



THE CHARACTER OF JESUS

Paul declared that the Christian's "hope of glory" is "Christ in you" Col. 1:27. When Jesus is abiding in the heart, the Saviour will live out His beautiful life within the believer. The proud will become humble. The immoral will become pure. The foolish will become sober. The fearful will become courageous. Complete this study to begin to discover what the Scriptures have to say about the character of Jesus. As you get a clearer view of the Divine Pattern, pray that He will transform your character into His likeness.

1) The multitudes in Christ' day were like the masses of today, confused, unsettled and discouraged. As Jesus mixed among the people, and beheld their great lack of spiritual guidance, what trait of character moved His tender heart? Matt 9:36

Note: Sin has made man selfish, egotistical and self-centered. Man's love and concern often do not extend beyond his immediate family. But the love of Christ flowed out to all men. He had deep compassion on every soul who was suffering under the bondage of sin. David catalogued God's compassion with other character traits such as God's graciousness, His being slow to anger and His mercy Psa. 145:8,9 In almost every case where the NT mentions compassion it identifies the **action** that compassion brings. In Matt. 14:14 compassion leads to Christ healing the sick. In Matt. 15:32 and forward Jesus' feeds the multitudes. In Matt. 18:27 compassion leads to forgiveness. etc. etc.

2) How did Isaiah describe the Savior's selfless, persevering nature? Isa. 42:2-4

Note: Jesus did not attract attention to Himself by lifting himself up in any way. He didn't quench the tiniest spark of spiritual interest in others. He was never discouraged as He labored to set judgment in the earth.

3) In Christ' great invitation to receive spiritual peace and rest, what two traits of character did Jesus invite us to learn from Him? Matt. 11:28-30

Note: It is pride, selfishness and self-exaltation that destroys our peace of mind. Jesus promises peace to those who humble themselves. Peter says that this spiritual adornment is deemed of great value with God 1Pet. 3:3,4. God promises to guide and teach those with this meek and humble spirit Psa. 25:9.

4) By dependence on His Father, Jesus always kept His spirit under control. What was His verbal response to mistreatment? Isa. 53:7

Note: The Bible reveals that when in trying circumstances, Jesus was uncomplaining. The wise man informs us that there is "a time to keep silence and a time to speak" Eccles. 3:7. We can observe the self-possessed Jesus observing this principle in His trial before Pilate John 19:9-11. Paul urges the Christian to do all things without murmurings that they may be blameless and harmless Phil. 2:14,15.

5) What words does the Bible use to describe how Jesus put His own personal interests last? Copy Rom 15:3 below.

Note: Those who desire to have the character of Christ will not seek how they can please themselves, but how they may please God and their fellow men. This will bring the reproach that unbelievers feel for God upon the self-denying saint. Those who are lowly in mind will esteem others better than themselves; they will look out for other people's things Phil. 2:3,4.

6) What did Jesus teach, by principle and example-- is the evidence of true greatness? What was His great purpose in life? Matt. 20:26-28

Note: When we possess the character of Jesus we will be "service-oriented". Jesus wasn't looking for others to serve Him, He was looking to serve others. His great purpose in life was to sacrifice His own plans and interests that others could be saved. This is the proof of His great love for mankind John 15:13. This love was demonstrated as much by His life as by His death.

7) The Bible tells us that Jesus was anointed with Holy Ghost and with power. What does Peter say He went about doing during His day? Acts 10:38

Note: Jesus filled up His day with good deeds for others. He worked for their spiritual, mental and physical healing. Christ described the practical details of His mission when He quoted Isaiah 61 in the synagogue. Christ told the people that the Spirit was upon Him so that He could: "preach the gospel to the poor...heal the brokenhearted, ...preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, ...set at liberty them that are bruised" Luke 4:18

8) Many Christians erroneously believe that it is not possible to live a life like Jesus. What did Peter say Jesus left for us? What areas did he specifically identify in which we may follow His steps? 1Pet. 2:21-23

Note: Jesus did not leave us with some exalted exhibition of holiness that was impossible to attain. Peter declares that He left us "**an example**, that ye should follow His steps." He goes on to explain that we should specifically follow Jesus' example in refraining from sin, and in speaking no guile. This passage explains that an important key to accomplishing this, was in Jesus "committing Himself to Him that judgeth righteously". James outlines step by step how this is to be done in James 4:7,8

9) What words did Jesus use to make it clear that He did what His Father instructed Him to do? John 15:10 last part.

Note: Jesus was obedient to His Father's will. He lived His life in continual submission to God. He could truthfully say: "...I do always those things that please Him" John 8:29.