

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Some Things Jesus Did Not Do

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, performed many miracles and wonders during His stay on this earth. So many, that John wrote, “*And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen*” (John 21:25). Yes, Jesus did many things. However, did you know that there were some things that Jesus did not do? Beginning with...

He Did Not Fail To Practice What He Taught.

Luke recorded, “*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day He was taken up...*” (Acts 1:1-2). Jesus Christ, the greatest teacher of all, not only taught others how to live, but He also lived what He taught. Therefore, we too need to follow the example of Jesus, and “practice what we preach.” For Jesus, did not fail to practice what He taught.

He Did Not Refuse His Fathers Will.

Jesus prayed, “*O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*” (Matthew 26:39). Jesus came to this world to do the will of our Father in heaven (John 6:38), and that is exactly what He did, without any complaints. Friends, we too need to be willing to do the will of God, for as Jesus said, “*Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21).

He Did Not Condone False Teaching.

In reference to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said, “*Hypocrites!*

Well did Isaiah prophesy about you saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:7-9). The scribes and Pharisees, misunderstood the will of God, and they inaccurately taught others. However, Jesus did not condone their false teaching, and He was not shy about telling them so. Therefore, we too need to condemn false teaching, and always make a point to expose it.

He Did Not Convince Everyone.

Sometimes, brethren become discouraged when they spread the gospel to others who do not receive it. However, the fact of the matter is, Jesus Christ Himself, was unable to convince everyone. John wrote, *He (Jesus Christ) came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*” (John 1:11-13). You see, even Jesus was not able to convince everyone of the will of God, and we need to keep this in mind when we spread the gospel to those who reject it.

He Did Not Forsake His Purpose.

Unfortunately, there are some who become slack in their service to the Lord. Therefore, we all need to be reminded to keep on keeping on in our service to God so that He may be glorified. However, the truth is, Jesus did not forsake His purpose, and in John 17:4, He while praying to God the Father said, “*I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You given Me to do.*” Again, Jesus did not forsake His purpose of serving God, therefore neither should we.

He Did Not Ask The Impossible of Anyone.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus gives the great invitation to all when He says, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” Jesus simply invites all to seek Him, and He certainly doesn't ask the impossible of anyone. However, the choice is ours, but remember Jesus said, “*My yoke is easy and My burden is light*” (Matthew 11:30).

Again, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did many wonderful things, however these are just an example of some things that Jesus did not do, and may we all learn from them!

✍ Brad Phillips

Denying Fleshly Desires

Once someone obeys the gospel, life doesn't stop. The world keeps turning, and now you have to live a faithful life to Christ (Revelation 2:10).

We have to point out that we must live a faithful life because temptation doesn't stop now that you have become a Christian. If we are not careful to overcome temptation, then we will fall from the grace of God (Galatians 5:4).

So, where does sin or temptation come from?

James 1:13- "Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

You see, it's not some magical spell Satan puts on us, but he uses our desires against us.

1 John 2:15- "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

You see, temptation comes from our desire for the things we want. And our pride comes in and asks why we can't have what we wish to or who has the right to tell me no.

Overcoming Satan and his temptations mean we must overcome our worldly desires. We must be willing to repent of our sins (Acts 2:38).

Repenting is more than just asking for forgiveness. We are to stop walking in sin and start walking in righteousness. The only way to do this is to change our desires.

Romans 12:1- "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Our desire must change to overcome temptation and live faithfully to the Lord. We must seek first God (Matthew 6:33) and want to reach heaven more than any fleshly desire (Matthew 6:19-21).

Matthew 16:24- "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

✍ Brandon Hathaway

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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