

January 12, 2014

Luke 6:17-31

**17** He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon,

**18** who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured,

**19** and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

**20** Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

**21** Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

**22** Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

**23** "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

**24** "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

**25** Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

**26** Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

**27** "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

**28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

**29** If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.

**30** Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

**31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

January 12, 2014

Good Morning, My Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I greet you this morning in the name of a Living God, a God, who has made Himself known to us as three in one. A Father that loved us so much He gave His Son; a Son that loved so much He gave His life and a Holy Spirit that gives comfort, guidance and direction to us each and every day.

As I looked at the International Sunday School lessons for January 2014 I made plans for a sermon series from the gospel of Luke that would focus on **how we ought to live in light of the fact that we have a Saviour. As a first sermon** I planned on providing a brief overview of Luke 6:1-11 and explaining the meaning of Sabbath. Then I wanted to draw our attention to <http://www.biblestudytools.com>

*11 But they were furious and began to discuss with one another **what they might do to Jesus.***<sup>1</sup>

It was my plan to raise and answer the question: **WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH JESUS IN 2014?** That was the plan for last Sunday. That sermon would have concluded with the challenge **to come to Jesus for the power you need to act like you have a Saviour.**

The plan for today was to move from **WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH JESUS IN 2014?** to a discussion of **HOW DO I LIVE LIKE JESUS IN 2014?** and for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday I hope to talk about being **M. A. D. FOR JESUS. Because we did not meet last Sunday, I am going to weave a bit of last Sunday's message into today.**

I invite you to pray with me and for me as we consider:

**I PLAN TO LIVE FOR JESUS IN 2014  
HOW DO I DO IT?**

My title is based on what I pray is a fact that since you are in worship you want to live for Jesus. In fact I want to believe, need to believe that you want to live for Jesus or all of this preaching, teaching, worship and praise is simply for show and you are like the Pharisees. So the problem, I hope is not that you don't want to live for Jesus, you just don't know how. With that as introduction.

**SHALL WE PRAY!** Father we come this morning asking you to hear and answer our prayer in a way that is not confusing to our minds. Help us to see how to live as your Son lived **and** as your Son taught us to live. Help us to not be afraid to live like Christ in a world that has gone crazy and will call us crazy for trying. Allow us to remember daily the words of the Great Commission and our responsibility as Disciples of Christ. Father, I ask that you guide my heart and my tongue as I bring your Word. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you. AMEN and AMEN.

## **I PLAN TO LIVE FOR JESUS IN 2014 HOW DO I DO IT?**

In the 1990's we were introduced to **WWJD. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?** We wore it on pins and bracelets and placed it in our Bibles on notecards and bookmarks. Many of us said that when faced with a dilemma or a situation we had not faced before we would ask ourselves WWJD. The Rev. Marvin McMickle, President of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, during a lecture series to ABC clergy asked us – challenge us really - to stop asking ourselves **WWJD** and instead **DWJD – DO WHAT JESUS DID.** Rev. McMickle then proceeded to share with us that the gospel message is not just to ask and answer the question of WHAT WOULD JESUS DO it is also to DO WHAT JESUS DID.

In the 2000's we begin to buy key chains and bracelets and more bookmarks with F. R. O. G. **FULLY RELY ON GOD.** Once again, God's people were in search of something that would help them to **remember** how they were suppose to live and what they promised to do when they accepted that there were responsibilities to being a child of a King.

And just a few years ago I begin to see **P.U.S.H – PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS. WWJD, DWJD, FROG, AND PUSH** and many others are phrases, buzz words or acronyms designed to help the people of God live like they are people of God. These buzz words have scripture to support them.

Pray - for there is power in prayer:

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and  
pray for each other so that you may be healed.  
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful*

<http://biblehub.com/james/5-16.htm>

*and effective. (James 5:16 NIV)*<sup>2</sup>

Search scripture so that you know what Jesus would do and then do it.

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%203:16-17&version=NIV>

**16** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.<sup>3</sup>*

Understand that God is the source of your power and your strength.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind<sup>[c]</sup>"; and, 'Love your neighbor as*

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%2010&version=NIV>

*yourself.* <sup>d</sup> ]"4

Based on the amount of time that Jesus spent teaching and explaining how to live it would seem that the people of His day were also confused about the primary instruction manual. The Law of Moses was in the local synagogue and the temple at Jerusalem and passages were read each Sabbath, but the people had added 616 rules to the 10 commandments and by Jesus' time no one could possibly do all that was expected. And when people perceive that they are unable to do what is expected and/or they see an opportunity to make themselves look big and others look small that is what they do.

The Pharisees were the teachers of the law. They were responsible for teaching the people to live, as God would have them to live. But early in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke we see them looking for ways to make themselves look big and others look small. Look at them! Instead of asking the disciples and Jesus to come with them for a meal they criticize them for eating uncooked grains of wheat. Then the next week the Pharisees see a disabled man and they do not offer help but instead criticize Jesus when He helps.

It is after these incidents that Jesus begins to teach, again, how we are to live. What I find remarkable is that the rules given in the 1<sup>st</sup> century still make very good sense in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If you have your Bibles look at verse 27

**27** "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
**during advent we talked about loving unloveable people – now we are commanded to even love our enemies – RADICAL LOVE**

**28** *ble*ss those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.  
**this does not mean to "bless them out" but rather to ask God to look with favor on them**

**pray for the person with road rage that causes you to run off the road**

**pray for the boss that promotes a less qualified person over you  
pray for those who only call when they need something – TOUGH LOVE it is tough on the believer**

**29** If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.

**back handed lick is a sign of rejection**

**steals you coat do not seek revenge – instead remain exposed for you may be able to help by example or deed –POWERFUL LOVE**

**30** Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

**deny yourself so you may help others**

**meet the needs that you can – when you can**

**31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**I PLAN TO LIVE FOR JESUS IN 2014  
HOW DO I DO IT?**

**WITH THREE TYPES OF LOVE**

**RADICAL LOVE**

**TOUGH LOVE**

**POWERFUL LOVE**