

JESUS OUR ROLE MODEL FOR LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY



Jesus was a great example of what it is to be a successful Christian leader. Though He was only in ministry here on earth for around 3 years, Jesus left a great legacy from His time here on earth. We now have around two billion believers that have come out of His ministry here on earth.

Jesus had the ability to gather people to Himself and then to help them to realize their full potential in life as they were encouraged to pursue God's plan for their life.

People were even prepared to leave their careers to follow Jesus and to lay down their lives for Him. (Mark 1:16-20) (Mark 2:14) Of the original 12 disciples (except for Judas who hung himself) all were martyred for their faith except the Apostle John, who died a natural death.

Whilst it was the drawing of God that caused people to come to Jesus, even tax collectors and sinners were comfortable spending time in the presence of Jesus. (Luke 15:1)

So what were some of the characteristics of Jesus life and ministry here on earth that we can look at adopting in our own lives, so that we can become better leaders and more Christlike so that we truly shine in this world for Jesus.

1) Jesus had an intimate relationship with His Father in heaven (He had a lifestyle of prayer and communion with His Father in Heaven)

Jesus Himself in His time here on earth knew the importance of prayer and continually communed with His Father in heaven. In the gospel of Luke we read, "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." **(Luke 5:16)**

So too having an intimate relationship with the Lord needs to be our highest priority in life.

Everything in ministry needs to flow out of our relationship with the Lord. It is in maintaining an intimate relationship with the Lord that we grow in Christlike character and our lives bear much fruit.

Jesus Himself said,

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." **(John 15:4-5)**

2) Jesus only ever did what His Father in heaven told Him to do.

He was committed to doing the will of His Father in heaven. He was focused on fulfilling God's destiny for His life.

Jesus said to His disciples,

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” **(John 4:34)**

So too we need to always seek to do the will of God for our life. It is in doing this that we consistently experience God's favour and blessing upon our lives (Isaiah 1:19) and God opening up doors that no man can close. (Revelation 3:7-8)

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

Jesus’ life was characterized by His obedience to His Father’s will for His life.

Jesus Himself said, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” **(John 5:30)** “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” **(John 6:38)**

Because Jesus had a clear understanding of His Father’s will for His life, he was not influenced by others to do other things. We see this in the gospel of Mark;

“And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.”

But He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.” **(Mark 1:36-38)**

So too as believers we need to follow Christ’s example of obedience by continually seeking to do God’s will for our life. God’s ways are higher than our ways. God’s plan for our life is the best.

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

God has a unique plan for ever believer’s life.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

IT IS IN WHOLEHEARTEDLY PURSUING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE AND FLOWING IN THE "GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM," THAT OUR LIVES MAKE THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY. Jesus Himself achieved much in His time here on earth as He simply did what His Father in Heaven told Him to do.

3) Jesus had a great love for ALL people.

Jesus' life here on earth was characterized by a great compassion for all people and His concern for the lost and hurting. He was gracious in the way that He related to others. Jesus never rejected anyone who came to Him. His love for others was unconditional. He had a great love for the individual which was very apparent in His Parable of the Lost Sheep. (Luke 15:3-7) In a word Jesus was kind. In the gospel of Matthew we read, "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

We also see Jesus' compassion for the afflicted in His cleansing and healing of the Leper. "Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed." **(Mark 1:40-42)**

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of loving others when He said,

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." **(John 13:34-35)**

4) Jesus modelled what forgiveness was.

Jesus continually loved and forgave people right throughout His entire life here on earth. Even when people were ridiculing Him as He hung on the cross dying for their sins, He chose to forgive them.

In the gospel of Luke we read, "And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."^[a]

And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." **(Luke 23:33-35)**

As Christians we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18)
To be effective in helping to reconcile others to Christ, we need to ensure that we always keep short accounts with others and are quick to forgive all those who have hurt us. (Mark 11:25-26) (Luke 17:3-4)

We need to continually maintain an offence free heart if we are to be truly effective in our ministry calling and leadership roles. (Proverbs 4:23)

In ministry we will have many opportunities to forgive others.

5) Jesus led by example and modelled what it was to live a God glorifying life.

Jesus demonstrated through His own life how we should live as Christians. He was without sin and modelled what it was to love others unconditionally.

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:14-15)

As Christians we are meant to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16) as we help to bring the goodness of God into our world through the way that we live our lives here on earth, as we seek to live in a way that glorifies God. Though we will never be perfect, the way that we live our life as Christians should be distinctively different to how those in the world live. Wherever Jesus went He brought change to the lives of others. This can be seen in the way that the disciples that He trained up become world changers.

The way that we live our life is the greatest witness to those in the world and will make the greatest difference in the lives of those that we are mentoring and training up for leadership.

For some people we are the only bible that they will read.

Jesus Himself said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:16)**

The Apostle emphasised to the young pastor Timothy the importance of modelling what it was to live a God glorifying life to those that he was shepherding. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

6) Jesus was a servant leader.

He lived to help others to become all that God had planned for their lives.

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet I shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)

How important it is as leaders that we use our gifts and talents to both lead others to Christ and to serve and to build up and encourage other Christians to realize their full potential in Christ; That we use our spiritual gifts to help others to fulfil their God given destiny.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

7) Jesus was always prepared to give people a second chance.

The Apostle Peter is one example of how Jesus raised up a person into leadership after he had previously denied even knowing Jesus three times.

(Luke 22:54-62) (John 21:15-17) As leaders we must not easily give up on people. God is always the God of second chances.

8) Jesus prayerfully selected whom His 12 disciples would be after spending a night praying to His Father in heaven.

In the gospel of Luke we read,

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” (Luke 6:12-13)

So too we need to prayerfully seek the Lord as to who we invest our time in when looking at helping to develop and mentor other potential leaders. To be truly effective in the use of our time we need to invest our lives in future leaders that have a teachable spirit and a genuine commitment to serve the Lord. We only have so much time and energy to invest in the lives of others.

9) Jesus was our example of humility.

Though Jesus was the Son of God He still stooped down to wash the disciple's feet. (John 13:3-5) Though He continually performed miracles He always gave all the glory to His Father in Heaven.

In His prayer to His Father in Heaven near the end of His time here on earth, Jesus said, "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth," **(Philippians 2:5-10)**

How important it is like Jesus in His time here on earth, that we continually give all the glory to God in all that we do and achieve, especially when we are experiencing God's favour and blessing upon our lives and ministry.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

10) Jesus was continually prepared to make sacrifices and to go out of His way to reach out to people who were in need of help.

Jesus detoured out of His way (though tired) to minister life and hope to the woman at Jacobs well near the city of Samaria who had experienced 5 broken marriages. (John Chapter 4) Here encounter with Jesus transformed her life. Jesus was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice in laying down His life on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. (Hebrews 12:2) Even when He arose from the dead He cooked breakfast for the disciples who had fished all night before re-commissioning Peter. (John 21:9-13)

In the gospel of Matthew we see how Jesus was prepared to make sacrifices when He answered the Scribe who said that he wanted to follow Him. "And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matthew 8:20)

As leaders it is crucial that we also follow Jesus' example of sacrificially living for others. In doing this our lives will make a great difference in the lives of many. The Apostle Paul achieved much during his time here on earth. He wrote around one third of the New Testament, he went on three extended missionary trips and helped to establish many churches. He was an example of what God can do through the life of a person who is totally surrendered to the Lord and who is committed to doing the will of God for their life. The Apostle Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (**Galatians 2:20**)

11) Jesus continually encouraged and comforted people to help them to realize their full potential in life.

Jesus Himself said,

"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (**Matthew 11:28-30**)

Jesus also said, "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (**John 10:10**)

Jesus continually ministered hope and encouragement to people as He shared about the things of the Kingdom.

In the gospel of Luke we see how the people marvelled at the gracious words that Jesus spoke. "So all bore witness to Him, and marvelled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth..." (**Luke 4:22**)

We see Jesus encouraging His disciples with His beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount in the gospel of Matthew;

"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (**Matthew 5:1-12**)

12) Jesus spent much time teaching and mentoring His 12 disciples before they were commissioned for their own ministry. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus spent much time training up and mentoring His disciples. (Mark 4:33-34) So we too as leaders need to be diligent in training up and equipping those in our church to become mature disciples and leaders. Ministering the Word of God into the lives of those in our church should be a key focus of our ministry as leaders and pastors. We need to also encourage all those in our churches to develop a private devotional life in which they build their lives on the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of all Christians being grounded in the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

Pastor John Luliano from the Chatswood Australian Christian Church in Sydney NSW did a study on what Jesus taught His disciples as He prepared them for their own ministry. In this study he found that Jesus taught and commanded His disciples to do 350 things whilst preparing them for their ministry calling. All of these instructions could be summarised into just 7 major core values of what it was to become a mature disciple. These core values of a mature disciple are, that they; i) Love God ii) Love people iii) Love a Godly lifestyle iv) Love sharing their faith with others v) Love God’s family vi) Love God’s Kingdom and living for the Kingdom Cause, and that they vii) Love giving to others

The role of those in the five-fold ministry is to help equip and to prepare all believers to be effective in their own ministry callings. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” **(2 Timothy 2:2)**

It is important for all Christians but particularly for pastors and leaders that we invest our lives in helping to train up and equip other believers to become mature disciples and leaders who can in turn train up other mature disciples and leaders.

13) Jesus was also continually concerned about the practical needs of others as well as their spiritual needs.

Jesus fed the 5,000 and the 4,000 on separate occasions because he was concerned about their physical wellbeing and because He did not want them to faint on their way home. (Mark 8:2-3) Jesus also clearly emphasised the importance of visiting those who were sick and in prison and in need of help. Like Jesus we need to be naturally spiritual and be sensitive to the practical needs of others.

Often it is our practical expressions of love such as giving some food to someone who is hungry, that most opens people's hearts to receiving the message of the gospel.

14) Jesus demonstrated the power of God to bring healing and deliverance to the lives of people.

A big part of Jesus' ministry was praying for the sick and delivering people who were afflicted by demons.

Jesus said in His Word that even greater things would we do in His name to help liberate the sick and oppressed.

Jesus Himself said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT.**" (*John 14:12-14*)

Jesus also said, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (**Mark 16:17-18**)

Jesus demonstrated Kingdom power in His ministry here on earth,

In the book of Acts we read, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." (**Acts 10:38**)

So too we need to look for opportunities to pray for the sick expecting God to do the miracles as we pray for those with needs. Those in the world are looking for demonstrations of God's Kingdom power to see the validity of our claims that Jesus Christ is able to heal the sick and to deliver the oppressed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (**Hebrews 13:8**)

15) Jesus loved being in community with other believers.

Jesus was never an island to Himself, even though He was the Son of God. Though He was the Son of God He loved having fellowship with His disciples as well as also spending time with others.

He attended the feast at Levi's house as well as the wedding in Cana of Galilee with His disciples and visited Zacchaeus' house to have dinner at his place. (Luke 5:29) (John 2:1-11) (Luke 19:5)

Jesus was intimately involved in the lives of his disciples as they followed Him. His training method for equipping His disciples was to spend time with them. Jesus did life together with His disciples and modelled what Christian living was. He was naturally spiritual.

Before recommissioning Peter after he had denied knowing Jesus three times, the first thing that Jesus did was to have breakfast together with Peter and the other disciples.

We see this in the gospel of John.

"Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish." **(John 21:9-13)**

For Jesus having loving relationships with others and spending quality time fellowshiping together with His disciples was a great priority.

As leaders we need to encourage all believers to be connected in fellowship with other believers and to have ourselves, a core group of mature believers that we are connected to and accountable to.

It is so important that we learn to do life together with other believers.

In the book of Hebrews we read,

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**

16) Jesus never forced people to follow Him.

Jesus simply gave people the invitation to follow Him and to pursue God's plan for their life. (John 6:65-69) (Mark 1:16-20) In this way all those who followed Jesus had willingly chosen to do so.

This principle is also applicable to building any ministry team or church fellowship.

It can only be the Lord building the team or church fellowship as people are drawn by Him to become part of the ministry team or church. When it comes to the things of the Kingdom we must simply pray and allow the Lord to build the ministry team and our churches. In this way all those who become connected to the life of our church or ministry team are there by choice.

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” **(Psalm 127:1)**

17) He was committed to training up other disciples who He said would do greater things than what He did.

The primary focus of the second half of Jesus' ministry here on earth was to train up the twelve disciples who would continue on with His ministry here on earth after He ascended back to heaven and who would do even greater things.

Jesus Himself said to His disciples,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT.**” **(John 14:12-14)**

After spending much time training up His disciples, Jesus then commissioned them for their own ministry prior to ascending back to heaven.

We see this in the gospel of Matthew,

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” **(Matthew 28:18-20)**

The longer we go on in our walk with the Lord, the greater our focus, especially as leaders, needs to be on training up and releasing other Christians into their ministry callings and on helping to raise up quality disciples who will in turn disciple many others. It is in doing this that our lives will leave an ongoing legacy on this earth when we go to be with the Lord.

18) Jesus had a strong WHY in what He did in His ministry here on earth.

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost and to lay down His life as a ransom for others. (Luke 19:10) (Matthew 20:28)

In the gospel of Luke we see Jesus reading from the book of Isaiah as He revealed the purpose of His ministry here on earth,

“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,^[a]
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”^[b] (Luke 4:16-19)

Jesus had a clear purpose for His mission here on earth, (the WHY) that caused Him to willingly lay down His life as a ransom for lost sinners to make a way for a lost and broken humanity to be reconciled back to God.

So too with us, it is the why of ministry that will cause us to fully invest our lives for the Kingdom Cause and to cause us to willingly make sacrifices for others.

19) Jesus was COMMITTED to finishing what His Father in heaven had called Him to do in His time here on earth.

So too we need to be committed to finishing what God has called us to do in life.

It is always easy to start things, but it will take courage and perseverance to finish what God has planned for our life. Jesus was committed to fulfilling what His Father in Heaven had called Him to do in His time here on earth.

On the cross Jesus cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30)

The work of redemption had been completed once and for all and for this reason now all who come to Christ can enter into eternal life.

Jesus was committed to finishing the assignment which His Father in heaven had given Him to do here on earth.

Because of His commitment we can now all as believers enjoy the many blessings of salvation which include the gift of eternal life.

So too if we remain committed to fulfilling God’s plan for our life, many others will be impacted and blessed for eternity as we help others to come to Christ and to fulfil God’s plan and purpose for their lives.

Our faith is the most precious thing that we have in life. It is eternal.

Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**

20) Jesus knew the power and authority that He had both in Heaven and on earth. (That He had been given all authority both in heaven and on earth)

As Christ’s ambassadors here on earth we have great authority in His Name as God now uses us as believers to help see God’s Kingdom established here on earth as we preach the gospel and in the Name of Jesus heal the sick and help bring deliverance to those who are bound and oppressed by the Devil. (Mark 16:15-18)

Jesus Himself said,

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

As Christians we are now Christ’s Ambassadors here on earth. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” **(2 Corinthians 5:18-20)**

21) Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit in His ministry here on earth.

In the book of Acts we read, “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

So too we as believers must depend on the Holy Spirit to fulfil the ministry that God has planned for our life.

Being baptised with and continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great key to being effective in witnessing to others and to being effective in our ministry calling. Like Jesus we need to depend on the Holy Spirit’s empowerment to fulfil all that God has planned for our life.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; *that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

22) Jesus knew the value of every soul to God. He had a genuine care and concern for all those that He ministered to.

Jesus Himself said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.” **(John 10:11)**

God has a great love for every person and His desire is that none would perish. **(2 Peter 3:9) (1 Timothy 2:3-4)**

It was this appreciation of the value of every person to God that compelled Jesus to lay down His life for lost sinners. How we too as Christians need to have an appreciation of how precious every soul is to God and have His heart to reach out to the lost and hurting with the love of Christ and to genuinely care for people.

We can see Jesus Christ’s great love and concern for lost people and His sorrow over every person that misses out on heaven in the gospel of Luke.

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” **(Luke 19:41-42)**

AND

23) Jesus spent much time preparing for His Ministry here on earth.

Jesus spent 30 years preparing for His three years of ministry here on earth. His custom every Sabbath day was to be in the synagogue as He prepared for His earthly ministry. (Luke 4:16) But what an impact those three years of ministry had on the world. Jesus was prepared to wait for His Father's timing before entering into His earthly ministry.

It is so important that we never rush ahead of God, but that we allow the LORD to develop the necessary character and spiritual maturity in our life which enables Him to open up the doors of ministry that He has planned for our lives. God always first prepares the man or woman before He gives them the ministry. God is most concerned about our character being right first before He then opens up bigger doors of ministry for us and gives us greater responsibilities. We need to allow the Lord to continually do the necessary work of preparation in our lives in each season of our life, so that God can continually unfold His plan for our life.

SO IN CONCLUSION;

We can learn much from the life and ministry of Jesus. The more we model our life and ministry on how He lived His life and ministered to others, the greater our impact will be on the lives of others for eternity.

Like Jesus all that we do in life must flow out of us having an abiding and intimate relationship with God. That we learn to abide in Him so that we can continually grow in Christlike character and flow in God's will for our life.

How we need to seek to emulate the Lord in the way that He unconditionally loved others, how He always looked for the best in others and how He was prepared to sacrificially give of Himself for others.

How like Jesus we need to be always focused on investing our lives in others and in training up other disciples and leaders so that we can leave a legacy from our life here on earth. How like Jesus our primary focus needs to be one of living for others and in helping others to achieve all that God has planned for their lives'.

In doing this our lives will make a great eternal difference in the lives of many others. We have one life to make a great difference in this world for eternity.

I will finish with the words of Jesus Who said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it produces much grain.** He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour." (John 12:24-26)