



Through the Cross Jesus, Our Lord

I. Following Jesus

John 2:11 (NIV®)

¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and **his disciples put their faith in him.**

II. Getting to Know Jesus

A. Learners

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV®)

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that you may know him better.**

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ **I want to know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

B. Jesus Exalted

Ephesians 1:19-23 (NIV®)

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.** ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

C. Jesus' Choices

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV®)

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but **made himself nothing**, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** and **became obedient** to death—even death on a cross!

Hebrews 5:7-8 (NIV®)

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸ Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered.**

1 Peter 2:23-24 (NIV®)

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

III. The Response to Jesus (Before the Cross)

A. Selfish Ambition

John 11:43-48 (NIV®)

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ **Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."**

B. Uncooperative

John 9:13-19 (NIV®)

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "**This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**" But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

C. Consistent Criticism

Luke 7:34 (NIV®)

³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners.'"

D. Great Anger

Luke 6:6-11 (NIV®)

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there. ⁹ Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹ But **they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.**

E. Slow Learners

Mark 7:18 (NIV®)

¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'?"

IV. Our Path

Hebrews 12:2-4 (NIV®)

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I choose to fix my eyes on Jesus. I humbly ask that You would give me a Spirit of wisdom and revelation that I might know Him better. Open the eyes of my heart, enlighten me that I may know the hope to which You have called me, the glorious inheritance in the saints that awaits and Your great power for us who believe. Grant me strength that I might not grow weary and lose heart. My desire is to complete my course in a way which honors You, in Jesus' name, amen.

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