

Example of Excellence!



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There is no argument—we are *not* Jesus, but we *are* to follow His example of *faith* in the Father and *obedience* to the Word. The *life of Christ* is the example of doing the *will of God*—and those 1 John 2:17 “*That doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*” It is the promise of His eternal Kingdom. The life of Christ is an *example of excellence* for everyone!

1 Corinthians 11:1 “*Be ye followers of me [my example; imitate me], even as I also am of Christ.*” Imitate His humble life of faith in God. Philippians 2:5 “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*” Our attitude toward God; toward everyone and everything, is to follow the example of Christ. 1 John 2:6 “*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*”

From the beginning, the *Word was God* John 1:1 which John 1:14 “*Was made flesh, and dwelt among us*”—that is the life of Christ we are to emulate. Jesus was the *Word of God* because He lived up to the Words in His *Sermon on the Mount!*

The safest plan to follow in this dangerous world today is *the life of Christ*—we will never go wrong in following His *example of excellence* and His faith in God. Jesus set that example for *our benefit—not* for His. He set this example

Romans 5:8 “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*”—that is an expression of *perfect and divine love*.

Jesus did *everything* as an *example* for us to follow. Philippians 2:6-7 “*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation.*” That is where God wants *us* to be—and *that* is where He will lead *us* to be—to not desire *any* attention nor have *any* notable reputation—to not be concerned what the *world* thinks of us, but all concern what *God* thinks of us. Philippians 2:3 “*In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*”

It is the place where *love for the world* is removed—where all *reputation, pride, conceit, and self-importance* is gone. Wanting to be *in style* to impress those *in the world*, is taken *out* of our heart. In the first century, some John 12:43 “*Loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*” Fashion designers are in it for the *money*—and *millions* of people are enslaved to be in style with the latest designer clothing! That is *not our example*.

Jesus was *not* concerned about being in style—Philippians 2:7 “*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*” He came to *serve* and to *give* His life as a ransom to free us from bondage and enslavement to the styles and desires of the world. *That* is the example of excellence He set for us!

God has a plan for us that is much different from the world’s plan. God’s plan is that we learn and grow spiritually until we have the attitude of His Son Philippians 2:5. When the apostle 1 Corinthians 13:11 “*Was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*”

We are to put away worldly things and ideas; eliminate unscriptural attitudes; and all desire for

interests that have no value or spiritual benefit. The list could be long!

The example of Christ is that we should gladly do anything for anyone—there is to be *no limit* of service to others. Just think how gladly we *do* things for those we love. 1 John 3:16 “*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*”

God, through His Son Jesus, created everything. John 1:3 “*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*” Jesus said Matthew 28:18 “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*”—because He gave His life on the Cross to obey His Father in Heaven—we can be saved from the flames. It was the *worst* kind of death—that is how far He went in having no reputation! That is the *example of excellence* we are to follow—wanting *no reputation!*

The *King of kings* became the *servant* of everyone—to save anyone in the world from death and destruction—that is; if they *want* to be saved! Jesus humbled Himself Philippians 2:9-11 “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

When we decide to have God teach us every day and all through the day—we will know *where* to draw a *scriptural line* with any situation or any decision we have to make. Whatever we *say, or do, or decide, it must* be done in the mighty Name of Jesus—*He* is the power in back of the Name.

The instructions are clear Philippians 2:14 “*Do all things without murmurings and disputings [complaining or arguing]: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in*

the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

As we live God’s Truth each day, the world can see a *living* example of the Christian life—it may be the *only Truth* they will ever see—we are the *light-bearer* for the Lord!

The *Sermon on the Mount* is a volume of God’s Truth for living the *Life of Christ*. The majority of church members today do not live according to that marvelous Sermon—but it is the *Truth of God* from the *Son of God*—and it includes a Paradise Kingdom, if the course is continued.

Ephesians 4:17 *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk [as the ungodly do], in the vanity [futility] of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened [minds closed], being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart [hardened their hearts against him].”*

Ephesians 4:20-24 *“But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old [self] which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new [self] which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Jesus taught that if someone stole something from us, we are to let them have it, and not try to get it back. *Everyone* has to obey that—if they want to be a child of God. It always *seems* better to give something away than have it *stolen* away, but the Word of God is clear teaching on this.

If anyone Matthew 5:40 would *“Take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.”* We have to meet that as the *Word* says to meet it. We are *not* to say or do one thing to get the article back—

which is much different from the response of the world—but meeting it right results in the *death of self* and is connected to the *example of Christ*.

It is a heart-searching thing to *allow* someone to rob us, and even if they take something from us again and we are aware of it, we are *not* to stop them from taking it, but to put the matter into God’s hands for *His* control and blessing and reward. Jesus gave us the example that we are to follow in such matters.

Judas Iscariot was in charge of the money box—but he was dishonest and deceitful. The disciples would buy food and pay expenses out of the money that came in. Jesus was aware of what Judas was doing with the money, but He still did not say anything or do anything to stop him.

The story goes John 12:1-3 *“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”*

Mary was preparing Jesus for the sacrifice He would make *for the world* by giving His life *on the cross*. After she did this John 12:4-8 *“One of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”*

Jesus knew that Judas was taking the money for himself, but He did not say or do anything to stop him—Jesus just said 7-8, *“Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the*

poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.”

Jesus let Judas handle their money for three and a half years, and never took the job away from him; never did anything to stop him from taking what he wanted. Allowing someone to do this and saying nothing, brings about the *death of self*. The financial reward for following this example of Jesus is of immense and eternal value.

It is like money given to the poor; or money borrowed from us and not given back; or the money we give when asked to donate. Every penny we lose to obey the Word, we are promised one-hundred pennies in return from God.

Anything given up for the Truth’s sake Mark 10:30 *“He shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”*

What a vast reward for giving up some *unrighteous mammon* to obey God’s *righteous Word*! It is God’s promise of *one-hundred dollars* for every dollar given to obey the Word.

If we want to *increase* our income, we just give a little *more* to the *poor*. Proverbs 19:17 *“He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.”* It is all part of following the *example of excellence* Jesus set for us!



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