

June 26, 2022

**“I Have Given You an Example”**

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## 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.

**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

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Jerry & Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond B  
Robert C  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Devin D (Cancer)  
Vicki S (Cancer)  
Susan F (Cancer)  
Christie's Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)  
Berlyn Y

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## Words to Consider

***“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”***  
– Romans 12:10-13 (NKJV)

## Daily Bible Reading

June 26 – Job 5-7; Acts 8:1-25  
June 27 – Job 8-10; Acts 8:26-40  
June 28 – Job 11-13; Acts 9:1-21  
June 29 – Job 14-16; Acts 9:22-43  
June 30 – Job 17-19; Acts 10:1-23  
July 1 – Job 20-21; Acts 10:24-48  
July 2 – Job 22-24; Acts 11

***“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, God.”*** – Psalm 42:1 (WEB)

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Bible Study: John

Worship: Travis

Evening: Dan D

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Douglas

### **Assignments**

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Reading: See

Announcements: Bulletin

Table: Board

Serve:

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Donna G (June) / See Bulletin Board (July)

### **Prepare Communion**

Julzy (June) / See Bulletin Board (July)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Wednesday (29<sup>th</sup>) adult class:**

*Ephesians 6:2ff*

**Next Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup>) adult class:**

*The Lord's Apostles*

### **Anniversaries**

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay

July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

### **Birthdays**

July 8 – Mark

July 12 – Holly

July 12 – Jessilyn