

Thursday School 5/27/21

The Teaching of Christ

Hymn "Savior Teach Me Day By Day" #652

Introduction:

Notice verses 1 and 3: This is our teaching savior who loves us.

John 3:1-2 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." (How did Jesus reply?)

Even unbelievers acknowledge Jesus was a great teacher. They even admire the things Jesus said and try to incorporate them into godless religion; ("...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power." 2 Timothy 3:5)

Jesus is called teacher 45 times and acknowledged this Himself: "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am." John 13:13

He had disciples (learners). Not every disciple was a believer, (Judas Iscariot Jn 12:4, John 6:65-66) and he was widely popular. But Jesus noted the "true disciples": John 8:31-32 "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

So Jesus' teaching was not just for entertainment or folksy wisdom but for eternal truth.

Two sections: His manner of teaching and the message in teaching.

1. Manner or style of teaching

Dogmatic, Authoritative. God the Father Himself gives the commission: "Listen to him!".

Transfiguration John 17:5. Jesus also directly claims authority: Luke 4:17-19. Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"

And others testified so: Matthew 7:28-29 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Simple and profound His teaching was sensible: Wise, prudent, accessible, and not manipulative. Illustrations are commonplace, without class division or prejudice. Vivid, lucid, memorable, plain words, familiar, relatable illustrations. No rhetoric or technical terms, or complicated phrasing. Concise. Pointed. The people heard him gladly Mk 12:37.

Vital i.e. aimed directly at core spiritual and life issues. John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Ethical. Since Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law there is never a compromise with that law in his teaching. His teaching articulated the Holiness of God i.e. His unique moral perfection. Good example in Matthew 5: "You have that it was said to those of old..." Jesus applies the law in detail to show this. Ethics and morality are foundational.

Practical. Always had personal application throughout. Mark 2:17-22

Thursday School 5/27/21

True to human nature. Parable of the Sower. Jesus demonstrates true understanding of the human heart in the metaphors of the soils: hard ground, rocky ground, thorny ground and good soil. And he knew some would hear and understand, and some would not.

Originality. Jesus taught in fresh original ways but never with shallow rhetoric or clichés. Old truths were stated in fresh ways; the parables, woman at the well.

Pattern: Follows the pattern of Statement of Theme, Illustrate, Apply. Do good sermons follow this pattern? This example from Matthew 6:25-34:

Statement: Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life...,

Illustrate: 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them...

Apply 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. The Content of His teaching. What are the main subjects in Jesus teaching?

Kingdom of God. This is the biggest and most prominent theme. It extends and elaborates the Covenant of Abraham with all the complex history of Israel. Christ is the foundation of the Kingdom of God. Baptism, Temptation, Teaching on Law, miracles, parables (Matthew 13:31-50.), confrontation, last supper, unity of believers in kingdom: John 17:14-17 I have given them your word, ... Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Eternal life and the life to come. Being God he can speak to eternal matters. Examples: Matthew 19:16 behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus then addresses the law and holiness including avarice.

Sin and righteousness. Again Matthew 5f. Jesus expands on the Law; or more properly elucidates the deep meaning of the commandments.

Death and resurrection. This act of redemption is the destination of his teaching. Jesus taught faithfully even when no one was understanding. But later they did.

God the Father and Holy Spirit. Jesus prays publicly to the Father. Why? (He is teaching!) Holy Spirit came visibly upon Jesus. (Jesus was a Trinitarian)

Can you think of other content in Jesus teaching? Peace with God? Love? Service? Redemption? Things he spoke against?

Jesus' teaching forms a pattern for the Church today. We seek to think and teach like Jesus did: with authority from the Bible, pure motives, clear, sensible and practical with love for hearers to encourage their assurance of kingdom resurrection.