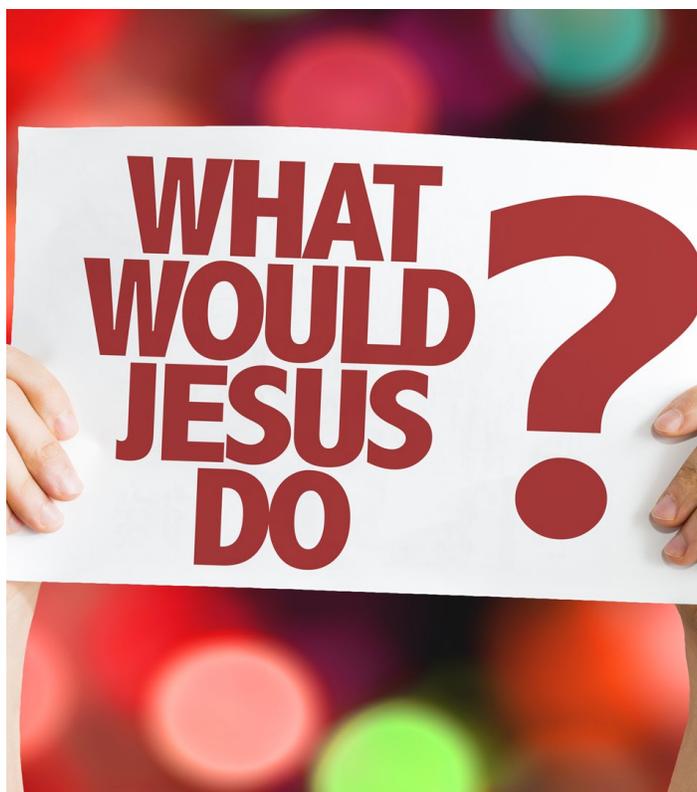


Jesus invites us to be
an imitator, but never
a cheap imitation.

I hear so many Christians that the saying, "WWJD, What Would Jesus Do" is now so yesterday but I find that hard to swallow. I know what they are saying, but doing what Jesus would do has to be the goal that we reach for, right? The truth is, everyone who claims Jesus as their savior should be putting this phrase into action daily. Now, I don't mean that you use it while you're in line and can't decide between the White Chocolate Mocha or the Pumpkin Spice latte. I would hope that this saying is a reminder for us to show love when love is hard to show. To be kind when kindness doesn't even cross our mind. To be forgiving in a situation when forgiveness seems impossible. To remain humble in circumstances where humility doesn't seem like an option for us. But God the Father sent Jesus to die for us, to make eternity with Him a reality. He lived life in human form so that he could experience the pain and hardships we face every day. He gets it. He knows just what we face on a daily basis. It is because of this that He provides us with loads of examples in the Bible to help us to know how to respond and act to any situation that we face. The greatest challenge we as Christians face is for us to be imitators of Jesus. That is

what we are called to do. So, everything we do, in every encounter we face, and to every person we rub shoulders with we are to be like Jesus. If I am honest then I know that I fall so far short but it doesn't stop me striving to be better and more like Him. "What would Jesus do" is not just for good Instagram captions or TikTok. It's good for when you're feeling lost, alone and confused about life. It's "usable" for situations God has placed in your life that you are unsure how to deal with. That could be a tricky, awkward or hostile relationship or co-worker. Paul says it best in Philippians 2:5: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." He is saying to be like Jesus. I know easier said than done but God sets the bar high and we have to try.



You know, I tried to be an imitator of Jesus without really knowing Him and as you can guess, that did not go to well. I remember getting frustrated that no matter what I tried myself wasn't working and a friend said to me, "Do you actually know who you are trying to be like?" Well, the answer to that was no because I was not spending time in His Word. I couldn't get to know Jesus until I started digging into God's Word and seeking to live my life with Him in control. Jesus' life always shows us how we should act and react. My mind immediately goes to Jesus carrying His cross to Calvary. Can you start to imagine all the insults and the physical pain He faced? I often think, what if He said enough is enough and ended it all right there on the road to Calvary. Now that was never going to happen because He came to complete His mission and purpose. Jesus was obedient to the will of His Father. May this be the example we follow in our lives. In Philippians 3:17, Paul says, "Brothers, join in imitating me, and walk according to the example you have in us." I feel Paul is saying, that to be a follower of Christ and not an imitator of Christ is impossible. So, as you step into a new day, "Ask yourself, What would Jesus do during every situation that you will face today?" Then go and be an imitator of Him. People will see a difference!