



Jesus Our Model

Jesus is our model. Through walking & talking with Him and reading the Word, He becomes our Mentor. He gives us power and grace to live like He did. Relationship with our Lord Jesus is dependent on our obedience to His revealed will.

I've had many mentors, but only one model. Joy Dawson has been one of my mentors through listening to her, reading her books, having fellowship and praying with her. I encourage you to read her books, especially *Jesus, The Model: The Plumb Line for Christian Living*.

Jesus is our role model, our older Brother, and we want to become more like Him.

For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. Matt 12:50

Jesus was submitted to His Father and did His will. One of His first public acts of submitting to His Father was not in performing miracles. It was baptism through immersion.

A few years ago, I was baptizing some young people. I remember standing in the pool, and saying to Jesus "Why did You have to be baptized?" He responded, "It was My commitment to the Father to go through My death and resurrection."

Not only was Jesus baptized in obedience to the Father, but the Holy Spirit descended on Him to empower Him to do miracles, raise the dead, and have complete authority over the enemy.

*When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.
And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven: "You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased."* Luke 3:21-22

Jesus showed His humility by being baptized with many people.

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Phil 2:5-8*

Jesus spent all night in prayer before He announced who the Father had chosen to be the first twelve disciples. He spent many of His nights alone with the Father for fellowship, and His directions for ministry.

... Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16

Many Christian activities are about people's agendas, and not so much about waiting on God. In Matthew 17: 4 & 5, Peter had good suggestions, but God spoke.

*Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here.
If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."
While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them,
and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love;
with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matt 17: 4-5*

If we are not being mentored by Jesus, we are giving a distorted view of Him to the world. We need new revelations of Jesus today.

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life
and godliness through our knowledge of Him
who called us by His own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3; see also verses 4-10*

*But if anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in Him.
This is how we know we are in Him:
Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5-6*

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb 12:2-3*

We should only look to others as much as they look to Jesus. The Lord Jesus lived under a deep consciousness of having a mission from the Father. After He was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him. He knew the Holy Spirit would give Him all that He needed.

Jesus was open and forthright. He hated hypocrisy in any form, and especially with religious leaders.

Knowing His Father, and walking in obedience to Him, was the motive and power for all He did.

*Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself;
He can do only what He sees His Father doing,
because whatever the Father does the Son also does.
For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.
By myself I can do nothing;
I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just,
for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. John 5:19, 20a, 30*

*So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be,
and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.
The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. John 8:28-29*

*For I did not speak of My own accord but the Father who sent Me
commanded Me what to say and how to say it. John 12:49*

Becoming like Jesus takes time. It's similar to a metamorphosis from a caterpillar to a butterfly. The caterpillar is hidden away in a chrysalis. We are hidden away and abiding in God's love. In God's perfect timing, we emerge as a beautiful piece of His handiwork. We no longer conform to the pattern of this world, our minds are renewed, and we are transformed. Then we are able to test and approve what the perfect will of God is.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom 12: 1-2

The word "be transformed" means metamorphosis.

The closer we get to Jesus, the more we realize how much more we need to be changed into His likeness. Jesus showed us how to live and how to die.

We are here on earth to represent Jesus by asking the Holy Spirit, "What would Jesus do? What would Jesus say? How would He respond?" He gave us many examples in the Bible of how He responded in life's situations.

Jesus' life was a life of communicating with His Father. We must be a people who walk and talk with Him, so we will be like Him. Jesus was an example of how man should live in this world. We live as if Jesus were always present.

To have spiritual authority, we must live by the same principles that Jesus lived. Everything He did was with authority, because He always had the Father's approval. So often we live according to our feelings of self-pity, fear, unbelief, etc. and don't accomplish our Father's will.

You can say and do your own thing with zeal, fervor and originality of thought. You can back it all up with Scripture. You can motivate people to follow you with enthusiasm and excitement. And you can even ask God to bless your efforts. Yet you will never function with true spiritual authority unless it is done in obedience to Him. We're not here to bless people. We're here to bless God through our obedience.

Here is a situation that happened on July 2, 1995 at the final meeting at Whistler Mountain in British Columbia, Canada. This meeting was facilitated by David Demian, who is also one of my mentors.

Five rich days were coming to an end. It was 10 am Sunday morning when more than 2,200 of us met expectantly for our final time of worship and rejoicing in God's presence, grateful for all that He had done among us over the previous four days.

However, for some reason on that final morning, there was a 'flatness' in our attempts to reach the heights of praise and worship that we had come to expect. David, being led by the Spirit of God, called a pause and a young boy of 12 was led forward to present a word that he felt had come from the Lord. He shared it with his mother first who then brought the boy to David to discern if the message was for all of us. It was, and he spoke clearly and simply that this Gathering would start little 'spiritual fires' across Canada. It was just what we needed to hear.

Then David asked the whole assembly of people—many of whom were sitting on the floor—to remain in total silence, and to simply wait upon the Lord for what He might say to each person. Well, silence 'in church' is not easy. There were a couple of little attempts from the middle of the crowd at getting something going, but both quickly fizzled back into silence.

We all sat in silence for 40 minutes. Then David came to the group of elders who were sitting together at the front and said, "I believe the Lord is saying to us, 'You may continue like this and you will be blessed. But if you stop now, dismiss the people and end the Gathering, *I will be blessed.*'" None of us had experienced anything like this before, but we soon nodded out assent. It was only 11am and we had all thought that we would conclude sometime past noon and have a 'proper' dismissal.

David stood and addressed the waiting throng. He simply repeated what he had said to the elders. And then he dismissed everyone. No prayer. No announcements. No hype for a possible future event. Nothing. For about two minutes hardly anyone moved. Shock was written on many faces . . . "Is this the way to end a meeting?"

Evidently it was. This became the first of many Gatherings; for a few years in BC, then right across Canada, and now global.

Of course, the priority of our hearts is to bless God first, then others. Being in His presence is always to bless Him. We must always remember that we are here to bless God and walk in obedience to Him.

Listening to God's voice, and being obedient, can literally save your life.

*But whoever listens to Me will live in safety
And be at ease, without fear of harm. Prov 1:33*

We must abide in Him (John 15:1-8) . . . apart from Jesus you can do nothing (v5).

Jesus was not self-conscious, He was God-conscious.

I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. John 17:4

Jesus loves, intercedes, lays down His life, weeps and gets personally involved. He is a servant and doesn't lord it over others. He is humble, childlike, uses no force, and has no blind ambition. He looks beyond the faults to see the needs. Jesus is Godly, and He hates sin. He was obedient to the point of death.

*I have set you an example,
that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:15*

There are only a few people that you can say are truly Christ-like according to the Word because so few are willing to pay the incredible price. Our only purpose in life is to represent Jesus, to **hear** His voice, to have **faith** to believe what He says, and to **be obedient**.

Jesus is to be lifted up and we are to have . . . *sincere and pure devotion to Christ* (2 Cor 11:3).

As we seek to exalt and lift up Jesus, the Holy Spirit continues to establish spiritual unity and racial harmony. It is to God's glory that we can be different & diverse, and yet be one with each other. We are the body of Christ (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:12-26). He is the Head. If we are all listening to Him there will be unity, and Jesus' prayers will be answered (John 17:20-23).

I recall a time when I was in New Zealand with my Maori brother, Monte Ohia, at a morai. The Maori women had just called us into the meeting place; women sitting on the floor, and men on the chairs. They started to speak and share their song. It was an amazing experience. Then Monte unexpectedly said, "Donna is here and I want her to give a speech." And right away, I asked, "God, what do I say?" He reminded me of Acts 10:34-35.

*Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that
God does not show favoritism
but accepts men from every nation
who fear him and do what is right. Act 10:34-35*

It was very unusual for a white woman to speak. I shared that we are all equal at the foot of the cross, and that we all have different places in the body of Christ. Coming from Canada, I needed them to walk with our First Nations people. When my son-in-law, who is Samoan, came to Canada, the First Nations people said, "It is not the white people coming with their religion, but our cousins coming with the Good News." We need to recognize each other's giftings so that we can have unity, leaving all our hurts and pains at the foot of the Cross. Then will Jesus' prayers in John 17 be answered. Since then, the Maori people have come.

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message,
that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You.
May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
I have given them the glory that You gave Me,
that they may be one as We are one: I in them and You in Me.
May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You
sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. John 17:20-23*

Jesus taught us how to pray through another powerful prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Our unity is also based on seeing His Kingdom come, His will being done. His Kingdom *is not a matter of talk but of power* (1 Cor 4:20) . . . *and not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit* (Rom 14:17).

*But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and
all these things will be given to you as well. Matt 6:33*

God loves us to wait on Him and to share with Him; not out of duty, but out of relationship. The all-knowing, all-powerful God wants relationship with you and me - that is what He created us for! His deepest desire is to have communion with His children who are willing to do what He says and trust Him. He calls us gently but persistently.

One of the Holy Spirit's main functions is to reproduce the life of Jesus Christ through us. We can love what He loves, and hate what He hates, respond how He would respond, and not react.

*Delight yourself in the Lord,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in Him and He will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Psalm 37: 4*

There are many things that Jesus asks us to do. The first commandment is to love God, and love others (Matt 22:37-38; John 15:12).

He asked us to be baptized as an outward confession of faith. Then He told us to go into all the world, and preach the Good News to all creation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mark 16:15-16; Matt 28:19).

Another thing He asked us to do is break bread together, and drink of a cup of wine in remembrance of His death and resurrection. Jesus said that as often as we do this, we remember Him (1 Cor 11:23-26; Luke 22:14-20).

APPLICATION

Have you been baptized?

Do you regularly take of the Bread and the Cup in remembrance of His death and resurrection?

Do you honestly believe God can live His life through you?

How often do you ask Jesus what to say or what to do?

Do you live your life according to the Word, or according to the voice of others?

What can you personally do to see unity in the Body of Christ and to see His Kingdom come?