

W.W.J.D.

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Most Christians are familiar with the popular acronym: W.W.J.D. These letters represent the question, "What Would Jesus Do?" This popular question came from a fictional book entitled, "In His Steps."

The initials W.W.J.D. adorn bracelets, coffee mugs, clothing, bookmarks, and a variety of other items. It is often suggested the acronym be something we turn to when we are unsure about what to do in a given circumstance. When faced with a temptation, "What would Jesus do?" When trying to solve a difficult problem in life, "What would Jesus do?" When you are facing an important decision, "What would Jesus do?"

The Scriptures do speak of looking to the example of Jesus. When dealing with suffering unjustly, Peter wrote:

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

Concerning following the example of Jesus, the apostle Paul told the Corinthians:

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Certainly there is great value in studying the life of Jesus and following His example. However, constantly deferring to the question "What would Jesus do?" will prove itself impractical for numerous situations in life.

Are you single and considering marriage someday? Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" Since Jesus did not marry, would this mean you could not, or should not, marry? Thinking of purchasing a house? Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" For the answer here, consider this example from the life of Jesus:

Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matthew 8:20)

Would this require our being homeless? What about your career choice? Actually, you would have no choice. Doing what Jesus would have done would mean preaching.

As you can see, W.W.J.D. may be popular, but it is certainly impractical. One of the most impractical aspects of W.W.J.D. is that it is easy to convince ourselves that our choice would have been the choice of Jesus. Our interpretation of Scripture would have been His interpretation. Our vote would have been His vote. Our way of handling a situation would have been His way handling the situation. Such thinking may be self-satisfying, but it is terribly deceptive.

A much more practical way of approaching life is to ask, "What did God say?" This is how Jesus lived His life (cf. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; 21:42; 22:29). To live your life guided by "What did God say?" is to ultimately do what Jesus did! We can find what God would say by simply turning to the Scriptures for direction, answers, and instruction for daily living (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

We must understand that Jesus came to fulfill a very special mission (John 3:16). We are not called to pay the price for the sins of world, but to live sacrificially (Rom. 12:1-2). We are not called to build a church, but to support the work of the church (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25). We are not required to call disciples, but to make disciples, not of ourselves, but of Jesus (Matt. 28:19).

What did Jesus do? He lived according to the word of God. What should we do? Well, ask yourself one last time, "What would Jesus do?"