

In His Steps

1 Pet. 2:21

Purpose: To challenge us to ask, “What Would Jesus Do?” as we make decisions.



Introduction

- In 1896 Charles M. Sheldon gave weekly lessons to his class at the Central Congregational Church in Topeka, KS.
- These chapters became the book, “In His Steps,” from which we have the phrase, “What would Jesus do?”
- Over 30 million copies sold.
- WWJD craze of 1990s.



To really follow Jesus...

- Sheldon's book showcased Christians, but their lives didn't show they were following the example of Jesus. They changed. WWJD.
- Has being a Christian changed you?
- In business, at school, at home, at play?
- Are you Christ-like?
- Are you willing to go where Jesus leads you?

Jesus left an example to follow

- 1 Pet. 2:18-24. We are called to follow.
- He suffered. He was reviled, threatened, scourged and killed. All so we could live for righteousness.
- What Christian is there who does NOT want to follow in the steps of Jesus?
- Can you follow Jesus? Yes.
- Will you follow Jesus? Up to you.

Can we follow Jesus?

- Some think being a Christian or living the Christian life is too difficult and cannot be done.
- Matt. 11:28-30; 16:24-26.
- Churches are full of Christians today who do not live for Jesus outside of worship.
- We need to ask, “What would Jesus do?”

What would Jesus do?

Temptations

- There are so many temptations in our world today. What would Jesus do facing these?
- Jesus would resist them. Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15.
- *But “everybody” does it. What’s the big deal?*
- 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Jas. 4:7. You are in control through Jesus.

What would Jesus do?

Obedience

- What if obeying God cost you your job or your life. What would Jesus do?
- Jesus would obey God.
- Matt. 26:39; Phil 2:5-8.
- *“But I go to worship nearly every week...”*
- Matt. 7:21-23; John 14:15.
- If we love Jesus we must follow in His steps and obey God in all things.

What would Jesus do?

Persecutions

- What if I'm persecuted, made fun of, bullied or threatened because of my faith? What would Jesus do?
- Jesus would endure it.
- Following Jesus will bring about persecution and hardships. John 15:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:12.
- 1 Pet. 2:23. Jesus was reviled and suffered but did not return the actions.
- 1 John 2:3-6. Ought to walk as Jesus did.

Conclusion

- What difference would it make in your life if you paused to ask “What would Jesus do?” before you made decisions?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus all the way to heaven?