

# Live Like Christ Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, September 1, 2019

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**Main Theme** – The first installment of a multi-part series on the “traits” of Christ we are to mimic.

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## WORSHIP & PRAYER

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Notes**
  - Women’s Ministry – Resuming Tuesday, September 10 (6:30–8pm)
  - Men’s Ministry – Saturday, September 14 (Barre Falls Dam)
  - CYC – Resuming Friday, September 13 (5:30–7:30pm)
  
- **Special Notes Pt. 2**
  - Spirit-Emphasis Week – September 15, 19–22 (Expound Upon Event)

## MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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## INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes (**SLIDE**).

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

As a minister, I strive to provide a balanced spiritual DIET for this assembly week-in-and-week-out. In doing so, we come to (a) consider an assortment of THEMES; (b) explore an array of TEXTS; and (c) engage a host of biblical CHARACTERS from both the Old and New Testaments in any given year.

**KEY** – Yet sometimes—especially after EXTENDED periods of teaching—I just want to return to the Gospels and spend some time talking about Jesus. Though I love every segment of Scripture and the significant characters therein (heroes and villains alike), there is something LIFE-GIVING and CENTERING about looking at Christ.

**QUOTE** – “For every look at self—take ten looks at Christ! Live near to Jesus—and all things will appear little to you in comparison with eternal realities. How many millions of dazzling pearls and gems are at this moment hidden in the deep recesses of the ocean caves. Likewise, unfathomable oceans of grace are in Christ for you. Dive and dive again—you will never come to the bottom of these depths!” (Robert Murray McCheyne, 1813–1843)

### Hebrews 12:2a (BSB)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . .

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

**NOTE** – Of course, studying the life of Christ (as recorded in the Gospel accounts) is NOT merely an intellectual exercise. Rather, it has real-world practical and moral implications, for we are to EMULATE/MIMIC what we see in Him!

Remember that much of being a Christian is learning to be Christ-like in word, thought and deed. Christlikeness is God’s primary goal or purpose for His people (both individually and corporately):

### Romans 8:29a (NIV, emphasis mine)

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son . . .

Thus said, I want to spend the next few weeks briefly exploring some glorious attributes of Christ. I want to consider those aspects of His nature that are (a) worthy of worship and (b) worthy of imitation in the life of His followers. Let us study the life of Christ—and then let us live like Jesus!

## HUMILITY

Let us consider the HUMILITY of Jesus Christ

**NOTE** – Humility is characterized by a willingness to lay aside personal desires in preference to God and others. It is not thinking less about oneself but thinking about oneself less. Thus, humility is connected with sacrificial service and selflessness.

**KEY** – Christ gloriously exemplified HUMILITY:

### **Philippians 2:3–8**

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,  
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage [grasped];  
 7 rather, he made himself nothing  
 by taking the very nature of a servant,  
 being made in human likeness.  
 8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
 he humbled himself  
 by becoming obedient to death—  
 even death on a cross!

**NOTE** – Consider the connection between the humility of Christ and our obligation(s) in response.

### **John 13:1–5, 12–17**

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**NOTE** – Consider the connection between the humility of Christ and our obligation(s) in response.

**Q. To what degree did Jesus Christ practice humility?**

**Q. To what degree do we exemplify such humility in kind?**

**Q. Can we strive hard after Christ and manifest His humility?**

Phillip Brooks made an insightful comment when he said, "The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is."

## **COMPASSION**

Let us consider the COMPASSION of Jesus Christ

**NOTE** – Compassion is a sympathetic pity for the suffering or misfortune of others. i.e. It is being so moved by the needs and plight of others that one is forced to take action ("love in action"). Of course, compassion is a FRUIT/OUTFLOW of humility, as it requires an outward v. an inward focus.

**KEY** – Christ gloriously exemplified compassion (love in action):

### **Matthew 9:35–36**

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- 1) Jesus' Compassion Drove Him to Preach Truth**
- 2) Jesus' Compassion Drove Him to Heal/Cure the Sick**
- 3) Jesus' Compassion Drove Him to 'Cast Out' Demons**
- 4) Jesus' Compassion Drove Him to 'Feed' the Hungry**
- 5) Jesus' Compassion Drove Him to Raise the Dead**

**Luke 7:11 –15**

11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

**NOTE** – Compassion matters to God (perhaps more than we think)! Consider the following reality:

**Matthew 25:31–40**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Q. Why this emphasis on compassionate works v. faith? Works is the demonstration of our faith.

Q. What about those who failed to show compassion? Divine rejection (i.e. evident faithlessness).

**KEY** – Compassion moved Christ to practical/spiritual action. Let the same be said of us in 2019!

## ACCEPTANCE

Let us consider the ACCEPTANCE of Jesus Christ

**NOTE** – Please hear me clearly, as this word has become twisted in our current climate of tolerance, etc. I am not saying that we should condone sinful activities, for we are to hate sin. I am saying that we must show welcome to/concern for every soul we encounter—loving the most wretched of sinners!

**KEY** – Christ gloriously exemplified such acceptance:

Consider the PEOPLE that Christ loved during His earthly ministry (cf. Luke). It was the tax collector, the prostitute, the scorned, the shunned, the outcast, the leper, the throwaway, the afflicted, the crippled, the deaf, the blind, the mute, the demon-possessed, the simple and the lowly! One of the greatest truths of the Gospels is that Jesus is revealed to have been the “friend of sinners” (cf. Matt. 11:16–19). Consider the following illustration:

### **Luke 7:36–47**

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” 40 Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said.

41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

**Q. Who do we resemble in our interactions with “sinners”? Jesus Christ or this critical Pharisee?**

## CONCLUSIONS

**NOTE 1** – We have taken the time to study the nature/character of Christ.

**NOTE 2** – We must consider the degree to which His character informs ours.

LET US SEEK TO LIVE LIKE JESUS IN ALL THAT WE DO – Allowing His life to impact ours!

**James 1:22**

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.