**JESUS OUR MODEL FOR MINISTRY**

**By**

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Jesus is our only role model for ministry, not any leader. Let us keep our eyes on Him and imitate Him. Live as He lived and serve as He served.

* Jesus the Chief Shepherd was Faithful:

He fed the flock with diligence; He strengthened the weak, nourished the fainting, and shielded them from devouring beasts. We need to be faithful under-shepherds like Jesus.

* Jesus lived a life of Self-Denial and Self-Sacrifice:

To secure our deliverance, He laid down His life for us. If we imitate His self-denying example, the flock will prosper under our care.

* Prayer was Central to Christ’s Ministry:

His life was a life of prayer. He spent time in prayer with the Father early every morning. Sometimes He spent all night in prayer and He prayed without ceasing. He did not pray for Himself but for sinners whom He came to save. Jesus replenished His soul through prayer before setting out to minister. He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit daily. Christ turned to the Father in hours of distress. We need to be men and women of prayer like our Master.

* Christ Loved People:

Christ showed His love for people by identifying with their needs and sufferings. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, brought deliverance to those who were captives, comforted those who mourned, and healed the broken hearted. We are to exercise the same compassion, gentleness, care and pitying love that Christ exercised towards us. Love, mercy and compassion were displayed in every act of Jesus’ ministry. He loved the unlovable and those difficult to love.

The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. Christ manifested in His works love for His sheep. We are to manifest in our work our love for the sheep.

* Jesus Practiced Servant Leadership and Transformational Leadership:

Jesus washed His disciples’ feet and served them even though he was their leader. His preaching and teaching were aimed at transforming people’s lives. He did not preach and teach to impress or just to inform people.

* Jesus was a Soul Winner:

He came to seek and save the lost and everything he did was employed for the salvation of men. He saw every person as a candidate for heaven. He left the ninety and nine in the field; however dark and tempestuous the night, however perilous and unpleasant the way, however long and tedious the search until the sheep is found, when it is found he does not command it to follow Him, threaten and beat it, drive it before Him, recounting the bitterness, discomfort and anxiety He went through to find it. No, he lays the weary, exhausted, wandering sheep on his shoulder and with gratitude he returns to the fold with rejoicing for the recovery of the lost sheep.

* Jesus Preached to the People and Taught the People:

His lessons are so simple, plain and comprehensive that even little children and the unlearned understood Him. No one had to look in a dictionary to find out the meaning of a word. No one who listens to Jesus felt neglected or forgotten. He used simple illustrations from every day life. The educated were charmed with Christ’s teaching, and the uneducated were always profited.

* Everything Jesus did was to Bring Glory to His Father and to Please Him:

We are not to seek to please self or bring glory to ourselves, all the glory must be to the Lord.

* Jesus Forgave those who Rejected Him, Betrayed Him and Abused Him:

We must forgive as often, and to the same extent that Jesus forgave us.

God the Father was pleased with the life and service of Jesus. If we use Jesus as our role model in ministry God our Father will be pleased with our life and work.