

What is Jesus Like?

Matthew 8:27

INTRODUCTION:

A. What is Jesus Like?

1. In a boat on the Sea of Galilee some disciples of our Lord had just witnessed our Lord bringing calm to a great storm. Astonished, they asked in **Matthew 8:27** - “. . .Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”
2. In **Matthew 27:11**, Pilate wanted to know what Jesus was like when he asked “Are you the king of the Jews?”
3. Multitudes began to know what Jesus was like when He ended the Sermon on the Mount in that “. . . The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (**Matthew 7:28-29**)
4. In Luke 23:8, Herod want to see for himself what Jesus was like, “. . . For he had desired for a long time to see him, because he had heard many things about him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by him.”

B. What is Jesus Like?

1. The Jesus who meets us in the pages of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is very different from the picture many of us have of Him. When I observe the gospel record, I notice that:
 - a. Jesus is not always the “gentle Jesus meek and mild” of the children’s stories.
 - b. Although we will later observe that Jesus is full of love and compassion and that He demonstrated His love for mankind time and again, I wish to point out that some people feel that Jesus was the kind of person who was always gentle and meek and never stood up against the things that were contrary to the will of God.
 - c. When I look into the inspired record, I see a man who not only took time to nurture and love the little children, but also was one who made a whip out of cords and drove all the corrupt money changers out of the temple courts.
 - d. When I read the pages of God’s Word, I see a man who stood His ground in confronting the false teachings of the religious leaders of His day.
 - e. I see a man who loved people so much that He confronted their sin in order to help them have a better relationship with God.
 1. He once told an adulterous woman in John 8 to “go your way and sin no more.” There is not doubt that Jesus was meek and gentle.

2. However, He was also very direct and stood up for the truth.
2. Likewise:
 - a. Jesus is not the miserable type of holy man who never laughs.
 - b. He is not the fearsome judge who watches to see if we are enjoying ourselves and then tells us to stop.
 - c. He is not the lifeless figure in a stained-glass window.
 - d. Jesus is radiantly alive and loves each and every one of us.
3. It is true, very true, that there is a great deal about Jesus we would like to know that we simply are not told. He was, however, a Palestinian Jew, and as such, we can know some things about Palestinian Jews.
 - a. Their skin tone was olive in color.
 - b. Their eyes were generally brown.
 - c. Their hair was black, usually worn long and carefully groomed.
 - d. They valued a full beard.
 - e. Their mother tongue was Aramaic, a dialect of Hebrew, which Jesus would have spoken with a northern accent common to Galilee where He was brought up.
 - f. He wore:
 1. A sleeveless undergarment with a girdle.
 2. The customary cloak and sandals.
 3. Carried a staff on journeys.
4. Although the gospel record does not detail what Jesus looked like, it does tell us a lot about His character.

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

A. Jesus lived a life of love.

1. Jesus' whole life and ministry were bathed in love . . . tireless, outgoing, unselfish love.
 - a. Jesus Loved His Friends.
 1. He loved them in spite of the times they disappointed Him (like the night of His betrayal and arrest when in the garden of Gethsemane they could not stay awake and watch (Mark 14:37).
 2. He loved them in spite of times of denial as in the case of Peter.
 3. Three questions:
 - a. How much love and devotion do you extend to your friends?
 - b. Are you loyal to your friends?
 - c. Do you treasure them the way Jesus treasured His friends?
 4. Our Lord's example should inspire us to shower more love on our friends.
 - b. He love the sick.
 1. On one occasion He touched a man with leprosy and made Him clean.

2. How long has it been since you visited, hugged, and encourage someone who is ill?
 3. What kind of sacrifices do you make to reach out to those who are in need and afflicted with illnesses?
 4. May the example of Jesus invigorate us to visit and minister to the sick, dying, and the diseased ridden people of our community and world.
- c. He loved the unlovable and taught His disciples to do the same.
1. **Matthew 5:43-48** - “You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?
 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
 2. The one sentence that glows from this passage is the one that says, “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?” You see, it is easy to love those who love you back, but the Lord is telling us that we are able to love those who do not love us back.
 3. We are to love our enemies and those who would make themselves our enemies.
 4. If we are going to follow the Word of God, we have a choice to make . . . Are we going to love or hate our enemies?
 5. **Illustration:** Dr. Victor Frankl, the bold, courageous Jew who became a prisoner during the Holocaust, endured years of indignity and humiliation by the Nazis before he was finally liberated. At the beginning of the ordeal, he was marched into a Gestapo courtroom. His captors had taken away his home and family, his cherished freedom, his possessions, even his watch and wedding ring. They had shaved his head and stripped his clothing off his body. There he stood before the German high command under the glaring lights being interrogated and falsely accused. He was destitute, a helpless pawn in the hands of brutal, prejudiced, sadistic men. He had nothing. No, that isn’t quite true. He suddenly realized there was one

thing no one could ever take from him, just one. Do you know what it was?

Dr. Frankl realized that he had the power to choose his own attitude. No matter what anyone would ever do to him, regardless of what the future held for him, the attitude of choice was his to make:

- Bitterness or forgiveness.
 - To give up or to go on.
 - Hatred or hope.
 - Determination to endure or the paralysis of self-pity.
6. Even though Jesus endured many blows from His enemies, He never stopped loving them. Both Jesus and Dr. Frankl chose to love the unlovable, and, we must choose to do the same.
 7. The love Jesus taught, the love He exhibited, was to be the supreme hallmark of His disciples.

John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

8. Sometimes our love falls short of the standard Christ set before us. We need to remember that:
 - a. Jesus loved with the highest love of all.
 - b. He loved, not some of the time, but all of the time.
 - c. He loved, not some of the people, but all of the people.
 - d. He desired this kind of love, not for some of His people, but for all of His people.

B. Jesus lived a life of obedience.

1. **John 8:29** sums up the obedient life of Jesus: “. . . “For I always do those things that please Him.” Another translation says, “. . . For I always do what pleases Him.”
2. Jesus left the comfort of Heaven to come to earth to fulfill His Father’s will.
 - a. Even though Jesus was “Lord of lords, and King of kings,” the Savior of the world, He still humbled Himself and became obedient to His Father.
 - b. He came to the earth as a servant although He had every right to come as a sovereign.
3. Every day He walked this earth, He lived a life of obedience. He submitted to the will of His Father, and He gave His Father the very best He had to offer.
4. **Illustration:** Let me tell you about Jason and Tommy. The one from whom I first read this story indicated that so far as he knew, the story is true. Jason and Tommy didn’t have a typical relationship as brothers. Jason was 14 and Tommy was 10. Jason wasn’t just Tommy’s older brother though; he was his best friend in the whole world. While most older

brothers wanted nothing to do with their younger brothers, Jason would always try to invite Tommy to participate in his activities. Tommy loved his big brother. They were true pals.

Besides his brother Jason, Tommy didn't have many friends. Tommy often wondered what he would do without his older brother. You see, little Tommy had been born with a cardiopulmonary disease. This had stunted Tommy's growth and had robbed him of his youthful energy. It wasn't that he didn't want to play baseball, tag, and all the games the other boys his age played, it's just that he tired quickly when he did.

Knowing this, the other boys never wanted Tommy to be on their team. They would fight over whose team Tommy would have to be on and he was often labeled as a wimp or sissy by the healthier boys.

But things were different around his older brother Jason. Sometimes Tommy and Jason would play their own game of baseball. Jason was a good athlete and everyone wanted Jason on his or her team.

Jason would only consent to play if they would also let Tommy be on the team. If the other boys said no, then Jason and Tommy would both leave and do something together.

School had just ended and it was summer now. Curt, Nathan, and Ron wanted to go on an overnighiter in the mountains. Naturally, they wanted Jason to come along also.

Ron spoke up; “Let's go ask him if he can go tomorrow.” Curt was quick to respond. “What is he wants Tommy to tag along? It will slow us all down, and we don't want to spend the whole time hiking to the campsite.” Nathan was the first to speak to Jason at his house. “Hey, Jason, the three of us are going on an overnighiter us Adam's Canyon. Are you with us?”

“Sure I am.” Jason was excited. “I'll have Tommy's pack and my own ready to go tonight,” he said.

The three boys looked at each other, wondering who would tell Jason that Tommy wasn't welcome to come. Finally, Curt spoke up. “Hey, ah, Jason . . . this hike is just for the four of us. Tommy would slow us all down. Nothing against Tommy, but why don't you leave him home this time?”

Through the corner of his eye, Jason saw Tommy standing by his bedroom door, listening intently to the whole conversation. He was bravely trying to hold back the tears of rejection. Jason stood up and said

“I'm sorry, guys, but if Tommy isn't welcome then I'm not going either. You guys have fun.” “Hey, wait a minute,” said Ron. “It's okay with me if Tommy comes. We can leave a little bit earlier to give us more time.” The guys agreed on a departing time for the next morning, and left.

Six o'clock came early the next morning. Tommy was ready by 5:30 A.M. This was to be his first real hike. Within the first quarter mile, it was

obvious that Tommy’s progress would be slow. He wanted so much to please Jason by walking fast, but the faster he walked, the sooner he would have to rest. The older boys were anxious to get to the campsite, and often found themselves leaving Jason and Tommy behind. “Here, Tommy, my pack is light. Let me carry yours, too,” Jason said with concern for his brother. Embarrassed, Tommy gave Jason his heavy burden. “I’m sorry,” said Tommy. “I’m doing the best I can.”

The other boys were out of sight now. After five more minutes of walking, Tommy fell to his knees. “I gotta stop,” whimpered Tommy, with tears of frustration cutting clear streams through the dust on his face.

“That’s okay,” said Jason. “Take all the time you need.” Jason was obviously worried as he saw Tommy struggling for breath. “Jason! Something is happening inside my chest. It hurts awful bad.” Tommy was slumping over on the ground in pain. Jason slipped the packs off his back and rolled Tommy over. Tommy’s tense body relaxed suddenly as he looked up into Jason’s eyes, that too, had filled with tears. “I love you an awful lot, Jason.” The struggle was over now. Tommy’s little body had given up. The tears came freely to Jason’s eyes as he tightly hugged his brother. “I’ll miss you, Tommy,” Jason softly whispered.

Forty-five minutes later, the tears were still trickling from Jason’s eyes when the other boys returned. “Hey, Jason, we thought you guys got—” Ron stopped short in the middle of his comment. A chill ran down the boys’ backs. Jason was supporting Tommy’s silent head in his lap, caressing his tear-stained face of his little brother.

“Is he . . . is he dead, Jason?” Ron asked tenderly.

“Yeah,” Jason said, as another tear fell quietly from his eyes to Tommy’s face.” **He was doing his very best for me.**”

5. Tommy loved his big brother so much that he did everything he could to please him. Although Tommy had a disease that robbed him of his energy, he wanted to:

- Walk a little faster.
- Walk a little harder.
- Walk a little farther to please his brother.

He gave his brother his best, even though it cost him his life.

6. Brethren, when we look at Jesus Christ, we see that He did the same thing. Jesus died on the cross, not only to save mankind from their sins, but He died to please His Father. He loved His Father so much that he was willing to:

- Walk a little faster.
- Walk a little harder.
- Walk a little harder.
- Walk a little farther to the cross in order to glorify.

7. Jesus said in **John 4:34** - “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”
8. My friends:
 - a. How many of you present in this auditorium today are giving your hearts and lives to the will and purpose of God?
 - b. How many of you are giving your total allegiance and obedience to the true and living God?
 - c. How many of you are taking up your cross and following Jesus’ example of servant-hood and obedience?
9. My friend: today we should all make a covenant before God and before our brothers and sisters in Christ that pledges to set our own wills aside and press on to do the will of the Father. We need to start devoting our full attention on fulfilling the desires of God and stop devoting our full attention on fulfilling our own wants and needs.
10. Our covenant should read, “Our food is to do the will of God and to finish his work.”

CONCLUSION:

- A. In this study we have looked at what Jesus is like.
 1. Jesus was loving.
 2. Jesus was obedient.
- B. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**