

The Life of Christ

Overview

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- read attached story, quick overview, life of Jesus
- What are some very broad lessons we can glean from Jesus' life, and apply to our lives?

➤ Jesus is our example – pattern

- **1 Pet. 2:21-23** Jesus, example, way to live, even when treated unfairly
 - **1 Pet. 2:24** what Jesus did, so we can walk in His steps, ending in heaven
 - **1 Pet. 2:25** what we must do - return to Jesus (obey), Shepherd and Guardian of our souls
- **Heb. 12:1b-4** run, fix your eyes on Jesus, motivation and goal, not grow weary, even if our blood is shed
- illus.: song #29 (s), “You Are My All In All” review verses

➤ We are humble and self-sacrificing, like Jesus – example

- **Phil. 2:5-8** humility of Jesus, emptied self, born, life as slave, cross – delineate, see following
 - **Matt. 11:28-30** Jesus, calls us to come and take his yoke, gentle and humble in heart, His yoke is easy and His burden is light
 - **Matt. 8:20** poverty, had no place to lay His head, homeless
 - **Matt. 27:46** on cross, suffered, all alone, even Father not help, so we could be saved
- **Matt. 16:24b-25** (Jesus) “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”
 - Jesus humbly emptied Himself, denied Himself for a time of the blessings as God in heaven, and we must deny ourselves
 - Jesus humbly took up His cross, we must take up our cross, follow Jesus
- Are you a humble and self-sacrificing person like Jesus!

➤ **We are obedient, like Jesus** – example

- **Heb. 5:7-8** Jesus learned obedience, suffering, personal sacrifice, doing things not walk to do – **delineate**
 - as Jesus had to learn obedience, so we have to learn obedience – slave not greater than master
 - Jesus learned obedience through suffering, so do we – **Ja. 1:2-4**

- **illus.: men train horses to be obedient through the things they suffer** (source unknown, SermonIllustrations.com)
 - Arabian horses go through **rigorous training in the deserts** of the Middle East.
 - The trainers require **absolute obedience** from the horses, and test them to see if they are completely trained.
 - The **final test** is almost beyond the endurance of any living thing. A **trainer forces the horses to go without water for days**. Then he **turns them loose**, and of course they start **running toward the water**, but **just as they get to the edge**, ready to plunge in and drink, the **trainer blows his whistle**.
 - The horses who have been completely trained and who have learned perfect obedience, **stop**.
 - They **turn around** and come pacing back to the trainer.
 - They **stand there quivering, wanting water, but they wait in perfect obedience**.
 - When the trainer is sure they're completely obedient, even to the death, he gives them a signal to **go back and drink**.
 - We learn obedience through the things we suffer, just as Jesus learned, which also serves as a test, demonstrating our love and obedience to God, in each and every trial!

- **Heb. 5:9** we are obedient to Jesus, saved – **His word (Jn. 12:48)**

- **Acts 6:7** obedient to the faith
- **Rom. 6:17** from the heart
- **2 Cor. 2:9** in all things
- **1 Pet. 1:14** obedient as children
- **Rev. 2:10** even if results in physical death

- **illus.: obedience demonstrated by a well-trained dog** (source: Daily Bread, SermonIllustrations.com) – total, complete, death

- Archibald Rutledge wrote that one day he met a man whose dog had just been killed in a forest fire.
- **Heartbroken, the man explained** how it happened.
 - Because he **worked out-of-doors, he often took his dog** with him.
 - One morning, he **left the animal in a clearing and gave him a command to stay and watch his lunch**, while he went into the forest.
 - The **dog understood, and that's exactly what he did**.
 - Then a **fire started in the woods**, and soon the **blaze spread to the spot where the dog had been left**, but **he didn't move**. He **stayed right where he was, in perfect obedience to his master's word**.
 - With tearful eyes, **the dog's owner said, "I always had to be careful what I told him to do, because I knew he would do it."**
- **our obedience to God must be like that of a well trained dog**
 - **God has commanded it, and expects us to obey, even if we die doing it**

- **Are you obedient to God, in every respect, like Jesus?** –death

➤ **Our mission is to seek and save the lost, like Jesus** – example

- **Lk. 19:9-10** (Jesus to Zaccheus) His mission was to seek and save the lost

- **Jn. 3:16** Jesus' sole reason for coming to earth, save souls

- **1 Tim. 3:15** purpose of the church, pillar and support of truth, results in **salvation**

- **Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16** fulfill commission to the apostles, make disciples, **teach**, results in **salvation**

- **Matt. 5:14-16** light of the world, shining before men, who **glorify God** because of our good works

- **Is your mission the same as Jesus'** - obey God, serve Him, seek and save the lost with God's word?

- **illus.:** watching someone baptized into Christ

- **illus.:** helping someone grow and mature as a Christian

- **Where does helping people be saved rank in your priorities**, as you go about your daily duties?

- **Is it your mission?**

➤ **God exalts us at the proper time, as He exalted Jesus** – example

- **Phil. 2:9-11** Christ exalted for eternity

- God exalted Jesus by raising Him from the dead

- exalted Jesus by placing Him at His right hand, upon His throne, where He is right now, and shall remain for eternity

- **as God's chosen people, we're exalted by God as His children**

- **Eph. 2:6-7** God raises us up with Christ, heavenly places (**Col. 2:12**), so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

- **Rev. 2:26-27** we're given authority over the nations, and rule them with a rod of iron, as Christ also received authority from His Father

- **Rev. 5:10** Christ has made us into a kingdom and priests to our God, and we reign upon the earth

- **1 Cor. 6:2-3** we'll judge the world and angels

- **Rev. 22:1-5** we'll worship God and Jesus, throne their throne, for eternity

- **As a faithful Christian, God is exalting you right now, every moment of every day! And He'll exalt you much more in eternity!** – made possible because of Jesus' sacrifice

- **Do you realize it?**

- **Do you live like it?**

- **Do you act like it?**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **song #161, Hallelujah, What A Savior**, review all verses

- **review:** example, humble and self-sacrificing, obedient, seeking and saving the lost, exalted by God

- **Are you walking in His footsteps, exalted by God?**

- **inv.:** your Savior is waiting – come to Jesus tonight