

Footprints of Jesus

TEXT: Various

THESIS: To teach about the life Jesus lived, whose example we should follow

INTRODUCTION:

1. We sing, “Footprints of Jesus, that make the pathway glow; we will follow the steps of Jesus, where’re they go.”
 - a. The steps that Jesus made has left a permanent print on the road of life.
 - b. He came to not only be a sacrifice for mankind, but also an example for us to follow.
2. Peter said, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:” (1 Pet. 2:21).
 - a. Therefore, Jesus became our example in everything.
 - b. Likewise, we should be stepping in the footprints of the one who is leading the way, being like him, having the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5) and conforming to the image of God’s son (Rom. 8:29).
3. This is why Jesus said, “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” (Jn. 13:15)
 - a. We are to be imitators of Christ which is interesting when we consider the word church because it means, “Called out.”
 - b. But, what is the purpose that we are called out and where do the footprints of Jesus go?
4. I would like to suggest that the footprints of Jesus goes:
 - a. Toward God
 - b. Toward the lost
 - c. Into Heaven

DISCUSSION:

I. THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS GO TOWARD GOD

- A. Notice that Jesus was just like us.
 1. “Wherefore in all things it behoved him **to be made like unto his brethren**, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” (Heb. 2:17)
 - a. Jesus had to experience man’s weaknesses and temptation’s power
 - b. For, it is hard to sympathize if you have not gone through the same thing.
 - c. Which is the reason for his mercy which is grace in action.
 2. Notice the compassion that Christ had when looking out among mankind.
 - a. “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” (Matt 9:36)

- B. Likewise, the Scriptures records, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Heb. 4:15)
1. Jesus knew early on what his life was to be about.
 2. When he was only 12, a mere boy, Jesus had been left behind and forgotten by his parents.
 3. But notice, after his parents came back seeking for him, they found him in the temple by which, “he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” (Lk. 2:49)
 4. Jesus was always interested in doing “right.”
 - a. Later, in his life, he continued toward God which lead him to John the Baptist meaning baptizer.
 - b. Now, John did not understand why Jesus needed to be baptized of him and felt that it should be the other way around and that it should be Jesus who should be baptizing him.
 - c. However, “Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.” (Matt. 3:15)
- C. Here's the thing: Jesus did not come to do his will, he came to do the will of the Father.
1. He said, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (Jn. 5:30)
 2. Jesus did not do anything independently from the Father, but works in perfect harmony with him.
- D. He is the one who took heed to what Solomon said,
1. When he wrote, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” (Eccl. 12:13)
 2. And, while Jesus was God in the flesh, his footsteps went toward God and if we are truly followers of Christ, we will reverence the Father in Heaven as Jesus did who showed trust in the God of Heaven and the footsteps toward him.

II. THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS GO TOWARD THE LOST

- A. Jesus said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk. 19:10)
1. Jesus showed that we are not to hate, despise or reject the sinner, but to be a friend to him,
 2. Likewise, Jesus called the disciples, “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matt. 4:19)
 - a. Jesus truly believed and instilled in his disciples that just one soul is worth it all.

- b. He was preparing his disciples to learn what it meant to become fishers of men.
 - c. In addition, Jesus was giving them practical experience of fishing which was under his oversight as they were later given the Great Commission to go into all the world “Fishing” for souls and training others who obey the Gospel, to also be “fishermen.”
 - 3. For just as Jesus routinely visited the lost in order to teach them, so should we follow in those steps.
 - 4. And after the time of his baptism, he began to teach and preach that the kingdom of Heaven (meaning the church) was at hand.
- B. Now, Jesus commanded that his disciples, go into all the world and teach the Gospel.
 - 1. He never mentioned to sit back and wait for sinners to come to them.
 - a. Instead, he taught his disciples that it was their responsibility to seek out the lost wherever it may lead them.
 - b. They were told to go and be aggressive with the Gospel because they had all the authority of Christ behind them.
 - c. This was done because Christ had the right to claim this authority since he was faithful as the Son of God.
 - 2. Likewise, he commanded his disciples to teach all whom they taught, to do the same things including becoming fishermen.
 - a. “Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . .” (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - b. Now, since Jesus went about making disciples, we (meaning Christians) are to go out making disciples which is exactly what “teach them” means.
 - (1) For, this is as much a command as is baptism.
 - (2) For, if those who refuse to be baptized will not be saved (and they will not), then what makes us think that we will be saved if we refuse to obey this command to go make disciples of all nations?
 - 3. Now, it was first the obligation of the apostles and is now our obligation to try to make disciples (Christians), that is, to convert all men of all nations by preaching the gospel to them.
 - a. For a disciple is a learner which stresses the importance of teaching.
- C. Even amid great persecution from Saul and others who even went into Christian’s homes, throwing them in prison, the disciples fled to all the corners of the known world with the Gospel seeking the lost.
 - 1. “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” (Acts 8:4)

2. Now, the persecution did not stop the preaching of the Gospel to the world for it continued to spread.
 3. These disciples had gone seeking the lost over mountain ranges into unknown lands.
 4. They began seeking the lost in the temples as they preached.
 5. They began to go publically and from house to house to the rich as well as to the poor and lowly preaching to the lost.
- D. The disciples were following the footprints of Jesus toward the lost.
1. For Jesus, when answering the charge that the scribes and Pharisees murmured of why he was eating and drinking with publicans and sinners, “Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Lk. 5:31, 32)
 2. If we love, desire to obey, then we will teach the truth as he did because only the truth will set one free from sin and show them the way to Heaven.

III. THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS GO INTO HEAVEN

- A. After the resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven.
1. Luke records, “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9)
 - a. These 11 disciples of Jesus were left after an incredible 3 1/2 year journey with the Master.
 2. In addition, Daniel tells us prophetically what happened after Jesus left the physical sight of his disciples.
 - a. Daniel wrote, “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan. 7:13, 14)
 - b. Furthermore, Zechariah wrote, “Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” (Zech. 6:13)
- B. So, no longer was Jesus walking upon the earth carrying his physical scars from the cross or the heavy burden from mankind’s sins.
1. Instead, Christ began sitting on the throne of David by which all people, nations and languages should serve him in his kingdom which was established on Sunday (the day of Pentecost) in A.D. 29.
 - a. For earlier, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the **fathers by the prophets**, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all

things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, **when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**” (Heb. 1:1-3).

- b. Christ is in Heaven sitting on his throne and has been ever since his spiritual footprints ascended into Heaven.
- C. Now, remember that Jesus had earlier left his disciples by which, the angels, noting the disciples gazing up into Heaven said to the men, “. . . Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)
 1. Now, some may have felt disappointed because Christ did not restore the kingdom of Israel or perhaps some wanted him to return again soon.
 2. However, the Lord has left his disciples on earth for a purpose.
 3. That is, to continue in the work of following his footsteps.
- D. And likewise, when we pass through the portal of death, if we continue in his work, we shall walk proudly through on the other side with gladness as we soon after shall be on heaven’s golden streets.
 1. For, we know that the physical things we see are not eternal, but temporal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)
 2. And therefore, we need to follow in the steps that are eternal.

CONCLUSION:

1. We sing, we will follow the steps of Jesus, where’re they go.
 - a. Do we mean it?
 - i. Will we follow the footprints of Jesus toward God?
 - (1) Mankind must be willing to swallow their pride, studying (not reading) but studying God’s word to be approved unto him.
 - (2) For, as Solomon wrote, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man**” (Eccl. 12:13)
 - (3) And Likewise, we cannot keep his commandments if we are marching to the beat of our own footsteps.
 - ii. Secondly, will we follow the footprints of Jesus toward the lost?
 - (1) Will we be as the Scribes and Pharisees, puffed up and thinking I am better than the lost.
 - (2) We are not to be lazy sitting and waiting for the lost to come to us.
 - (3) Instead, we are to be seeking, searching, going, fishing, aggressively preaching to the lost to save a lost soul.
 - b. Now, your answers of following in the footprints of Jesus toward God and toward the lost, will determine if we get to follow the footprints of Jesus into Heaven.
2. Jesus knows each of us.

- a. Stephen said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56)
 - b. He knows what is happening in the world and knows who is truly seeking God and the lost.
3. The question is: Will you follow Jesus’ example and obey the Gospel?
- a. Will you obey him as you should?
 - b. As a Christian, if you have failed to follow in the footprints of Christ, you need to get back on the right path.
 - c. Won’t you follow him today?