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# WHAT WOULD JESUS HAVE ME DO?

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## INTRODUCTION

Since Jesus' primary advice to us about how we should live is "*Follow Me*," the best answer to what He wants us to do (in and with our lives) can be found by looking at what He did with His days on earth. His life-example is not as intimidating as we might suppose. Just as He did and taught nothing *on His own*, we can do nothing (that really counts for anything) *on our own* (see John 5:19; 30 and 15:4-5). As the Father sent Him into the world, so Jesus has sent us (John 17:18). Like Him, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit to do very particular things (Isaiah 61):

1. Preach good news to the afflicted—those who have been brought low by life.
2. Bind up the brokenhearted—those whose lives are fragmented and don't add up.
3. Deliver the captives—those stuck in or dominated by distorted thought patterns.
4. Comfort the mourning—those who grieve over what is lost or missing in their lives.

Jesus kept making clear that His audience-of-choice, the kinds of people He wanted most to speak with, were those in need of healing: *Jesus said, "It is not*

*those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). Over and over, He reached out to discouraged fishermen, outcast and shunned lepers, invalids, greedy tax collectors and run of the mill sinners (see Luke 5).*

Jesus had an indiscriminate ministry of mercy and good to everyone (except the religious proud):

*"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him." Acts 10:38*

He understood our true condition—that we are all frayed in our souls, all flung down and about like discarded rags: people without hope, sheep without shepherds to care for and about us. Seeing even beyond our human condition of hurt and brokenness, Jesus knew the primary cause of everything wrong in the world. That is why, more than for any other purpose, Jesus came into the world to take away sin.

*"But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;" Romans 3:21-24*

*"For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all." Romans 11:32*

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him." John 3:16-17*

Another of the most obvious, yet most overlooked doings of Jesus on earth was calling, nurturing and sending disciples to do to others what He had done to them. From among the many, He chose a few:

*"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you." John 15:16*

## **EXERCISING GOD'S OPTIONS**

Bottom line, Jesus simply told people about what God wanted to do for them; and He demonstrated God's heart by actually doing things for people in God's Name. God loves people; He really wants to do things for them, and He wants to use us as His agents on earth. Recognizing that we will not be as good as we would like to be at doing what He would like us to do, what simple patterns of ministry can we follow?

Remember the passion of God's heart; that His whole being is filled with love and compassion and forgiveness for people.

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*

*"But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..." Titus 3:4-5*

*"And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love..." 1 John 4:16a*

- Tell about God's life-transforming power—that He has the authority to override any life circumstance.

*"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" Matthew 10:7*

- Share about God's eternal truth—that His word, written so long ago, has present-day applicability to life.

*"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all*

the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

- Offer prayer to introduce God’s intervening touch—that He heals physical illness and sets people free from spiritually caused torments of the mind or heart.

*“And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”* Matthew 10:1

- Invite and nurture others in God’s work—the harvest fields are ready right now for all of His children to do other people what has been done for them.