

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

OF ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN BOTH TO DO AND TEACH

John Edwards

The book of Acts opens with this statement: *“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach”* (Acts 1:1). Jesus was not one to just teach others, but He was a doer Himself. Take a look:

JESUS PRAYED AND TAUGHT PRAYER. Jesus prayed. *“And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God”* (Lk. 6:12). Jesus taught His disciples to pray. *“After this manner therefore pray ye...”*, He said (Mt. 6:9).

JESUS GAVE AND TAUGHT GIVING. Jesus gave up all the riches of Heaven when He came to this world. *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich”* (2 Cor. 8:9). He gave Himself for us (Eph. 5:25). Jesus taught men to give. In Luke 6:38 He instructed, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete*

withal it shall be measured to you again.”

JESUS LOVED HIS ENEMIES AND TAUGHT ENEMY-LOVING. Paul revealed, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:6-8). Jesus taught others to love their enemies. *“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you”* (Mt. 5:44).

JESUS FORGAVE AND TAUGHT FORGIVENESS. When Jesus was crucified He said, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Lk. 23:34). Jesus taught, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you”* (Mt. 6:14). The word of the Lord teaches, *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”* (Eph. 4:32).

JESUS OBEYED AND TAUGHT OBEDIENCE. Hebrews 5:8-9 declares, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which*

he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Jesus *“... became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* (Phil. 2:8). Jesus taught others, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Mt. 7:21).

Notice the order: Jesus first did, then taught. We must do first, then teach (Ezra 7:10; Rom. 2:21-22).

THE GOOD OL’ BOY

Jimmy Brown

Mickey Mantle was baseball’s greatest switch-hitting home run player, blond hair, good looking All-American boy, a favorite of the fans for his achievements on the field — and for his outwardly drunken behavior off the field. A good ol’ boy.

“The Mick,” as he was known to the New York Yankees fans, loved to drink. He loved the fame and status of being a star to literally millions of Americans. The prestige, the excitement, the parties, gave Mickey Mantle different opportunities to fuel his passion for alcohol. Even in his fifties, he was still appearing at

autograph signings and golfing events quite inebriated. You see, Mickey Mantle, the celebrity, the gifted athlete who received his abilities from God (something he admitted near his death), was in reality a drunkard.

The Scriptures tell us in Romans 13:13 to “...walk properly...not in revelry and drunkenness.” The “Mick” was a role model for many children in the 1950s and 1960s. What kind of message was he sending out to the world? That it’s okay to be a drunkard and a good ol’ boy because you can still be successful in life. Everything will turn out fine. And many today think like Mantle. It’s okay to be this way, as long as you don’t hurt anyone. Was that the case for Mantle? Did he hurt anyone? At the time of his death, Mr. Mantle had lost the love and respect of his sons and his estranged wife. Years of excessive drunken behavior was all his family could take. How about all the up and coming Little League boys and girls? Could any of these children have been affected by his behavior, his lifestyle?

Mr. Mantle is gone now from this life. Just before he died from the ravages of liver and lung cancer (for you see he also was a heavy smoker), he addressed the youth of America with a simple statement: “Play like me but don’t be like me.” It was a rather noble testimony by Mr. Mantle. But the only thing is the message was about 35 years too late for both American youth and Mr. Mantle.

In Galatians 5:21, Paul wrote, “...murders, drunkenness, revellings...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

WHATSOEVER YE DO

John Edwards

Here are some simple Bible rules that govern what we do:

DO IT WITH YOUR MIGHT.
“*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest*” (Eccl. 9:10).

DO IT WITH CHARITY.
“*Let all your things be done with charity*” (1 Cor. 16:14).

DO IT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...*” (Col. 3:17).

DO IT UNTO EDIFYING.
“*Let all things be done unto edifying*” (1 Cor. 14:26).

DO IT TO THE GLORY OF GOD. “*...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Cor. 10:31).

DO IT HEARTILY. “*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*” (Col. 3:23).

After all, anything worth doing is worth doing right!

“*For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love*”

—GALATIANS 5:6

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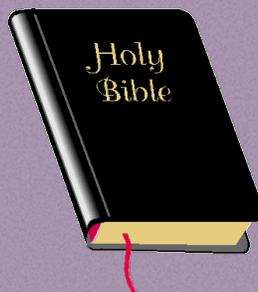
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