

## Christ, Our Perfect Example

### Int.

1. Aim: To show some important ways in which Christ is our example.
2. Matt. 4:1-11
3. Bible is a book of examples:
  - a. Shows wicked men - warning not to be like them, shows good men and encourages us to follow them.
  - b. Example is a powerful force in our life - for good or bad
  - c. We need a good pattern to follow and imitate.
4. Jesus is that perfect example:
  - a. He was tempted and did not sin - Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
  - b. He overcame sin and left us an example - 1 Pet. 2:21-22 - example = copy for imitation
5. We must follow in His steps
  - a. 1 Cor. 11:1 "Be ye **followers** of me, even as I also am of Christ." [imitator]
  - b. Phil. 2:15 "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
6. Here are some things in which Jesus is our great example:

## Discussion

### I. SACRIFICE

A. Jesus taught His disciples to sacrifice for His Kingdom

1. Matt. 16:24 " If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."
  - a. Criminals who were to be crucified carried their own crosses to the place of execution
  - b. Cross bearing is not old age, poverty, illness or bad weather or any other discomfiture of life
  - c. It is the acceptance, for the sake of the will of God, of some burden or burdens, otherwise avoidable, but which are undertaken out of a pure desire to fulfill the master's purpose
  - d. The cross refers to all sufferings for righteousness sake. Sacrifices
2. Matt. 10:37,38 - Jesus taught his disciples that the bearing of the cross could even include giving up our own family

B. Then He taught his disciples to sacrifice by example

1. "Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor" I I Cor. 8:9
2. "...taking the form of a servant..." Phil. 2:5-8
3. Jesus set the example by giving His life for us.
4. He expects us to be willing to make a sacrifice for him. - Rom. 12:1 - living sacrifice
5. I II. of sacrifices by communists - Charles Dalworth

- C. Sacrifice is good for us
  - 1. Those things for which make a sacrifice become dear to us !
  - 2. I II.
  - 3. Application to the church - When we make a sacrifice for Christ and His church then it helps us to see how valuable it really is.
- D. Christ is our perfect example in sacrifice.

## **II. BAPTISM**

- A. His example in baptism is worthy of imitation
  - 1. He walked about 70 miles - He Desired to be baptized
  - 2. He had no sins for which to be baptized, but he was to fulfill all righteousness
    - a. Righteousness is to keep God's commandments - Matt. 3:15
    - b. It was God's will that John baptize Jesus
  - 3. Two aspects of baptism:
    - a. Acts in connection with remission of sins - Acts 2:38
    - b. Act of obedience to God
- B. Jesus had no sin but he had to obey God - Heb. 5:8
  - 1. If he had neglected or refused baptism then He would have sinned
  - 2. Even if baptism were not for the remission of our sins, it would still be an act of obedience, which would be sin if neglected
- C. Are you following the example of Jesus in Baptism
  - 1. Would you walk very far in order to be baptized?
  - 2. Do you desire to be baptized?

3. Would you take the initiative?
4. We have sins, therefore we need to be baptized as Jesus Commanded for the remission of our sins.
  - a. Mark 16:16 - saved = deliver, protect, be whole, preserve
  - b. 1 Pet. 3:21 - save
5. Would you be baptized in order to fulfill all righteousness?

### **III. TEMPTATION**

- A. Jesus is a great example in meeting and overcoming His temptations. Here is how he overcame:
  1. Arm for them.
    - a. He knew the scriptures and often quoted it
    - b. Matt. 4:11 = "it is written"
    - c. Eph. 6:11 - "Whole armor of God"
    - d. Heb. 4:12 - the scripture is sharp, it will drive the Devil away from you
    - e. Follow Jesus example in meeting temptations by being armed for them
    - f. Matt. 22:46 "And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions."
    - g. Ps. 119:11
  2. Flee from them
    - a. I Tim. 6:11, 12 "Flee" = to run away, to shun "Follow" Righteousness
    - b. II Tim. 2:22 "Flee" - then "Follow" righteousness
    - c. Gen. 39:11-13 - example of Joseph v. 13 "fled" = vanish away, put to flight
    - d. A desire to please God will help us flee sin

3. Rejoice in them
    - a. James 1:2-3
    - b. 1 Pet. 4:15-16
    - c. Acts 5:41 "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." - to be cheerful, calmly happy
  4. Find the way to escape
    - a. 1 Cor. 10:13 - escape
    - b. There is a way to get out of any and every sin - we must look for and follow the way of exit
- B. Jesus is the example for us to escape temptation

#### **IV. Concern for the Lost**

- A. His example of zeal for sinful souls is for us
1. Luke 19:10
  2. John 3:16
  3. Luke 15:1 - in face of unpopularity he taught
- B. Are we following our Leader
1. Luke 2:49 NKJV "And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?""
  2. We must be about our Father's Business - saving souls !!!
- C. Great Commission
1. Matt. 28:19-20
  2. Mark 16:15-16

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Be thou an example to others by following Jesus' example
2. Follow his example in:
  - a. Sacrifice
  - b. Baptism - for the remission of your sins
  - c. Temptation - how He overcame
    - (1) Arm
    - (2) Flee
    - (3) Rejoice
    - (4) Escape
  - d. In zeal for the lost
3. We must do our very best to follow in the steps of Jesus !
4. 1 Cor. 11:1 "Be ye **followers** of me, even as I also am of Christ." [imitator]

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