

January 5, 2020

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
P.O. Box 683
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall
Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

“I Have Given You an Example”

By Michael Hickox

John 13:15: *For I have given you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you.*

One of the things accomplished by the Son of God’s descension to earth was the provision of a perfect example to follow. Consider four specific practices exemplified by Jesus that we must imitate.

Self-Denial – In **Matthew 16:21**, “**Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up.**”

Such suffering was not *Peter’s* will for the Lord, so he rebuked Jesus and, inadvertently, promoted *Satan’s* will by trying to stop Jesus from going through with *the Father’s* will (**verses 22-23**).

After rebuking Peter, “**Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me’** (verse 24).

Jesus was prepared to forsake His own comforts to submit to the Father’s will. He taught that His followers must do likewise.

Taking up our crosses, as **verse 24** refers to, involves forsaking and pursuing *anything necessary* to please God. Like Jesus, we must always choose pleasing God above pleasing self.

Jesus’ words, “**not as I will, but as thou wilt**” (**Matt. 26:39**) must describe *our* attitude toward God.

“I Have Given You an Example”

(Continued)

Servitude – Jesus’ example of self-denial shows us that doing great things for God is not about seeking preeminence, popularity, and possessions, but about being a *servant* for God and others.

In **Matthew 20:21**, James and John’s mother asked Jesus to give preeminence to her sons. The other ten were indignant upon hearing this (**verse 24**).

In **verses 25-27**, Jesus contrasted the disciples’ carnal view of greatness with the attitude of servitude God desires. He then noted the perfect *example* of such servitude in **verse 28: *even as the Son of Man came not be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.***

John 13:3 says that Jesus knew “*that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He came from God, and was going to God.*” It is striking that this statement showing Jesus’ superiority is followed by a description of Jesus *servicing* those He is superior to (**verses 4-12**). In **verse 14**, Jesus explained that we must imitate such servitude. This is the setting for His statement, “*For I have given you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you*” (**verse 15**).

Humility – By becoming a servant, the Son of God perfectly exemplified what it means to *humble oneself*.

After commanding humility and love in **Philippians 2:3-4**, the Holy Spirit exhorted, “*Have this mind in you, which was also*

in Christ Jesus.” (**verse 5**).

He went on to note at least three ways by which Christ perfectly exemplified humility: (1) by taking on human form, though He is Deity (**verses 6-7**), (2) by being perfectly obedient to the will of the Father (**verse 8**), and (3) by dying a humiliating death by crucifixion (**verse 8**).

If the Son of God was willing to humble Himself, how much more should we eagerly humble ourselves?

Forgiveness – Jesus’ willingness to *forgive* is also an example to imitate.

In **Luke 23:34**, Jesus was being crucified because of others’ envy. Remarkably, He reacted by saying, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*”

Jesus’ statement was not excusing evil-doing. It did, though, show that Jesus had no resentment or bitterness toward those who treated Him terribly. He desired their repentance, rather than wanting the worst for those who mistreated Him. Such is the essence of having a forgiving heart.

No one has ever mistreated us as much as we have mistreated Christ. If *He* is willing to forgive *us* upon submission to His terms, how much more should we eagerly forgive others (cf. **Col. 3:13**)?

Much more could be said about the perfect example of Christ, but these are among the things He’s exemplified. May we follow the Savior both by obeying His Word *and* by walking in *His footsteps*.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

– Proverbs 25:11

***"Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies."***

– Proverbs 31:10

***"But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and His righteousness; and all these
things shall be added unto you. Take
therefore no thought for the morrow: for
the morrow shall take thought for the
things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is
the evil thereof." – Matt. 6:33-34***

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
Randy & Kim S
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
June's Niece, Debbie
Roger H (Heart Surgery)
Berlyn & Guyla Y
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

January 5 – Genesis 1-3; Matthew 1
January 6 – Genesis 4-6; Matthew 2
January 7 – Genesis 7-9; Matthew 3
January 8 – Genesis 10-12; Matthew 4
January 9 – Genesis 13-15; Matt. 5:1-26
January 10 – Genesis 16-17; Matt. 5:27-48
January 11 – Genesis 18-19; Matt. 6:1-18

***"I have chosen the way of truth. I have
set your ordinances before me."
– Psalm 119:30***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Bible Study: Harold
Worship: Michael
Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Steve

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Upcoming Reminders

Jan. 25: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: Women of the New Testament

Assignments

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Reading: Harold
Announcements: Roger
Table: Mike
Serve: Steve
Dave
Dan H
Jeff

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 9 – Maxine
January 9 – Douglas
January 10 – Cynde
January 15 – Mike
January 17 – Raymond