

Jesus: The Pattern of Benevolent Power

Intro: Paul: *“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ”* (1 Cor 11:1). The word *mimetes* means mimic, one who patterns his actions after someone else (a mime, actor).

1. The Power of Jesus

A. Jesus is identified in various passages as the creative agent of the universe (Heb 1:2, 10). What power! What did He do with such power when He came?

B. Examples:

1. Miraculous: Calms storm (Mt 8:23-27); heals sick, demon-possessed (Mt 8:16-17); raises dead (Lk 8:49-56).
2. Non-miraculous: Jesus used His miraculous power as an opportunity to preach and teach. He taught in synagogues, on mountains, from boats, in homes. He taught one-on-one and to multitudes.

C. He associated with the outcast and disenfranchised because *“those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick”* (Mt 9:9-13).

2. The Compassion of Jesus

A. But why do we see power corrupt and ruin so many today? It becomes a matter of pride, ego, selfishness. *Jesus never lost sight of the needs of those around Him.*

B. The compassion of Jesus:

1. Mt 9:35 – *“weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*
2. Mk 6:30-35 (teach); 36ff (feed; see Mk 8:1-3) – Physical/spiritual hunger.
3. Jn 11:32-37 – Jesus sympathized with the grief we suffer at death.

C. Jesus realized the physical/emotional/spiritual limitations of man and He responded with tenderness and compassion. *Our weakness is not a reason to shrink from God but to seek Him out.*

3. What About Using Our Power Benevolently?

A. What power? We cannot work miracles but we have ...

1. Truth/gospel – The “power of God unto salvation.” How diligent are we in using

this power? Do we have compassion on the blind who are led by the blind?

2. Tongue – The words we speak have tremendous power – *“Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!”* (Jas 3:5). Our words can destroy, and they can build.

3. Time – Ultimately, our very existence upon the earth is composed of time. When I give time, I give the most precious commodity I have. We allow ourselves to ruled by obligations. We are a people on the go, using machines/surrogate help to fill in the gaps of our absence.

B. We say: What could we do for people if we had enough money? But a better focus is what are we doing for them with what we have?

C. We are stewards of time, body, money, health, mind, truth and so many other resources which God expects us to invest for His glory and service.

Conclusion: Lk 19:10 – *“Today salvation has come to this house ... for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost.”* This is our task also as imitators of Christ.