

**CHRIST: OUR EXAMPLE**  
**1 Peter 2:18-25**

**Introduction:**

- 1. A few years ago young people were wearing shirts and bracelets with the letters, W. W. J. D. on them.**
  - a. These initials stood for “What would Jesus do?”**
  - b. They signified a commitment to follow the example of Jesus.**
  
- 2. A century ago, Charles Sheldon wrote one of the best selling religious novels of all times.**
  - a. The novel was entitled “In His Steps.”**
  - b. It told of the changes which came in the lives of believers who accepted a challenge to ask, “What would Jesus do?” before making important decisions.**
  
- 3. Peter wrote: “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).**
  - a. The Greek word for “example” is “hupogrammon” which means “to write under.”**
  - b. It is the perfect letter that the childish hand of a learner seeks to imitate.**
  
- 4. Jesus the Christ is the perfect example for every Christian to imitate!**

**Discussion:**

**I. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY.**

**A. The world seeks self esteem, but God condemns pride.**

**“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6).**

**B. Jesus set the ultimate example of humility when He “emptied” Himself to become man.**

**“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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” (Philippians 2:5-8).**

**C. Benedict Arnold was a better general than George Washington.**

- 1. Arnold betrayed his country because he did not get the praise he thought he deserved.**
- 2. Washington suffered and sacrificed without thought for praise or commendation.**
- 3. Washington became “the father of our nation;” Arnold became its most infamous traitor.**
- 4. Arnold “never learned to march without music.”**

## **II. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS.**

**A. The world says “get even,” but Jesus says, “forgive!”**

**“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).**

**B. We must be willing to forgive others in order to be forgiven.**

**“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14,15).**

**C. Years ago, Reader’s Digest carried the story of a student from Taiwan who came to New York to attend Columbia University.**

- 1. He was cruelly beaten and killed by a street gang.**
- 2. His parents attended the trial of the assailants.**
- 3. They pleaded for mercy for their son’s murderers, saying: “We are Christians and have forgiven them.”**

### **III. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE OF PRAYER.**

**A. Our Lord was so busy He and His disciples did not even have time to eat, but He always made time to pray (Mark 6:31).**

**1. He dismissed the crowds to make time for prayer.**

**“And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray” (Matthew 14:23).**

**2. He got up early to pray while others slept.**

**“Now in the morning, having arisen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).**

**3. He prayed all night before choosing His apostles.**

**“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself, and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles” (Luke 6:12,13).**

**4. He prayed in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46).**

**B. A poet (DWL) summarized the Lord’s prayer life.**

**“He prayed upon the mountain; He prayed for you and me.  
He prayed in humble dwellings; He prayed by the sea.  
He prayed in early morning; He prayed with all His might.  
He prayed at noon and evening; He prayed all thru the night.  
He prayed for those who scorned Him, and who killed Him too.  
He prayed, “Father, forgive them; They know not what they do.”  
He prayed when He was lonely; He prayed when He was sad.  
He prayed when he was weary; He prayed when He was glad.  
He prayed for those in sorrow; He prayed for those in sin.  
He prayed for those in trouble; That they might come to Him.”**

#### **IV. JESUS LEFT US AN EXAMPLE OF LOVE FOR THE LOST.**

##### **A. Jesus taught the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4).**

- 1. He was "wearied from His journey and sat by the well."**
- 2. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, He asked her for a drink.**
- 3. She was shocked and asked: "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"**
  - a. Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.**
  - b. Men did not address women in public.**
- 4. He led the conversation from water to eternal life.**
- 5. He revealed her sinful life to her; she had had five husbands and was then living with another in adultery.**
- 6. She brought up the old dispute between Jews and the Samaritans about the place to worship.**
- 7. This conversation led to an invitation to stay to teach the Samaritans for two days.**
- 8. No doubt, it laid the foundation for Philip's fruitful work in Samaria later (Acts 8:5-13).**

##### **B. I reluctantly taught a man on the plane from Port Vila to Sydney.**

##### **C. Jesus declared the purpose of His life was "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10).**

- 1. He commanded: "Go with the Gospel" (Mark 16:15,16).**
- 2. Our world consists of those around us: family, friends, neighbors, schoolmates, associates at work, etc.**

#### **Conclusion:**

- 1. If every one of us would ask, "What would Jesus do?" and follow through, souls would be saved and the world changed.**
- 2. Following Christ begins when we become a Christian through obedience to the Gospel.**

**Rod Rutherford: 5-2-15**

