

He Left Us An Example

Introduction

1. There is great power in an example - either good or bad. The population of heaven will be mightily increased by the fine examples of Christian living that are being set by noble Christians.
2. On the other hand, many dear souls are led down to hell by the bad examples which have been set before them.
 - A. some bad examples have been set by professing Christians.
3. We should be thankful for the wonderful example of Jesus.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ **also suffered** for us, leaving us an example, that you should **follow His steps**:

4. In each circumstance of life we would do well to ask ourselves this question:
 - A. **WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?** Did He set an example for this particular situation?

An Example of Humility

1. **Jesus was the very personification of humility.**
 - A. **Many of our troubles today are caused by a lack of genuine and sincere humility.**
 - B. **Some seem even "proud" of their humility.**

Philippians 2:8 And being found in **appearance** as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

2. **The humility of Jesus led Him to the death on the cross.**
Acts 8:32-33
3. **It will be a happy day for us when we follow this perfect example of humility.**

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do **justly**, To **love mercy**, And to **walk humbly** with your God?

4. **When the Lord requires something of us, we cannot afford to pass it lightly by.**
 - A. **The Lord requires us to walk humbly with him; if we do not - we cannot walk with the Lord at all!**

An Example of Patience

1. How patient Christ was!

1 Peter 2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

2. How much better off we would be if we would practice those things!

A. Certainly if Jesus entrusted Himself to the righteous judge - so should we!

3. Too often patience is not sufficiently developed in us.

A. We are to run with patience the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

B. It will take patience to run the race. The trying of our faith produces patience.

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

C. The Lord wants us to be patient towards all men.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, **be patient with all.**

4. This patience will include members of our family, brethren, and with lost souls. Jesus had this virtue - so should we.

An Example of Work

- 1. When we think of Jesus we think of work.**
 - A. He knew the value of time - many of us do not.**
 - (1) He knew that the time was short in which he had to work.**

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

- 2. Only the Lord knows how soon the night of death may overtake us.**
 - A. We should make our work well done - Nothing brings greater happiness than work well done.**
- 3. After a days work - we can enjoy rest.**
 - A. The faithful Christian goes home to rest after his life's work is done.**

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works **follow them.**"

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

- 4. Our salvation is something that must be worked out.**
 - A. This life is the time in which it must be done.**
 - B. May we emulate the Lord in the example of work which he set.**

An Example of Courage

1. **We certainly do not think of our Lord as a compromiser or a weakling. He was anything but.**
 - A. **He had courage to stand up to the religious leaders of his day and denounce in the most scathing terms their hypocrisy!**
Matthew 23:13-33
2. **Do these words sound like the words of a “compromiser”, a “backslapper?”**
3. **We talk about the "spirit of Christ". We must realize that He had just as much of the Spirit when he was denouncing sin and hypocrisy as at other times!**
4. **We need more of this courageous preaching, teaching, and admonishing today.**
 - A. **Some omit the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith - but are quick to point out the trivial!**
 - B. **Christians today do not always display the courage that we should - STAND UP FOR JESUS!**
5. **We can thank Jesus for such a fine example of courage and we need to develop the same trait.**

Conclusion

1. **Jesus is our great example. An example of:**
 - A. **Humility, Patience, Work, and Courage.**
2. **As followers of Him we need to develop all these traits in our own lives because if we possess these we will be an active force for Jesus Christ!**

