

Title: Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, Do what Jesus did

Big Idea: The Christian life is not about striving for victory, but living *from* victory—seated in Christ, walking in obedience, and standing in spiritual authority.

SERIES INTRO

- Welcome
 - Kicking off fun summer series where we're going to try to make spiritual practices a little more personal. You'll hear from some staff you don't usually hear from about their spiritual journeys, where they've met God and which spiritual practices have been most impactful for them.
 - Some fun elements - ice cream, etc. Be here every week you can ! Take notes! Apply this!
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MESSAGE INTRO

- I want to start off this series a little bigger picture. What are we even talking about when we say spiritual practices or disciplines, what are their purpose - to discipline ourselves, to earn favor, etc.?
- Today, I want to give you the three steps for taking this journey with Jesus that many of you have heard, but maybe haven't fully understood yet.
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT - on authority**

²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

- How do we run a race. My story.
- Ephesians gives us a beautiful picture of 3 steps we take to run this race well.
- Most people think the Christian life starts with *doing*—try harder, be better, fix yourself.
- But Scripture flips that: it starts with *being*—who you are in Christ.

- Watchman Nee: Christianity doesn't begin with walking or standing—it begins with *sitting*.
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POINT 1: Be with Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6 NLT

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

One-Line Summary: *You don't work for your identity—you rest in it.*

Define

We are seated with Christ—this is a position of rest, identity, and finished work.

Watchman Nee: "Our natural reason says, 'If we do not walk, how can we ever reach the goal?' But Christianity is a strange business! If at the outset we try to do anything, we get nothing; if we seek to attain something, we miss everything. For Christianity begins not with a big DO, but with a big DONE."

John Mark Comer: "The starting point of apprenticeship to Jesus is simply to be with him. Before we do anything for Jesus, we learn to be with Jesus."

Illustrate

- A child doesn't earn a seat at the dinner table—they sit because they belong.
- Weddings - where you sit reveals your relationship
- Sitting puts us in a position to hold something weighty/significant - Eden holding babies
- Sitting confirms our identity - first thing you have to do if you want to run a marathon - believe you're a runner.

Argue

- Ephesians 2:6 — "Seated with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." And we are seated with him, because the work is finished.

Hebrews 10:12 NLT

¹² But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.

- We don't fight *for* acceptance; we live *from* acceptance.

Watchman Nee: "Walking implies effort, whereas God says we are saved not by walking but by sitting."

Apply

- Stop trying to earn what Jesus already finished.
- **Begin your day from identity, not insecurity.**
- Practical: Start prayer not with requests, but with reminding yourself who you are in Christ. Lord's Prayer.
- List of verses on identity.
- **Begin your day slowly, not in a hurry.**

John Mark Comer: "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."
(*Connection: You cannot 'sit' with Jesus if you are constantly striving and rushing.*)

POINT 2: Become like Jesus.

One-Line Summary: *Live out what God has already made true about you.*

Ephesians 4:1 NLT

4 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Define

First we sit, then we walk. We walk out practically what God has already established positionally.

Watchman Nee: "The life of a Christian is not a matter of doing, but of walking—walking in the Spirit, step by step."

John Mark Comer: "To follow Jesus is to adopt his overall lifestyle. It's to organize your life around the practices, rhythms, and relationships that will make you more like him."

Illustrate

- Learning to walk as a child—you already belong to the family before you walk well. But you still have to try to walk.
- Or: Wearing clothes that fit your identity (you don't wear a uniform to become something—you wear it because you are). But you do have to put it on.
- 2nd thing you have to do if you want to run a marathon is live like you're a runner. Training for a marathon - you don't just try harder. You train in a very specific way. You organize your life around a set of principles that will produce the result you want. You become a marathon runner before you run an actual marathon - not after.

John Mark Comer: "Transformation is not about trying harder; it's about training wisely."

(Connection: Walking is intentional formation—becoming like Jesus over time.)

Argue

Matthew 6:33 NLT

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God^[a] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- The order matters: identity → behavior, not behavior → identity.

Apply

- **Align your lifestyle, your rhythms, with your identity.**
- Daily obedience: relationships, purity, humility, unity. Train wisely.
- Practical: Stop asking what is a sin and what isn't. Ask, "Does this reflect who I already am in Christ?" and "Is it moving me closer to or further away from that identity?"

POINT 3: Do what Jesus did.

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we^[a] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

One-Line Summary: *You don't fight for victory—you stand in it.*

Define

We stand not to gain victory, but to enforce the victory Jesus already won.

Watchman Nee: "Our power for standing, as for walking, lies not in ourselves but in the Lord. We stand in His victory."

John Mark Comer: "To do what Jesus did, we must live as Jesus lived."
(*Connection: Authority flows from formation and intimacy, not effort.*)

Illustrate

- Some retreat and some attack. We're called to stand.
- Holding ground that already belongs to you.
- Everyone fighting, trying to advance themselves in the world. This is a primary thing that sets us apart from the world. We don't have to advance. We only have to stand.
- What we mean by stand - what we mean by do what Jesus did - is to live as a person of love in every situation. Jesus himself said that was the ultimate goal, the most important commandment - love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength and Love your neighbor as yourself.
- At some point in the training process, you actually sign up and run a race. And it's hard. Not matter how hard you train - it pushes you. 18 miles story...

Argue

- Ephesians 6:11 — "Put on the full armor... so you can stand."

James 4:7 NLT

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- We don't fight *for* victory—we fight *from* victory.
- Many spiritual practices are about resistance, standing:
 - Sabbath is resistance against the kingdom of striving.
 - Generosity resistance against the kingdom of selfishness.
 - Community resistance against the kingdom of independence.
 - Worship resistance against the kingdom of pride.
 - Silence and Solitude are resistance against the kingdom of busyness and production.

- Spiritual practices are the ways in which we be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. They are helping us go on a lifelong transformational journey to become people of love.

Watchman Nee: “The believer’s task is not to defeat the enemy, but to stand in Christ’s victory over him.”

Apply

- Recognize spiritual opposition is real—but so is your authority.
 - Stand in truth, righteousness, faith, and love—not fear.
 - Practical: When attacked (temptation, lies, discouragement, fear, anger), ask, “What is the loving thing to do in this situation?”
 - If you find yourself faltering, go back to the first 2 steps...
 - Some of you are exhausted because you’re trying to stand on your own - to resist in your own effort. And you are getting beat up!! Sit down and put your armor on!
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CONCLUSION

- The order is everything:
 - Be with → Become like → Do what
- If you try to Become like without Being with, you’ll burn out.
- If you try to Do what without Becoming like, you’ll be defeated.
- But when you learn to be with Jesus, you can walk in obedience and stand in authority. You can, over a lifelong transformational journey become like Him and do what He did.
- Over the summer we are going to look at some core practices that will help us learn to be with, become like, and do what Jesus did.

Closing Challenge

- Where are you living out of order?
 - Striving instead of resting in your identity? What lies have you believed about yourself or others?
 - Compromising in your walk instead of aligning your rhythms and life with your identity? Sin or not sin, where can you align your life more closely with who God says you are?
 - Shrinking back in fear or fighting in anger instead of standing in authority and in love?
 - Run the race to win!

Gospel Invitation

- The first invitation of Jesus is not “try harder”—it’s “be seated with me.”
- Come into relationship with Him, receive what He’s already done, and step into a new way of living, so that you can stand against any opposition.