

# Camp Westminster

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Green Lake, WI

## *“Imitating Jesus”*

1. Eating Like Jesus 7 p.m. Monday
2. Working and Resting Like Jesus 9:15 a.m. Tuesday 10:45 Men
3. Growing Like Jesus 7 p.m. Tuesday
4. Being as Whole as Jesus 9:15 a.m. Wednesday 10:45 Women
5. Leading Like Jesus 7 p.m. Wednesday
6. Speaking Like Jesus 9:15 a.m. Thursday 10:45 Youth
7. Praying Like Jesus 7 p.m. Thursday

## 1. Eating Like Jesus (The Purpose of Life)

7 p.m. Mon. Aug. 3

Introduction of Theme: Imitating Jesus.

Ephesians 5:1-2, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

What does this mean?

Jesus is the standard we cannot meet.

Jesus is the sacrifice we cannot pay.

Jesus is the redemption we cannot attain.

Jesus is the empowerment we cannot perform.

This evening's lesson:

John 4:34, "'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.'"

Jesus tied together two concepts here: the purpose of life and your relationship with food.

What is your relationship to food? Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 15: What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created? Answer: The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:6-8

Luke 18:22, Jesus taught a 'good' man about treasure and the meaning of life, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."

What is your relationship to the creation?

As imitators of Jesus, our satisfaction must not be found in any created thing.

**Nothing but God Himself truly satisfies us.**

**Because we are designed to seek God our Father like Jesus did, Jesus rescues us from emptiness and death by giving us...**

- 1. ... a thirst for God that is stronger than our thirst for water. (v.27-30)**
- 2. ...a hunger for God that is stronger than our hunger for food. (v.31-38)**
- 3. ...ears to hear and hearts to believe God that are stronger than our ears to hear people and our hearts to believe people. (v.39-42)**

Where do you see this?

In your drinking.

In your eating

In your thinking, hearing, and speaking.

Every day things!

Hebrews 3:1, Are you tempted? "...fix your thoughts on Jesus..."

Hymn #662 *As the Hart Longs For Flowing Streams*

Books:

In His Steps, by Charles Sheldon, 1967.

Hunger for God, by John Piper, 1997.

**2. Working and Resting Like Jesus (Work/Rest Balance)** 9:15 a.m. Tues. Aug. 4

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

John 21:22, Jesus said to Peter, "...what is that to you? **You must follow Me.**"

1 Peter 2:21, later Peter wrote, "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps."

In Revelation 14:4, believers are described as those who, "...follow the Lamb wherever He goes."

What does this mean?

This morning's lesson:

- a. Seeing the Imbalance – all of us are all out of whack.
- b. Hoping anyway: In Christ, we can balance work and rest.
- c. What is God's pattern for balancing work and rest? Imitating Jesus!  
**God's pattern for balance is that Jesus teaches us to both rest in Christ and work as unto the Lord; that is, we are enabled by Jesus' resurrection power to joyfully obey the fourth Commandment of the Ten Commandments, out of the motivation of our new hearts!**
- d. From whom does my balance of work and rest ultimately come as a duty? By whose authority? Where does that leave my boss, my spouse, my children, church...?
- e. How does the New Testament Christian relate to the law in general, and specifically to the Fourth Commandment? According to the teaching of Christian liberty, can't I do what I want to do with "my" time?
- f. What are some of the benefits for using the pattern of Jesus? What does it reveal about me when I obey this command?

Tuesday 10:45 a.m. Discussion Starters for the Men

1. REST: Time for self-examination: Is your life a life of perpetual motion? When do you truly rest? What refreshes you? Does that idea originate from God? How is the idea of leisure connected to the cross?
2. WORK: In a workforce filled with workaholism, dissatisfaction, and underemployment, what are the errors toward which you keep approaching?
3. BALANCE: Do you know anyone who lives a balance well, that could serve as your mentor? How, specifically, will you be pursuing this balance next week?

Hymn #654, *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Books:

Redeeming The Time: A Christian Approach to Work & Leisure Leland Ryken, 1995.

When Thou Sittest In Thine House, by Abraham Kuyper, 1929.

### 3. Growing Like Jesus (Godly Parents/Children)

7 p.m. Tues. Aug. 4

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

1 John 2:6, “Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.”

In Luke 9:23, Jesus taught, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Luke 9:57-62, “a man said to [Jesus], ‘I will follow You wherever You go.’... (v.61)... another said, ‘I will follow You, Lord; but first let me...’ (v.62) Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 14:26-27, 33, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be My disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be My disciple.”

What does this mean?

This evening’s lesson: Luke 2:21-52

1. Jesus grew under His human parents. God the Father entrusted Jesus to them. v.21,40
2. Jesus grew through the disciplines of life. v.41-50
3. Jesus grew in obedience. v.51-52 Hebrews 2:17-18 Hebrews 4:15

2 Peter 3:11-18, “(v.11)... what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives... (v.14)... make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him... (v.17)... be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men... (v.18) but GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Hymn #238, *My Dear Redeemer And My Lord*

Books:

Grow In Grace by Sinclair Ferguson, 1989.

Thoughts For Young Men, by J.C. Ryle, 1886.

#### 4. Being as Whole As Jesus (Godly Emotions)

9:15 a.m. Wed. Aug. 5

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

Matthew 11:29, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

This morning’s lesson: 1 John 2:28 –3:3

What is a purified person? What are the emotions of a purified person?

“...*just as He is pure...*”!

Godly Emotions, a definition.

Tears – what made Jesus cry?

Laughter – what made Jesus laugh?

Anger – what made Jesus angry?

Joy – over what did Jesus rejoice?

1 John 3:2, “...we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

From the teaching of Hebrews 4:14-16, we know that Jesus can sympathize, because Jesus was tempted in every way just as we are, yet was without sin. We can go to Jesus for mercy and grace!

Wednesday 10:45 a.m. Discussion Starters for Women’s Meeting

What makes you angry?

What makes you cry?

At what do you laugh?

Where is growth needed?

Hymn #595, *Let Your Heart Be Broken*

Books:

Cry of the Soul, by Tremper Longman, 1999.

The Person and Work of Christ “The Emotional Life of Our Lord” B.B. Warfield, 1912.

## 5. Leading Like Jesus (Parenting and Leadership)

7 p.m. Wed. Aug. 5

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

Matthew 10:34-38, “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me, and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.”

What does this mean?

This evening’s lesson:

**Leadership is similar to parenting; the end goal is to follow Jesus yourself and, rather than making followers of yourself, to make other followers of Jesus.**

### 1. Loving Like Jesus:

Jesus longed to care for his people like a parent – a mother hen! Matthew 23:37

Paul said leaders love people like a parent loves a child. 1 Thess. 2:7,11-12

### 2. Teaching by Example:

Point the way and get out of the way!

Paul said leaders ask people to follow them, as they follow Christ! 1 Thess 1:5b-6.

If you are not moving toward Jesus yourself, you cannot possibly be leading others to Jesus. If you are not leading others to Jesus, then you are hindering them! Luke 18:15-16.

We’re all in this together. Romans 15:1-7...in a spirit of unity, we follow Jesus!

### 3. Turning All Over to God:

The mother of Jesus, trying to protect her son, was overruled by God’s Word.

Luke 8:19-21.

God expects us to be exclusive in following God. Luke 14:25-27.

Paul taught that leaders and parents are only secondary to God. 1 Thes.2:17--3:8

We re-calculate family ties, when it comes to the reign of God. Luke 18:27-30

Hymn #561, *Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak*

Books:

Withhold Not Correction, by Bruce A. Ray, 1978.

Step By Step: Divine Guidance For Ordinary Christians by James Petty, 1999.

**6. Speaking Like Jesus** (Speak Truth In Love, Firm & Gentle) 9:15 a.m. Thurs. Aug. 6

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

In John 8:12, Jesus taught, “ I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

What does this mean?

This morning’s lesson: Ephesians 4:1-32 NOTE: verses lead up to “Be imitators of God”!

Ephesians 4:14-15, “...we will not longer be infants...instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

1. Maturity means that we speak the truth in love. (v.15)
2. Because truth is in Jesus (v.21), we must stop lying and start telling the truth! (v.25)
3. Because the devil is prowling, clear things up as soon as possible! (v.26-27)
4. Because we are allies, attack the issue, not the people! (v.29,30)
5. Because God acted to forgive us, we must act, and not react! (v.31-32)

Thursday 10:45 a.m. Discussion Questions for Youth Meeting:

What happens when you speak the truth without love? AND What happens when you love without speaking truth?

Why do you react? Why do you bend the truth sometimes?

What is the pathway out of these errors? How can you change? Who will help you?

Hymn # 582, *Yield Not To Temptation*

Books:

War of Words, Paul Tripp, 2000.

Heart of Anger, Lou Priolo, 1997.

## 7. Praying Like Jesus

7 p.m. Thurs. Aug. 6

Repeat the Theme: Imitating Jesus.

In John 12:26, Jesus said, “Whoever serves Me must follow Me.”

This evening’s lesson:

1. The basis of our prayers. (prayers of Jesus – John 17, Garden of Gethsemane, cross)
2. The content of our prayers (The Lord’s Prayer)
3. The habit of our prayers. (Go back once more to the example of Jesus in His life!)

Adapted from An Evening Prayer from Valley of Vision, a book of Puritan prayers.

O Lover of Your People, You have placed our whole beings in the hands of Jesus, our Redeemer, Commander, Husband, Friend, and You care for us in Christ.

Keep us holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; may we not know the voice of strangers, but go to Jesus where He is, and follow Jesus where He leads.

You have bathed us once for all in the sin-removing fountain; cleanse us now from this day’s defilement, from today’s faults, today’s deficiencies of virtue, today’s harmful extremes, that we may show a perfect character in Jesus.

O Master, who didst wash the disciples’ feet, be very patient with us, be very condescending to our faults, go on with us till your great work in us is completed.

Keep us humble, dependent, supremely joyful, as calm and quiet as nursing children, yet earnest and active. We wish not so much to do as to be, and we long to be like Jesus; If You make us right we shall be right; Lord, we belong to You, make us worthy of Yourself. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn #629, *What a Friend We Have In Jesus*

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer! Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms, He’ll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

Books:

When You Pray, by Philip Ryken, 2000.

A Praying Life by Paul Miller, 2009