

# The Abundant Life

Ian Gilchrist June 11, 2017

## The Abundant Life —

*Learning to do what Jesus did, to experience the life that Jesus offers*

**Introduction — WWJD — What Would Jesus Do** — You may remember the plastic bracelet that had four simple letters WWJD! Everyone had one and some had many. When you asked kids what it meant, usually they proceeded to share an awkward attempt at explaining the four letters. The intention was for it to be a conversation starter that drove people to Jesus. But the reality was, the bracelets were simply a fashion statement that Christians could endorse — sadly the bracelets didn't really work.

**The problem is** — thinking about what Jesus might do — doesn't get it done.

**The question is** — how do we help others become like Jesus? The better question is — how do we become like Jesus?

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act but a habit.”<sup>1</sup> Aristotle

“You will never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret to your success is found in your daily routine.”<sup>2</sup> John C. Maxwell

## Can I become like Jesus?

### Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

- He is not afraid of that and neither should we be

### John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- The abundant Life, the life God made you for, the life where we can experience Radical Grace, and Radical Freedom!
- When we begin to use Jesus as the model to show us how to live, we can experience the life He designed us to live!

### John 14:12

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

<sup>1</sup> Will Durant, *The Story of Philosophy* (Simon and Schuster, 1965) 98

<sup>2</sup> John C. Maxwell, *Today Matters: 12 Daily Practices to Guarantee Tomorrow's Success* (Center Street, 2014)

- When we talk about having an abundant life, we must look at the source, He is our example, He is our model!

## **THREE THINGS TO DO TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS**

### **Grace**

#### **Matthew 14:25-32**

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

#### **Application —**

- brought peace in midst of chaos
- invited Peter into an unfamiliar place — a place where Peter would fail
- stayed close and extended His hand when Peter failed — offered radical grace

### **Humility**

#### **John 13:3-11**

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

#### **Application —**

- He knew what had been given to Him — *His inheritance*
- He knew who He was — *His Identity*
- He knew where He was going — *His Destiny*

“His humility was not born of poverty, but of riches. He was rich, yet He became poor. A Malay proverb says, “The fuller the ear is of rice-grain, the lower it bends.”<sup>3</sup> Warren Weirsbe

- He did something, not because He had to, but because He wanted to express the love that He had for them

<sup>3</sup> Warren W. Weirsbe, *The BE Series Bundle: The Gospels* (Center Street, 2014)

- He was modeling servant leadership for His Beloved!
- He had hands-on experience — love bent down to serve — got His hands dirty
- We should do what Jesus did; if we don't — those who follow us — won't

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## Replicate —

### *Paul understood that...*

#### **1 Corinthians 4:16**

Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

- This is hard! This is scary! This is messy — but when you have spiritual responsibility — you become more like Jesus

#### **Luke 10:1-21**

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

## *Application —*

- Everything we do is a picture of Jesus — we are making disciples
- Jesus rejoiced when He saw His disciples doing what He called them to do
- We influence and transform people whether we mean to or not

**WE CAN DO THIS!**

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## Discussion Questions

1. Did you ever wear a WWJD bracelet? What did it mean to you / did you do with it?
  2. What is something you can change in your daily routine that will help you to become more like Christ?
  3. Do you really believe you can experience ABUNDANT life — MORE than you are experiencing now?
  4. What Christ-attributes do you need to assimilate in your life to experience life MORE abundantly?
  5. The only way we can influence others is if we can authentically answer, “What is God like?”
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## Before the Throne: Worship Night

Tuesday, June 13th

6:30 pm

Sanctuary