



What Did You Do?

Consider a person who only lived a short life but did not murder, steal, or use God's name in vain, did not cheat, did not treat anyone as though they were of little worth, did not gossip, did not fail to assemble with religious people, did not break the laws of his country or God, and was not a known sinner. Also, this person never rode in an airplane, did not own or drive a vehicle, never owned an earthly home, never had a large bank account, did not go to the moon in a rocket ship, did not own many earthly possessions, did not travel a large part of the world. This person dies and you are asked to write a critique of this person's life. What would you write that this person was known for?

What is Jesus known for? Is Jesus primarily known for what he did not do, or is there another standard that is used? Jesus is remembered for the things He did, rather than the things he did not do. **Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)** *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

As Keith Coble said in a shepherd's pen a couple of weeks ago, the Starkville congregation of Christians is known for our great heart. I want to echo full agreement with his remarks. As one of your shepherds I want to commend you for what you are doing and know that many of you understand that God judges us by what we do.

Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV) *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*

Mark 12:41-44 (ESV) *“And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”* What we do for others matters greatly to God. And everyone gives from what they have. Let it be said of each of us, he or she did what they could. This is all God asks of us.

- Johnie N. Jenkins