

Teaching like Jesus

Taught by Jason & Howard Caldwell (Seeing Truth Ministries)

INTRODUCTION:

*"And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, **Master, say on.**" Luke 7:40* Jesus was the perfect example of a teacher. He utilized the right methods at the right time in the right way to draw all men to Himself. He instructed in such a way that, as Simon said, "**Master, say on.**"

I. WHAT JESUS TAUGHT

Any passage is exhausted when you find Christ. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* John 1:1 When Jesus taught, whether it was a large or small group or even an individual, His relationship was unique involving His authority, His works, His words and His person. *"For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."* Matt. 7:29 The core of His teaching was "Himself". The central theme to all teaching is the person of Jesus Christ, the abundant life found in and through Him, and the sound doctrine that keeps us near Him.

II. THE ENVIRONMENT JESUS TAUGHT IN

Pupil relationship went far beyond the classroom. He was not limited to a particular age group or social class. He ate, drank and slept in the presence of His disciples. In other words, He taught with His life. He was intimate with His students and understood their life circumstances and problems. He did not teach with a lesson but with His life. He took advantage of the environment He was in to present Himself as the Savior of the world and the solution to man's spiritual needs. He taught in the Temple, Synagogue, on a mountain, on the sea shore, from a boat, at a wedding, a funeral and at a graveside, on a road and in a corn field. One of His favorite classrooms was a garden. He taught in a palace and before His own tomb. He even taught on the cross.

Today's teacher is confined to a set classroom and a set time. Jesus on the other hand was not restricted to such a classroom or an imposed time. He taught as the occasion demanded, and used whatever the environment happened to be as His classroom.

The teacher today must create the desired environment and utilize the time allowed. How is this accomplished? It begins with your approach to teaching and the utilization of Biblical tools and examples.

III. JESUS AND HIS _____ TO TEACHING

Jesus demonstrated a remarkable understanding of His students and had a ready interest in their needs and problems. Nicodemus came to Him at night. He ate with publicans and sinners. He reached out and understood the woman at the well and met the needs

of the poor. His message was available to all, despite human class distinctions and His approach always fit the circumstance to reap the righteous result.

- A. He was not haughty but _____.
- B. He did not act like He knew everything but He did.
- C. He was not _____ or tactless.
- D. He was not _____ toward those who approached him.
- E. He was always _____ and gracious.
- F. He motivated His students to rise above their own expectations.
- G. He understood their _____.
- H. He varied His teaching methods.
- I. He understood those He taught because He was both _____ and _____.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matt. 11:28

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and **come and follow me."** Matt. 19:21

Example: Jesus always established His _____ through _____ of Himself. John 4

IV. JESUS AND HIS METHODS OF TEACHING

Jesus was the master at capturing the interest and utilizing the tools of teaching. He had the ability to know when to give the student recognition and exercise discipline and correction in a way that produced acceptance of His person and authority. He taught by:

A. Way of _____

Jesus reached people at their level of understanding. **EXAMPLE:** "David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly." Mark 12:37

B. Way of _____ and situations

Jesus would pose the problem, present the solution and then make application through present visual circumstances and known situations.

Example: The man with palsy. *"And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?"* Mark 2:9

EXAMPLES: Woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8 and Jairus' daughter in Mark 5 are good examples of Jesus teaching through circumstances and situations.

C. Way of _____ application

1. He used birds and lilies to explain trust in God in Matthew chapter eight.
2. He used the wind to explain the person of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two.

3. He used salt and light at the “sermon on the mount” to address personal evangelism.

His illustrations were meaningful because he used the familiar to explain the unfamiliar, the concrete to explain the abstract. We should never try to teach the abstract without attaching it to the concrete.

D. Way of _____ and stories

Jesus was the master storyteller. His use of parables (earthly story with a heavenly application) is the best example illustrated in the Word of God for storytelling. Why are they so effective?

1. His stories are well within the comprehension of His hearers. EXAMPLE: Howard preaching in a multicultural church and using John Wayne (cowboy) as an illustration of Jacob.
2. His stories were full of imagery and appealed to the imagination giving the hearer something to see with the minds' eye or hear with the minds' ear.
3. His stories were concise.
 - a. The parable of the Good Shepherd, eight verses.
 - b. The parable of the laborer in the vineyard, sixteen verses.
 - c. The story of the rich man and Lazarus, thirteen verses.
4. His stories were easy to follow logically and were easy to remember. The key to knowing if your story is good is if the hearer can easily retell the story.

E. Way of _____

Lessons need to be emphasized, re-explained, and repeated until students have grasped the principles involved. How often did Jesus teach about being prepared for His coming? How many times did He instruct His disciples concerning about His death and resurrection? Starting off your class with a review or allowing time for a review at the end of a class or section of teaching will aid your students in retaining the precious truths you have taught them. If it's worth teaching, it's worth repeating.

F. Way of _____

Another literary tool Jesus liked to employ was the use of contrast. He would place opposites over against each other like, light and dark, old and new, etc. Many of the parables are rich in contrast: the two sons, the Good Samaritan, wise and foolish virgins, etc. The use of contrast can be a great aid in teaching. It has a pictorial quality and so appeals to the imagination, and is likewise an aid to attention and memory.

G. Way of visual aids and object lessons

Most of Jesus' lessons centered about actual objects. It was only natural for Jesus to make use of them in leading His students from the known to the unknown, for the old to the new. Jesus' method of taking known things and giving them a new

spiritual significance was novel to His hearers, and so interest was aroused and maintained because of physical understanding.

1. When He was asked about the payment of taxes, He asked for a coin. *"Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way."* Matt. 22:21,22

2. When He placed a little child in the midst of them He taught humility, faith and dependence. *"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* Matt. 18:2-4

He even used Himself as a visual aid. He taught His disciples how to pray by His life of prayer. He taught His disciples about humility and service by washing their feet. He taught His disciples about loving their enemies by asking His Father to forgive the men who were crucifying Him. HE HIMSELF WAS HIS OWN GREATEST VISUAL AID.

H. Way of _____

These are those things which allow the students to participate actively in their own learning. In other words, this is learning by doing. Activity was an essential part of Jesus' teaching methods. Very often He demanded physical participation. He asked His pupils to do things, to put their lessons into practice. *"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Matt. 4:19 Students cannot learn in a vacuum, just as you cannot learn to fly an airplane or drive a car in a classroom. We need to teach children how to apply or make application of the lessons learned. We need to teach our students how to live their lessons.

I. Way of _____

The four gospels record over 100 different questions that Jesus asked during His ministry. *"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master."* John 20:15,16 Jesus made a contrast with His question. His question took Him from being a presumed gardener to the resurrected Christ. Questions arouse interest and gain the attention of the student. Questions often lead them to a point of decision.

CONCLUSION: Jesus was the master craftsman as a teacher. He displayed a wide range of methods of presentation. His language was simple, yet profound, vivid, yet complex, appreciated by the common people, yet confusing to the religious teachers and leaders of His day. His symbolism contained spiritual teaching which could be more fully understood if the listeners would meditate on the lesson. He always gave His students something to take home. He lived what He taught and there was no inconsistency between His words and His life.

ANSWER KEY: Environment, Approach, humble, impatient, discourteous, consistent, limitations, available, approachable, authority, acceptance, simplicity, circumstances, symbolic, stories, repetition, contrast, activity, question