

## **The Best Strategy: What Jesus Did**

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.  
The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world.  
On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds”  
– 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

I have been an educator in American schools for the past 25 years; during this time, I was also saved and cleansed of my sins solely by the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, leading to a calling. Therefore, this is for my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and any seeking a response to the continuing and increasing wickedness and violence in our schools:

In considering our response, we should first remember the compassion of our Lord Jesus and what his word teaches us, so we may avoid attacking one another further with our words: “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12). It is also wise for us to ponder what Jesus did after the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand and the disciples’ reactions: After the miraculous feeding, the disciples were led by Jesus into a storm – a storm that he would ultimately calm. It is written, “Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd” (Mark 6:45). Jesus “saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them” (Mark 6:48). After Jesus calmed the storm, “They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened” (Mark 6:51-52).

Scripture teaches that we follow the same pattern of straining against all the injustices of the world in our own strength while putting aside the most powerful instrument of change that we possess. It has so often been casually asked, “What would Jesus do?” However, another question more directly leads us to proper instruction: “What *did* Jesus do?” The answer to this and every problem lies in Scripture. We can truly know Jesus as our Lord and Savior and Shepherd through earnestly seeking him in the Scriptures and prayer; for then we will hear his voice and instruction about what we are to do:

What *did* Jesus do before the miraculous feeding of the five thousand? He looked up to heaven in thankful prayer for the provision that was given (Mark 6:41).

What *did* Jesus do after the miraculous feeding of the five thousand? It is written, “After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray” (Mark 6:46).

And what *did* Jesus do in the midst of the many healings and the driving out of many demons (Mark 1)? As it is written, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35).

Many are using their voices and “straining at the oars” in support of human solutions, but it is important to recognize that every one of them will ultimately fall short; for there will be no lasting peace apart from Christ’s return. Jesus even spoke of the end times and the terror that would precede his return. Yet, rather than be without hope, this is yet another call to once again take up the most powerful weapon we possess: united prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in our interactions with the next generation of children in our schools and throughout our days, we can take up a call to arms that is more powerful than any weapon of this

world. Let's seek the Lord Jesus early in the morning in his word as Jesus modeled for us, and let's earnestly lift up our family members and the children in our classrooms to our Lord Jesus Christ; for apart from Christ, we can do nothing (John 15:5). As it is also written, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness . . ." (Matthew 6:33).

Let's then unite with other brothers and sisters in Christ in our schools and in our workplaces before the start of the school day and pray for the specific needs of one another and the children in our schools. Let's boldly and gently speak to the children of the saving gospel message, following the promptings of the Spirit whenever the opportunity arises with the students in our classrooms and wherever we encounter children. As our great Shepherd Lord Jesus shepherded us, so may we shepherd them (Hebrews 13:20-21); for the ultimate purpose of our existence is to know Christ and make him known, glorifying him in all we do. As it is written, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17). As the little children came to Jesus and were not to be hindered, so it should always be for us as his children, as his instruments, and as ambassadors of the gospel: "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:14).

Let's follow the example of the early apostles; for there is immense power in believers uniting in prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the spiritual warfare that can demolish strongholds and enable us to endure the hardships and suffering of this world; for Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33). Through Jesus, may we live with the knowledge of the eternal life we have in Christ alone; so we may seek his kingdom first, leading us to pray instead of worry over the droughts, distresses and terrors in our world and in our lives. May we glorify the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, praising him with all of our hearts as we delight in revering his name. May we come to Jesus with hearts thankful for his sacrifice for our sins, the gift of eternal life, and the blessings of his constant presence as we trust in him with confidence and take refuge in the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that he hears our praise, our cries and all of our prayers. As it is written, "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

The suffering of this world will one day end, and our Savior Jesus will return to set everything right; then "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10). Until then, may we remember the word of God that exhorts us: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12). May our prayers to our Lord Jesus echo the sincerity, fervency and confidence of the Psalms: "Hear my prayer, LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. . . . I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever" (Psalm 86:6-7,12).

Jesus prayed before healings, in storms, when tempted, before going to the cross, and while on the cross. Remembering this, we should follow Jesus by doing what Jesus did.

– Peter Domencic, 3/2/18