

Following Jesus...
a series
of hard choices

Philippians 2:5-11

“Compassion is hard because it requires us to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering...”

What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it.”

Henri Nouwen

LOVE???



LOVE???



***How we
started***



***How we
started***



***After 51
years***

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.



The Jesus-attitude...

- ***This is the topic sentence***
- ***The “you” is plural... not merely a solo performance...***

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

THINK LIKE JESUS!!!



***Matt. 11:29-30 Put on My yoke
and learn from Me. For I
am gentle and humble in
heart and you will find
rest for your souls. For
My yoke is easy and my
burden is light.”***



***6 Though he was God,
He did not think of equality
with God as something to
cling to.***

***¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3 (ESV)***

The Jesus-attitude...

- ***Jesus was God in ALL His glory...***
- ***Jesus didn't see all that glory as an absolute necessity...***

Our Jesus-attitude...

- ***What are WE holding onto?***
- ***What is it that WE cannot let go of?***

***7 Instead, He gave up His
divine privileges, he took
the humble position of a
slave and was born as a
human being. When He
appeared in human form...***

The Jesus-choices....

- ***Jesus gave up ALL His privileges ...***
- ***Jesus set Himself below others as a deliberate choice...***

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT)

“9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.”

Luke 22 (NLT)

“²⁵ Jesus told them, ‘In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’

²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are...

Luke 22 (NLT)

“...the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷...for I am among you as one who serves.”

Our Jesus-choices...

- ***Which privileges do we now have...that we cannot NOT let go of?***
- ***WHO do we think we are better than?***
- ***Can we serve anyone?***

⁸ He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Hebrews 5 (NLT)

⁸ Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Hebrews 4 (NLT)

15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

John 12 (NLT)

“49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 ...so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

More Jesus-choices...

- ***Jesus learned how to obey...the hard way.***
- ***Jesus did it perfectly.***
- ***Jesus obeyed His way into death.***

John 10 (NLT)

18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

Our Jesus-choices...

- ***Are we willing to learn obedience?***
- ***Are we willing to obey God...no matter what?***

***⁹ Therefore, God elevated
him to the place of highest
honor and gave him the
name above all other
names,***

Matthew 28 (NLT)

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

19 Therefore, go and make disciples...

God's Choice

- 1. To give Jesus absolute preeminence.***

***10 that at the name of
Jesus every knee should
bow, in heaven and on
earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue
declare that Jesus Christ
is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father.***

God's Choice

- 1. To give Jesus absolute preeminence.***
- 2. Every created being will shout that Jesus is the absolute Boss of the Universe***

WHY?

Humans can be....

- ***Mean & nasty***
- ***Lazy***
- ***Vindictive***
- ***Murderous***
- ***Liars & thieves***
- ***Spiteful & unforgiving***

Craziest Bible verse ever:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one & only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Ezekiel 33 (NLT)

11 Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live....

1 John 4 (NLT)

8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for...

God is love.

IF...

Jesus was driven by love...

IF...

I want to follow Jesus...

THEN...

love is my only option.

***"There was never
a man in the game
who could put
mind and muscle
together quicker
and with better judgment
than Jackie Robinson."***

Branch Rickey



42

***"A life is not
important
except in the impact
it has on other lives."***



Definition of Love...

Love is...

*a pervasive desire for
& the willingness to
act for the good of
another.*



- ① LOVE IS A DECISION
- ② LOVE IS A COMMITMENT
- ③ LOVE IS AN ACTION
- ~~Ø~~ LOVE IS NOT A FEELING

Source: What If Jesus Was Serious? by Skye Jethani

How we do LOVE...

Possessive



Defensive

How we do LOVE...

Possessive



Defensive

We negotiate

How we do LOVE...

Possessive



Defensive

We negotiate

JESUS:

***LOVE always starts
with...***

***God's Nature
of Love.***

JESUS:

***LOVE is always...
a deliberate choice.***

JESUS:

***LOVE always...
has a steep cost.***

*IF...we wish to
follow Jesus...*

***THEN...are we
willing to choose
to love?***

JESUS' Big 4...

Love God with your all
Love your neighbor
Love one another
Love your enemies

One Anothers...

1. Ask Jesus to lead you where He wants you.
2. Scan the list.
3. Whichever one jumps out, ask Jesus to help you begin to practice it.

