

Jesus the Master Teacher

By Mark Mayberry (excluding the introduction)
Romans 12:4-8

Introduction: As Christians, we are in the teaching business. We have a responsibility (among many others) to teach as many people that are willing to learn of God's Word (Rom. 12:4-8). Yet, this responsibility should not be taken lightly (James 3:1). In fact, we are instructed to put faithful Christians to this task (2 Tim. 2:2). As a result and throughout our lifetime, we have many teachers that do us a great service toward learning the things that are needful for us. Yet, not one of those teachers compare to the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 4:15). Let us together learn from the Master Teacher...

I. He was our Teacher

A. Matthew 23:7-8; In the New Testament, the term "Rabbi" appears only in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and John. It is usually used of Jesus, though in one instance, it refers to John the Baptist. This was a term of dignity given by the Jews to their distinguished teachers and spiritual instructors. Later Jewish schools had three grades of honor: rab, "master," the lowest; rabbi, "my master," the second; and rabboni, "my lord, my master," the most elevated.

B. Jesus forbade its use among His followers: The Pharisees loved to be called "Rabbi," but Jesus told his disciples, "Do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren" (Matt. 23:7-8). In this context, this is a clear prohibition against his followers establishing any superior/subordinate relationship within Christianity.

C. Jesus defined true greatness for his followers in Matt. 23:11-12.

D. Jesus, is our One True Rabbi, Master, Teacher, and Guide. The thing that set Jesus apart was not his formal training, but his relationship with His Father. In contrast with the self-serving religious leaders of his day, Jesus taught as one having authority (Matt. 7:28-29). Indeed, Jesus Christ possesses all authority (Matt. 28:18-20). Therefore, let us learn from him! Let us strive to be like Christ, the Master Teacher (Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 6:40).

II. He Was Challenging

A. Jesus, the Master Teacher, was challenging. Would be disciples needed to understand the seriousness of commitment (Matt. 8:19-22). Complacent, self-satisfied followers needed to understand the all-encompassing nature of Christianity (Matt. 19:16-22).

B. Those today who would be teachers should follow the example of Christ. Challenge your students. Shake them from their spirit of complacency. Stimulate them to greater spiritual heights. Spur them to fully accept the demands of discipleship.

III. He Was Compassionate

A. Jesus, the Master Teacher, was compassionate. He met people where they were, and sought to move them to where they should be (Matt. 9:9-13).

B. Those today who would be teachers should follow the example of Christ. Treat your students with respect. Be sensitive to their needs. Care about them as individuals. Expect the best. See, not their present inadequacy, but their future potential. Lead them from where they are to where they should be.

IV. He Was Courageous

A. Jesus, the Master Teacher, was courageous. He "lowered the boom" on those scribes and Pharisees who scornfully asked for a sign from heaven while ignoring the multitude of miracles that Jesus had performed (Matt. 12:38-42).

B. On a latter occasion, Jesus mounted a devastating assault against the hypocrisy of the Herodians (Matt. 22:16-22), the Sadducees (Matt. 22:23-33), and the Pharisees (Matt. 22:34-46).

C. Those today who would be teachers should follow the example of Christ. Fear not man. Stand for the truth with courage and conviction. Do not back down in the face of error or wickedness. You may alienate apostates, but you will gladden God. You will also be honored by those precious few who seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Conclusion: Jesus is the Master Teacher. We can greatly benefit by striving to be like the Master Teacher. As we seek to be teachers of God's word, let us adopt the attitude and approach of Jesus. We should view ourselves, not as masters, but as servants (Matt. 23:11-12). Let us speak, not with the wavering voice of human opinion, but with a strong moral voice of inspired Scripture (Matt. 7:28-29).

Poem: "At Days End"