

What Do We Know About Jesus? (8)

Jesus The Teacher

Jesus was a teacher! What did He teach? Whom did He teach? Under what circumstances did He teach? What kind of teacher was He? How did He view teaching? How important was teaching to Jesus? In this article we are not trying to train you to teach; we merely wish to get fixed in our minds the importance of teaching as exemplified in the life of Jesus. Jesus was a good teacher as most would agree that He was, therefore, we can all learn something from His example that can assist us to be like Him.

It is obvious to anyone reading the Scriptures that Jesus was a teacher. Jesus taught in two different ways: 1) By word of mouth, 2) By His example. In John 3:2 we have this recorded for us: "the same came unto him by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him. " This statement plainly states that Jesus is a teacher and where His teaching originates from. The importance of Jesus' message is to be found in what He said in John 12:49--49 "For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." We see here that Jesus confirms that His message originates from God. Therefore, when we teach that is where our message must come from , if we are to follow Jesus' example! (1 Peter 4:11-- if any man speaketh, [speaking] as it were oracles of God; is any man ministereth, [ministering] as of the strength which God supplieth: that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.)

You might ask, why would Jesus even desire to teach? Turn to Matthew 1:21--21 And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins. Jesus came into this world as its Savior! He never forgot His mission to this earth (John 6:38--For I am come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.). And He never forgot the message or its source (John 12:49-50--For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life eternal: the things therefore which I speak, even as the Father hath said

unto me, so I speak.). Luke understood Jesus' (Luke 19:10 --For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.), so can we. Now we are ready to answer the question--"why would Jesus even desire to teach?" He wanted men to come to Him, the Savior, and this coming would be by a teaching process (John 6:44-45-- No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me.) It is important to notice the order in this process: taught--learn--come ! When we put these facts with such passages as John 3:16--For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life., we are able to see another reason why Jesus would desire to teach.

In a previous bulletin we learned about Jesus' love for His fellow-man and the Scriptures teach that man cannot reach heaven without being saved from his sins, and he cannot be saved from sin without first being taught what to do (Acts 2:37--Now when they heard [this,] they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?); thus, the necessity of teaching! Now if there is to be teaching, there must be teachers. Jesus' teaching was so important that He was willing to die for it (John 15:12-14--This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you.). Jesus, also, wanted to share His own blessings with us, especially in eternity (Rev.2:7--He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. To him that overcometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God. and Rev.2:11,17, 26; 3:5,12,21). When we remember all these things, how well we should sing that grand old song ""O, How I Love Jesus!" Is this not good enough reason for any of us to teach? Do you know a better one?