

## BE LIKE CHRIST! Part 2. (Scripture: Mark 11:15-17)

### Introduction:

Today, I will be continuing my thought on 1 John 4:17. It is a very important verse. I wish we could all memorize this verse and hide it in our hearts.

*1 John 4:17*

*“17By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.”*

We should remember at least the second part of this verse! “Because as He is, so also are we in this world.”

This sermon is part 2 of “Be like Christ” sermon. You can read the first part in our web page: [www.acts242church.org](http://www.acts242church.org).

We all like to emulate somebody in our lives! We all have our famous heroes and heroines and try to adopt their values, attitudes, and philosophy of life. We tend to build up the image of soccer mama, or super moms, or the rugged American individual, or Tom Cruise, or captain America! Every family likes to portray their family values.

☞ Have you noticed the Kennedy family?

☞ Have you noticed the Bush family?

They all have certain traits or family characteristics!

☞ Look at the Kennedy family. They were all politicians and were standing in the gap for the cause of the poor people.

☞ Look at President Bush’s family. They all act like cowboys, but savvy politicians, very unassuming, and humble with strong family values.

☞ Look at the Rockefeller family. They were known for their wealth, and philanthropy.

But God does not want us to be like some popular worldly person, instead, He wants us all to be like JESUS Christ, bringing out His character within us! But are we?

God’s only desire, we must be all like His Son Jesus Christ. When some stranger sees us, they should be able to guess that we are followers of Christ, and we belong to Jesus’ family!

☞ Are we indeed like Christ?

☞ Can we focus on developing His character?

We must be as Jesus Christ was in the world. If we can walk as Christ walked in this world, then we walk in Perfect love.

How did Christ walk? This is a critical question. No matter how many times we read the gospel stories, we fail to notice how He walked, and fail to implement that kind of walk in our lives?

Let us look at His life one more time so that we can become like Him! We should be able to identify Christians by their love, their authentic, genuine character just like Jesus Christ our Lord! Every child of God must become like Jesus Christ!

Let us see some Scripture passages that reveals His nature and see if we can emulate it always!

### **I. We see in Luke 2:16, and 17 the passion of His life: Hunger for the Word!**

*Luke 2:16,17.*

*46Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.*

*47And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.*

Jesus as a boy was not too focused on worldly things, but we could see that He was hungry for the Word of God! (Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!). He was so hungry for the Word; He did not seek His parents for 3 days!

- Where is our heart?
- Where is our passion? is it Video games, tv (preaching to me!), shopping?
- Is our heart hungry for the Word of God at all times?

Jesus was both listening and asking questions! But note: He was not preaching! Bible study time is for learning and clarifications. Participation is very important! It is not the time for preaching.

We see this kind of hunger in Acts 17:11 between Paul and Berean church!

“They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

The Berean church was hungry for the Word, and hungry for the Truth just like Christ. Can we be like Christ? Let us be really hungry for the Word at all times!

### **II. Jesus never pushed anyone away! He received everyone.**

When Jesus became a full-time minister at the age of 30, He went about preaching and teaching, and healing the sick! The greatest quality that we can see from Jesus is that

He practiced what He preached! He said, "Give it to those who ask," and He did just that! He healed everyone who came to Him. His answer was always "yes"! Is our answer "yes" to those who approach us for their needs? Whatever that may be.

Can we be like Jesus in this regard? On the other hand we must also be aware of the charlatans who take us for a ride!

The only people who were turned down by Jesus were the proud Pharisees who tried to trap Him with their tricky questions, and a greedy guy who wanted Jesus to be his judge over his property allocation! Jesus was not interested in worldly goods dispute.

Jesus, our Lord, hardly said "no" to anyone. Can we be like Him?

My experience as a prison chaplain. If a prisoner goes to any correctional officer or a staff member, 90 percent of the time the answer would be no. Some rude officers will say no even before the prisoner opens his mouth. We tend to carry the same habit with our friends and family also, especially children!

- Can we just learn to say "yes"?
- Can we just be willing to go that extra mile for other people?

### **III. Jesus was the friend of the sinners, and the rejects of the society! He said, I came to seek and save that which was lost!**

He went and sought Zacchaeus, the tax collector, who was a scum bag of the Jewish society.

↳ Mathew the publican became His disciple.

↳ Judas the Zealot, who was very political in his ambition became His disciple.

↳ Mary the Prostitute became His follower.

He ate and drank with the publicans, prostitutes, and the tax collectors. The Pharisees (which means separated ones) hated that! Jesus replied to them in this manner:

Mathew 11:16-19.

16 "But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,

17 and saying:

'We played the flute for you,

And you did not dance;

We mourned to you,

And you did not lament.'

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber...'

For Jesus, the Kingdom of God is not of eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit!

Apostle Paul imitated Jesus in this area, and he gave us this valuable advice:

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23.*

*19For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;*

*20and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law.*

*21to those who are without law, as without law....., that I might win those who are without law;*

*22to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might save some.*

*23Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.*

*Can we have this quality so that we may win some? Let us love everyone, everyone and welcome them. We must hate sin, but not the sinners.*

#### **IV. The servant attitude of Jesus!**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ stooped to serve us. We are coming to the passion week, and we all know what Christ did to His disciples!*

*John 13:4-6.*

*4rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.*

*5After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

*6Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"*

This foot washing act was a surprising move for the disciples! It was a shocking, unexpected move by our Lord!

Peter was so shocked, he tried to prevent Him from washing his feet. But when Jesus gave a stern warning, Peter agreed!

Then Jesus explained why He did that!

*John 13:12-15*

*"Do you know what I have done to you?"*

*13You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.*

*14If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

*15For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*

Can we stoop down, put aside our ego and serve one another as Jesus, our Lord did?

## **V. Jesus' passion for His Father's House!**

### **The Lion of Judah**

Jesus was not always passive! Remember the story where He whipped some people for destroying His Father's house, the temple. Let me read that passage

*Mark 11:15-17.*

*15Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.*

*16and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple.*

*17And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."*

We tend to make church as our playhouse. There is no need that church should become a mall or bowling alley, or a hair cutter, or a basketball court, or a bingo hall, or a yoga center. It must always remain as a house of worship, house of prayer, and a house of fellowship for the believers. We try to bring the world into the church. For those who do, a whip is waiting! This passage is a warning for all of us. We come to church to hear the Word, to break bread, to offer prayers through songs and word, and to fellowship with the saints. All other activities must be organized outside the church building. Let us have passion for our church like Jesus and make it indeed our Heavenly Father's house! Let us be passionate about God's house.

## **VI. Obedience to His Father's will**

### **Not my will, but your will be done!**

Jesus prayed fervently at the garden of Gethsemane. He cried out in anguish, Father, if it is your will take this cup away. But not my will, your will be done!

We will be hearing a lot about it on Good Friday. So let me just make you focus on one point quickly. Please note the obedience of Jesus Christ. He could have easily walked away from this suffering, shame, and death. But He obeyed His father and complied to His will! Obedience is everything!

The consequence is grave when we disobey! David's story is a good lesson for us.

*2 Samuel 24:10-13.*

*10Now David's heart troubled him after he had numbered the people. So, David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."*

*11When David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,*

*12“Go and speak to David, ‘Thus the LORD says, “I am offering you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I will do to you.”*

*13So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, “Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days’ pestilence in your land?”*

David went contrary to God’s warning about numbering his warriors. He tried to calculate how big his army was. He forgot how one man (David himself) killed Goliath and beat his army too! Yet he tried to rely on his own strength rather than trusting in his Almighty God!

David chose the three days pestilence over war and famine as punishment! When the angel approached Jerusalem, God stopped him. Our God is a merciful God! He will not be always angry. It happened to Nineveh. Let us cry unto to Him that He may remove this Corona plague from us, let us be obedient unto the Lord. Pride comes before destruction. Let us not become too proud and brag about our exceptionalism over others. God does not like it. Obedience to the will of God is the key. Let this be our prayer. Not my will God but let me be submissive to your will in my life! That is being like Christ!

## **VII. Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God!**

Health field workers are our sacrificial lambs. We thank all our health care front liners from the technicians to the janitors to the nurses to the doctors. We thank you.

No greater love than this that one lays down his life for his friends.

Let us be like Christ living sacrificially for God, and for others.

Are we really like Christ? I can emphatically say no, we are not! None of us are like Him. Why? We copycat the worldly way of living. We all want to be very assertive, and do not want to be a doormat, and turn our other cheek.

If we honestly interpret the Word correctly, without manipulating one way or the other, then it makes sense

- ☞ to give to everyone that asks as much as possible,
- ☞ to welcome and hug the sinners as one of our family members,
- ☞ to correct them gently,
- ☞ to offer ourselves to be a servant to others rather than masters,
- ☞ to be obedient to His will always,
- ☞ to live sacrificially for God and others, and
- ☞ to love our church as Christ loves.

When we do the above, we know we are walking like Christ walked.

Can we really say confidently like Paul, follow me as I follow Christ?  
Can we be an authentic church family?

**Conclusion:**

- Let us hunger for the Word of God as Christ did!
- Let us give it to those who ask. Jesus rarely said no to anyone.
- Let us receive all sinners as Christ received us in spite of our sins. Sinners are most welcome, but not their sinful lifestyle that is contrary to the Word of God!
- Let us have a servant attitude as Christ showed us.
- Let us have passion for His Church (the bride of Christ) as Christ loves the church.
- Let us be obedient to the Father's will as Christ was!
- Thy will be done should be our constant prayer.
- Live for God and live for others sacrificially, as Christ did.

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