

## AS WAS HIS CUSTOM

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Greetings All. As indicated on the title slide today, we're going to be talking a little bit about Jesus, and what was his custom for the day. I mean, we hear about some, some really big events, and we hear about some. some ongoing kinds of things, but day to day. What? What went on? What was all the things that were going on in Jesus's life?

That's where we get the title for today, as was his custom.

What was the general custom of Jesus's life?

What was it like? You see, the Christ is depicted in the Old, the New Testament as having led a life that combined teaching and healing spiritual guidance.

And when you wonder about it, we don't get that much information, but when we look at it. You can imagine what is his regular day to day. Kind of activities might have been.

One would think that in the morning Jesus often began his day in prayer, speaking communion with God. He valued solitude and reflection and meditation.

Then throughout the day he traveled from place to place, teaching crowds through parables and discussions about spiritual matters.

He used everyday examples to convey profound truths about God's kingdom.

That was his custom. Healing was a significant part of his ministry, but just, not the not always the big miracles, sometimes that we see. But one would have to think that feeling of a spiritual manner, a spiritual nature. Jesus would often encounter people in need of all forms of healing, and we see throughout the Scriptures that he showed compassion.

He performed healing, performed miracles, curing illnesses and disabilities, all those kinds of things.

He spent time with His disciples, mentoring them and preparing them for their future roles in spreading His teachings and he emphasized humility, love, and service

as essential qualities for his followers. You'd have to imagine that meals at different times were also times of fellowship and camaraderie and teaching and you can see at different places where he used these occasions to share meals with a diverse range of people, to teach, to break social barriers to emphasize inclusivity in all we did.

you would have to go on and then think in the evenings, perhaps included teaching and private conversations. You might even call them counseling with his disciples.

And sometimes continued healing and ministries to those in need.

Now there's no doubt that Jesus also faced opposition from the religious leaders and others who questioned his teaching and authority. But despite this, he remains steadfast in his mission to bring salvation and God's love to humanity. To all humanity.

Ultimately Jesus's life was marked by service and compassion, that relentless, relentless commitment to fulfilling His divine purpose on earth. His days were characterized by, and teaching and healing and demonstrating God's love. So, I have to imagine that that's kind of the day kind of the things in the day that we would see from Jesus.

Let's step back into the Scripture as we saw it out of Luke where Luke is in this Scripture is situated in the context of Palestine, a region under Roman occupation and the Jewish people were longing for a Messiah to deliver them from political oppression and fulfill God's promises of a restoration of their people.

The socio-religious structure was dominated by the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the other teachers of the law that held significant influence over Jesus's life and worship. and among this setting we also see not only those pieces, but the setting of poverty and justice for marginalized individuals which were rampant within the society and that hope for a Messiah was both spiritual and political in their views.

Now the passage we saw today recounts Jesus's returning to Galilee and teaching in synagogues.

and reading from the scroll of Isaiah becomes one of those big deal kinds of things, and in his ministry

I also think it's 1 of those places where we get we get the word in the phrase. It's hard to be a profit in your hometown.

because you see in his hometown by declaring that the prophecy of Isaiah 6.

I'm sorry, Isaiah. 61 was fulfilled in him.

Jesus identifies Himself as the anointed one sent to bring the good news to the poor, freedom for the oppressed, healing to the brokenhearted, and mark the inauguration of his public ministry.

We see a few things from him before this we can talk about the in the well. We can also talk about the

water turned in the wine at the command of his mom. We'll talk about that one in a few months. By the way, but this this is him saying, okay, people, I am the one.

Here's the Scripture. Here I am. This is where we're headed.

So, what should we learn from his speaking the words of marking his venturing into public ministry? Well, 1st of all, as was his custom. He embraced social justice, principles, those things that he would consistently say to help the marginalized, the poor, the prisoner, the blind, the affirmed all those different people. His ministry was all about helping others. helping the oppressed, helping the brokenhearted. Sometimes we don't always think about helping the brokenhearted, but those individuals who have a a break in their souls, so to speak.

We can be there for them. His examples challenged us to advocate for justice and compassion for people who sometimes were unable to advocate for themselves.

What else can we learn from that particular piece of Scripture? Well, it was the fulfillment of prophecy. Keep in mind. We had a conversation a few weeks back with somebody who's like they were talking about Jesus and different Scriptures, and said, Well where did Jesus get his information. The Old Testament. We need to look to the Old Testament to see where Jesus's teachings are rooted that come to us. So, Jesus is saying that he is the fulfillment of prophecy. He declares that that Scripture is fulfilled in him. underscoring the reliability of God's promises. It teaches us also about God's faithfulness. See Jesus's mission statement as He outlined it from there, and moving forwards, helping people come to God, salvation, redemption, doing good for others spreading the good news, so to speak. and his other message was the inclusivity of the gospel, that it was the good news for everyone.

We see that over and over and over, within Scripture, within example, within things like that. it invites us all to embrace the message of hope throughout our lives and our faiths. So, his action as He was doing that is, to look at where and what are we doing? Related to his new ministry at that point in time. Well, Jesus gives us a few clues at that point. In time he gives us a clue that says he, is empowered by the Holy Spirit. The passage begins with, begins with Jesus's returning in the power of the Spirit, emphasizing divine authority and guidance Jesus gives us, and reminds us, through His actions of how the Holy Spirit acted in and through Him and can act in and through us. We see that Jesus, reading from the Old Testament, demonstrates his reverence for Scripture, because his was and continues to be, a Scripture-centered ministry the readings, the learnings, the teachings, all those different things, the foundations of who and what we are come to us through Scripture, through the writings, through the learning, through discipleship. We learned that also in This particular Scripture there was this radical declaration that he had that he claimed finally to be the one to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.

That was a big deal, and although we need to acknowledge that at that point in time there was some rejection and challenge by those in and around him where he was from.

It leads us to also understand that sometimes. following along with God's intention for us, gets us to need to realize what God's plan is, and to stay the course. not to identify what our plan is, that's really easy. I want to do this. I want to do that. But to identify what is God's plan and stay that course that becomes more and more difficult. So, and looking then at Jesus is his regular practices. See if we're going to look and say what was his custom? What were his regular practices. What are the things we could see about him over time? Well, Jesus always had a time for prayer and communion with God, do you. I don't mean to look at anybody in particular, but do you?

You see, mine usually occurs about till 5 30 in the morning, after one of the cats has got me up. It's that time when nothing else much is going on.

Nothing goods on TV. It's just that that time when I can give my attention to who and what I want to be. Through prayer and through my communion with God.

Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray. We see that in Luke 5 and mark one, and he sought an intimate fellowship with God especially before major decisions, things like choosing the apostles. We see Him. He prayed in Luke 6, or on the cross in Matthew 26.

You see, prayer was essential central component of Jesus and his ministry.

A second thing we can track along through Jesus's life his customary practices.

We're teaching and preaching the kingdom of God.

You see, Jesus consistently proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God. We see it in Mark 1, 14 to 15. His teaching was grounded in parables and Scriptures.

making divine truths accessible to all.

Keep in mind at different times in our history. When we look at the Old Testament, there wasn't the access to the Word of God before Jesus in a lot of ways. We get that as the New Testament eventually and his life revolved around, sharing and exemplifying God's Word and challenging us to prioritize His teachings and spreading the Gospel.

Another of his customary practices we can see across his life and ministry was that compassionate service to others. You see, I have to believe that as a as a tradesman. as a carpenter, as somebody. We don't see the regular day-to-day kind of workings of Jesus's life but I have to believe at different times. He was helping, doing, being person to maybe help build a structure, maybe help bring in the crop. Maybe help do those kinds of things, but we see the bigger events in the Bible like healing people feeding the 5,000.

But I think but his customary practices would have been to be for the people.

You see, he did heal the sick, he did feed the hungry, he showed kindness to the marginalized. He showed that to the poor, to sinners, to women, to children, to those disadvantaged he was considerately focused embodying love and compassion in all we did and He calls us to serve others selflessly.

Another of his customary practices was that obedience to God's will.

You see, Jesus consistently submitted to God's plan, even when it was difficult, and we've seen this in his prayer at Gethsemane, in Matthew. 26. His obedience unto death on the cross. In Philippians 2. We see those kinds of things from Jesus based on his understanding of God's plan then the question becomes, do you know God's plan for you?

And have you spent any time trying to figure it out with God, not on your own. It's too easy to figure out your own plan with on your own time, and much of the time they are wrong. What does God want from you that takes focus and effort.

The other thing that we can see across Jesus is customary practices was building relationships and discipling others. You see. Jesus invested time and effort in close relationships with the disciples, with the teaching, with the mentoring, with equipping them

to continue his mission after his time was over. We see that in Matthew 4, we see it in John 13. We see it throughout Scripture that he took the time to build relationships, to build into things that he needed and wanted for us, so that we, too could have and could be on the right path.

The thing that we need to be on. So as we look at it, there is just a whole lot of things that we could say were customary practices of Jesus that reflect all those other lessons that you talk about.

I would close this with a story, a story of a person named Jacob. No, it's not the Biblical Jacob. This is out of 2024. Jacob

Jacob was an individual. He lived in the. He lived in the heart of a bustling city, amidst the noise and the rush of modern life. Jacob was a quiet kind of a person. He was a disciple of Christ. He considered himself a Christian, quietly but faithfully modeling his daily activities after the teachings of Jesus. Those things we've just been talking about. We'll see if we see them in this story.

Each morning Jacob wakes up early perhaps before dawn, to spend time in prayer and meditation to build his relationship with God. He has a small apartment filled with with peace as he sought guidance for strength for the day ahead. As the sun rose, he would read passages from the Gospels reflecting on the life of Jesus, and how he could emulate his actions in his own life.

See, after his time of devotion, Jacob headed into the city. He worked as a teacher in a local school, and he strived to show kindness and patience to all his students much like Jesus did with His disciples. He listened attentively to people. He was what was often referred to as being present in conversations. He could show kindness and patience, he would listen. he would offer encouragement and guidance wherever needed.

During his lunch breaks, which are not that long, for those of you know how long teachers have Jacob would often volunteer at a nearby, homeless shelter. He served meals with a smile on weekends or early mornings, sometimes treating people with dignity and respect, just as Jesus did, and he fed the multitudes. He took the time to listen to their stories, offering words of comfort and empathy and understanding to those who felt forgot by society.

In the evenings Jacob attended a small group Bible study with friends from his church. They discussed the Scriptures together, not alone together, sharing insights and supporting one another in their faith journeys. They brainstormed ways to serve their community, to help the message spread to spread love and compassion as Jesus had preached, and on weekends Jacob visited elderly neighbors. In his apartment area, running errands, perhaps just simply sitting for a chat, checking on people.

He was a big fan of having a cup of tea, although.

as I read more of the essays about this, says he was a big fan of having a cup of tea. He didn't like tea. He liked the company. And he liked the faith connections. His presence brought a warmth and companionship to those who would have felt lonely and isolated.

Throughout his daily activities. Jacob remained humble and compassionate, always willing to lend a hand, always willing to be there when people needed him. Embodied the principles of forgiveness and generosity, unconditional love and sharing. being the hands and feet of Jesus in many different ways, and though Jacob's life may seem quite ordinary to many of us, to those who know him. They see him as a reflection of Christ and his actions, and his words. His dedication to following Jesus inspires others to live with faith and purpose.

They show that being a disciple of price is not just about grand gestures. but it's about the everyday choices. Reflect God's love and God's world. You see, it's about, being able to say. As was his custom, to be kind, to be loving, to be all those things. and my hope with for you is that you find the way to be able to do those kinds of things on a regular substantial basis, to be a disciple of Christ, and be able to say all those things. as is your custom.

Amen.