PRACTICING THE WAY OF JESUS

PRACTICAL GOAL GUIDE

NEW YEAR KICKOFF | ONE-OFF MESSAGE
Title: Practicing the Way of Jesus
Date: January 2, 2022
Verses: Lk. 6:40; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt.28:19-20; Eph. 4:22-24

Happy New Year Grace Community Church! This weekend we are doing a one-off message talking about Practicing the Way of Jesus in 2022. The question we're working through is this: *What would this year look like if everything we did was rooted in the Way of Jesus?*

Three goals that shape how we live out the Way of Jesus are:

1. Being With Jesus
2. Becoming Like Jesus
3. Doing What Jesus Did

Below is each goal and three practices for you to consider incorporating into your way of life this year. Each practice has a question along with it to help you start applying it.

GOAL #1: BE WITH JESUS

To BE WITH JESUS, we must commit to being with Him daily and learn to "put off our old selves" and allow him to "make us new". This can look like: **Practicing Spiritual Disciplines**.

1. **SILENCE & SOLITUDE**
   Consider This: Is this even part of your week? Is it something you choose or is it thrust upon you? Silence & solitude aren't about when we're bored, but an intentional practice we choose.

   Apply It: Looking back at this past year, what do my calendar and habits reveal about how I feel about silence & solitude?

2. **SABBATH**
   Consider This: This is an intentional time of rest and worship during your week, not just during Sunday morning gatherings.

   Apply It: Where am I finding and incorporating rest in my week? Is it meaningful?

3. **PRAYER & FASTING**
   Consider This: These are arguably two of the biggest cornerstones to our life in Christ!

   Apply It: What am I hungering for this year? What do I want to see God do? How can I partner with him in it?

GOAL #2: BECOME LIKE JESUS

To BECOME LIKE JESUS, we must continually practice the process of "being made new". This can look like: **Doing Deep Work**.

1. **WORKING THROUGH YOUR PAST**
   Consider This: Understanding who you are and where you are because of where and who you've come from.

   Apply It: In what ways does my past influence how I am living today? How so?

2. **PRACTICING FORGIVENESS**
   Consider This: This is the practice of both giving and receiving forgiveness and identifying places where surrender is necessary.

   Apply It: What or who am I holding onto that I need to release? What do I need to surrender?

3. **LIVING IN ACTIVE COMMUNITY**
   Consider This: Identifying other apprentices of Jesus that you can do life with and actively searching for them if you don't currently have it.

   Apply It: Who am I running with? How intentional am I in finding and building meaningful community?

GOAL #3: DO WHAT JESUS DID

To DO WHAT JESUS DID, we must recognize that growth involves a lifetime of learning how to "put on the new self". This can look like: **Seeking "In Tempe [your city] As It Is In Heaven"**.

1. **ENGAGING MY WORLD**
   Consider This: This might involve you getting engaged with the initiatives of your City and State, of the HOA board of your community, or rallying behind the needs of people around us.

   Apply It: Where am I positioned? What ways can I bring the Kingdom into those places?

2. **TEACHING OTHERS**
   Consider This: Walking with believers and non-believers alike in discovering Jesus.

   Apply It: Who am I committed to walking alongside? Likewise, who is walking alongside me?

3. **NEIGHBORING & HOSPITALITY**
   Consider This: Using your home and where you're planted for the Kingdom - a place that can serve as a tangible expression of love this side of heaven.

   Apply It: What ways can I use where I'm at and what I have to be a tangible expression of God's love for the Kingdom?