

Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus

Being a Christian, that is a follower of Jesus Christ, is an action, not a title or description. To call yourself a Christian in the world today means being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Introduction

Today, we want to talk about having a deeper commitment in our daily walk with Jesus. As Christians, we are not merely spectators; we are called to be active participants in God's redemptive plan for all mankind. God has created each one of us with a plan and a purpose in this world. Each one of the plans and purposes fit together into God's plan and purpose for all of mankind much like small tiles fit together to make amazingly beautiful mosaics.

Jesus gives us a profound insight into what it means to be a Christian. Matthew 25:34-40 says:

Matthew 25:34-40

(34) "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (35) For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, (36) I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (37) "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? (38) When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? (39) When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' (40) "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

This is a core passage of scripture for Cell Life Church and it sets the stage for today's teaching on what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Imitating Christ's Compassion

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see a perfect model of love and compassion. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and reached out to the people that the world looked down on or ignored. As His followers, we are called to do the same thing. Colossians 3:12 says:

Colossians 3:12

(12) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

These attributes are not just for Sunday mornings but for every moment of our lives. We are not spectators waiting for someone else to act. As imitators of Christ, we must show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience to every person we interact with daily. There were no exceptions with Jesus, and there are no exceptions for us. You cannot be one person on Sunday in your church gathering and someone else the rest of the week.



Rest assured, the world is watching how you act in situations and how you treat others. We are an example of Christ's love to the world. You must daily ask the Lord to let you see others through his eyes and ask for a measure of his compassion for them.

You become the hands and feet of Jesus as you look upon others and serve them the way Jesus did; with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Meeting Practical Needs

Being the hands and feet of Jesus also means actively engaging with the practical needs of those around you. It has been said by some that Christians are so heavenly-minded that they are no earthly good. We must share a comforting word to the lonely, a meal for the hungry, or a helping hand for the weary.

James 2:15-16 says:

James 2:15-16

(15) Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. (16) If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

In this fast-paced world, it is easy to focus on ourselves and the situations we find ourselves in. But, the more we focus on ourselves and our own situations the more our focus shifts away from Jesus. Many people expect government to supply the needs of others but that is the Church's job. We must feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, show compassion to the broken-hearted, and free the captive. These are practical ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today.

Meeting the practical needs of others is what Jesus did when he walked among us 2000 years ago and what we are to do today. That is being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today.

Sharing the Good News

Beyond meeting physical needs, we are also called to share the good news of salvation. In Romans 10:14 the Apostle Paul asks:

Romans 10:14

(14) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Jesus has commissioned every one of us to go into all the world and make disciples. He has equipped you and given you power through the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel in your community, school, and workplace. Everywhere Jesus went he shared the good news of the Kingdom. That good news is that God loves us and created us for a relationship. It is the news that sin no longer has to weigh you down; you can be cleansed and free from it. God loves each one of us and it is our job to let people know that he has a loving plan and purpose for each one of us.

As the hands and feet of Jesus, we carry the message of hope and reconciliation to a lost and dying world.



Consistent Acts of Love

Being the hands and feet of Jesus is not a one-time event. It is a lifestyle. It is a commitment to consistently demonstrate Christ's love in our workplaces, schools, homes, and communities. 1 John 3:18 tells us:

1 John 3:18

(18) Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This never stops and there are no breaks or vacations from it. This is our supreme purpose and calling. I have learned over the years through all the different leadership roles I have held in industry and the Church that consistency and love are the master keys to success.

John teaches us that we cannot say one thing and do another. That is dishonest and does not reflect Christ at all. You must show the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to this world with actions, not just words. You must do this consistently, not showing favoritism to one group or individual over another.

Jesus served everyone; Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. He met their physical and spiritual needs. He forgave them of their sins and welcomed them to follow him. He did this consistently and without ceasing. We are to do the same.

Being the hands and feet of Jesus means performing consistent acts of love in love for all people.

Conclusion

Being the hands and feet of Jesus is a high calling. It requires us to see the world through His eyes, to love as He loved, and to serve as He served.

We pray that your lives will be a living testimony to the transformative power of Jesus Christ, and we pray your actions reflect the love that has been poured into your heart.

Simply ask the Lord each day to see others as He sees them and then to give you a measure of his compassion for them. Then act. Do what you know needs to be done. That is being the hands and feet of Jesus.

