



We Thought Like Jesus?

Philippians 2:5-11

We have all heard the phrase, “What Would Jesus Do?” But perhaps a far better question is, “What Would Jesus Think?” If we thought about people the way Jesus does—as God’s wonderful handiwork worth singing over—we would undoubtedly treat them differently. We would do whatever it takes to draw them toward our God and His kingdom.



Day #1: Blow a Kiss

Even before toddlers learn to talk, their parents teach them simple ways to communicate. They can hold up their pudgy fingers to show that they are “one” or “two” years old. They learn to wave “bye-bye” and many times, they learn to “blow a kiss.” What does blowing a kiss mean? Have you ever blown a kiss to someone? Who would you do that to? Did you know that blowing a kiss is in the Bible?

Over 2,000 years ago, the Lord Jesus came to earth in human form. He was helpless, poor, and completely dependent on two teenagers. But as He lay in an animal’s feeding trough, God gave this command:

† *And when He brought his supreme Son into the world, God said, “Let all of God’s angels worship Him.” - Hebrews 1:6 NLT*

In this verse, the Greek word for worship is pronounced pros-koo-neh’-o. It means “to kiss the hand towards one, in token of reverence.” It means to blow a kiss! Have you ever thought about blowing a kiss to Jesus?

Another meaning for pros-koo-neh’-o is to kneel down and put your forehead to the ground. This shows Jesus that you know His rightful place; He is higher than the angels, and He is above all of us. When you bow down to Him, you are telling Him that you believe His ways are higher than yours and you will follow Him because you trust Him.

* If you believe that Jesus is the King of kings who lowered Himself enough to be born as a baby on earth so He could grow up and take your sin upon Himself, blow Him a kiss right now. Go ahead—use both hands! He can see you and it will undoubtedly bring Him joy (Hebrews 12:2).

Or if you feel led, “take a knee” to show Jesus that you know His rightful place as the King above all others.

Day #2: I Think, Therefore I Do

What we think rules what we do. If you think a stove is hot, you will not touch it. If you think a cookie will taste good, you’ll eat it. If you think the milk is expired, you won’t drink it. If you think the bridge is strong, you’ll drive over it. Everything we do is ruled by what we think.

We have all heard the phrase, “What Would Jesus Do?” But a better phrase was given by Paul:

You should think in the same way Christ Jesus does. - Philippians 2:5

What would make Jesus leave heaven, where angels praised Him night and day (Revelation 4:8; 5:12) to come to earth and be treated like a lowly criminal? Jesus thought every person was worth His sacrifice! He was certain that God’s plan was good. And He was sure that there would be joy and glory in the end.

† *We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave His life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters. - 1 John 3:16*

Jesus’ love for us is what made Him DO the things He did. If we try to do what He did, without being motivated by His thoughts, we will come up short. We will most likely be frustrated and run out of steam. But if our thoughts are the same as His thoughts, there is no end to the things we will do for others.

* It’s so important that we understand what Jesus thought. When a situation comes your way, ask Jesus to give you His thoughts. Read His word and ask what He thinks. Ask Him to increase your love for others.

Day #3: Pure Joy

Have you ever been at the beach and seen a starfish that washed up on the shore? You can tell it’s alive, and yet the tide has gone out and the water is not lapping up high enough to reach it. So what do you do? (Throw it back in the water.) Why? What makes you want to do this? There is an undeniable joy we get from helping - from possibly saving a life.

Throwing back a starfish, or any little sea creature, is a great thing. But just think how much more important people are than a starfish. The Bible says people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). In fact, we were made to rule over all the animals God made. But because of our sin, we were in far worse shape than a fish out of water. We were headed for death and separation from our good God forever. When Jesus saw

Day #3 continued:

that every man, woman, and child was in danger, He jumped into action.



Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the author of faith. He also makes it perfect. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy He was looking forward to. Then He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:2

Jesus was the ONLY one who could help us out of our desperate situation! Jesus came to earth, limiting Himself in human form. Though He went through every temptation we face, He never, ever sinned. He had no sin of His own to be punished for, but He chose to take the punishment for ours (Romans 5:9).

Try to imagine the JOY that Jesus experiences every time someone trusts in Him and gains eternal, unending, forever-life with God in His perfect kingdom!



You can have that JOY too - when you tell someone about Jesus. Ask God to send someone your way who needs to know HOW Jesus made the way for them to enter God's kingdom.

Day #4: The First Lady

God had a pretty amazing life in store for Eve. Her very name means "life" because she would be the first person to ever have children. God gave her the honor of filling the earth with lots and lots of kids. God designed Adam and Eve to live forever. God even gave them the position of ruling over all the animals He made (Genesis 1:26). God had a beautiful plan and all of it was a gift to Eve.

But, when Eve was told by the sneaky serpent that she could become *like God*, suddenly all the blessings she had and the position she held was not enough. Suddenly she wanted to lift herself higher than she was. The Bible makes this promise:



Anyone who lifts himself up will be brought down. And anyone who is brought down will be lifted up. - Luke 14: 11

Sadly, Eve was brought down. She and Adam had to leave the beautiful garden and they would eventually die. Now Eve is known as the first person to sin. Even people who don't read the Bible know all about the tragic choice she made.

But Jesus did just the opposite. He is God. Before the earth was created, He was. He reigned in the heavens and the angels worshiped Him. No one is higher than Jesus. But when mankind needed a Savior, Jesus let go of all His divine privileges. He set aside His *God-ness* for a time to become a servant. He willingly brought Himself to the lowest position - a poor, human baby, born in an animal's stable. He served people by teaching them, feeding them, and healing them. He washed the disciples feet, cried over their brokenness and willingly went to the cross He did not deserve.

Day #4 continued:

What does Luke 14:11 promise to those who bring themselves down low? They will be lifted up! After Jesus died, God raised Him to life! He sits at God's right hand. His name is above all others and one day everyone will proclaim it!



Read Luke 14:11 again and make up hand motions as you read it. In every situation, trust this promise. Remember not to lift yourself up, but chose to be a servant to others like Jesus was. It's your job to lower yourself and God's job to lift you back up.

Day #5: Ask His Advice

Let's visit the garden of Eden one more time. God told Adam and Eve they were free to eat from every tree in the luscious garden, except one. That one tree was off limits because if they ate from it, they would die. But then along came the slippery serpent saying the just the opposite. He told Eve that the fruit wouldn't kill her. He said the fruit would make her wise like God, and with that statement, he cast doubt on the goodness of God.

So Eve did what many of us might do (though we hate to admit it!) She looked things over, thought about it for a minute, then she did what she thought was best. Hold it right there!



Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. - Proverbs 3:5-6

What if Eve had taken a moment to ask God about the situation? What if she had called out to God and said, "Lord, this serpent says there is something good about this fruit and that I won't die if I eat it. What do you want me to know about this?"

God is so glad when we come to him with our questions. James 1:5 says God will give us plenty of wisdom, and He'll never be mad that we asked!

Going to God in the middle of a difficult decision is exactly what Jesus did in another garden thousands of years later. The night before Jesus went to the cross, He spend hours in prayer. He let His Heavenly Dad know how He felt about the terrible task ahead. He even asked His Dad if there was another way. And ultimately, He told His Dad that He trusted His plan (Matthew 26:39). It's a very, very good thing that Jesus went to His Father that night to gain wisdom and strength.



It takes practice to get in the habit of doing something. So, let's practice! Let's say this out loud 5 times together: "Lord, what do you want me to know about this?" The next time you have to make a decision, don't try *your* best to figure it out! Ask God what He wants you to know. Sit quietly and listen to whatever ideas God sends your way. When God speaks or nudges, it will ALWAYS agree with the Bible.