



**If Jesus Were Here
Today, Where
Would He Worship?**

What Does Jesus Want For Us Today?

- This lesson is not: “What would Jesus do?” which is speculative and subjective
- But rather: “What did Jesus say?” which is scriptural and objective.



What Does Jesus Want For Us Today?

- He wants the same thing His Father wants
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- He wants us to be saved.



How Would Jesus Accomplish That Today?

The same question was asked in Acts 2:36-37.

- “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”



How Would Jesus Accomplish That Today?

- Peter's answer:
 - Acts 2:38-40 - “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’”



How Would Jesus Accomplish That Today?

- It is what Jesus Christ wanted Peter to say.
 - Luke 24:46-47 - “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”



How Would Jesus Accomplish That Today?

- It's what He told Peter and the apostles to say about obtaining salvation.
 - Matt. 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 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.’”



How many Plans of Salvation did Jesus Give to His Disciples?

- Jesus did not make exceptions; all people are to be saved by His instructions.
- If He made exceptions, He would have a double standard; He would be a respecter of persons.
 - Acts 10:34 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.”
 - Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God”



Have Conditions Changed Since Then?

- Do human beings still need to be saved?
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death...”



Have Conditions Changed Since Then?

- Has God changed his word?
 - Gal. 1:8-9 - “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”
- If that was what was needed then to be saved, then that is what is needed today for salvation.



Once We Have Been Baptized And Our Sins Washed Away, What Do We Do Next?

- It seems instinctive for newly baptized believers to become part of a Church.
 - Acts 9:26, 28 - “And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples...
28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”



Once We Have Been Baptized And Our Sins Washed Away, What Do We Do Next?

- But many see that joining with a denomination just divides up believers.
 - John 17:20-21 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
 - 1Cor. 1:10 - “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”



Options?

- Join the denomination anyway, marring original good intentions,
- Join with the intention to unite all of them together (soon discouraged),
- Give up and worship alone (displeasing to the Lord),
- Or, do what Jesus did.



What Did Jesus Do?

- To what denomination would Jesus belong today?
- There were Jewish denominations in Christ's day.
 - Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, and Essenes
- There were denominations within 21 years of the Church's beginning.
 - 1Cor. 1:12-13, 3:1-4



Jesus did not become a member of a sect, but was simply a believer and follower of God.

- Sought to unite himself with God rather than a sect of men.
- He just did the will of God, His Father.
 - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 - John 6:38 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”



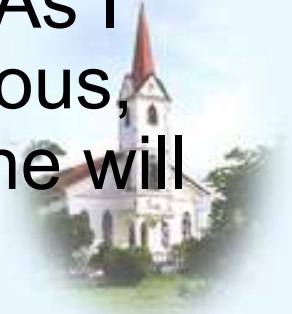
Jesus did not become a member of a sect, but was simply a believer and follower of God.

- What did Jesus accomplish with this approach?
 - John 10:30, 37-38 - “I and My Father are one... 37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”
- What denomination would Jesus be a part of today?
 - He would not be part of a sect of men; He would be united in fellowship with God.



What Next?

- The next thing Jesus did after uniting Himself with God was to get others to be united with God in the same way.
 - John 17:20-21
- How? By creating some world-wide ecumenical denomination?
- By doing just what Jesus said He did.
 - John 5:30 - “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.”



What Next?

- Can we know we are united with God?
- Yes, when we keep God's will just like Jesus did.
 - 2John 9 - "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."



What Next?

- If Jesus did not join a denomination and did not teach us to join one, what denomination should we become a member of?
- In Acts 2, what denomination did believers and followers of Christ join?
- If they were just believers and followers of Christ, why can't we be the same?



What Sermon Would Peter Preach If He Were Here Today?

- The same one he preached on Pentecost.
- If the message is the same, the response of the hearers should be the same, too.



What Sermon Would Peter Preach If He Were Here Today?

- If Peter preached today at W. F. Edwards Stadium in Dade City and 3000 believers were baptized in the Withlacoochee River, to what denomination would they belong?
- They simply would be believers and followers of Jesus Christ!



3000 Believers
and Followers of
Jesus Christ
made according
to Acts 2 - What
denomination
are they?



2000 faithful
believers and
followers of
Jesus Christ
still practicing
Acts 2 - What
denomination
are they?

1000 decide
to drop
Baptism; call
themselves
the Dry
Church;
members are
Dryers.



1000 faithful
believers and
followers of
Jesus Christ
still practicing
Acts 2 - What
denomination
are they?

1000 decide
to drop
Baptism; call
themselves
the Dry
Church;
members are
Dryers.

1000 decide to play
a piano in worship;
call themselves the
Playing Church;
members are
Players.



100 faithful
believers and
followers of Jesus
Christ - What
denomination
are they?



**900 decide Acts 2
is too confining;
they assemble for
food, fun, and
frolic; called the
Eating Church;
members are
Eaters.**

1000 decide
to drop
Baptism; call
themselves
the Dry
Church;
members are
Dryers.

1000 decide to play
a piano in worship;
call themselves the
Playing Church;
members are
Players.



Now What Do These Believers And Followers Of Christ Do When They Go Home?

- Do what the obedient believers did in Acts 2:42-47.
- The believers and followers of the Lord were in fellowship with each other.
- They assembled together as a body of followers of Christ, as some of the duties they were given couldn't be carried out individually.



A group of believers and followers of Christ in a given area was a local church.

- Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4
- That church had a doctrine - Acts 2:42.
- That church shared - Acts 2:43-46.
- That church worshiped together - Acts 2:42, 5:42.
- That church had a treasury - Acts 4:31-35.
- That church was properly organized - Acts 6:1-6, 15:6, 11:29-30.
- Not a denomination, but a local assembly of believers and followers of Jesus Christ!



That Church Has A Name

- **Christ** is the Head - Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23
- **Christ** is the Builder - Matt. 16:18
- **Christ** is the foundation - Eph. 2:19-20; 1Cor. 3:11
- **Christ's** blood bought - Acts 20:28
- **Christ** is Savior of the Church - Eph. 5:23
- **Christ's** doctrine rules it - 2John 9-11
- The Church is the Bride of **Christ** - Rom. 7:4
- It is the Body of **Christ** - Col. 1:18, 24
- All Blessings are in **Christ** - Eph. 1:3
- We are baptized into **Christ** - Gal. 3:26-27; 1Cor. 12:12-13
- We must preach **Christ** only - Acts 8:4-5, 12; 1Cor. 2:2
- Salvation is only in **Christ** - Acts 4:12; John 14:6



Whose Name Should The Church Wear?

- Jesus Christ would assemble with the church that wears His name.
- “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18).





**And Now,
Where Will
YOU Assemble
For Worship?**