

***The Purposeful Examples of Jesus***  
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**Introduction:** How can the Lord powerfully deliver his priorities to our hearts?

- A. The fact that God became man is a powerful lesson in itself! **(Phil 2:5)**
  - 1. How can a single message be delivered for all time and for all cultures?
  - 2. The example and teaching of Jesus has great power! Sometimes there is a special emphasis!
  - 3. Those that minimize examples will end up missing the heart of God.
- B. These examples of Jesus will manifest the character of God. **(Jn 14:6)**
  - 1. There can be no doubt that Jesus came to teach by example. **(1 Pt 2:21)**
  - 2. When examples are given we must reason, discern and seek to have open hearts for a careful application.

***I. The Baptism of Jesus***

- A. Jesus powerfully endorsed the work of John. **(Mt 3:14-17)**
  - 1. God already spoke in prophecy. Now the voice of God endorses His action!
  - 2. John baptizing for the forgiveness of sins was controversial. He had opposition! **(Mk 1:4; Jn 1:24-25)**
- B. Jesus later used John's baptism as authority for His work. How the Pharisees handled baptism would show how they handled authority. **(Lk 7:28-30; Mk 11:30-33)**
  - 1. All of Jesus' disciples were first disciples of John. **(Jn 1)**
  - 2. Who is the king of our lives? Is Jesus lord over local churches?

***II. The cleansing of the temple***

- A. Jesus as God was present at the planning and the dedication of the Temple. It had a purpose. **(1 Kgs 5:5)**
  - 1. The holiness of God demands that men only approach God through His name (authority). Ignoring God's holiness is fatal. **(Lev 10:1-3)**
  - 2. God's ways are holy and must be carefully sought out.
- B. The Jews had completely subverted God's purposes. **(Jn 2:13-17)**
  - 1. When God is left out then divine things are turned to fulfill the desires of men.
  - 2. "God did not forbid this!" Those who understand holiness always seek authority!
  - 3. What is the purpose of a local church? .. of the contribution? How can we know?

***III. The raising of Lazarus***

- A. Jesus often taught about the importance of dying forgiven. **(Jn 8:21, 24)**
  - 1. Why is this so? There must be a future judgement and afterlife.
  - 2. Jesus wanted all men to see the great gift that He wants to give. **(Jn 11:22-27)**
- B. What is the purpose of life? What is the meaning of death?
  - 1. Jesus wanted all men to know that this only comes through Him. **(Jn 11:41-43)**

2. All things decay and die! Think! This miracle should open hearts! **(Jn 14:6)**
3. When we really believe then this becomes dominate in our daily thinking.  
*This present life is temporary!*

#### ***IV. The washing of the disciples feet***

- A. Jesus knew the *powerful temptation pride* would have on His disciples.
  1. Some take God's authority and *make thrones for the glory of men.*
  2. Jesus' disciples and their families struggled with this. **(Mk 9:34-37)**
- B. Jesus washed their feet. **(Jn 13:3-5)**
  1. Satan corrupts hearts through pride. If the heart is lost, *teaching is powerless!*
  2. Jesus teaches them from this example. **(Jn 13:12-17)**
  3. How do we discern the cultural aspect of this? The scriptures tell us!
  4. Are we really *living a life of service?* Those who hold grudges *cannot serve!*

#### ***V. The Lord's Supper***

- A. How did Jesus show us about *how we are to remember His death?* **(Lk 22:19-20)**
  1. This was done after the eating of *the Passover meal.*
  2. How difficult is this *to understand and keep?* It depends if we have a heart that has learned *to seek and worship.*
- B. A simple example given to us *has profound implications.* **(1 Cor 11:23-24, 20-22)**
  1. This is how *the New Testament is to be handled!*
  2. Should we substitute hamburger and coke for the cup and the bread?
  3. This principle will teach us about sacred things and *how we handle them!*

#### ***VI. His life of sanctification to the words of God***

- A. Jesus summarizes *the purpose behind all that he did* in John 17.
  1. His plan was to *bring salvation to all* who receive the words of His apostles.  
**(Jn 17:20-21)**
  2. Jesus carefully delivered these words on earth. **(Jn 17:8, 14)**
  3. The Holy Spirit would soon deliver *additional words.* **(Jn 16:12-13)**
- B. The examples of Jesus taught the apostles *how to be sanctified by these words!*  
**(Jn 17:17-19)**
  1. Holiness is defined by God. To walk in holiness is by its very nature *is to be separated from the ways of the world.* **(2 Cor 6:16-18)**
  2. Jesus teaches us how to handle the words of God! **(Jn 8:28)**
  3. These examples did not "just happen." The Father directed Jesus to teach and act!
  4. The words of God are far more powerful than a temporary cultural message from men. The words of God received by faith will change us.
  5. Worldly people and spiritual people think and act very differently.

**Conclusion:** May each of us follow the footsteps of Jesus so we can live a truly Christian life!