

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

“Shining” a Light On What Jesus Desires For Us

Personally, I wasn't a fan of the WWJD bracelets when they first arrived. The willingness to wear 'faith' on our sleeves was part of it, but I was disappointed so many professing Christians didn't know what Jesus would do. We have countless records in four gospels and two thousand years of Christian practice to draw upon to understand what Jesus did and how others followed him. So why ask "What Would Jesus Do"?

I do get the attraction of a daily reminder so we might bring Jesus everywhere in our lives. This is a good instinct. And hopefully, it leads to better instincts - like giving up dragging Jesus

around and instead to following Jesus - allowing him to take us into places we haven't gone before. So when we read a passage from Matthew 5 verse 17 where Jesus says "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" we already know what Jesus wants us to do. To follow the law. To fulfill the work of the prophets. While sounding stern, we know God's and Jesus' work is always full of mercy and love.

Isaiah 58 reminds us what God desires:

*“6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
And not to hide yourself from your own kin?
8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly”*

A bracelet's reminder might be appropriate for a first understanding of the freedom Jesus brought to all. But it's important not to stop there - to continue growing and claiming what we already know about how Jesus would act and respond. We who pledge to follow Jesus ask to have scales removed from our eyes so we see clearly what God desires of us.

So let's live in such a way we reflect God's desires and compassion for all people. I'll meet you Sunday to take a closer look into Isaiah and use a prototypical grunge song from the 1990s to help "shine" a light on what Jesus desires for us. Peace to you into the week ahead!

Pastor Brian

