

Modelling For Jesus Christ our Lord

(Elective at The Gathering by Pr Joel Cramer and Pr Darren Kupke)

We all know people whose walk with Jesus Christ has moved us. They say things and do things which encourage or challenge us. We are inspired by the way they live, and by the way they conduct themselves. They have attributes which draw us to them. In this elective we will explore with you what the Spirit of Jesus Christ might do in you so that you too can model you Lord, in particular for those who are coming behind us and to the unbelievers around us.

Discuss:

- Who has been a model for you?
- Did they realise they were a model for you?
- What was it about them?

One of the key attributes is that they helped to bring about a transformation of some sort in our lives. Perhaps a word of encouragement, helped us clear our thoughts, helped provide some guidance/direction, brought about a change of mindset.

Discuss:

- Who are you (have you been) a model to?
- Who would you like to be a model to? (these may be the same, or different)
- What do these people need from me as a model?
- What do I need to be a model of Jesus Christ to them?

Jesus says, let your light shine out and be the best you can be (Matthew 5:13-16)

One of the things people really need is love. Many youth are trying to understand their identity and are in deep need of love. Many adults in our congregations have not fully gripped how deep and how wide the grace and love of God our Father is for them. We all need love and encouragement.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (Ephesians 3:18)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children. (Ephesians 5:1)

Before we can truly model Jesus Christ for others, we need to know who he is, what he has done, and what this means for our everyday life.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Through Christ we are made new and made a child of the living God, our Father. (Note that "Father" implies a relationship. God can't be our Father without a relationship with us.)

Remember: The more we look at Christ the more we look like Christ. To be able to model Christ to others we need to look at Christ. This can involve regular study of the Word of God, understanding the Gospel, listening to the Holy Spirit, soaking up our Father's love, speaking to him in prayer.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

DK: One of the most important things is to not fear being a negative role model. As a teenager, I was worried about being a negative role model. I thought that Christians didn't have problems and that to attract others to Christianity, I should display to people that I don't have problems. This led me to cover up my problems and caused great depression in my life. Later I discovered the Gospel – Jesus Christ died to bring healing to my life. Therefore, if I don't admit my problems, then I'm not admitting that I need Christ and make his death useless (Galatians 2:21). I also discovered that people are watching us whether we like it or not. Therefore, don't worry about being a negative model, just go out and be the best positive model we can be. Also, don't expect to always be perfect at this. We don't learn how to be a great footballer from a workshop or reading some notes. We get better at kicking a footy by having a go. Our first few kicks might be embarrassing, but with practice it gets better. It takes hours of practice to learn to kick a ball straight, and even then, they occasionally go the wrong direction. So it is with the Christian life. Don't simply go to lots of workshops on how to be a great Christian – get out there and have a go.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:12-15)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

Soak up Christ's love for you and let that transform you, so that you can help Christ transform others. May Christ's love and his example of love guide you in love for others.

Spend some time in **prayer** now praying for each other how to be a better model, and ask God our Father to remove any blockages or fears that are preventing you from being a better model for our Lord.

For further study: Philippians 3:17, 1 Thessalonians 1:7, 2 Thessalonians 3:9, 1 Corinthians 11:1