

Seven Things Jesus Did This Week – and How We Can Do Them Too

By Karon Phillips 2020

More than 2000 years ago, this week was one of timeless truths, unbelievable horror and ultimate joy for the followers of Christ. While certainly not a complete list, here's seven ways Jesus chose to spend His last human days on earth – continuing to be our model to imitate and teaching us how to live the very best lives we can. [taken from John 12:12 – 20:25]



1. Serve

Jesus told His disciples that He came to serve, and it was never more evident than when He washed their feet: “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” What matters isn’t our station or position but our spirit of humility (like He displayed) - that means everything. His first lesson for His disciples wasn’t about military might or political will – it was about one-to-one service. Jesus requests humble followers with a persistent spirit and attitude of giving so we can accurately reflect Him to those in front of us, whoever they are.

2. Love

“Love one another as I have loved you” Jesus tells us – and He gives us and His disciples an option and a promise. If you love Me, obey Me – and My Father will love you and come to make His home with you, He tells us. Jesus equates love with obedience because, like serving, obedience means to learn from an attitude of humility – to put into practice what Jesus teaches us. Our lives lived out in this way – or not – is how people know us. Those around us know what’s in our hearts (love for Jesus) because of how they see us responding to our world (obeying His commands). Love is an action verb.

3. Work

Jesus tells us plainly that useless, disobedient branches get cut off the tree, burned and forgotten. Branches that accept life from the tree and give it out in fruit are molded more firmly and intricately into stronger and more productive branches – a testament of their obedience they’re blessed to live out in ways that reflect the tree’s mercy, beauty and generosity. If we accept true life from Jesus, we can do whatever God puts before us – otherwise, we can’t, because the good work we accomplish and fruit we bear comes out of our love for (obedience to) Him and love for (service to) others. As chosen and appointed, we’re partners with Jesus, able to do our work in His name.

4.Pray

Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples and for all believers. Again, He set for us another example of communication with God. Jesus prayed that through His life people would know God – we can pray every day that whatever we do gives people a glimpse of God and they see through us to know Him. Jesus prayed that He was a good teacher to His followers and that God would protect them and help them grow more like Him every day – we can pray that we are an example to those closest to us because they will reflect us to the rest of the world. Jesus prayed that everyone would feel the love of God and be guided by their belief in Jesus in everything they do – we can pray for courage and grace to reach out to everyone with the love of God so that our faith guides us all.

5.Act

Peter wanted to protect Jesus when Judas and the soldiers came to arrest Him, but Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. Any interference might have delayed or deterred Jesus' efforts to carry out God's plan, so despite knowing that He could summon protective angels or accept ready help from those devoted to Him, Jesus kept His focus. Every act was designed and done to further the plan. Whether others want to help or hinder us, God simply says keep our focus.

6.Care

On the cross, beaten and bloody, Jesus was still showing us how to love one another. He asked His mother Mary and His disciple John to look after each other, and from that time on, John "took her into his home." Jesus came to prove God's love for us all – and to charge us with following His example. Look at the person next to you as someone who becomes family because of the way you take care of each other – everyone united in God's love and grace becomes the family Jesus made at the foot of the cross.

7.Trust

Three years of ministry culminated in a horrifying death on a jagged hill that caused the human side of Jesus to feel all the pain and fear a desperate world could inflict on Him. He knew the torture and abandonment He felt would end while His purpose and devotion would not. "It is finished," He said and "bowed His head and gave up His spirit." It was a final human act of complete trust in God and His grace. It's a daily surrender we make when we bow our heads and give our spirit to God in unshakable trust no matter the circumstances because we know He's there just as quickly for us as He was there for Jesus. Trust given is trust rewarded.

Happiest Easter Blessings to you all . . . thank you for reading.

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