

What Would Jesus Do?

Isaiah 28:16 So this is what the sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation, the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

Ephesians 2:19-20 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's peoples and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

I was wondering about the use of the word cornerstone in reference to Christ and realized that the cornerstone was also referred to as the foundation stone in the construction of a building. It is the stone on which the rest of the stones are placed. The strength of the building depends on the foundation and the cornerstone is the beginning of the foundation. Christ is the cornerstone of the church. The very foundation of our existence as a church. I came to the church as a teenager with no biblical or church background. But I came with a thirst for God and that continues even now in my sunset years. I was unknowledgeable and eager to learn, and I landed in a church that was eager to take this fledgling and make her their own. They helped me with my desire to learn about God and Jesus and John and Charles Wesley and Francis Asbury. Methodism strengthened and honed my faith. It became a big part of who I am. This desire to help me in my faith walk continued in that church and the next and finally in the church I have now attended for over 40 years. Christ became not just the cornerstone of the church but the cornerstone of my faith. What amazes me about these men from the son of God to the builders of our church is that they all suffered moments of self-doubt and found their saving in prayer and work. Jesus in the garden, John Wesley at Aldersgate when he felt his heart strangely warmed and his faith became personal and Charles who put his faith to music and wrote over 5,000 hymns, and Francis Asbury who for 45 years helped form a connectional church while riding a horse and traveled 265,000 miles. Christ must remain the cornerstone of the church, the solid rock we stand on. The expression "What would Jesus do" was popular for a while, we need to let it guide us again. What would Jesus do about racial inequality? He taught us this in the story of the Good Samaritan. What would Jesus do about our neighbors we disagree with? He taught us this when he said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." What would he say about airplane rage, road rage, and people just mad at the world rage? Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Forgive because we have been forgiven. Friendships, families, marriages, are often torn apart because we do not forgive each other. "Lord help me to be more forgiving, as you have forgiven me, may I forgive others. Lord, may we put down the mad and pick up the cross and follow Jesus."

Lord be with us this day and all our days. Help us to be more forgiving. Be with those who are suffering illness and those who are grieving loss. Be with the hungry and the lost, the homeless and those who are without hope. May we find ways to reach out to those who seek to know you and may we show them your love in thought, word, and deeds. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry, be with our staff and leaders guide them and give them your strength and lead them in all they do. May we truly be the hands and feet of Jesus in this place and in this time. Amen

Grace Epperson