ***The more we depend on God, the more dependable we find he is.***

Trust God

3. ☞ **Live for righteousness (v. 24-25)**

Jesus bore our sins = took up; carried

Hebrews 9:28

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people

☞ We might die to sins = be absent; away from; renounce

Romans 6:11-12

count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Live for righteousness = fairness; innocence; holiness

☞ Don't just live for yourself, but live for God. We are called to **be holy** people. And, that's not just for the pastors and the missionaries...

1 Peter 1:15-16

just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holiness is typically thought of as meaning purity and perfection. It does include those thoughts, but the primary implication of holiness is the idea of being set apart. God is set apart... there is no other like him. **We are set apart... different, for God's purposes.** It's like the fine China in your cabinets. It's set apart for special occasions. We are to be different in that we don't just think of ourselves and what we want, but we commit ourselves to doing what God wants. So, it takes us back to being servants.

--Andrew Murray... The secret of true obedience is the clear and close personal relationship to God. All our attempts after full obedience will be failures until we get access to his abiding fellowship. It is God's holy presence consciously abiding with us that keeps us from disobeying Him. I must consciously include the Lord in every thought, activity, and conversation until the habit is established.

And, if you're including God in every thought, activity and conversation, it will affect the way you live. You'll begin really living for righteousness. You can become a holy person. Now, I think most would agree that when thinking about holiness, purity and righteousness we can get overwhelmed, realizing how often we fail and fall short...

--Oswald Chambers... It is quite true to say, "I can't live a holy life," but you can decide to let Jesus make you holy.

Live for righteousness

Conclusion:

☞ The Character of Christlikeness

- 1. Selfless**
- 2. Humble**
- 3. Obedient**

☞ The Conduct of Christlikeness

- 1. Be a servant, willing to suffer**
- 2. Trust God in all circumstances**
- 3. Live for righteousness**

WWJD song