



What Did Jesus Do?

Brownsburg Church of Christ

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Introduction:

Several years ago it was all the rage to see WWJD? everywhere. You could see it on billboards, church signs, wristbands, t-shirts, bumper stickers. What would Jesus do? The point was, when faced with a choice, don't just go out on your own, instead ask what Jesus would do. Then do that. It was a great question. However, before we can actually answer that question, we need to ask a different question. What did Jesus do? The fact is the only way for us to determine how Jesus might behave in our shoes is to first see how He behaved when He was actually walking in His own shoes. Otherwise, we are only answering the question based on our think-sos. If we are going to find out what Jesus actually did, we need to look to His record. Let's examine the **Gospel of John** to see what Jesus did. Certainly, as we look through the text, we'll see specific actions like healing the sick, raising the dead, teaching the lost, building up the disciples. If we were to delineate each of the individual things Jesus did, John says the world itself could not contain the sermons we would need to preach (**John 21:25**). Instead, let's consider some overarching principles that determined what Jesus would do. Then let's live like Jesus as individuals and as a congregation.

Discussion:

I. Jesus only did what was authorized by His Father.

- A. In **John 8:28**, Jesus said, "...I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me" (ESV). In **John 5:30**, He said, "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."
- B. Jesus is pretty straightforward. What did He do? He did only what the Father authorized. He did only what He was certain was the Father's will. Think about how amazing this is. Jesus was fully God (**John 1:1**). He was divine. He had as much ability to determine what was right and what He should do as the Father did. But that isn't how He lived. Instead, He voluntarily surrendered His will to the Father's. He only did the Father's will and what the Father had authorized.
- C. If Jesus, God the Son, would only do what the Father had authorized and only what He knew was the Father's will, what would He do if He were in our shoes? He would only do what He could find authorized by the Father's will. What then should we do? We should seek for authority in God's will.

II. Jesus did what the Father told Him to.

- A. In **John 12:49**, Jesus said, "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak" (ESV). As already demonstrated, Jesus refused to do anything based on His own authority. Instead, He did all things based on the Father's authority. But how did He determine what the Father had authorized? How did He determine the Father's will?
- B. According to **John 12:49**, Jesus determined the Father's will by listening to the Father's commands. If the Father commanded something or told Jesus to do something, He knew it was part of the Father's will. He knew it was authorized. When He was following what God had directly said, Jesus was not acting on His own authority but was acting based on the authority of the Father.
- C. If Jesus, God the Son, acted based on the commands He received from the Father, what would He do if He were in our shoes? How would He go about glorifying God and serving Him? He would do what God's will commanded or directly stated that He should and could do. What then should we do? We should seek authority for our actions through the commands and statements of God recorded in His word.

III. Jesus did what He saw in approved examples.

- A. In **John 5:19**, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise" (ESV). Again, we learn that Jesus refused to do anything of His own accord. Instead, He did all things based on the Father's authority. But how did He determine what the Father had authorized? How did He determine the Father's will?
- B. According to **John 5:19**, Jesus determined the Father's will by watching for approved examples. He looked to see what the Father did. Certainly, if the Father did something, then it was right for the Son to do it. When Jesus was doing what He had seen the Father do, He was not acting on His own authority but was acting based on the authority of the Father.

C. If Jesus, God the Son, acted based on the approved example that the Father had shown Him, what would He do if He were in our shoes? How would He go about glorifying God and serving Him? He would do what He had seen approved example from God for. What then should we do? We should seek God's revealed will for the approved examples that God has set forth for us. We can know we are acting on His authority when we act based on those approved examples.

IV. Jesus judged with right judgment based on logical and necessary inferences.

- A. In **John 7:24**, Jesus said, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment" (ESV). But this was simply the end of a long defense. This actually hearkens back to **John 5:1-17**, where Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. The Jews believed that was unauthorized, thinking it violated the law against working on the Sabbath. Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath then? He said it was because He judged with a right judgment. On **John 7:17**, He explained that what He was doing was not on His own authority, but based on the Fathers. But how did He determine what was authorized by the Father? How did He decide what was the Father's will?
- B. According **John 7:24**, He did so based on using right judgment and not simply appearances. That is, He didn't do things based simply on whether it felt right or appeared right but based on using sound, logical, necessary judgments. In **John 7:21-23**, Jesus explained His sound, logical, and necessary judgment. Moses had commanded circumcision (cf. **Leviticus 12:3**). If the eighth day fell on a Sabbath, the Jews would perform a medical procedure to obey the Law of Moses on circumcision. Jesus said this demonstrated that healing on the Sabbath was equally authorized. The Law did not command healing on the Sabbath. The Law did not provide an example of healing on the Sabbath. But Jesus used logical, sound, necessary judgment and inference to draw this conclusion. If someone can be circumcised on the Sabbath, they can also be healed on the Sabbath. Jesus' picture is if a man can be made unwhole on the Sabbath by part of his flesh being removed, then He could make a man whole on the Sabbath by healing his flesh.
- C. If Jesus, God the Son, acted based on logical, sound, necessary inferences, what would He do if He were in our shoes? How would He go about glorifying God and serving Him? He would do what He could logically and necessarily infer from what God had revealed. What then can we do? We can judge with right judgment. We can pursue logical and necessary inferences from God's word.

Conclusion:

But why did Jesus do this? Why was Jesus a stickler for the authority of the Father? Was He simply trying to follow some arbitrary rules? Was He trying to prove He was better than everyone else? Was He hung up on a pattern instead of recognizing the Father's love for Him? Was He trying to earn a place at the right hand of God? Not according to **John 7:18**. There Jesus said, "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood" (ESV). Jesus acted this way because He didn't want to glorify Himself. He wanted to glorify God. If Jesus, God the Son, was motivated by a desire to glorify the Father and not Himself, how would He act if He were in our shoes? He would act out of a loving desire to glorify the Father even today. What then should we do? We must not act out of a desire to prove how good we are. We must not act out of a desire to prove how right we are. Rather, recognizing the great grace God has offered us through the death of His Son, let us love God by glorifying Him instead of ourselves. Let us only act based on the authority our Father has given through His commands, approved examples, and right judgment.