

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

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Introduction

- What happened to the panel?
- My qualifications to give this presentation:
 - Not an authority
 - Don't presume to have answers
- Style of presentation
 - Wrestling with the issues (Gen 32:24-32)

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Learning Objectives

1. Distinctives of Christian counseling – opportunities and challenges
2. Sensitivity to critical points in counseling
3. Better sensing the Lord's direction in these situations
4. Boundaries between clinical work and pastoral or spiritual care
5. Respect for beliefs of clients

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Advantages & Challenges of Christian Counselor

- Advantages:
 - Lord's teaching via Scripture (II Tim 3:16)
 - Lord's example to follow (John 12:26)
 - Lord providing His leading in each situation now (John 14:16, 26)
- Challenges/Responsibilities:
 - Expectations of client/patient
 - Accountability before Lord (Rom 14:12)

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WWJD: Three Questions

- What did Jesus do?
(WDJD?)
- What has Jesus equipped me to do?
(WHJEMTD?)
- What would Jesus have me do now?
(WWJHMDN?)

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What Did Jesus Do? (WDJD?)

- Defining characteristics of Jesus' ministry
- Systematic study of Jesus' ministry in the four gospels
- Summary

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Defining Characteristics of His Ministry (p 1)

1. Motivated by love (John 15)
2. Desire for restoration (Luke 19:10)
3. Personal, face to face (John 11)
4. Relationship not based on guilt/coercion
5. Relationship over time (Matt 4:18, John 21)
6. Attention to all needs (B,P,S,S)

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Defining Characteristics of His Ministry (p 2)

7. Focus on needs of other, not self
8. Variety interventions, no formula
9. Attention to unseen (heart, future)
10. Doing the “best” thing (Luke 10:41-42)
11. Submitted/accountable (John 8:29)
12. Doing the will One who sent Him (John 6:38); what He saw Him do (John 8:38)

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Systematic Study of the Gospels: Preliminary Analysis (p 1)

- *A Harmony of the Gospels, NASB.* (R.L. Thomas and S.N. Gundry, 1978)
 - Four gospels, arranged chronologically, in parallel
 - Divided into 259 sections
- Study of Jesus' ministry (200 sections), coding His actions in each: type of activity, recipient, setting, etc. (multiple coding)

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Systematic Study of the Gospels: Preliminary Analysis (p 2)

- Devotional 18
- Teaching:
 - For multitude 62
 - In temple, synagogue 08
 - In private 47
- Miraculous healing:
 - Spiritual 12
 - Physical 33

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Systematic Study of the Gospels: Preliminary Analysis (p 3)

- Challenging, correcting, warning:
 - Questioning 05
 - Presenting a choice 03
 - Challenging 07
 - Gentle correction 08
 - Gentle warning 13
 - Stern warning 04
 - Stern correction, rebuke 07

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Systematic Study of the Gospels: Preliminary Analysis (p 4)

- Ministering
 - Forgiving 03
 - Comforting 04
 - Sharing pain 01
 - Praising 02

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WHJEMTD?: Skills

- Interview, and listen
- Develop therapeutic relationship
- Assess problems, and discern root causes
- Develop treatment plan
- Follow treatment/counseling process
- Make specific interventions in context of counseling relationship and process

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WHJEMTD?: Interventions

- Pray for
- Comfort
- Instruct
- Build up, encourage
- Correct
- Warn, admonish
- Bring healing

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WWJHMDN?: Hearing from the Lord

- Depends on our relationship with the Lord and our devotional life
- Attitude of openness & expectancy
- Hearing from God in the situation vs.:
 - Teachings of particular school of therapy
 - Formulas of favorite self-help book
 - Natural preferences
- Sensitivity to critical moments in therapy

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WWJHMDN?: Example of Daniel

- Daniel
 - Man of wisdom
 - Heard from God
 - Provided counsel
 - Lived and ministered in enemy territory
- Characteristics of his ministry (Dan 2:14):
 - Discernment
 - Discretion

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WWJHMDN?: Guiding Principles

- Scriptural
- Submitted/accountable/covered
- Legal & ethical
- Professional
- Beneficial
- Defensible
- Appropriate

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Respect for Beliefs and Practices of Each Client/Patient

- Professional practice acts
- Licensing boards
- Professional organizations
 - American Psychiatric Association,
 - Committee on Psychiatry and Religion
 - Other professional organizations
- Third party payors

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APA Ethics Statement

- I. Respect patient's religious beliefs
 - A. Obtain info about beliefs
 - B. Respect pt. vulnerabilities and beliefs
 - C. Feedback in context of pt. beliefs
- II. Should not impose own beliefs or substitute them for sound clinical practice
 - A. Not force (anti)religious agenda
 - B. Religious concepts or rituals not offered as substitutes for clinical practice

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Boundary Between Clinical Work and Pastoral Care

- Gifts and strengths
- Equipping
- Roles and boundaries
- Intensity and duration
- Confidentiality
- Nature of the work
- Anointing

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WWJHMDN?:

Principle of the Second Thing

- First, natural body; second, spiritual body. First man, from the earth; second man, from heaven. Natural comes first, then the spiritual comes second (I Cor. 15:42-47)
- Examples of superiority of second thing: second sight, second veil, second coming
- Our first thought is from natural mind, second thought is from the Holy Spirit

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WWJHMDN?:

Holy Spirit Present in Situation

- Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - Present with us (John 14:16)
 - Brings conviction (John 16:8)
 - Guides us into all truth (John 16:13)
 - Brings to remembrance (John 14:26)
 - Reveals to us (I Cor 2:10; Eph 3:5)
 - Intercedes for us (Rom 8:26)

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WWJD?: Clinical Cases

- Case examples: Not hearing from the Lord
- Case examples: Hearing from the Lord