

Walking In Wisdom Series: 6

What Would Jesus Do?

Proverbs

We finished in my last session talking about treasuring the Word of God and one of the Scriptures we looked at was this one:

“...my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.” Psalm 119.161-162

There is something about David that was different from others mentioned in the Bible – He touched on it in that psalm, that is his great love for the word of God and the importance he placed on inclining his ear to what God had to say.

David treasured the word of God. Do we treasure the word of God like David did? Do we earnestly seek after it, search it out?

We are going to come back to David and look at some instances from his life where he treasured the word of God. But first, we are going to go to the gospels and look at Jesus.

Some time ago, a man called Charles Sheldon wrote a book called “In His Steps” it was a best selling book and it is from this book we get the now popular question “What Would Jesus Do?” or WWJD. Many people have used this question as a means for direction as they seek out wisdom.

Then others have taken some things that Jesus did and built doctrines on them perhaps without regard for other things. Let me give you some examples:

- In John 13 we read that Jesus washed His disciples feet. Is this a practice that believers are meant to adopt just because Jesus did it? I don't think so – this was part of the culture and custom and was observed at that time. Yet there are churches that have built a whole doctrine over foot washing.
- Another custom prevalent at the time of Jesus was the segregation of men and women in the synagogue – this spilled over into the church. Paul wrote that 'women should keep silence'. Many have taken this verse of Scripture and built a doctrine around it which says women can't do anything in the church. This was sad by Paul because of the segregation and it wasn't good for the women to call out during the service to their husbands.
- The same is true when it comes to things like evangelism or praying for the sick. There are many who follow patterns and 'steps' because Jesus did them. Again they build doctrines and set up traditions that say 'this is the way it's done..' because Jesus did it that way.

So What Would Jesus Do? Let's look at the Scriptures....

We are going to examine and compare some scriptures that show us what Jesus did when some blind people came to Him for healing.

In **John 9.6-7** we read of a man that was born blind.

“When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.”

Everytime we pray for a blind person are we to make a clay and rub their eyes because that's what Jesus did? Is the clay key to the healing? On this occasion maybe, but not necessarily.

The blind man at Bethsaida had a similar experience but there were some differences.

Mark 8.23-25 “So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly”.

This time Jesus didn't make a clay He just spat on his eyes and laid His hands on him. Because this is the second time Jesus used spit to heal the blind – the key must be the spit. Not necessarily – don't make this a doctrine.

Where's the spit?

In Galilee, two blind men came to Jesus.

Matthew 9.28-30 “And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened.....”

This throws a spanner in the doctrine of the spit – where is it? Why didn't Jesus spit on them? He didn't follow the pattern He just touched their eyes and asked them if they believed. Maybe the key isn't spitting maybe it's touching the eyes? Not necessarily..

Luke 18.40-43

Another blind man came to Jesus.

“So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God....”

Here Jesus gives a word of command – Receive your sight! No mention of spit, no clay, no touching the eyes. Why?

Jesus did not follow patterns – just because He did something one way didn't necessarily mean it was right to do the same thing on another occasion.

So What Would Jesus Do?

Jesus only did the things He heard from His Father.

“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me” John 5.30
(and also John 8.28-29)

Although not actually mentioned in these readings, Jesus inclined His ear to hear what the Father was saying and He followed that. He didn't follow patterns or traditions, He didn't necessarily keep to culture or customs – He touched the unclean, the leper, the dead. He did however, take time to find out what the Father wanted Him to do in any given situation.

What Did David Do?

David never assumed or second-guessed what God would say he always took time to find out what the word of the Lord was for that moment. Even when it seemed obvious what he should do he still took the time to inquire of God.

1 Samuel 23.2-4 (1-5)

The Philistines came and attacked Keilah and stole grain from the threshing floors. Instead of immediately going after them, David took time to inquire of God. Then again when his men were afraid, he inquired again to be certain.

1 Samuel 30.8 (1-10)

While David and his men were away fighting the Amalekites came to Ziklag, the place where they were camped, and burned it with fire and took away all their possessions, women and children. Those of his own group turned and blamed him for the attack and were ready to stone him. Instead of retaliating David took time to find out what the Word of God was for the situation.

2 Samuel 2.1 (1-4)

The news of the death of Saul and Jonathan grieved David. He knew that he had been anointed as king, years before. Instead of rising up and taking the throne he took time to seek God as to what he should do next. The word of the Lord came to him to go to Hebron where he was crowned king of Judah.

2 Samuel 5.19-23 (17-25)

The Philistines come against David in the Valley of Rephaim. He inquires of God to see if it is right to attack them. It is and he does.

A while later the Philistines come up again in the same place. Most would have just gone down and attacked them again, but not David. He took time to ask of God, and this time God told him not to attack them but to employ a different strategy – wait for the moving of the spirit of God in the treetops. David followed the wisdom that inquiring of God gave him and a great victory was won that day.

2 Samuel 21.1 (1-14)

David inquired of the Lord to find out why the land had been suffering famine for three years. He heard from God, put things right and then God answered the prayers for rain (v14).