

# What Do We Know About Jesus? (9)

## Jesus The Teacher (Who-Where-When)

In John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ", on this occasion Jesus is only teaching one individual, Nicodemus, and this was done at night. Then in John 4:7 " There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.", here at Jacob's well, Jesus again teaches just one, the Samaritan woman. This was done in the daytime. In John 8:2 "And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.", we see Jesus teaching many people in the temple, and in John 13 we see Jesus beginning a rather lengthy lesson, speaking only to the twelve apostles. It was on a mountain that Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount to the multitudes (Matt. 5:1-And seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain: and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him:). These examples of Jesus teaching could be called classes (and indeed they were). Some were more formal classes with which we are familiar; others were more private, with one or more people. Some were in the "outdoors," others were in the temple, still others were in homes or the market place. I believe these show us that Jesus taught the truth where ever the opportunity was presented to Him. Jesus realized that the opportunity would not be eternal, and He must teach while the opportunity was there (John 9:4-We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.). Jesus also knew that many would reject what He had to say, while some would accept it. But His love for them meant that He had to at least give them the opportunity. Jesus was so diligent in this that later in His prayer He could say, "I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do. (John 17:4).

There is another facet, remember, of Jesus' teaching. He taught by His example ! We have already learned that Jesus is our example (1Pet.2:21-For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps:). Jesus well knew that being an example was a powerful way of teaching. One passage will suffice to show this 1Peter 3:1-2 "In like manner, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, even if any obey not the word, they may without the word be gained by the behavior of their

wives; 2 beholding your chaste behavior [coupled] with fear." The apostle Paul taught the same lesson to Timothy (1Tim.4:12)" Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." By observing the example of Jesus, we can learn and learn well just how we are to live, what we are to do, what our attitudes are to be, etc.

The success of Jesus' teaching is to be found in His motive for teaching: He really did desire that men be saved from their sins, He wished to share heaven's blessings with His fellowman, and He was willing to pay whatever price necessary to do this.

Now let us consider a few passages of Scripture that apply to us. In Matthew 28:19-20 and 1Timothy 2:2, we learn that we are to be teachers. God commands it so. In Romans 1:14-16, we learn that we are debtors to teach, and the reason why is given. But why don't we teach? Why don't we teach more? Why don't we follow the example of Jesus in teaching? Maybe the answer to these questions can be found in Hebrews 5:11-14-read these verses carefully.

In John 3:1ff and John 4:7-26, we have two examples of Jesus teaching. Read these thoughtfully and see if you can find statements that show the willingness of Jesus to teach. Secondly, find statements that show His interest, concern, and love for His fellowman. Then find the statements that show His patience. If these will "rub off on us," we shall continue to improve in the how of teaching. Jesus was the master teacher and we cannot go wrong in following His example to teach in both word and example!