



Practicing the way of Jesus

Introduction

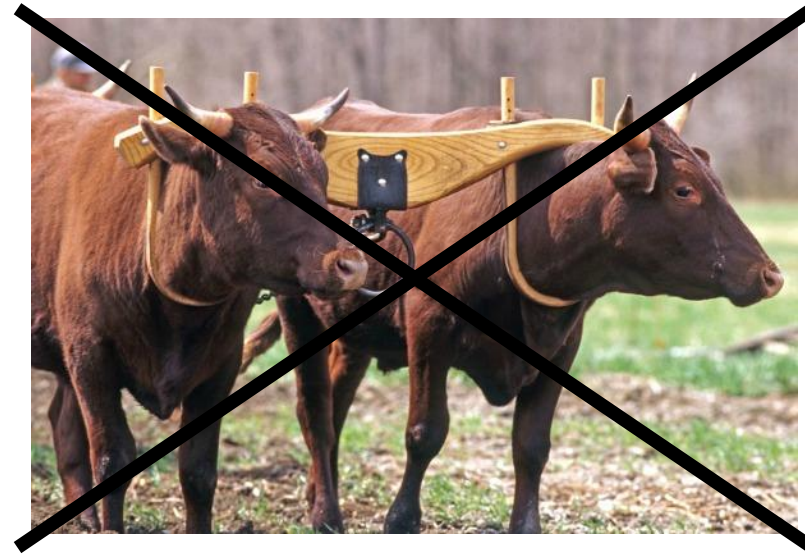
Practicing the way of Jesus

Rabbi

Yoke

רַבִּי

meaning
"My Master"



An
interpretation
of the Torah

Practicing the way of Jesus

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Practicing the way of Jesus

Mark 2:13-14

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

Practicing the way of Jesus

Mark 3:13-15

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

Practicing the way of Jesus

Mark 8:34-35

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Practicing the way of Jesus

Talmidim

תַּלְמִידִים

meaning
“disciples” or “apprentices”

“A talmid wants to be like the teacher, that is to become what the teacher is. That meant that students were passionately devoted to their rabbi and noted everything he did or said. ...

As the rabbi lived and taught his understanding of the Scripture his students (talmidim) listened and watched and imitated so as to become like him. Eventually they would become teachers passing on a lifestyle to their talmidim.”

- Ray Vander Laan

Practicing the way of Jesus

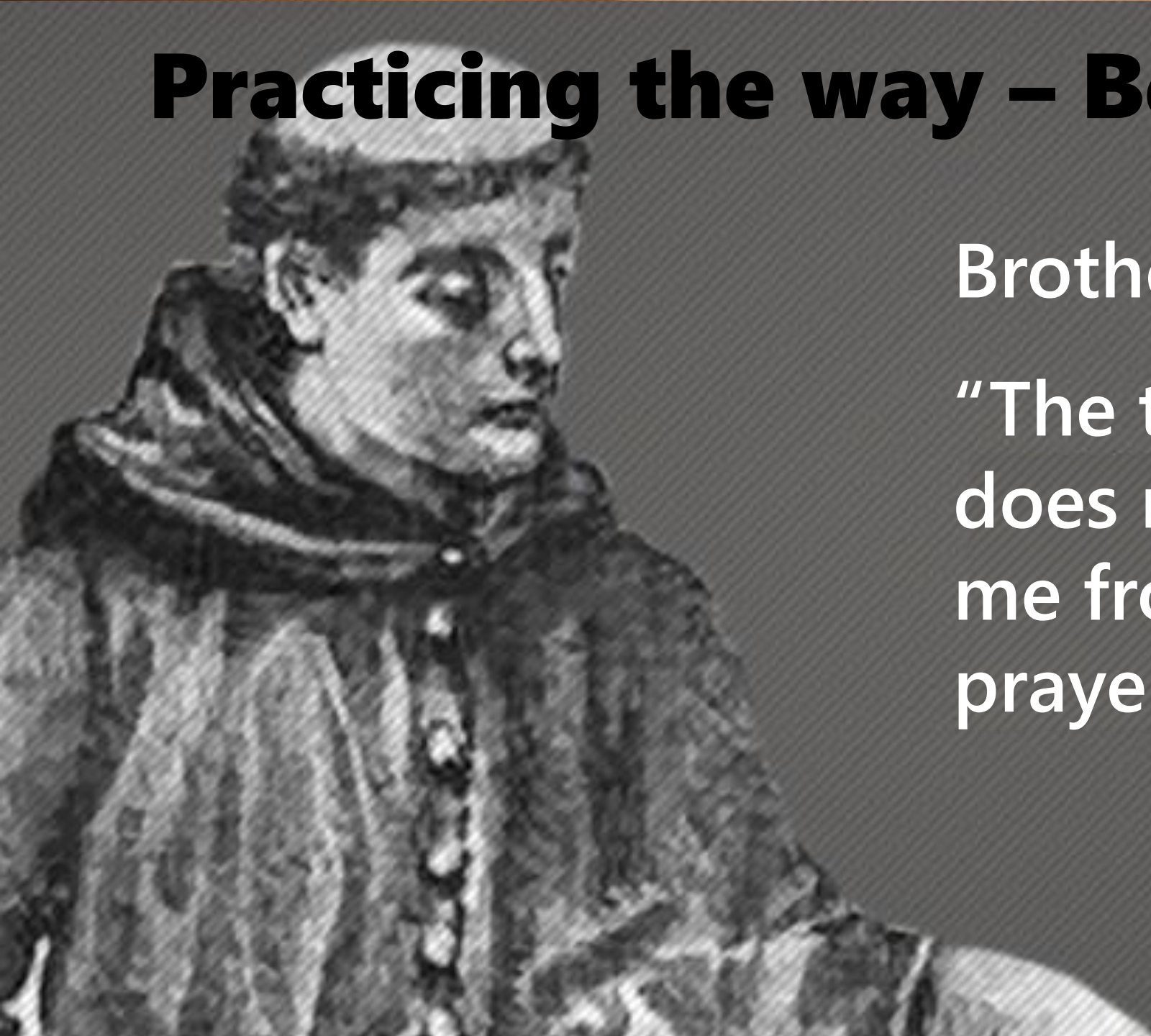
- 1. To be with their rabbi**
- 2. To become like their rabbi**
- 3. To do what their rabbi did**

Practicing the way of Jesus

1. To be with Jesus

“This means that the first and primary goal of apprenticeship to Jesus is learning to live in a constant state of awareness of and connection to the Holy Spirit” – *John Mark Comer*

Practicing the way – Be with Jesus



Brother Lawrence:

“The time of business
does not differ with
me from the time of
prayer”

Practicing the way – Be with Jesus

“The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds... this is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in this practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our “practicing” we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits - not the law of gravity - and can be broken...

Practicing the way – Be with Jesus

...A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings.”

– *Dallas Willard*

Practicing the way of Jesus

2. To become like Jesus

“Spiritual formation in the Christian tradition is a process of increasingly being possessed and permeated by the character traits of Jesus as we walk in the easy yoke of discipleship with Jesus our teacher.”

– *Dallas Willard*

Practicing the way – Become like Jesus

Robert Mulholland defines spiritual formation as:

“The process of being formed into the image of Christ for the sake of others... the experience of being shaped by God toward wholeness.”

“Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before.” – *CS Lewis*

Practicing the way – Become like Jesus

How?

It takes teaching and practice, in community, with the help of the Holy Spirit, over time

Practicing the way of Jesus

3. Do what Jesus did

- Preaching the gospel
- Teaching the way
- Healing the sick
- Casting out demons
- Working for justice
- Praying
- Eating and drinking with people far from God

Practicing the way of Jesus

Mark 8:34-35

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Practicing the way of Jesus

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heart breaking needs, is whether those who are identified as “Christians” will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.” – *Dallas Willard*

“Jesus is not looking for converts to Christianity.
He is looking for apprentices to the Kingdom of God” – *John Mark Comer*

Practicing the way of Jesus

How?

It won't "just happen"!



Teaching



Practice



In community



Helped by
the
Holy Spirit



Practicing the way of Jesus

Introduction