

Practicing the Way Series

Do What Jesus Did

By JOHN MARK COMER

The Invitation of Jesus

The invitation of Jesus is to come and be his disciple. And to be a disciple of Jesus means to order your life around three goals:

- to be with Jesus
- to become like Jesus
- to do what Jesus did

Do What Jesus Did

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

— Matthew 4:18–22

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and began to teach them... [Sermon on the Mount]

— Matthew 4:23-5:2

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

— Matthew 8:18-22

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

— Matthew 9:9-13

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

— Matthew 9:35-38

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

— Matthew 10:1-8

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

— Matthew 28:16-20

Take 10 minutes to read the passages above and reflect on the pattern or theme of discipleship that is evident throughout these passages. Jesus is a fisher of men who is making these men into fishers of men just like him. ***The end goal of discipleship to Jesus is to do what he did.***

The 4 Stages of Leadership Development

- I do... You watch.
- I do... You help.
- You do... I help.
- You do... I watch.

“This is a really simple idea that honestly a ton of people (particularly in the West) miss. If you are an apprentice of Jesus, your end goal is to grow and mature (not over night; but over time) into the kind of person who can carry on the work of Jesus.”

— John Mark Comer

The Work of Jesus

Jesus' work was teaching, but it was also MUCH MORE than that — Jesus' work was to usher in the kingdom of God. A large part of that work can be described by the following...

- Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom
- Teaching the Way
- Healing the Sick
- Casting Out Demons
- Eating and Drinking with People Far From God
- Doing Justice
- Peacemaking
- Praying
- Prophesying
- Standing Up Against Religious and Political Corruption

So if you are an apprentice of Jesus then your end goal is to be able to do all of the above. Over time as you continue to grow and to mature in your discipleship to Jesus these are the things you should be able to do. It is so easy to look over this list and to look at the life of Jesus and just immediately assume that there's no way that I can do the things that Jesus did. We look at the things Jesus did and assume that they are all things that just prove he was God and overlook the fact that these are a template for a new way to be human.

“Jesus did all that he did as a real true human being empowered by the Holy Spirit as the example for you and I to follow.”

— John Mark Comer

church (*n.*) — a community of followers of Jesus seeking to rediscover the teachings of Jesus and the practices of the early church and apply them to the soil of a post-Christian world.

Five Final Thoughts to Empower Us

1. Remember the Spiritual Formation Paradigm (see pg. 17-18)
2. Know Your Stage of Discipleship and Your Season of Life
3. Do Not Underestimate the Power of Just Practicing the Way of Jesus in Community

“There is special evangelistic work to be done, of course, and there are special callings to it. But if those in the churches really are enjoying fullness of life, evangelism will be unstoppable and largely automatic. The local assembly (the church), for its part, can then become an academy where people throng from the surrounding community to learn how to live. It will be a school of life (for a disciple is but a pupil, a student) where all aspects of that life seen in the New Testament records are practiced and mastered under those who have themselves mastered them through practice. Only by taking this as our immediate goal can we intend to carry out the Great Commission.”

— Dallas Willard

4. Start With the Basics
5. Live in the Moment

“No matter how complex or challenging our city and our age might be. No matter what stage of life, season of life or stage of discipleship you’re in. All of us can sit around a table with somebody far from God. All of us can grow and mature and apprentice under Jesus to become the kind of people who are about what Jesus is about. All of us can slow down, open our eyes, and see the kingdom of God breaking in like weeds breaking up through the pavement. See what God is up to and join in.”

— John Mark Comer