

# W.W.J.D.

*“What Would Jesus Do?”*

13 Lesson Classroom Series

**By Charley Huffman**

*Summer, 2011*

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO**  
**A Fresh Look at Discipleship**  
**Lesson 1 – What Would Jesus Do?**

Introduction

- A. All of us, especially in this class, try to be faithful church members and to be involved in the work of the church. And that is good.
- B. But it occurs to me that we are not just called to be church members. We are called to be disciples. Matt. 28:19.
  - 1. The KJV says “teach all nations”. But the Greek says “Disciple” all the nations.
  - 2. I grew up using only the KJV. So I didn’t know for years that Jesus calls all men to become disciples.
- C. It is possible to be a church member and not really be a disciple.
- D. It is easy to understand what it meant to be a disciple during the ministry of Jesus. Simply leave everything and follow him wherever he went. But that was 2000 years ago in a different world. He is not here in the flesh now, so what does it mean to be a disciple today?
- E. Disciples not only obey the commands of Jesus. They seek to be like him. But he lived in such a different world, and had such a different life style than ours. So what does it mean to be like him today in my situation and yours?
- F. I felt that we in the church needed to take a fresh look at discipleship – what it really means to follow Jesus in today’s world. So when Bill Tracy asked me a year ago to teach this quarter, I jumped at the chance to teach on this subject: **What would Jesus do. A fresh look at discipleship.** And I want to challenge us all to lay aside our pre-conceived ideas and look anew at what the Bible teaches about discipleship.
- G. In this first lesson, we will not get into the Scriptures much. Rather I want to lay the foundation for the study we will be having for the next 12 weeks.

I. What Would Jesus Do?

- A. In recent years we have seen the letters WWJD in many places: Bumper stickers, rear window stickers, pins, T-shirts etc.. The letters stand for: What Would Jesus Do?.
- B. This phrase originated in a book by Charles Sheldon, called “In His Steps”. It was first preached as a series of sermons in 1896 and published shortly thereafter. It became the best selling book next to the Bible for many years. It was written in an attempt to answer the question I have posed: “What does it mean to follow Jesus and be a true disciple in our times and our situations?”.
- C. This book has impacted countless lives, including my own.
  - 1. How many of you have read the book?
  - 2. I challenge you to read it or re-read it in connection with this class.
  - 3. It is a book of fiction, but the truth it teaches is a very real truth.
  - 4. It is written in a denominational setting, but I believe the basic lesson to be true to Scripture and of great value.

II. The story told in this book.

- A. It takes place in a middle-sized city in the northern United States in the latter 1800’s.
- B. Henry Maxwell was the pastor of the 1<sup>st</sup> church, a large congregation where the rich and high society people of the city attended.
- C. Alone in the upstairs of his house, he was working on a sermon on the text I Peter 2:21, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps”.

- D. He was interrupted by the doorbell and went down to find a shabbily dressed young man, who said he was out of a job and asked if Mr. Maxwell could give him any leads to get one. Henry Maxwell said, “No, I don’t know of any, but I’ll pray for you”, and closed the door.
- E. Sunday as Henry Maxwell finished his sermon and prepared to sit down, a voice came from the back of the auditorium and a man walked down the aisle to the area in front of the pulpit. It was the same man who had asked for help to find a job.
- F. He said, “As I listened to the sermon this morning, I wondered, what you Christians mean by following Jesus. You Have rich clothes and nice houses to live in, and money to spend for luxuries, and can go away on summer vacations and all that, while the people outside the churches, thousands of them, live in tenements, and walk the streets for jobs, and never have a piano or picture in the house, and grow up in misery and drunkenness and sin. I wonder if that is what Jesus would do.” Then he lurched forward and fell on his face on the floor. The man was taken to Henry Maxwell’s house, where he continued to worsen during the week and died on Saturday.
- G. During that week Henry Maxwell couldn’t stop thinking about what the man had said, “Is what you people do what it means to follow in the steps of Jesus? He concluded that to be a real disciple, obeying I Peter 2:21, was to decide to do what Jesus would do in our place, regardless of the cost.
- H. The next day Henry Maxwell struggled to present his sermon. At the end of it he said, “The events of the past week have caused me to consider very seriously what it really means to follow Jesus, and if we in our churches are really following in his steps. I want to propose to you a plan that has been forming in my mind during these last few days. I want to ask for volunteers from this church who will pledge themselves earnestly and honestly for an entire year not to attempt anything without first asking, “What would Jesus do?” And then to do your best to do what you feel he would do, no matter what the results may be. He asked all who were willing to do that to remain in the chapel after the service to talk about it.
- I. Henry Maxwell was pleased to see about 50 people who had stayed to take that vow. They discussed the plan for a while and then went out to put it into practice in their lives. They did not imagine the huge difference it would make in their lives. The remainder of the book is the story of a number of the members of the church and how their lives were transformed and how they were called upon to suffer in many different ways as they sought to do what Jesus would do in their lives.

### III. The impact of the book upon my life.

- A. When I was 12 I first read the book. Even then it had a powerful impact on my life. My dad had always taught us, “If you are going to be a Christian, don’t be a half way Christian. Be a Christian with all of your heart”. I felt the book was saying the same thing and decided that I would have to do that to be a Christian. But I was not ready yet. I had lots of boy things to do first.
- B. When I was about 18 I read the book again. I still had not given my life to Jesus. Again I was powerfully impacted and it reinforced my feeling that I would have to be like that to be a Christian. But I still wasn’t ready, as I had a lot of teen-age things to do.
- C. When I was 20 I got married and finally stopped running away and gave my life to God. I said to the Lord, “I give myself to you completely, without reservation. I am ready to be whatever you want me to be and do whatever you want me to do. I don’t want to be a preacher, but if that is your will, I will be a preacher. If you want me to be a missionary and go to the ends of the earth to preach your word, just help me to know your will and I will do it. I am ready to live for you or die for you if it be your will.
- J. I had long felt that I would have to be a preacher to do what Jesus would do in my place, so

I went to ACU to prepare myself. There I heard great missionaries speak on the lectureships and decided God would have me go to the mission field. Since I had no experience preaching, I went first to a domestic mission field in Maine and later in Washington. When I felt we were ready, we went to Brazil and have been involved in the work there since 1967.

#### IV. The Impact on Melody's life.

- A. In Brazil she had paid entrance fees for LCC and been accepted. Was almost ready to go.
- B. At camp I had the campers enact the story of the book "In His Steps". Melody had the female lead and her boyfriend the male lead. They did a great job.
- C. After the play I asked that all who wanted to take that pledge stay in the chapel to talk about it. About 12 stayed.
- D. Melody came to me crying and said she felt Jesus would stay in Brazil for a year to work full time with the church. I said then, do it, and she did.
- D. The group met once a month for a while and some really amazing things happened in the lives of some of those campers as they put into practice that pledge.
- E. After a year, Melody came to Lubbock to LCC, and ever since has continued to be totally committed to following in the steps of Jesus – to do what he would do in her life. That is why she studied Greek and Problems of the Preacher in LCU, got a master's degree in missions from ACU, and also graduated as an LVN to be able to help people with medical problems in Brazil. That is why she did not get married until she found a man who wanted to be a preacher and a Brazil missionary. That is why she and her husband spent 22 years in Brazil and now they are back in the states for a few years to better prepare themselves for future work.

#### V. As I thought about teaching this course, I thought about my own life and began to reevaluate it. Was I really doing what Jesus would do in my place?

- A. I was working full time on behalf of mission work in Brazil. I was going to Brazil three times a year to continue my work there. In between those trips I was working long hours 7 days a week to do what I could do on this end on behalf of the work. Nearly every Sunday I was getting up at 5:00 am and traveling 3 or 4 hours or more to get to some church to raise funds for the work. In the afternoons I would travel to another church. Often I didn't get home until 11:00 pm or later. I was doing all of that to help win souls for Christ in Brazil. I was totally focused on that. Wasn't I doing what Jesus would do if he were in my place? I thought so.
- B. But as I meditated on that I came to feel that it was not what Jesus would do in my place.
  1. Oh sure, I believed that he would do everything possible to help the work in Brazil.
  2. But would he be so occupied in indirectly helping the work in a country far away that he would ignore all of the lost souls all around him here in Lubbock? I think not.
  3. Would he be so immersed in his work for Brazil that he would have no contact with anyone except Christians. I felt that he would be out among the lost and dying.
  4. Would he be so focused on the work in Brazil that he would ignore the poor and needy and the hundreds of homeless all around us right here in Lubbock? He didn't do that.
  5. Would he seek to live a life of ease and comfort and pleasure as I was doing? He who had no place to lay his head and no possessions other than the clothes on his back? I think not.
- C. So I made a list of things that I felt Jesus would do if he were in my place.
  1. Oh yes, he would continue to work on behalf of the lost in Brazil.
  2. But he would take time to be a fisher of men here in Lubbock too.
  3. He would not ignore the poor and needy and homeless all around us, but would be involved in helping them.

4. He would not associate only with church people, but would mix and mingle with the publicans and sinners of our day.
  5. He would not ignore the little children who are in need all around us but would find ways to gather them in his arms and bless them.
  6. He would not live a life of ease and comfort, but would live a life of sacrifice and self denial, using all the resources he had to help others.
  7. He would lead a life of prayer and fasting, even while he participated in weddings and feasts.
- D. During the past year I have tried to find ways to do that more and more. It has been very rewarding, and yet very trying, and I still have a long ways to go. I have found that doing what Jesus would do in my life called for a lot of sacrifice and suffering and self denial. But isn't that what I Peter 2:21 says, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps"?
1. "For even hereunto were ye called"(KJV). "For you have been called for this purpose"(NASB). "For unto this were you called"NIV.
  2. "Because Christ also suffered for us".
  3. "Leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps". What steps? Steps of suffering like he did.
  4. Your homework is to memorize this passage and repeat it every day of the week.

Conclusion: Next week we will get into the word. We will be studying about what it means to do what Jesus would do in our places. I won't ask you to take that pledge, but you, like I, may decide to make some radical changes in your life as a result of this study.

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**  
**A Fresh Look at Discipleship**  
**Lesson 2**

Introduction

- A. In the first lesson I talked about the book “In His Steps”, in which the author suggests that to be a disciple of Jesus today we need to, before every important decision, ask, “What would Jesus do if He were in my place”. And then do everything possible to do that, regardless of the cost.
- B. But before we look at some very practical ways that we should do what Jesus would do in our place, we need to take a fresh look at what the Bible says about discipleship, for I am convinced that many of us do not really understand or take seriously what the Bible teaches about being disciples.

I. Jesus calls disciples.

- A. Luke 5:4-11 The call of the four fishermen.
  - 1. Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”.
  - 2. When they had brought their boats to shore they left everything and followed him.
  - 3. Why would they do that?
  - 4. Becoming disciples was a total transformation of their lives.
- B. Luke 5:27-32 The call of Levi.
  - 1. He was a wealthy tax collector.
  - 2. Jesus said to him, “Follow me”.
  - 3. And he left all and rose up and followed him.
  - 4. He gave a great feast so all of his friends could meet Jesus.
- C. John 1:43 – 50 The call of Phillip.
  - 1. Jesus was going to Galilee and called Phillip to follow him.
  - 2. Phillip went and found his friend Nathanael and brought him to Jesus.
- D. And so Jesus went calling more and more disciples – multitudes of them who followed him.
  - 1. John 3:22-26 Made and baptized more disciples than John the Baptist.
  - 2. Luke 19:37 A multitude of disciples at the triumphal entry.
- E. They followed him wherever he went for nearly three years.
  - 1. They heard him speak as no man had ever spoken before and marveled.
  - 2. They saw him turn water into wine, walk on the water, still a tempest, feed 5000 men with a few loaves and fishes, cast out multitudes of demons, make the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see. He even raised the dead.
  - 3. As they beheld him do all of these marvelous things, they saw God in human flesh walking among them. They saw his love and grace and mercy and kindness in a way that no one before or after has ever seen it.
  - 4. Who would not follow a man like that. No wonder they called him Savior.
- F. But in spite of all of this, he was taken and tried and beaten and crucified.
  - 1. They felt like all of their hopes had been lost. They were confused and afraid and terribly disappointed and sad. They hid away in an upper room.
  - 2. But on the first day of the week he rose from the grave, triumphant over the tomb, over death and over Satan. He rose never to die again.
  - 3. When they met the resurrected Christ, all of their doubts melted away. All of their fear was gone. At last they understood that his death was necessary for their salvation and the salvation of the world.

4. Now they were willing to live for him, to suffer for him, and even to die for him, because they understood that the one they had been following was indeed the Savior of the world.

## II. Jesus Gives the Great Commission.

### A. Matt. 28:18-20

1. “Go make disciples of all nations”. Jesus would no longer be on earth, but they were to make people everywhere be what they were.
2. “All authority has been given to me” He is Lord. That is where discipleship must begin.
3. Baptizing them. That’s how you make disciples.
4. Teaching them to **observe all** that I have commanded you. Not just teaching them, but teaching them to obey. And not just some things. All things.
5. Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Jesus is always with his disciples today, so they can still follow him.

### B. Early Christians were disciples.

1. Acts 6:1,7 The number of the disciples was increasing greatly.
2. The followers of Jesus were called disciples at least 30 times in the book of Acts.
3. They followed Jesus in spite of persecution and even death.
4. In the second and third centuries hundreds of thousands of disciples were put to death in every horrible way imaginable.

## III. Today also we are to be disciples.

- A. Today also we have the marvelous privilege of being disciples. And who would not want to follow and serve the wonderful Lord, who left his glory in heaven to give his life for us.
- B. We know so much more about Him today than those first disciples did during his ministry. We know that He is the creator of the universe, our mediator and High Priest, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who rules on the throne of God, the one who will return some day to judge the quick and the dead and to take us home with him to Heaven. Who would not follow him?
- C. Becoming a disciple today is not just being baptized to have our sins forgiven and then going to church regularly. It is a radical transformation of our lives, in which we surrender our lives unconditionally to Jesus and begin to do his will in our lives rather than our own.
- D. Just as people did in the first century, we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives and begin to follow him rather than being Lord of our own lives and doing what we want to do.
- E. We talk a lot about being members of the church, and that is important. We call ourselves Christians, and that is important, because it means people who follow Christ.
- F. But we seldom ever call ourselves disciples. Yet “disciple” is used 220 times in the NT, but “Christians” only 3 times, and always by non-Christians. In so doing we have lost a vitally important concept - the concept of being disciples.

## Conclusion

- A. That is why we need to take a fresh look at discipleship and regain the lost concept of being disciples of Jesus.
- B. We have seen today what it meant to be disciples of Jesus in the first century. But we need to look a little more closely at what Jesus demanded of his disciples during his ministry.
- C. We will do that next week, and then we will go on to some practical, down to earth, applications of discipleship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**  
**A Fresh Look at Discipleship**  
**Lesson 3 – What It Means to Be a Disciple**

Introduction

- A. We saw last week That Jesus called people to be disciples and they left all and followed him.
- B. We saw in Matthew 28:18-20 that Jesus calls everyone to be disciples today also.
- C. Let us look at what Jesus demanded of disciples.

I. Luke 9:22-25 “If any man will come after me.....”

- A. He foretold his own suffering and death.
- B. Let him deny himself.
  - 1. Not just deny himself of some things he wants to do, but deny **himself**.
  - 2. That is, accept Jesus as Lord and give up all claim to his own life. Only then can one really follow him.
- D. And take up his cross daily.
  - 1. Some say my cross is my mother-in-law, or some sickness that I have, or my child with a serious disability, or my job. That is not a cross. Even atheists have things like that to deal with.
  - 2. When Jesus took up his cross it was to die on it. To give his life to fulfill God’s purpose and mission for his life.
  - 3. It is the same for us. It is to die to ourselves in order to fulfill the purpose of God in our lives.
  - 4. And we must take it up **daily**.
- E. And follow me
  - 1. What does it mean to follow him? Just to follow some of his teachings? Or to follow his example and be like him? To do what he did?
  - 2. Jesus is saying here that he will suffer and die and that we must follow him. We have to be willing to go in our lives where he wants to go, and not expect him to follow us.
- F. Whosoever will save his life will lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.
  - 1. Not physical death, but the death of our self centered way of living.
  - 2. This explains what it means to deny yourself and take up your cross daily.

II. John 12:23 – 26

- A. Except a grain of wheat die, it remains alone. If it dies it brings forth much fruit.
- B. Jesus is talking about his death on the cross.
- C. V. 25 shows it is talking about us also.
- D. V. 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am, there also shall my servant be.

III. Luke 14:25-33

- A. 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple”.
  - 1. Parallel passage: Matt. 10:34-39 “He that loveth father or mother more than me...”
  - 2. Luke 12:26 also also says, “and his own life also”.
- B. V. 33 “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple”.
- C. Bill was a 12 year old boy from the ghettos of New York City. He went to Camp Shiloh and was baptized. His parents told him if he went to church they would put him out of their home. He did and was cared for by church members. That is what it means to hate father and mother.

#### IV. I Peter 2:21 - 24

- A. This is what we were called to.
  - 3. Christ suffered for us.
  - 4. We should follow in his steps.
  - 5. What steps? Steps of suffering. See verse 24.
- B. It is not possible to be a disciple of Jesus and not suffer.
  - 1. The life of a disciple is not a life of ease and comfort and pleasure and self seeking.
  - 2. It is a life of sacrifice, of self-denial, and of suffering many things.
  - 3. If we follow in the steps of Jesus and do what he did, we will suffer as he suffered.

#### V. This is not what we want to do.

- A. We want to live a life of ease, of comfort, of pleasure seeking, of self serving.
- B. But discipleship demands a life of sacrifice, of self denial, of serving others, of hardship and of suffering with Christ.
- C. Great men and women of the Bible were always called to such a life: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, the apostles and of course Jesus.
- D. In the book, "In His Steps", when people decided to do what Jesus would do in their lives, it required a radical transformation of their lives and many different kinds of sacrifice and suffering.
- E. Today also, if we really do what Jesus would in our place, it will cause a radical transformation of many lives with sacrifice and suffering.

#### VI. But is suffering for Jesus all bad?

- A. James 1:2 says, "My brethren, count it all **joy** when ye fall into divers temptations: knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience".
- B. Matthew 5:11-12 says, "**Blessed are ye**, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."
- C. Acts 5:41 After the apostles were beaten, they **rejoiced** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name".
- C. Hebrews 10:34 says, "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took **joyfully** the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance".

#### Conclusion: Are we really being disciples, or just church members?

- A. The Church of the Savior in Houston some 30 or 40 years ago required of its members a written statement that said, "**I commit myself totally and unconditionally to Jesus Christ as Lord, promising to give Him a practical priority in all of my affairs. I will seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**". And the church grew tremendously and became very large and famous for helping so many people.
- A. I challenge all of you, as I have already challenged myself, to really be a disciple of Jesus, regardless of the cost.
- B. Next week we will begin to look at some very practical ways that we can do what Jesus would do if He were in our place.

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**  
**A Fresh Look at Discipleship**  
**Lesson 4 – Fishers of Men**

I. What would Jesus do?

- A. In the first lesson I stated that it is easy to understand what it meant to be a disciple during the ministry of Jesus. Simply leave everything and follow him wherever he went. But that was 2000 years ago in a different world.
1. Jesus is not here in the flesh now, so what does it mean to be a disciple in today's world. Obviously not follow him about from place to place.
  2. That means that some of the things that Jesus required of disciples in the first century may not apply to us today. We do not necessarily have to leave our homes and families and jobs and go somewhere else to follow him. (Although many missionaries decide to do that).
- B. I also mentioned that disciples are not only to obey the commandments of Jesus, but to be like him. To follow him in the work that he did.
1. But Jesus and his disciples lived in such a different world from ours. If Jesus had come into the world in our generation, would he have done everything just like he did then. Obviously not.
  2. Jesus was a full time itinerate preacher. But most of us are not. We have jobs to work at to make a living.
  3. Jesus did not have a home of his own. "The son of man hath not where to lay his head". Because his mission was to travel all over Palestine to preach the good news of the kingdom.
  4. Jesus did not have a wife or children. Scripture says that any man who does not provide for his family has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.
  5. The church did not even exist at that time. People attended the synagogues and the temple whenever they could, but they were citizens of Israel, not members of a local congregation.
- C. So what does it mean to be a disciple in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the totally different situations that each of us lives in? And what does it mean to be like Jesus, when our lives are so different from his?
1. Well, obviously it includes obeying the many teachings he gave us about morality and spirituality.
  2. Certainly it includes the total commitment he taught that disciples must have.
  3. But it also means to be what he was and to do what he did. Do we really do that?
- D. In the first lesson I talked about the book "In His Steps".
1. The preacher in the book became convinced that I Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were we called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow in his steps", means that we must follow in His steps of suffering.
  2. As he grappled with the question we are asking, "What does it mean to be a disciple today?", he came to the conclusion that the best way to do that is to decide that before we do anything, we will first ask, "What would Jesus do if he were in **my** place, and then do our best to do that regardless of the cost involved".
  3. That brings discipleship from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and from a culture and people that were totally different from ours, to our culture, and from a life that was totally different from ours to my life and situation and yours.
- E. The book "In His Steps" tells about a group of people from that preacher's congregation who took a vow to do that: to do nothing or make no decision without first asking what Jesus would do if he were in their place, and then do their best to do that regardless of the cost.

1. Hence the title “What Would Jesus Do?”.
  2. The book tells the story of some of those people and how their lives, their church and their town were transformed by that decision.
  3. I recommend that to you as the best way I have ever heard of to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in our world and thus to be real disciples of Jesus.
- F. If we adopt this kind of discipleship, it will mean different things to each person.
1. Because we are asking, “What would Jesus do if he were in my place” in every situation and decision.
  2. And just as our lives are totally different from Jesus’ life and the lives of early disciples, they are also different one from another.
  3. Because we have very different situations and personalities and talents, what Jesus would do in my place will not necessarily be what he would do in your place.
  4. For example I am supported to work full time in missionary work, and I do that whether I am here in Lubbock or in Brazil. So my situation is very different from those of you who work at a profession or job, or who are stay at home moms, or retired people.
  5. So the question you would ask is not “what Jesus do in Charley’s place”, but “what would he do in my place. Then you would seek prayerfully and honestly to answer that question and then do your best to do what you believe he would do if he were in your place, regardless of the cost.
  6. I believe that everyone who decides to do this will find one or more things that he or she will want to do, and those things will differ with each of us, because of different personalities, talents, situations. And I would highly recommend that.
  7. What people in the book did:
    - a. In the book some people made a complete change in their lives. Some of us may need to do that: change our profession or our life style to do what Jesus would do in our place.
    - b. Others did not change their professions, but radically changed the way they carried on their professional work.
    - c. Others did neither of those, but began to do what they felt Jesus would do aside from their professions.
- G. However, I believe that there are some things that Jesus would do if he were in the place of each of us, and therefore they are things we all should do.
1. In order to know that, we need to take a close look at Jesus and ask, what did he do, and what was most important to him? Not just what he taught, but what he did.
  2. John 12:23-26 We are to serve him and follow him, and be where he is. He said that right after he said he was going to die in order to bring forth much fruit.
  3. So let’s look at Jesus’ life and ask ourselves, “What did he do that was most important to him?”

## II. Fishers of Men.

- A. I believe the first thing every disciple should be involved in is seeking and saving the lost.
  1. Mark 1:16-20 Jesus said to his first disciples, “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men”.
  2. Lk. 5:1-11 “From henceforth you will catch men”.
- B. Jesus said that to Peter and Andrew, James and John because they were fishermen. Also because he knew they would become apostles.
- C. But did he call all disciples to do that?
  1. Yes, because that was his purpose on earth Luke 19:10. The disciples saw him totally dedicated to that purpose. He lived and died on the cross for that purpose.

2. Yes, because disciples learned to imitate what their master did. Luke 6:40 “The disciple is not above his master, but every one that is perfect shall be as his master”.
- D. He sent them out to preach the gospel of the kingdom.
1. Lk. 9:1-6 He sent the apostles out to preach.
  2. Lk. 10:1-11 He also sent the seventy out to preach.
  3. Lk. 9:59-60 “Let the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.
  4. Lk. 8:38-39 He sent the Gadarene Demoniac back home to preach.
- E. The great commission.
- A. Matt. 28:19-20 Go make disciples of all nations.
  - B. Mark 16:15-16 Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
  - C. Was that just for the apostles or for all of us? Certainly for all of us, because God wants everyone in every age and every country to be saved.
    1. 2 Peter 3:9 God is not willing that any should perish.
    2. I Tim. 2:3-4 God would have everyone to be saved.
    3. John 3:16 God wanted that so much that he sacrificed his own son.
- F. Does he call all of us today to be fishers of men?
1. If we are to be followers of Jesus and imitate him, we must be.
  2. If we are to have the heart of God we must be – Matthew 22:37 The greatest command.
  3. Matt. 22:38 If we love our neighbor as ourself, we must be fishers of men.
    - a. Baby crawling toward a swimming pool.
    - b. Parable of picnic.
    - c. Luke 16 Rich man in hell.

#### Conclusion

- A. Next week we want to talk about how you and I, and all of us, can be fishers of men.

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 5 – Fishers of Men 2

### Introduction

- A. When I started preparing this course, I realized I was not doing what Jesus would do.
- B. I was totally focused on my Brazil work and ignoring the lost people around me in Lubbock.
- C. I didn't feel that Jesus would do that, so I began working on doing that in my life.

### I. We saw last week that disciples must be fishers of men.

- A. We have to believe that and want to with all our hearts.
- B. You say, "I don't know how to be a soul winner".
  - 1. If you think it is essential you will find a way.
  - 2. Man who fell into open grave.
  - 3. Bull in pasture.
- C. But it isn't necessary to have special knowledge or ability to win souls.
  - 1. Dona Helena in Juiz de Fora, a poor woman who brought 18 of her family to the Lord.
  - 2. Doug Kostowski's mother was a polish catholic immigrant. Brought 24 to Christ..
  - 3. I have taught many classes on personal evangelism, yet the people did not do it.
  - 4. So it is not so much a matter of knowing how. **Just do it.**

### II. Learn to be soul conscious at all times. **Think souls.**

- A. It is good to have special days to evangelize, but we need to do it constantly, wherever we are.
  - 1. Everywhere we go we meet people who are lost. We need to see them as lost people, bound for Hell, who need to hear the gospel. Learn to **think souls.**
  - 2. Think of the thousands of contacts Sunset members have every day with lost people. Usually we just pass them by without even thinking about how much they need Christ.
  - 3. All of us have opportunities to reach people full time ministers can never reach.
- C. John 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.
  - 1. She was a totally unlikely candidate for a soul winner.
  - 2. He had no relationship with her, yet he spoke with her.
  - 3. He asked her for a drink of water and used that as a way to talk about eternal life.
  - 4. She went and told the men of the city and brought them all to Jesus.
  - 5. She knew nothing about evangelizing, but look at the results she had.

### III. We need to learn to talk to people about the Lord. We talk about everything else.

- A. Book on how the church grew so fast in the first century.
  - 1. They did not have all the advantages we have today.
  - 2. They faced persecution and opposition.
  - 3. But the church grew because they talked to people about their faith.
  - 4. Even slaves talked to their masters and many of them were converted.
- B. Denominations talk a lot about witnessing.
  - 1. We criticize that and say, "Only the apostles were witnesses".
    - a. It is true that they were the only official eye witnesses of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
    - b. But we can bear witness to what the apostles wrote in the Scriptures about Jesus.
    - c. And we can bear witness to what Jesus has done in our lives.  
(See Matt. 24:14, Rev. 20:4)
    - d. That is what the denominations mean by witnessing, and many of them have had

- great growth because of that.
- e. Member at Bell Avenue who joined a denomination and began to “witness”.

C. We need to learn to talk to people about the Lord.

1. Luke 19:40 At the triumphal entry, the Pharisees wanted Jesus to rebuke his disciples for praising him.
  - a. But he said, “I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”.
  - b. I have been expecting any minute for the stones to begin to cry out because we are holding our peace and not publicly talking about Jesus and praising him.
2. Matthew 10:27 Jesus told his disciples, “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops”.
3. Acts 5:28 The Jewish authorities said to the apostles, “Did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And behold ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine”.
4. Matthew 9:30-31 Jesus told the blind men not to tell anyone, but they spread abroad his fame in all that country.
5. Luke 8:38-39 The Gadarene Demoniac wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus said, “Return to thine own house and show how great things God hath done for thee”. And he went his way and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him”.

D. We need to learn to do that.

1. We are like the farmer and his wife who went for a ride in an airplane.
2. African American man in the bank constantly talked about the Lord.
3. My son, Monty, is great about doing that. He vowed to say something to every person he meets to make them smile.
4. Ricardo, in Brazil, talks to and hugs every person he meets, even total strangers.
5. I am not that way at all, but am still trying to learn to be.
  - a. I am not naturally one to talk to people wherever I go.
  - b. When I go to the mall to walk, I pray and pay no attention to people.
  - c. When I am in a doctor’s office, I take a book and read it.
  - d. On Sunday afternoons I sit in a restaurant and study, read or pray.
  - e. In the airport I try to find a quiet place away from people to read, study, pray.
  - f. I think I was cut out to be a monk in a monastery, but what would Jesus do? I am working on doing what he would do in my place.
- a. My door knocking in Juiz de Fora.
- b. Lady on the plane whose sister was dying.
- c. Lady on the plane who wanted to sit by me.

Conclusion:

We just need to learn to talk to people everywhere because it can open up opportunities to evangelize.

A. Jeremiah 20:9 “Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.” We need to be like that, with fire in our bones to speak.

B. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army wrote:

“Not called!, did you say? “Not heard the call”, I think you should say. Put your ear down

to the Bible and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face – whose mercy you have professed to obey – and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.

C. What would Jesus do if he were in your place?

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 6 – Fishers of Men 3

### Introduction

- A. Remember that we are called to be disciples. (Used 222 times in NT. Christian only 3)
- B. Remember that the first priority of a disciple is to be a fisher of men.
- C. Last week we saw that we need to be soul conscious at all times.
- D. We also saw that we need to talk to people everywhere we go and seek for opportunities to talk to them about the Lord.
- E. But a lot of us are very shy and find it hard to do that. Even if you can't, there are other ways that you can help win souls.

### I. We need to work together as a team to win souls.

- A. We all have different gifts and personalities.
  - 1. **Romans 12:4-8** One body, but many different gifts.
  - 2. **I Corinthians 12:12-27** One body, but different functions.
  - 3. Some are good at talking to everyone. Others are not.
  - 4. Some are good at teaching people. Others are not.
  - 5. Some are good at knocking on doors. Others are not.
  - 6. In the church, evangelism is most effective when each one uses his gifts and all work together to reach the lost.
- B. Mucio at Acacias.
  - 1. He berated the church for not winning souls like he did so well.
  - 2. I looked at a list of people “he” had converted and asked him how he came to baptize each one. In every case other members of the church had cultivated the prospect and Mucio merely taught the person the plan of salvation and baptized him.
  - 3. I showed him that the person who had cultivated that prospect had just as much a part in the conversion as he did.
  - 4. I have heard a lot of sermons saying everyone should be an evangelist. I disagree. It is true that every one should be evangelistic, but **Eph. 4:11** says evangelist is a gift just like apostle, prophet, pastor and teacher are.
  - 5. Instead of berating people because they don't have the gift of evangelist, we should help them organize and work together with everyone using the gifts God gave him.
  - 6. On a football team, not everyone is a quarterback, or a leading scorer. But the quarterback and leading scorer can only be successful if all the other players are playing their positions well.
- C. Conversion of a bar maid in Phoenix.
  - 1. A bar maid rode to work in a car pool every day.
  - 2. A lady in the pool was converted and was very happy. The bar maid asked her why she was always so happy. She told her of her conversion.
  - 3. The bar maid started attending that church. She was accepted with love by all. Some showed hospitality by inviting her out to a meal. Others visited her in her home. The church had inspiring services, in which all the members participated. The preacher preached practical and inspirational sermons. Finally she expressed interest in being baptized, so someone had a Bible study with her and she decided to be baptized the following Sunday.
  - 4. She was so excited about being baptized that she told everyone who came into the bar about it and invited all of them to attend her baptism.
  - 5. Next Sunday there was a group of unseemly people sitting on the front rows, drunkards, prostitutes, and all sort of worldly people there to witness the baptism.

6. The people of the church received all of them with the same joy and love they had shown to the bar maid. They showed them the same hospitality they had shown to her. They took them out to eat and visited in their homes. Some of them continued to attend the church and loved the services. Someone studied with them and about a dozen of them were baptized.
  7. My question is, "Who converted the bar maid and the other people?" The answer is that the whole church did. They all received them with love, provided inspiring worship, showed hospitality, and the result was the conversion of 12 people.
- D. The church in Fritch.
1. It was a small church in a small town that had not had any baptisms for a long time, when a new preacher came to work with them.
  2. He preached on the importance of evangelism and suggested they start using the Jule Miller filmstrips.
  3. They had a man in the church who was a great salesman. He set up Bible studies with a bunch of people.
  4. There were so many that they invited them to come to the church building on Sunday mornings during the Bible class period to see the films. The preacher taught several people how to show the films. When the studies were over, the preacher talked to the people to try and persuade them to be baptized.
  5. The result was that they had nearly 50 baptisms in one year.
- E. Conversion of Jesse.
1. They lived 3 blocks from the church building. He and his mother set out to go to a church on Sunday morning. Since Sunset was right there, they visited.
  2. Tim and Pam Evans invited her to sit with them during services.
  3. Right after that we had a Monday Night visitation. I visited their house and they said a number of people from Sunset had visited them. I asked if I could come and study the Bible with them and they accepted.
  4. Jesse started attending the singles class and Jeff met and encouraged him.
  5. He started attending a small group of young people and became more interested.
  6. When he decided to be baptized, about a dozen of the young people were there in the dressing room with him to give moral support.
  7. He went to school in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where Ken and Nancy Hargersheimer's daughter and son-in-law attend. They encouraged Jesse and he began to attend regularly.
  8. He has been taking two other boys with him to services, and he enrolled them in the World Bible School courses.
  9. I continued studying with the rest of the family. On another Monday night a group of people from the church visited them. Link Blevins went and had several studies with the 3 teen-agers who were still at home.
  10. Steve and Reyna McDonald came to the study one night and met them. Steve is anglo and Reyna is Peruvian, and they clicked with the Kreishers, because Robin Krisher is anglo and his wife, Laura, is Mexican.
  11. The result of all of this was that the father and mother and two of the teen-agers were baptized.
  12. You see how that a number of people were involved in the conversion of these people.
- F. These are just a few examples. We could give many more to show how we convert people when we work together as a team.

II. I Corinthians 9:19-22 We need to use every possible method.

A. Paul became a servant of all men to gain the more. The Greek word for servant here is slave.

If we are to gain souls, we must be willing to become the servant or slave of others.

1. Elders wife in Van helped my next door neighbor.
2. Paul Cho's apartment building ministry.
3. He tells his members to look for someone they can serve and they will have a good chance of converting them.

B. Paul became all things to all men to gain the more.

1. When we went to Maine we sought to become Maniacs to them.
2. When we went to Brazil we did the same.
3. Paul used "all means" to save some.
4. There are many different ways we can use to win souls. We need to use all of them

Conclusion:

- A. Let's work together as a team, each one using his gifts to reach the lost.
- B. Let's serve others and become all things to all men to reach as many as possible.
- C. Let's go out and win souls like Paul did and like Jesus did.

## **WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

### **Lesson 7 – Fishers of Men – 4**

#### Introduction

- A. We saw last week that we need to work together to save souls.
- B. We also saw that we need to become the servant or even slave of all men to do this.
- C. Finally we saw that Paul used every method he could to save souls and we also need to use every method we can.

#### I. What are some of the methods we can use?

- A. Get some cards and flyers made to carry with us and give to people we meet.
- B. Invite people to activities of the church.
  - 1. Be persistent. Don't just invite people once. Preacher's wife who invited neighbor every Sunday for a year and she finally came.
  - 2. Keep inviting more people. Boston church small groups invited 10 each week.
  - 3. Invite people to all kinds of activities of the church. Head of consulate in Brazil came to our missionary retreat.
  - 3. You never know what the results may be. Bill and Julie Gaston were invited by someone to a gospel meeting at Parkway Drive.
  - 4. If people you invite come, follow up on it and get them involved with other people and activities in the church.
  - 5. The church needs to know how to receive visitors. Many churches think they are friendly, but they are only friendly to one another.
- C. Look around at church activities and meet the visitors. If they are not Christians, try to work on them.
  - 1. Sit with them in services.
  - 2. Invite them out to eat with you after services.
  - 3. In church is one of the best places to evangelize.
  - 4. Some people attend for months without anyone trying to convert them. Fatima.
- B. Set up Bible studies with people.
  - 1. People must hear the gospel to be saved.
  - 2. They may attend church services a number of times without really hearing a sermon on how to be saved. An individual Bible study can teach them much more quickly.
  - 3. If you are not able to teach such a Bible study, set up studies for others to teach. I and others would be glad to teach all the studies we can.
  - 4. It is not that difficult to set up studies. We just have to ask people.
  - 5. Cecil Bunch went to Gainesville and set up 35 studies while waiting to start working with a church.
  - 6. On Monday night I went to a few houses and set up 3 studies. You just have to ask people if they would like for someone to come to their house and study the Bible with them.
- D. Where to set up Bible Studies.
  - 1. Meet your neighbors and try to set up Bible studies with them.
  - 2. Go door to door on Saturdays and try to set up Bible studies.
  - 4. Spend time in the mall, at Walmart, at Flea Markets to meet people and try to set up Bible studies with them. George Hall.
  - 5. Visit Senior Citizen's centers and make contacts.
  - 6. Join clubs and organizations to make contacts, School activities, Little League, exercise clubs, beauty shops etc.
  - 7. Monty's soul walks around the neighborhood.

8. To fish for men, we must get out of the church building where the fish are.
- E. Join or form an evangelistic small group.
1. Most small groups are not evangelistic.
  2. People in such a group must constantly invite people.
  3. Paul Chos church in Seoul, Korea. Yet they only had the goal of reaching two families per year in each group.
  4. The Boston movement.
  5. Sandy and I had one in our house in Big Spring and Amarillo.
  7. We had one in our house in Brazil.
  8. I tried to get in a small group here at Sunset, but was not able. It seems they are only for young couples. But I would love to have a small group if some of you would like to join me.
- F. Many other methods.
1. World Bible School, World English Institute, Friends Speak
  2. DVDs of the Bible, Jule Miller Videos
  3. Party evangelism in Fort Worth
  4. Booths at fairs and flea markets.
  5. Follow up on VBS students
  6. Friends days at church. Breakfasts like in Brazil.

III. I would like to form an evangelism team to work together and win souls.

- a. Meet regularly to discuss what to do and report on progress.
- b. Work together to teach people and convert them.
- c. Be present when they are baptized.
- d. Show hospitality to people we are evangelizing.
- e. Pray together for those we are seeking to convert.
- f. When we convert people, start immediately to involve them in converting their contacts.

IV. Philippians 2:5-11 The example of Jesus.

- A. Let this mind be in you that was also in Jesus.
- B. He was equal with God but emptied himself and took on the form of a servant.
- C. He humbled himself and became obedient even unto death.
- D. Wherefore God has highly exalted him.
- E. That is what Jesus did to save the lost. What will you and I do? What would Jesus do in your place and mine?

Conclusion: What can you do to win souls? What would Jesus do in your place?

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 8 - Associate with People of the World

From Last Week: Many other methods of seeking the lost.

1. World Bible School, World English Institute, Friends Speak
2. DVDs of the Bible, Jule Miller Videos
3. Party evangelism in Fort Worth
4. Booths at fairs and flea markets.
5. Follow up on VBS students
6. Friends days at church. Breakfasts like in Brazil.
7. Evangelistic Campaigns – Chickasha, OK

### Introduction to Lesson 8

- A. As I thought about what Jesus would do in my place I realized that I had almost no contact with people of the world. Nearly all of my contact was with Christians.
- B. Yet Jesus was always in the midst of multitudes of people, and was constantly criticized for eating and drinking and associating with publicans and sinners.
- C. I thought, if Jesus were in my place, would he do what I am doing and associate only with Christians? No he would not.
- D. So I decided that I needed to find ways to associate with people who are not Christians, and especially with the publicans and sinners of our day.
- E. I think most of us are like that. We don't like to be with worldly or sinful or troubled people. We prefer to be with Christians.
- F. That is natural, but if we are to be like Jesus, and if we are to be fishers of men, we need to go where the fish are. They are not in the church but out in the world.

### I. Jesus was always in the midst of people who were sinful, hurting and needy.

- A. He was constantly criticized for associating with publicans and sinners.
  1. Matt. 9:9-13 Calling of Matthew and the feast he made.
  2. Luke 19:1-10 Conversion of Zaccheus
  3. Luke 7:36-50 Sinful woman who anointed Jesus feet. Was Mary, sister of Lazarus.
  4. Luke 15:1-2 Publicans and sinners drew near to hear him and the Pharisees and Scribes murmured against him. He told the 3 parables of lost things to them.
  5. Luke 7:33-34 They called Jesus a glutton and a winebibber and a friend of publicans and sinners.
- B. We need to do the same.
  1. Instead of avoiding the publicans and sinners of our day, we need to seek for opportunities to meet them and try to bring them to Christ. Today also, It is not they who are well who need a physician, but they who are sick. Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
  2. In Tucson I went to a Brazilian party for this reason.
    - a. When I told the elders about it, they condemned me for it.
    - b. I told them that is what Jesus did, but they would not accept it.
    - c. Our light shines brightest when the darkness is the darkest.
  3. Man in Hawaii who gave a birthday party for a prostitute in a diner at 3:00 a.m.
    - a. The owner of the diner asked what kind of church would give a birthday party for a prostitute in a diner at 3:00 o'clock in the morning. He answered, "The kind of a church that would give a birthday party for a prostitute in a diner at 3:00 o'clock in the morning.
    - b. We need to be that kind of church.

### C. Giovanni and Domingos

1. Giovanni had to go to work to put his son in college.
2. The owner of the factory was a very sinful man.
3. Giovanni converted him, his wife and her mother.
4. He made a big, really fancy feast for the whole church.
5. He had a summer home that he let the church have to use for retreats etc..
6. It was not large enough, so he bought a larger place that would accommodate all.
7. During the Carnival holidays the church wanted to have a retreat there, but he always had a family reunion there, so he paid several thousand dollars to rent another place for the church.
8. He is fully supporting a young preacher who began to work full time with the church. That young preacher baptized 8 people in his first 3 months of full time work.
9. Several months ago he was made a preaching deacon. He preaches once a month at the church.
10. Giovanni also converted his boss in the factory, and that man, along with 2 other men, are fully supporting a preacher in a new church they started recently. The church grew from 15 to 40 adults in attendance in 4 months.
11. Giovanni is back working full time now, as he is the full time director of our new School of Evangelism, which has had 21 baptisms and 32 restorations in the first three months, plus planting a new congregation.
12. Maybe we should stop supporting our preachers and let them get jobs where they can be in contact with publicans and sinners and convert more people.
13. But that won't happen, so those who are not full time preachers can do the same thing in their employment, or retirement.

### II. Ways we can have more contact and association with “publicans and sinners”.

- A. Many of us already have those contacts. We just need to use those contacts to convert people.
- B. Get to know our neighbors and evangelize them.
- C. Retired people can go to Senior Citizens Centers and hang out with the people there to make contacts.
- D. We can join clubs and community organizations and make contacts that way.
- E. In the next lessons we will be talking about helping the homeless and the poor and needy. When we do that we will definitely come into close contact with publicans and sinners and have opportunities to convert them.
- F. The most important thing is to have the attitude Jesus had concerning sinners.
  1. “The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick. I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”.
  2. “Go and learn what this means, I would have mercy and not sacrifice”.
  3. Jesus forgave the adulterous woman in John 8.
  4. He forgave the thief on the cross and saved him.

### Conclusion

- A. What would Jesus do in my place and in your place.
- B. I believe he would have mercy on publicans and sinners and seek and save those very lost people.
- C. Are we willing to do what Jesus would do?

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 9 – Helping the Poor and Needy -1

### Introduction

- A. Remember in the book “In His Steps” it started with a man who was homeless and unemployed looking for work. He went to several members of the church, including the Pastor, and they did not help him.
- B. He told them in the church that the city was filled with people like him who were homeless, without work, poor and needy, and the people of the church were rich but didn’t help. He asked if that is what Jesus would do.
- C. What would Jesus do about the homeless, the poor and the needy if he were in my place or yours?

### I. Luke 10:29-37 The Good Samaritan

- A. A lawyer, seeking to justify himself, asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus told this story to answer that question.
- B. A man going from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among thieves and was beaten and wounded and left for dead.
- C. The Priest and Levite passed by on the other side and did not help the man.
- D. The Samaritan stopped and provided all the help necessary.
- E. Jesus asked the lawyer, “Which of these was a neighbor to the man?” The lawyer answered, “I suppose he that showed mercy on the man”. Jesus said unto him, “Go, and do thou likewise”.

### II. As I began to think about teaching on this subject, I made a list of things I felt Jesus would do if he were in my place.

- A. I thought about this lovely city I live in. How I live in a beautiful home and we drive nice cars and have great food and nice clothes and great medical treatment.
- B. And yet there are thousands of people in this city who are poor and needy and desperate.
  - 1. People who have lost their jobs.
  - 2. People whose houses have been foreclosed.
  - 3. People who are sick or aged and not able to work.
  - 4. Single mothers with children, who can’t work and take care of the kids.
  - 5. Children who go to bed hungry at night.
- C. And I asked myself, “What am I doing about it?”
  - 1. I am so busy working on behalf of people on another continent that I don’t take time to help people who are in need all around me.
  - 2. I was being like the priest and Levite. Passing by on the other side and ignoring them. Letting them go hungry, or starve, or die without proper medical treatment, or sleep on the street because they had no home.
  - 3. And the worst thing about it was that I was not concerned about them.
- D. I asked myself, “What would Jesus do if he were in my place?”
  - 1. Would he pass by on the other side and largely ignore people in need all around him?
  - 2. I was certain he would not, and that I was not doing what Jesus would do in my place.
  - 3. Yes, I had a full time job to take care of, nevertheless I resolved to begin doing everything I could to help needy people.

### III. Most of us don’t realize how much the Bible says about helping the poor and needy.

- A. God has always had a special concern for the poor, widows, orphans, strangers etc..
  - 1. Psalms 113:7-8 “God raises the poor and needy that he may seat them with princes.”
  - 2. Proverbs 14:20-21 “He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he”.

3. Zechariah 7:9-10 “Oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger nor the poor”.
  4. Job 29:11-16 “I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow’s heart to sing with joy”.
  5. Deut. 15:7 –11 Give liberally to the poor.
- B. There were many laws in the law of Moses to care for the poor.
1. Ex. 16:18 - Manna – All had the same regardless of how much they gathered.
  2. Exodus 20:18-20 Slaves, aliens and animals could rest on the Sabbath days.
  3. Lev. 23 On the three annual feasts and Day of Atonement, servants could rest.
  4. Lev. 25:6 - During Sabbatical years servants could rest.
  5. Deut. 14:2-29 At the end of the third year give tithe of produce to levite and poor.
  6. Deut. 15:1-2 At the end of 7 years all debts are forgive.
  7. Lev. 25 – In year of Jubilee all land returns to original owner. No work of sowing or reaping during that year.
  8. Lev. 19:9-10 Laws about gleaning, etc.
- C. Isaiah 58:6-12 Israel did not always do that.
1. They liked to worship God but did not obey him.
  2. They wondered why God would not accept their fasts.
  3. This describes the fast the Lord has chosen.
  4. Antonio in Acacias

## Conclusion

- A. We see that God’s people in the Old Testament were expected by God to care for the poor, the needy, the widows and orphans and the strangers in the land.
- B. The church is God’s people in the New Testament. Certainly he expects the church to be even more zealous to care for the poor and needy today.
- C. We are going to study more about helping the poor and needy the next several weeks..
- D. But this should be sufficient for us to answer the question, “What would Jesus do in my place”. Certainly one thing he would do is to help the poor and needy in a significant way.

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 10 – Helping the Needy – 2

### Introduction

- A. Last week we saw how Jesus, in the story of the Good Samaritan, told us to “go and do likewise”.
- B. I said as I thought about what Jesus would do in my place, that He would help the poor and needy, and I was not doing that.
- C. I said that most of us don’t realize how much the Bible teaches about taking care of the poor, the needy, the homeless, the orphans, the widows, the foreigners and all the oppressed.
- D. Today I want us to look at some more Scriptures that teach the importance of this.

- I. The Kingdom of Heaven was meant to be a kingdom in which people would find material blessings as well as spiritual salvation.
  - A. Isaiah 35:1-10 describes the blessedness of the kingdom of the Messiah.
  - B. Luke 4:18-20 Jesus in Nazareth quoted Isaiah 61:1-3 and said it was fulfilled in him.
  - C. Matthew 4:23-24 Jesus preached the gospel (good news) of the kingdom.
    - 1. He didn’t just preach the gospel of salvation, but also of the kingdom.
    - 2. He healed all manner of diseases among the people.
  - D. Luke 9:1-2, When he sent his apostles out two by two, he sent them to preach the gospel of the kingdom and heal.
    - 1. V. 6 says “And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where”.
    - 2. Matthew 10:1 says he gave them power to heal all manner of diseases. V. 7-8 says, “And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, **raise the dead**, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give”.
  - E. Luke 4:43 Jesus said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of god to the other towns also, for therefore am I sent”.
  - F. Luke 7:19-23 When John the Baptist sent disciples to Jesus to ask if he was the Messiah, Jesus answered, “The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and good news is preached to the poor”. Jesus came to do more than save souls. He came to establish the kingdom in which God’s blessings would come to people in many ways.
  - G. The kingdom is the church. It is the body of Christ and He is the head. The church is to do the work here that Jesus did when he was here.

### II. Jesus constantly helped the needy.

- A. He healed thousands of sick people.
  - 1. Matthew 8:16-17 They brought many sick and he healed them all to fulfill prophecy.
  - 2. Matthew 9:35-36 Jesus went about all the cities.....healing every sickness and disease. He was moved with **compassion** for them. He didn’t just heal to confirm the Word, but because he had compassion on people.
  - 3. Matthew 14:14 “And Jesus went forth and saw a great multitude, and was moved with **compassion** toward them, and he healed their sick.” He also had **compassion** because they were hungry and he fed 5000 men.
  - 4. Matthew 15:30-32 **Read.** He healed them and had **compassion** on them because they had no food and fed 4000 men.
  - 5. Matthew 20:30-34 Jesus had **compassion** on two blind men and healed them.
  - 6. Luke 7:11-15 Jesus had **compassion** on the widow of Nain and raised her son.

- B. Notice that Jesus healed thousands and thousands of sick people, cast out multitudes of demons, and even raised the dead.
1. We often say that the miracles were to confirm the Word and that is true:
    - a. Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following”.
    - b. Hebrews 2:3-4 “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
    - c. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”.
  2. However it is obvious here that he did not heal just to confirm the word.
    - a. It would not be necessary to heal so many people just to confirm the word. John records only 7 signs and says it is enough for people to believe in Christ and have life in his name.
    - b. We have seen that Jesus healed and fed the hungry because he had **compassion** on the people. He delighted to spread the good news among the hurting, weak, poor and sinful. It has always been God’s will for his people to do the same.
    - c. This is the nature of the king of the kingdom and of the kingdom itself. A people with compassion on those in need.
    - d. That fulfilled the prophecies in the OT about the kingdom.

### III. In the early church the care of the needy was a vital concern of the church.

- A. Acts 2:44-45 The church at Jerusalem sold their possessions and parted to those who had need. See also Acts 4:32-35. **Read**
- B. Acts 6:1-7 The Jerusalem church appointed 7 men to help the Grecian widows.
- C. Galatians 2:10 When Paul visited the apostles, he said, “Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.
- D. We see several times when special contributions were taken up for poor saints in other places.
- E. In the early church some sold themselves into slavery to help the poor and needy.
- F. The Roman Emperor Julian wrote to a pagan priest, “the impious Galileans (Christians) support not only their poor, but ours as well. Everyone can see that our people lack aid from us.”

### IV. The church is the embodiment of Christ and should do as he did.

- A. Because Jesus said in the parable of the Good Samaritan, “Go thou and do likewise”.
- B. Matthew 25:31-46
  1. The criteria of judgment here was whether or not people helped those in need.
  2. In Luke 16 The rich man went to Hades because he did not help the beggar at his door.
- C. James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world”.
- D. Galatians 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
- E. I John 3:16-18 **Read**

**Conclusion:**

We see how much the Bible teaches about caring for the poor and needy. What are we doing? What would Jesus do if he were in my place or yours? Next week we will look at some practical ways that we can help those who are needy.

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Lesson 11 – Helping the Poor and Needy – No.3

### Introduction

- A. We have seen how much the Bible says about helping the needy.
- B. We have seen how Jesus was dedicated to helping the poor and needy.
- C. What would Jesus do in my place? That is a no-brainer. He would help the needy in Lubbock and around the world.

### I. Helping the needy is not easy.

- A. When I decided that is what Jesus would do in my place, I started trying to help people and not pass by on the other side like the priest and Levite.
  1. A lady in a wheel chair.
  2. A man beside the street begging.
  3. A lady at Walmart who needed help getting groceries.
  4. But I knew I was not really helping those people. Just putting a band-aid on their sore.
  5. I thought of the saying, “Don’t give a man a fish. Teaching him how to fish”.
- B. Teresa’s story
  1. She worked at Rosa’s and three ladies from Sunset were praying for her.
  2. She lost her job and the ladies found out where she lived and began to help her.
  3. Sandy and I got involved and we all worked together to help Teresa.
  4. It was very stressful and hard helping her try to find a job.
  5. Finally after 6 months she found a job and is did well for several months.
  6. However, yesterday she told me she is sick and had to give up her job.
  7. We learned how difficult it is to really help the poor and needy.
- C. Luke 5:17-26 The man let down through the roof
  1. Men came carrying the man to be healed by Jesus, but could not get to the house for the crowd.
  2. They made a hole in the roof and lowered the man through it in front of Jesus, who healed him.
  3. It is always difficult to really help needy people, requiring much effort and sacrifice.

### II. The book “When Helping Hurts”.

- A. I visited places and did a lot of research to see what kind of help was available to the poor. The book “When Helping Hurts” was highly recommended to me so I bought it.
- B. The book says, “Much poverty is due to people drinking, being poor spouses, poor employees, not knowing how to manage their money etc.” To really help their material poverty, we must first help them solve these problems. Christ and the church can greatly help in this.
- C. The goal is not just to give them temporary aid, but to help them become what God intended for them to be: people who understand they are created in the image of God with the gifts and abilities to support their families and change the world around them. This happens in relationally focused ministries more than in impersonal, product focused ministries.
- D. Most help that is given both here and in other countries is giving momentary relief, when what is really needed is longer term help to get them able to care for themselves.
- E. Three kinds of help are:
  1. Relief – the urgent and temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering.
  2. Rehabilitation – Begins right after relief. Seeks to restore people to positive elements of pre-crisis conditions.

3. Development – The process of ongoing change that moves people to be better able to work and support themselves, their families and others with the fruit of their work.
- F. One of the biggest mistakes American churches make is in giving relief in situations where rehabilitation or development is the appropriate action. Most of the time what is really needed is rehabilitation and development.
  - G. It may be better for your church to focus on development rather than relief; ministering intensely over time to a few people, rather than superficially and quickly to many people.
  - H. No more than 10% of your benevolent fund should be used for relief work, with the other 90% for development.
  - I. A group of people from a church can work together, using their different gifts and resources to help a few people to be rehabilitated. This kind of personal involvement creates close relationships that make it more possible to convert people. If this happens, it will help them in every aspect of their life.
  - J. There are many resources available to help people.
    1. If we are going to help people, we need to have a list of all of these resources.
    2. E.g. Red Cross, Salvation Army, Carpenter’s Church, Promise Keepers, etc.
    3. Can dial 211 for information about available help.
    4. Many churches have active programs. Churches of Christ include Broadway, Southplains, Vandelia and Monterey.

### III. Ways we can help the needy.

- A. Relief
  1. Give to people who have a fire or other disaster.
  2. Help in disasters anyway in the world.
- B. Form a group to work together. Choose one family at a time to help.
- C. Volunteer at the Food Pantry, Salvation Army, etc..
- D. Contribute to agencies that help the needy: Red Cross, brotherhood agencies that help the needy such as Helping Hands International.

### Conclusion

- A. In the lessons on fishers of men we noted that we need to serve people to be able to convert some.
- B. We don’t help people just to convert them, but because we have compassion on them and because it is what Jesus would do.
- C. However, it is a good way to convert people, which is even more important.

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**  
**A Fresh Look at Discipleship**  
**Lesson 12 – Helping the Homeless**

Introduction

- A. We have been talking about helping the poor and needy. We looked at many Scriptures that teach that disciples should have compassion on the poor and help them. Matt. 25:31-46.
  - B. There is probably no more terrible kind of poverty than being homeless.
    - 1. Imagine sleeping on the streets in the winter.
    - 2. Imagine having no place in the summer to get in out of the heat.
    - 3. Imagine having no place to go to the bathroom or take a bath.
    - 4. Imagine having no place to wash your clothes or even to keep your clothes.
    - 5. Imagine having to beg for food or depend on hand outs from charity groups.
    - 6. Imagine having children and living on the street.
  - C. Charles in Brazil.
    - 1. As a teenager lived on the street with his father, mother and two brothers.
    - 2. Saw his father murdered by other homeless people.
    - 3. Watched his girlfriend die on the streets without medical treatment.
    - 4. Had to care for his mentally challenged mother and brother.
    - 5. Yet he learned to speak 7 languages, even though he could not read or write.
    - 6. He was converted in a campaign and was the sweetest, most caring and helpful young man you could hope to meet.
    - 7. The church helped him to learn to read and write and to get an education.
    - 8. That is an example of how some homeless people can be helped.
  - D. What if you were homeless?
    - 1. The second greatest command is to love our neighbor as ourself.
    - 2. If you were homeless, wouldn't you want someone to help you?
    - 3. By the same token we should have compassion on the homeless and do everything we can to help them.
- I. Who are the homeless?
- A. Most people think they are drug addicts, alcoholics, ex-convicts or people with mental problems, or hoboes who don't want to work.
  - B. A lot of them are not sleeping on the street, but sharing a home with another family or staying with relatives.
  - C. Many of them are simply people who lost their homes through foreclosure or lost their jobs or became physically unable to work.
  - D. However, research shows that most of them are people who don't earn enough money to afford to pay rent, utilities, etc..
  - D. Families made up more than a third of homeless people – all but a small percentage single parent families.
  - E. I went out with Justin and several others to feed a meal to the homeless, and of 23 people helped, none of them were the typical stereotype of homeless people.
  - F. I visited the Carpenter's Church and had the same impression of the people who were there.
  - G. Estimates are that there are about 750 homeless people living on the streets of Lubbock, plus another 1,000 staying with other people because they do not have a home.
- II. Imagine being homeless and trying to find a job.
- A. No address to give when you apply.
  - B. In most cases no car to get about and look for work or to go to work if hired.

- C. No place to take a bath, iron their clothes and get ready for an interview.
- D. Most homeless people want to work and support themselves and their families, but for reasons mentioned just are not able.
- E. They need help to get out of the vicious cycle of poverty and homelessness.

### III. What is being done to help the homeless in Lubbock?

- A. The Salvation Army provides a place for people to stay at night, but they must leave early in the morning and not return until night. They also cannot stay more than 3 nights unless they meet a list of requirements, which many cannot meet.
- B. The Carpenter's Church (a ministry of the Broadway Church of Christ) was keeping up to 80 homeless people at night for two years in the Broadway Church building, but had to give it up because their facilities were not adequate. They hope to have a facility to return to offering that help next year. In the meantime they offer a place where homeless people can stay during the day. They invite members of the church to come and spend time just "hanging out" with the homeless people during the day.
- C. There are numerous groups that provide food for the homeless. There are 5 meals per day available to them. So there is not a need for more food. Nor for coats and sleeping bags during the winter.
- D. There are many agencies that provide help for the homeless. Sometimes what the homeless need is to be put in touch with the proper agencies.
- E. What is needed most is to create relationships with a few homeless people who have the potential of being helped and help them with all of their needs, getting a job, getting a car, getting a house, and child care while they are working. This is something churches can do.

### IV. What the city of Lubbock has done about the problem of homelessness..

- A. The City Council recently considered the problem of homelessness. They concluded that it was not their problem, but rather should be taken care of by the "private sector", such as churches and other charities.
- B. They passed a law forbidding the homeless from staying downtown from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. Some groups from the "private sector" set up a "tent city" where they could stay. However, the location was too close to downtown and too visible, so they had to leave there and set up on land donated by a private organization with bath rooms, showers, kitchen, etc.. After a while they were told they had to leave there because of complaints from some businesses nearby. The owner of the land would have to pay a fine of \$2000 per day if they did not move out within a month.
- B. When a 94 year old man and his wife were feeding from 55 to 70 homeless people in a park, the city health department told them they would have to cease unless they got a permit and prepared the food in an approved kitchen. Later they modified it a bit, but still required them to meet certain rules that made it more difficult.
- C. So the city said they would not do anything about it, but the "private sector" would have to take care of the homeless. But when the "private sector" tried to do it, the city would not allow it.
- C. Yet the city built a very expensive state of the arts facility to care for stray animals. So they felt it was their problem to care for homeless animals, but not of homeless people.

### II. What could be done by the city of Lubbock.

- A. In San Antonio they had a huge problem with the homeless. Their solution was to hire a consultant who had studied the problem of homelessness in cities all over the country to help them develop a program. They built a huge center called the "Haven of Hope" that had everything that was needed to help the homeless, whether their problem was addiction,

mental problems, lack of a job, lack of a house, etc. etc. etc.. All the agencies, churches and other charitable organs of the city worked together in this facility. Laws were made forbidding any group to feed or care for the homeless in any other way. The result was that they have resolved the problem of homeless people on the streets and helped more than a fourth of the people to get back to a normal life with a job, a house etc..

- D. St. Petersburg, Florida, a city of only 250,000 people, struggled with one of the worst problems of homelessness in the country.
  - 1. They hired the same consultant who resolved the problem of homelessness in San Antonio to help them. The consultant, a one time aid to President George H.W. Bush, said “What was incredible to me was how much money was being spent, how much energy was being spent, and there was no success”.
  - 2. They build a sprawling, one-stop complex where people could be housed, fed and start to get help with mental illness, addictions and the other problems that put them on the street.
  - 3. They passed a law against homeless people staying on the streets of the city, and if any were caught, they were taken to the center to be rehabilitated.
  - 4. Now all that has changed.
- E. So there is a solution for the problem in Lubbock.
  - 1. If the city government would assume its responsibility to do what these cities have done the problem of homelessness could be resolved.
  - 2. I believe we need to use our democratic process to force the city government to do that, and thereby we could all work together to resolve the problem of homelessness.
- F. Until that happens, we can help the homeless.
  - 1. By volunteering to help the Carpenter’s Church.
  - 2. By “hanging out” with the homeless at Carpenter’s Church.
  - 3. By contributing to them and other agencies who help the homeless.
  - 4. By adopting one or two families of homeless people and working as a team to rehabilitate them.

### III. What Sunset could do.

- A. The Freedom Church in Austin (a ministry of the Westover Hills Church) is baptizing 3 or 4 homeless people a week by ministering to them.
- B. The Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth.
  - 1. When their building was condemned, they chose to build a building in the same decaying area and minister to the people of that area.
  - 2. They struggled for many years, not really ministering to the area, and almost died.
  - 3. Then they began a dynamic outreach to the community, helping with many different kinds of needs.
  - 4. Now they are having about 400 in attendance, including many converted in their area, but also many other dedicated disciples from other areas who want to be a part of the dynamic outreach they have in that church.
- C. The Church of the Savior in Houston.
  - 1. They required every member to sign a statement that said, “I commit myself totally and without reservation unto Jesus Christ as Lord, promising to give him a practical priority in all of my affairs. I will seek first the kingdom of God”.
  - 2. With that kind of commitment they began to reach out to the poor and needy like Jesus did. As a result they came to be know as “The people who care”.
  - 3. Because of that they had tremendous growth and soon became the largest church in Houston.

- D. The Rosemont church in Fort Worth.
1. It had been a large and thriving church, but was in an area where the demographics were changing and it was dying and almost dead.
  2. They decided to donate the building to be used for an Hispanic ministry.
  3. Continent of Great Cities Ministry sent a team of 4 families to work full time to plant a new Hispanic church there.
  4. In the first year they had 100 baptisms, and their attendance after 3 years is 400.
  5. Sunset had two chances to start a Hispanic ministry in the last several years, but turned them both down.
  6. We need to start a dynamic work with the Hispanic population all around us.
- E. Sunset is in a decaying neighborhood, and the tendency will be for us to continue declining unless we do something dramatically different.
1. We need to start a dynamic outreach to the people in our part of town, as well as to the poor and needy and homeless, to really meet their needs and convert them to Christ.
  2. We need to start a dynamic outreach to the Hispanic people in our community and in small towns all over west Texas that are becoming more and more Hispanic. Who better to do that than the Sunset Congregation with SIBI. In the last several years Sunset has had two great opportunities to begin Hispanic ministries, but our leadership refused to accept them. That was a great mistake and we need to change it.
  3. What will we do? Gradually dwindle away as so many other churches in communities like ours have done, or become a band of dedicated disciples doing what Jesus would do and as a result having great growth.

## **What would Jesus do?**

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO ?

### Lesson 13 – No Place to Lay His Head

#### Introduction

- A. What would Jesus do if he were in my place?
- B. We are called to be disciples – to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. To give up our life to gain eternal life.
- C. The preacher in the book “In His Steps” based this on I Peter 2:21 – to follow in his steps of suffering.
- D. But we are not very good at following Jesus’ example of self denial, sacrifice and suffering, and laying down his life for others.
- E. We like our easy, comfortable lives. We are so rich, with beautiful homes and cars, closets full of clothes and kitchens full of food. We have vacation vehicles, go on expensive vacations and cruises, eat regularly at expensive restaurants, go to expensive entertainment, buy expensive toys for our kids and grand kids.
- F. We Americans are incredibly rich.
  - 1. The average American lives on more than \$90.00 a day.
  - 2. One billion people in the world live on less than \$1.00 a day.
  - 3. 2.6 billion people (40% of the world’s population) live on less than \$2.00 per day.
  - 4. What is considered the poverty level here is rich in most parts of the world.
  - 5. We are richer than most people in the world and than any country has been in history.
  - 6. Even here in Lubbock we are surrounded by thousands of poor and even homeless people, not to mention all the poor and starving in other nations of the world.

#### I. What Jesus Did

- A. Philippians 2:5-11 He emptied himself and came to earth to lay down his life.
  - 1. He left his riches and glory in heaven to come to earth and save us.
  - 2. The cross was not the only great suffering he endured. Leaving his father was another.
  - 3. He could have been born in a palace to a king, but chose to be born in a stable to a poor family in a poor, little country.
  - 4. 2 Corinthians 8:9 “Though he was rich, he became poor for us” that we might be rich.
  - 5. During his ministry he had no home. He was often hungry and thirsty. His only earthly possessions were the clothes on his back. He was crucified on a Roman cross as the worst of criminals and buried in a borrowed tomb.
  - 6. Luke 9:58 “And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but **the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**”
  - 7. Song: “If That Isn’t Love”.
  - 8. In Philippians 2:3 Paul started the passage by saying “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”. So what would Jesus do about the poor and suffering around us and around the world.

#### II. I believe Jesus in our place would live a frugal and sacrificial life to be able to give to the poor and needy.

- A. Dave Ramsey said, “Live like no one else so you can **live** like no one else. I believe Jesus would say, “Live like no one else so you can **give** like no one else.
- B. In all fairness to Dave Ramsey, he said a lot about getting out of debt so we can give more, and that is one reason why the elders wanted us to do the course. But I did not see the emphasis on sacrifice and self denial as a disciple.
- C. Scripture says a lot about the danger of money and wealth.

1. Matthew 6:19-21 says “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also.”
2. Matthew 6:24 says, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
3. Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
4. James 5:1-6 The rich condemned. And we are rich.
5. James 2:5 God chose the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom.
6. Matthew 19:23-24 The rich young ruler
  - a. His riches kept him from following Jesus.
  - b. Jesus said, “How hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.....”
7. I Timothy 6:6-11 The danger of riches.
  - a. Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
  - b. V. 17-19 What the rich should do.
8. I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.....

### III. We need to give liberally to the poor and needy.

- A. Luke 12:33-34 “Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
- B. Because we are so rich, if we lived sacrificial and frugal lives, we could help the poor and needy much more.
- C. John Rockefeller was very rich, but his doctors told him he was dying. He decided to do what he had never done and give. He gave great quantities to the needy. And he got well.
- D. Fritz Krisler was a famous musician who gave much to the needy. He once said, “I never eat at expensive restaurants or buy expensive clothes or go to expensive entertainment, because it would mean that much food, clothing and other help that poor and needy people would not have”.

### Conclusion: So what would Jesus do?

- A. On my list, the first 4 items are:
  1. Be a fisher of men here in Lubbock.
  2. Help the poor and needy here in Lubbock and elsewhere.
  3. Help the homeless here in Lubbock.
  4. **Live** like no one else so I can **give** like no one else.
- B. That is my list, and I believe these are things all disciples need to do. But you need to make your own list and do what you believe Jesus would do in your place.
- C. For all of us it will demand following in Jesus’ steps of suffering, sacrifice and self denial, as I Peter 2:21 says, and being real disciples of Jesus who deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus, imitating him and doing what he did.
- D. Imagine what would happen if all of us did that.
  1. It would transform our lives, transform this church and transform this city.
  2. We would be winning hundreds of souls and making them real disciples who would do the same.
  3. We would be setting up programs to help the needy, feed the hungry and care for the homeless.
  4. We would become know as a people who really care for the poor and hurting and lost, like the Church of the Savior in Houston.
- E. End of the book, “In His Steps”.