

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

The Lord's Day Message

"Aids For Our Prayers"



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Charles will lead our **Bible Class**, **Kerry** will lead singing, **Paul McCollum** will deliver the **Lesson**. May God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

We are praying for you!

Jordan Johnson - for safety and enjoyment while vacationing in Ireland and England.

Sunil Gollapalli - for continued good work spreading the gospel in India.

Jude Aton - for comfort to his famil. Service for Jude will be held at the Hollister church next Saturday.

~**God's Blessings to Everyone!**~

"I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS"

Raymond Elliott

In the hymn, "More Like Jesus", the first stanza lyrics are, "I want to be more like Jesus, And follow Him day by day; I want to be true and faithful, And every command obey." Our beloved Savior is worthy of our imitation. After all, He is the perfect example. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:21, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps". The apostle Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Here are some of the characteristics of Jesus we should instill within our lives.

1. Jesus was submissive to the will of God His Father. Jesus stated in John 8:28, "I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true..." The eternal Word was willing to leave heaven to be made lower than angels and to suffer on Calvary for our sins so we could be saved (Hebrews 2:7; Phillipians 2:5-8). And, near to the ending of His life on this earth, He prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:36). So, from eternity to His death on the cross, Jesus was submissive to the will of His Father.

2. He came to this world to be a servant.. "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Therefore, Christians should have a 'servant heart'. The apostle Peter wrote, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

3. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). We know that God desires all men to be saved (2 Pet 3:9). It is the mission of the church to preach the gospel to all the world, beginning where we are (Matthew 28:19,10). We can also teach the word publicly and from house to house as Paul did (Acts 20:20).

4. Our Lord and Savior had compassion on people. "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). Jesus had compassion on the "four thousand men, beside women and children" who followed Him and fed them (Matthew 15:32,38) The apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:12,13, that Christians should "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another..." True com-

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passion is not just to 'feel sorry' for someone but to make an effort to help the person who is in need.

5. Jesus Christ was often in prayer to His Father in heaven. Here are a few times when Jesus prayed: "Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Jesus prayed before choosing 12 of the disciples to be apostles (Luke 6:12). Of course, there is the prayer of Jesus when in the garden of Gethsemane as recorded in John 17. In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prayed, "saying, "O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." And while Jesus was on the cross he prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). We are to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Also we are to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

6. Jesus possessed a forgiving heart. Jesus was indeed merciful and forgiving. He told the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5); when a sinful woman bathed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped them with her hair. Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). Even more compelling is the way that Jesus forgave those who were crucifying him. "Father, forgive them, for they know what they do". (Lk 23:34). Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14,15). As Christians, we are to be forgiving. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

7. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for us. We can never love as our Lord Jesus Christ loved us. The greatest manifestation of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ was at Calvary when He shed His precious blood for the sins of the world. The writer of Hebrews 2:9 declared that Jesus, "by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9) Therefore, we should love God, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ and even our enemies (Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34,35; Matthew 5:43-45). My brothers and sisters, the sentiments in this song should be ours to be "More and more like Jesus, I would ever be, More and more like Jesus, My Savior who died for me."

July 23, 2023



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

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