

THINKING LIKE JESUS

What is He like?

Luke 4: Loving, no respecter of persons; after the broken-hearted; humble, meek, strong and non-offended; steadfast.

Philippians 2:1-15: 'Let this mind be in you'

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – take every thought captive and make it obedient to Jesus. The mind is a battlefield and the Bible is a great book – for sound thinking. Paul penned the Book of Philippians whilst in a Roman jail – the joy and rejoicing he experienced can only come from right thinking and the application of it.

If I am finding it hard to find joy in this country, how would I find it in a Roman jail? The same way Paul did; 'let this mind be in you.'

Jesus was a source of frustration to those around Him. His wisdom and words were not consistent with His appearance; His stature was not consistent with His background; He baffled His disciples by His lifestyle. He challenged the adults to let the children come. He washed feet when it would have been customary to wash His; He served; He cuddled lepers; He didn't insist on His own rights and put others first; when the Pharisees wanted to kill the woman caught in adultery He forgave and released; He showed compassion to levels so far beyond how much others were prepared to go. We see not much farther into Luke 4 that astonishment of Jesus quickly turned to hatred enough to kill. This sermon is designed to bust us out of what we think – or at least to acknowledge just where it is that we draw the line.

There is a battle in the mind area and it is continuous. Take every thought captive. Christ will always ask more of us because as believers we must live in a realm of where it is only possible with God.

Fickle folly feelings feed false futures. If we allow emotion to lead, then our future is demolished because we'll be walking by sight and speaking the temporal we see. Faith speaks into the eternal and leads us there.

There is a struggle; faith would say we die to live; that sorrow turns to joy; that less is more; that we need to lay down before we stand up. If we want joy, then we must wrestle with the flesh and think like/imitate Jesus – 'who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame' Hebrews 12:2.

Faith looks to Jesus and looks like Jesus. We are created in Christ Jesus – Ephesians 2:8-10 and we are called to walk by faith: 2 Peter 1:3. Not all ways are joyous but all lead to joy. This is normal Christianity and is therefore reasonable. Jesus wrestled – Hebrews 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 2:16 says 'we have the mind of Christ' – we can therefore think, speak and act like Him.

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God does care for you; this is what He wants you to know. He cares for your future and your best future is in following Him (looking to Him and imitating Him), in faith in Him.