

Jesus Went A Little Farther

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Matt. 26:39

Matt. 26:39, *“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

The first part of this verse forms our lesson topic.

What is here affirmed of Jesus can be affirmed about Him in every relationship of life, and every phase of human existence.

This principle at once distinguishes Jesus from every great leader that has come before us. Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist, and Paul went farther than most of us are willing to go. Jesus went even farther. He knows our infirmities and weaknesses, but was willing to go farther.

Things in which Christ went farther

He went farther in love.

He teaches that we are to love one another. John 13:34, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”*

This is easy, because we can all love those whom we are with and who are for the cause we are for.

He teaches that we are to love our enemies. Matt. 5:44, *“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you,”*

This is a hard test for man. Matt. 5:39, *“But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”*

Jesus said the greatest love is to lay down one’s life for a friend. John 15:13, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*

Under certain circumstances, a lot of people would be willing to do this. You may very well give your life for your child, your mate, or a very close friend.

Jesus died for His enemies. Rom. 5:6-10, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love*

toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

Men, as a rule, are just not willing to do that.

Jesus went farther in love.

He went farther in obedience.

He was obedient to God. Phil. 2:8, *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

His obedience went to the point of giving His life.

He came to do His Father's will.

- John 4:34, *"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."*
- John 6:38, *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."*

Most individuals will not obey Christ in His teachings. Matt. 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Jesus went farther in obedience and became the author of our salvation. Heb. 5:8-9, *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him,"*

Jesus went farther in prayer.

He spent a whole night in prayer. Luke 6:12, *"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."*

He prayed in any great undertaking; He prayed at the transfiguration.

Luke 9:29, *"And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering."*

He prayed at His baptism. Luke 3:21, *"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"*

He prayed after cleansing the leper. Luke 5:16, *"And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed."*

He prayed before calling the twelve. Luke 6:12, “*And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*”

Do you talk to God before making a big decision?

He prayed on the cross for His murderers. Luke 23:34, “*Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*”

Do you pray for your enemies?

He prayed with His last breath. Luke 23:46, “*And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*”

We are to pray without ceasing.

- 1 Thess. 5:17, “*Pray without ceasing.*”
- Luke 18:1, “*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint,*”

We see that Jesus went farther in prayer.

Jesus went farther in forgiveness.

He taught forgiveness. Matt. 6:14-15, “*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

Jesus practiced what He taught. Luke 23:34, “*Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*”

Few would go that far.

Stephen and Paul followed His example.

- Acts 7:60, “*And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*”
- 2 Tim. 4:14-16, “*Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*”

We need to learn this manner of forgiveness. Too many want to forgive without forgetting. Some will not forgive at all.

Jesus went farther in sorrow.

Isaiah 53:3, *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”*

He is able to know and feel our sorrows, because he has experienced plenty.

He wept with Mary and Martha over the death of their brother Lazarus. John 11:35, *“Jesus wept.”*

He was sorrowful unto death. Matt. 26:38, *“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.”*

Jesus went farther in goodness. Acts 10:38, *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”*

His enemies could not find any fault in Him. He was the only sinless person ever to live. 1 Pet. 2:22, *“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”*

How far can you go with Him?

Five thousand got close enough to Him to eat of the loaves and fishes. Matt. 14:21, *“And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.”*

Have you gotten close enough to the Master to eat of the bread of life?

Seventy got close enough to be sent on the limited commission. Luke 10:1, *“After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.”*

Have you gotten close enough to the Lord that you have been sent on a mission to save souls?

Twelve got close enough to become apostles. The apostles were ambassadors of God’s word.

Are you a bearer of the word of God?

On Pentecost, 120 were close enough to be worshiping and praying. Acts 1:14, *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”*

Are you close enough to Him to worship and pray?

Paul got close enough to Jesus to give his life to Him. 1 Cor. 11:1, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*

We are to give our lives to Jesus, as well. Phil. 1:21, *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

Does Christ mean this much to you?

Jesus did not quit

Jesus did not quit...

- Because Judas was a traitor.
- Nor because Peter was fickle at times.
- He did not quit preaching and living right because some of His brethren were unforgiving and unkind.
- He just did not quit.

Others quit; did you? If you did, what was the reason?

Any reason that you might name, Jesus could have given the same. He had every reason to be discouraged. His own disciples were slow to learn. His enemies were bent on His destruction.

But He did not quit.

As a child, he said in Luke 2:49, *“... wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”*

When the end of His earthly life was in sight, He said to His Father, John 17:4, *“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”*

He did not quit; He finished His task.

When you come to the end of your life, can you say, “I have finished the work God has given me to do”? Or will you be compelled to say, “I started, but quit”? Will you stand before the judgment bar of God and admit that you were a quitter?

Eternal life is promised to those who endure to the end. Matt. 10:22, *“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”*

There will be no consolation on the Judgment Day unless you had a life of faithful endurance on this earth.

