

WWJD?

Joe Slater

You've seen the bracelets, T-shirts, bumper stickers, and other items with the letters WWJD. They stand for "What Would Jesus Do?"

In the late 1800's, Charles Sheldon wrote a book entitled *In His Steps*. In it, Sheldon advanced his theme: In any given situation, we ought to imitate what Jesus would do under those same circumstances.

That we should walk in Jesus' steps is eminently Biblical: "*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps*" (1 Peter 2:21). Paul told the Corinthians, "*Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ*" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

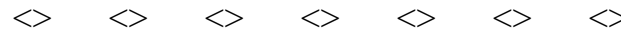
Naturally, we must avoid some pitfalls regarding "What would Jesus do?" Sometimes there may be no answer. For example, would Jesus wear gray slacks or brown? It simply doesn't matter, so get dressed and go do something constructive!

And what about cases where He might have done something we cannot do? If my friends are in a boat on the lake during a storm, I cannot walk to them upon the water or miraculously calm the storm as Jesus did. Then I should ask, "What would Jesus want me to do?"

But how do you know what Jesus would want you to do? Only by applying the teaching of Scripture to your situation can you answer that question accurately. It might be faster, easier, and more exciting to rely on our inner feelings and emotions in establishing our direction. Multitudes do this, presuming that they are being "spiritual" or that they are receiving some sort of

"nudge" from the Holy Spirit. Jesus, however, said that His word is the standard of judgment (John 12:48).

When you must make a choice, ask, "What does Jesus want me to do?" Then find the answer by applying the teaching of the Bible to your situation. Having thus discerned His will, obey Him promptly and gladly!



Ways to Boost Church Attendance

A preacher attended a college football game and came away with the solution to the struggle to get people to attend church services. Here are his recommendations:

1. Replace our cushioned pews with steel benches, and remove the backs.
2. Make people sit very close to each other, especially to those they don't know well.
3. Let those who smoke sit in front of non-smokers and blow smoke back in their faces.
4. Take the roof off of the building. Something about having a top on a building keeps people from coming inside.
5. Have someone shout into the loud speaker. (Since I'm the preacher, I guess that would be me.)
6. Finally, make everyone pay \$40 to get in, even before they know whether they will like the outcome.

--Larry Acuff (adapted), via Bulletin Digest

Children: Our Rich Heritage

"Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter at all." And then Jesus took them in his arms and began blessing them" (Mark 10:14-16).

In imparting this blessing, Jesus attached a high value to children. A grave warning was given when Jesus said, "*but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea*" (Matthew 18:6).

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3-5). Children, once a handful, later can become a quiver full of strength. What a blessing it is to have children who will turn back to help and protect you in time of trial and trouble.

Obedient children brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord are promised a fruitful life with many blessings (Ephesians 6:1-4). Most children never forget who really cared for them. Be there for them, and they will be there for you.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1). As good stewards of the faith, we must entrust our homes and children to the Lord.

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