

“Jesus Christ, Master Teacher” Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, Almighty Creator, eternal Son, Messiah, God with us... This semester we have the privilege of sitting at the feet of Jesus, the greatest teacher of all time. From Him we will discover not only answers to our deepest theological questions, but also help for our most pressing daily needs. Jesus' words are perfectly true, absolutely authoritative, and as powerful today as they were 2000 years ago. They can give sight to the blind, strength to the weak, and hope to the broken-hearted. They can transform our lives... if we're willing to listen and obey. So join us this semester as we sit at Jesus' feet.

Great teachers change our lives, but the skill of the greatest of teachers means nothing if the student is unwilling to learn!

- o Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher ever. Not everyone learned from Him.
 - SOILS. Luke 8:4-15
 - Intrigued, curious, but unwilling to be changed. Remained blind.
 - Some had soft hearts.
- o This semester we are looking at the teachings of Jesus. We must be willing to learn from Jesus if we are to grow this semester through His teachings. We must be willing first and foremost to sit at His feet.

5 characteristics of Jesus' teachings: Mark 1:21-28

1. Supremely Authoritative

Something different. Authority. Might/Right

- o Not just His words. Not His style, or He was more confident.
- o Something that came from His very nature.
- o Can't understand power of Jesus' teaching without understanding who He is.

NT presents three primary roles:

- a. Prophet – Acts 3:22-24
 - i. sermon on the mount – Mt 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, “but I say to you”
 1. Not to abolish OT but to fulfill
 2. Prophetic voice – explaining God's message
 - ii. Taught very uncomfortable, surprising things – Mt 5:48
 1. You shall be perfect
 2. Woe to you – Mt. 23:13
 3. Jesus was strong and winsome.

- iii. Rebuke AND compassion. Those who recognized their need; Shepherd. Children. Mt. 11:28-30
- b. Priest – Heb. 1:1-3
 - i. Connect people to His Father.
 - ii. Different order; Hebrews; Melchizedek; Heb. 7:1-3, 23-28
 - iii. Even now serving as our High Priest
 - iv. Offered not a bull or goat, but Himself
 - v. He who has seen Me has seen the Father
- c. King – Heb. 1:1-2
 - i. Messiah = Anointed one. Represented God’s authority on earth. Spoke for the Father (Heb 1)
 - ii. Son of David
- d. Because Jesus spoke as prophet, priest and king, He had absolute authority. Because He was speaking God’s words for God... He spoke truth.

2. Absolutely True

- a. John 14:5-6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life” – the one and only source of absolute truth that leads us to life
- b. The “Word” of God (John 1; Heb 4)
- c. Satan’s method of deceit
- d. Deceit from the world
 - i. Kids and advertising. Not all true!
 - ii. Internet – Urban legends, etc
- e. Self-deceit. We want to be deceived because we want to find our own way
- f. I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly

3. Unrivaled in Skill

- a. Used diverse teaching styles and devices
 - i. Old, young; opposition, favorable; one-on-one, small groups, thousands
 - ii. always used what was most appropriate for the audience
 - 1. Used illustrations. Good Samaritan. Surprising. “Blessed are the poor.”
 - 2. Object lessons – water; sitting by a well
 - 3. Parables – wheat/tares; mustard seed
 - 4. Figurative language
 - 5. Questions – who do people say that I am?
 - iii. Took advantage of every opportunity. Luke 5:1-3, 4-11.

- b. Followed a master plan that guided His teaching ministry
 - i. As we will see this semester, His teaching developed and changed over the course of His ministry as He progressively revealed His identity and mission
 - 1. Starts with kingdom, then shifts to cross
 - 2. Starts with didactic teaching, then shifts to parables
 - 3. Reveals much more to close followers than to the crowds
 - ii. Doesn't just lecture; He trains. Not just knowledge, but transformation of the life. Pattern of training:
 - 1. Instructed, modeled, commissioned, evaluated, entrusted

4. Immediately Relevant

- a. Speaks about life's most pressing issues:
 - i. Death, life after death, money, success, power, speech, marriage and family, personal purity, war, peace and anxiety, submission to authority, prayer, forgiveness, physical health, spiritual health, etc.
 - ii. Ex – Children's Bible; stories throughout the Bible ends with "What did Jesus say (about this topic)?"

5. Validated with Power – Mt. 9:2-8

- a. By His miraculous power
 - i. A man attested to you by signs and wonders
- b. By His perfect life
 - i. Perfectly modeled/practiced what He taught
 - ii. No hypocrisy (no sin – Heb 4:15; 7:26)
 - iii. Which of you accuses me of sin?

The nation's failure to apply is due to spiritual hardness, not poor teaching

Application

Am I willing to sit at His feet?

Am I ready to receive His teaching as true, authoritative, and proven?

"He who has my commandments and keeps them... disclose Myself"

Then our lives can be transformed