

## Emulate Jesus

Luke 4:16: "He went to Nazareth where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom."

If there is any one in the entire universe that we can emulate in every aspect of life, it is the Lord Jesus. Christ is the perfect role model, one worth emulating and imitating. When we scan his life and lifestyle they present us with a challenge, beckoning us to follow in his footsteps. As perfect and as complete as he was, Jesus never shirked his responsibilities and was always aware of his total reliance on God the Father. Every move and every decision was based on the will of the Father. One of the most significant facts that Luke the Physician draws our attention to in this passage of scripture is the habit of Jesus. Luke declares that when Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been raised, he went to the synagogue, "as was his custom". We should not be surprised that Jesus had the regular habit of attending a place of worship, prayer and Bible study. This ought to be one of the great habits that should characterize the lives of those who identify themselves as his followers. It is disturbing to see the percentage of church people who claim to be believers in Christ Jesus yet neglect regular attendance at the house of prayer and worship. Followers of Christ who do not maintain and develop a regular attendance at the house of God with the people of God in prayer and fellowship will eventually deprive themselves of the blessing that comes through this good spiritual discipline. The writer of Hebrews admonishing the readers reminds them "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Heb 10:25)." Coming together for fellowship meetings should not be just considered important for one's own spiritual growth and vitality alone, but it should be considered as an opportunity to encourage and uplift others as well.

While it is absolutely important that all believers should have a place of private worship in their home and a place where they can have intimate moments with the heavenly Father in prayer, it is also important that all followers of Jesus have a group with whom they are associated in prayer, praise, worship,

witnessing and giving. Many of God's blessings come to us through fellowship with the family of God. To neglect the habit of regular attendance in worship and prayer meetings is to rob ourselves of what God has in store for us. If it was Jesus' custom to be in the synagogue, how much more so should it be ours? Some claim that they can worship God in their homes or all by themselves. While that is true and there is no debate about it, one should never forget the benefits and blessings one can appropriate through corporate worship and fellowship with God's people.

Jewish people of all ages went to the synagogue for instruction in the word of God. Likewise, today churches provide instruction and teaching in God's word. Regardless of our age or maturity as believers in Christ, we have to give due importance to the study of God's word. The church plays a vital role in providing that life enriching service. The first century churches were known for their great prayer services. Our Lord Jesus had the habit of coming together with his disciples to pray with them. While great experience and value come through a time of individual and personal prayer; greater, immeasurable and indescribable blessings are available to us through corporate prayer. As true followers of Jesus shall we strive to emulate and identify with the habits of Christ himself? The habit of regular attendance at the place of worship must be our as well.