



Message Guide

FOR MAY 11, 2025

DEEP DIVE: PRACTICING THE WAY 3- "DO AS JESUS DID"



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We are in the third and final week of our teaching series that we're calling, Deep Dive. Two or three times a year we do a sermon series that springboards out of a book that we've been studying that gets us deeper in Scripture and what it means to be a Jesus follower. And this deep dive is from Practicing the Way, which is a book by John Mark Comer. When we are Practicing the Way of Jesus, we are learning to... Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, and Do as Jesus did.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "apprentice?"

We have a staff category here at E91, called "Residents." A resident is someone in training, someone learning how to do ministry and to how to lead others in doing ministry. In the medical community, a medical resident is someone who has completed medical school and now is a doctor in training. In some trades the term is known as an apprentice. A plumbing apprentice is an aspiring plumber who works under the guidance and supervision of a senior plumber. For electricians, there are apprenticeships, so people without experience can safely learn from experts, known as journey-level or master electricians.

In Judaism there were (and are) rabbi apprenticeships. In the times of Jesus, they were called, "Disciples." A mathētēs: disciple—an apprentice (student, learner, follower) to a rabbi.

So, what do we want for our residents here at E91? What does a medical residency want for their residents? Or a plumber residency? Or what does a master electrician want for his or her apprentices? They want their apprentices to do what they do. True apprentices will be with their teacher, become like their teacher, and DO WHAT THEIR TEACHER DOES.

So, when Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations," He was expecting that His followers would do what He was doing. One of the things John Mark Comer points out is that "A rabbi's goal wasn't just to teach, but also to raise up disciples after himself to carry on his teaching and way of life." (Practicing the Way, 120)

Now, this is where we see a radical difference in what we could call "cultural Christianity" and the Jesus Way. Cultural Christianity produces cultural Christians who may believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He rose from the dead, and they attend church. But there's not much thought given to what it actually means to be a Jesus apprentice.



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2. How much thought have you given to what it means to be a “Jesus’ apprentice”? What are some differences between living as a “cultural Christian” and living as an apprentice of Jesus?

You may be just putting your toe in the water to see what you think, and you’re not ready to go to “The Jesus School of Ministry.” And that’s okay. This is not about people graduating into a spiritual “holy club,” and then there are the “spiritual dropouts” that hold the rest of us back.

It is important that we remember this process of practicing the way of Jesus. It’s being with Jesus first. And the more we spend time with Jesus and get to know Jesus, the more we want to become like Jesus, and THEN we grow in a desire to do what Jesus did. Let’s recognize this is a place of healing and grace, but it’s also a place where we call each other up to experience the fullness and joy of living a life on mission for Jesus.

So, what did Jesus do? He performed miracles. He raised people from the dead. He cast out demons. He taught about the Kingdom of God. He overturned tables. He turned water into wine. You could go on and on with examples from the New Testament on all that Jesus did!

But then we come to this incredible declaration that Jesus made that’s recorded in John 14. Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”* (John 14:12, NLT)

3. Whatever Jesus meant by “greater works,” He didn’t mean lesser works. But in that brief list of what Jesus did includes miracles and raising people from the dead. Is there any greater work that can be done than raising someone from the dead, as Jesus did with Lazarus? So, what could He mean by anyone who believes would *do even greater works*?



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What Jesus did individually, the church is called to do corporately. What Jesus did in one place at time has now multiplied through His apprentices, so that we are doing all over the world what Jesus was doing in Israel. What's interesting is that Jesus' ministry—what He did—focused on a particular message and demonstration of Good News, a.k.a. "Gospel" of God's Kingdom. What is God's Kingdom?

It's a kingdom of new life, healing, and hope, where He is restoring all things to beauty, truth, goodness, life, and love.

Jesus taught the Gospel of the Kingdom of God *"Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him."* (Luke 8:1, ESV). Jesus demonstrated the Gospel of the Kingdom of God: *"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."* (Matthew 4:23, ESV).

Why did Jesus heal? Why did He cast out demons? Because there's no room for that in God's Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is about restoring what has been broken, and Jesus is the One who ushers in the new Kingdom. And how did Jesus preach the Good News of the Kingdom and demonstrate the Good News of the Kingdom? By the power of the Kingdom—the Holy Spirit.

"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee." (Luke 4:14, ESV).

And Jesus went to Nazareth, where He grew up. He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was His custom, and He read from the scroll of Isaiah: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."* (Luke 4:18, ESV).

Let's see how we tie all this together:

- First, Jesus said we will do greater things than He did. How? What Jesus did individually, we are called to do corporately.
- What did Jesus do? Jesus taught and demonstrated the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.
- And how did Jesus do that? Jesus taught and demonstrated the Kingdom of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we do corporately, throughout the world, what Jesus did individually in Israel, then we do what Jesus did in the same power that Jesus had! That's what the rest of Jesus' teaching in John 14 is all about. Right after Jesus says we will do greater works than He did, He answers the "how" question. *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth."* (John 14:16-17a, ESV).

Now comes the incredible part. Notice the pronouns Jesus uses through the rest of this teaching:

- "You know him [the Helper/Spirit], for HE dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:17, ESV)
- "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18, ESV)
- "In that day you know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." (John 14:20, ESV)
- "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make OUR home with him." (John 14:23, ESV)



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If we ever need to know or be reminded of the power available to us to do the things Jesus did—proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God, then look no further than Jesus’ own teaching right here in John 14.

4. When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit to help you demonstrate the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?

Jesus then brings it right back to where He started in v. 16, when He restates, “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name....*” (John 14:26, ESV).

What does this mean for us? After all, we’re not “super Christians.” We don’t FEEL like we can do greater things than Jesus did.

But what if Jesus is saying that... together there’s a whole lot more that can be done that what we think can get done. Why? Because we do corporately, throughout the world, what Jesus did individually in Israel. AND We do what Jesus did in the same power that Jesus had.

Imagine what it could be like if we really believed this—that Jesus’ power through Jesus’ Spirit is actually in us.

Imagine what that can do when you feel powerless in your marriage.

Imagine what that can do when you think there’s no way you’re going to be able to make it in life... or in your job... or with your kids... or financially.

Imagine what it can be like if we tap into that Jesus power through Jesus’ Spirit to actually do what Jesus did to proclaim and live out the resurrected presence of Jesus in the Kingdom of God!

5. What next step will you take to do as Jesus did?