

Taking on the Persona of Jesus

Romans 13:8-14

Main idea: To inspire the congregation to embody the love, humility, and selflessness of Jesus in their daily lives

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Scripture passages to consider for further development:

1. Philippians 2:5-8 - "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

This passage emphasizes the humility and selflessness of Jesus, which aligns with the idea of taking on the persona of Jesus. You can explore how we can imitate Christ's humility and servant-heartedness in our daily lives.

2. Matthew 5:43-48 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

This passage highlights the radical love and forgiveness that Jesus calls us to exhibit. It can be used to emphasize the importance of embodying Christ's love towards all people, even those who may be difficult to love.

Language suggestions from original languages:

1. In Romans 13:8, the word for "owe" in Greek is "opheilō," which carries the connotation of being indebted or obligated. You can emphasize the idea that we have a debt of love towards others, just as Christ loved us sacrificially.

2. In Romans 13:12, the phrase "put on" in Greek is "endyō," which can also be translated as "clothe yourself." This imagery can be used to illustrate the idea of taking on the persona of Jesus, as if putting on a new set of clothes.

Other supporting verses:

1. Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

This verse emphasizes the transformative power of Christ's presence in our lives and can support the idea of taking on the persona of Jesus.

2. Ephesians 4:22-24 - "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your

minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

This passage speaks to the process of transformation and renewal that occurs when we take on the persona of Jesus. It can be used to encourage listeners to let go of their old ways and embrace a new way of living in Christ.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and verses into your sermon in a way that reinforces your current ideas and supports your main point.