



## Jesus Man of Passion – Being a Revolutionary

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### Introduction:

When I say “revolutionary” what comes to mind? I’m not talking about rebellion and a rebel; I’m talking about someone who is a revolutionary.

When we think of Jesus Christ, we usually don’t think of Him in terms of a revolution or as a revolutionary, but I want us to consider Him in that light this morning. Last week we talked about living life on the edge and as we conclude our series on Jesus man of passion, I’m trying to give you snapshots of Jesus’ life.

At CLF we are intentional about helping you find a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. If you can find a relationship with Christ that is real and meaningful and significant, it will make a difference in your life and has the potential to make a huge impact in the lives of other people. Our goal here is to intentionally lift Jesus Christ up because He promises that if He gets lifted up, all people will be drawn to Him.

### Luke 4:14-20

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, **“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

This takes place right after Jesus’ baptism in water, and He has just been tempted in the desert for 40 days. He is starting His earthly ministry.

This statement by Jesus Christ is absolutely revolutionary. People did not look at Jesus as the anointed one. In fact, one of the disciples asked this question when he heard that Jesus was from Nazareth. “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

The word revolution means a sudden or momentous change in a situation, a drastic and far reaching change in ways of thinking and behaving.

When you think about the life of Jesus, you recognize Jesus’ life brought far reaching change in the ways we think and behave. He intends, if we’re really His followers, to fundamentally change the way we think and behave, the way we talk and do certain things. So that’s really the heart of a revolutionary.

John Piper said, *“There’s no more important issue in life than seeing Jesus for who He really is and then savoring what we see above all else.”* When you look at Jesus Christ you get a glimpse of His compassion, His outrage against religious tradition, His power when He heals people and His obedience and humility when he washes the disciples’ feet.

Brennan Manning said, *“If all we ever get is a glimpse of Jesus, it has enough power to change the way we live our lives.”*

There are many things in scripture that we are not going to do. They may be events and situations that will never be repeated. We probably understand that most of us are not going to be in the middle of a sea when a storm comes up and we won’t be telling the sea to be still. Most of us are not going to be in a crowd of 5,000 and be able to feed them all with 5 loaves and 2 small fish and have 12 basketfuls of food left over. It’s easy to see that a lot of what Jesus did will never be repeated.

As we observe Jesus’ life, we realize He lived a revolutionary life. We just want to embrace some things from Jesus’ life and let those things change us and others. Jesus said in John 14, “You’ll do greater things than I did, once I send my spirit to live inside of you.” Here are some of the disciplines that Jesus showed and the significant place they had in His life. I think these disciplines are something we can embrace as His followers.

## **I. Live To Pursue a Relationship with God**

The most important discipline that Jesus shows us is to pursue a vigorous relationship with God.

**Luke 5:16** - We’re reminded that the relationship with God was significant, because He pursued that relationship daily. “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” In observing Jesus’ life, we understand that intimacy with the Father was at the very center. This is one discipline that all of us can embrace and develop. Everything Jesus did, everything He said came out of His relationship with God. He pursued God at every turn in His life, every defining moment, every time He needed guidance and direction. Each one of us also can have this as the centerpiece and foundation of our lives.

## **II. Live For Something Greater Than Yourself**

Another important discipline we see in Jesus’ life is to live for something greater than ourselves. All of us probably have a different picture of what Jesus came to earth to do. If you look closely, you will see that Jesus lived His life for something greater than Himself. We have Jesus’ own words as recorded in **John 4:34** “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”

What thing has God planted inside of you that maybe you haven’t tapped into yet? What’s your passion, what fuels you, what has God created you to do? Jesus clearly understood what his work was to do

here and He gained strength from doing the will of God.

Live for something greater than yourself. No matter what we see Christ doing, He’s living for something greater than himself. In the act of washing the disciples’ feet, what was He doing? He was living for something greater than Himself. The moment when He was nailed on the cross, what was He doing? He was living for something greater than Himself. When He was betrayed, rejected by His disciples, when He was praying in the garden for the cup of death and suffering and sorrow to pass from Him, what was He doing? Even at that moment when, in His humanness, He wanted to be get out of His obligation to go to the cross on behalf of our sins, He embraced the cup that God had poured out for Him. And He lives for something greater than Himself.

So here is a question. What’s your dream and passion? What are you living for? Is it only for you? What has God created you to do? God has put each one of us on this planet for something more important than breathing air and taking up space. When we pursue a vigorous relationship with God we can ask Him to show us the life we need to be living to fulfill what He has in mind for us.

In her book, No Greater Love, Mother Teresa quotes a statement made by Gandhi regarding Christianity. He said, “If Christians were to live their Christian lives to the fullest, there would not be one Hindu left in India.” How true that is. If we would live our lives empowered by the Spirit, lives transformed by the

love, grace and compassion of Jesus Christ, what an impact that would make! Someone is thinking right now, "I've lived too flawed a life, I've failed too many times, and I've stumbled and tripped over my own sin." Let me tell you God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible. He's always using people who are broken at the deepest levels to do His work in this world. Every person that God ever used brought their baggage into the mission that God has called them to. Every single person except Jesus Christ was flawed in one way or another. So don't let that be an excuse to not entering a relationship with God and live for something greater than yourself.

### III. Live To Respond Compassionately To Human Need & Suffering

Go back with me to the Gospel of Mark In this first chapter of Mark, we see Jesus responding in powerful ways to those who are suffering and having needs. He performs miracles in their lives. [Mark 1:32-34](#) - "That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. (v. 40) A man with leprosy came to Jesus and he begged Him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.' Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and He touched the man. 'I am willing.' Jesus said, 'Be clean.' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured."

Jesus responds with compassion to human need and suffering and He calls us to develop this discipline in our lives as well. The word compassion means *com-pati* to sympathize, from Latin *com-* + *pati* to bear, suffer - sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.

We have seen the faces of children who will be touched through the compassion ministry. It is a wonderful ministry. There are those of you this morning that God is speaking to adopt a child through this ministry.

I hope we realize this is what Jesus is about. He's with those who are fatherless. He's with those who are motherless. He's with those who are widowed. He's right in the middle of the most broken people in the world. And so are we.

### Matthew 25:34-40

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Every time you reach out and respond compassionately to human need and suffering, Jesus is looking down from heaven and He's saying, "I tell you the truth. Whatever you did for that person, you did for me." Jesus makes this great promise to those who clothe the naked, and feed the hungry, and care for the sick and dying and those in prison, that we will populate heaven.

### IV. Live To Be A Spokesperson For The Cause

The fourth discipline is to become a tireless spokesperson for the cause of Christ. Just before Jesus leaves for heaven He says to the disciples, (Matthew 28: 19-20) "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And here's the *spokesperson* part, in Verse 20, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

A spokesperson is one who speaks for someone else. That's exactly what we are as Christians. Paul describes us as ministers of reconciliation. We're the ones that tell people that you can be embraced by a loving God through faith in Jesus Christ. We're the ones who recruit on behalf of the kingdom of God. The movement of God suffers when those of us who share in His blessing choose to be silent witnesses.

Brennan Manning said, "*Our impulse to tell the salvation story arises from listening to the heartbeat of*

*the risen Jesus within us.*” It all goes back to the relationship that you have with Christ. Telling the story doesn’t require that we become ordained ministers or flamboyant street corner preachers, nor does it demand that we try to convert people by concussion with one sledgehammer blow of the Bible after another. Telling the story is simply the way we share with others what our lives used to be, what happened when we met Jesus, and what our lives are like now.

Jesus needs to be brought into our conversations at work, at home and wherever else we do what we do. If we look at the early church in the Book of Acts the believers just couldn’t help speaking of everything they had seen and heard concerning Jesus Christ. They had gotten a glimpse of Jesus and they couldn’t keep quiet about it. We need to become that same kind of people, opportunistic, creative recruiters for the kingdom of God. We need to speak words that are wise, true, encouraging and show people the great love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

#### **V. Live To Forgive Those Who Sin Against You**

This may be the most difficult for us to embrace. As Jesus was being nailed to the cross and the soldiers were dividing up His clothes and casting lots to see who would get what, Jesus cries out, “Father forgive them for they don’t know what they do.” In the last moments of His life, He tells one of the thieves he’s forgiven. He offers forgiveness to those who seem like they deserve no forgiveness, to people like us.

Not only do we need to offer forgiveness, but we also need to be able to seek forgiveness when we have done something to offend or insult our brother or sister. If you want to live an impossibly great life then receive the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. If you want to have an impossibly great life, then offer and extend forgiveness to other people. It’s one of the

#### **Conclusion:**

These are the kinds of disciplines that Jesus regularly engaged in throughout His life on earth. He lived a great life. He made a significant difference. The revolution that began in 33A.D. is a revolution of the human heart. Jesus wants to enter your life and give you that kind of revolution. He wants you to live from the very core of your being out of a vigorous relationship with God. And He wants you to make a difference in this world.

hardest, most challenging things to do. I guarantee that over time if you’re pursuing a vigorous relationship with God, forgiveness becomes easier and easier and easier because we realize the incredible grace that’s been extended to us through Jesus Christ.

1. *Are you pursuing a vigorous relationship with God?* Have you prayed and invited Christ to be a part of your every day life? That is where a relationship begins with God. You can have a vigorous relationship with Jesus Christ and you should do everything within your power to pursue it.
2. *Are you living for something greater than yourself?* What is that dream that God’s birthed in you? You can make an incredible impact on society by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. No matter where you’ve been, if you accept Jesus and you embrace God, you can make a difference; you can live an impossibly great life.
3. *Are you a compassionate responder?* Does your heart begin to melt when you see the faces of starving children? Are you willing to become a compassionate responder?
4. *Will you strive to become tireless spokesperson for the cause?* Will we tell people what our lives were like before we met Jesus, what our lives were like when we met Jesus and what our lives are like now?
5. *Have you tasted Christ’s forgiveness?* If you have, will you work toward becoming a forgiving person? Will you work towards becoming a person who can look in the face of a person who has insulted you or ridiculed you, rejected you or mocked you, perpetrated injustices against you; and say “I forgive you and if I’ve done anything to offend you will you forgive me?”