

How Did Jesus Teach? 03-27-16 AM

In the Gospels many people used the title “Rabbi” (teacher) to address Jesus. This title was appropriate as Jesus would say in Matthew 23 that He was the True Rabbi. We can learn a lot from Jesus in many ways, something we are called to do (“*Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.*” Matthew 11:29). Can we learn how to be a teacher from Jesus? There are four characteristics of Jesus method of teaching that are beneficial to us.

1. Jesus taught with AUTHORITY

Mark 1:22 *They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

What does it mean that Jesus was one who spoke with authority? We know that He always spoke from Scripture, but not exclusively so; He would go so far as to give the meaning of Scripture. We are called to teach in such a way. But it also means that we speak with conviction and without hypocrisy. This type of communication is called being “dogmatic”; Jesus was a dogmatic teacher.

2. Jesus Taught With PARABLES

Matthew 13:34 *All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.*

Luke 24:45 *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

Why did Jesus use parables to teach? The bible describes this in part of trying to hide deep truths in simple illustrations (Matthew 13:35). But it also enabled Him to make illustrations of doctrinal truths. We might compare this to using every day applications to ideas or knowing the person you are teaching. We need to make clear what we are saying.

3. Jesus Taught the HUNGRY

Matthew 5:6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."*

Luke 5:32 *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Matthew 7:6 *"Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."*

Matthew 13:58 *Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

Jesus did NOT teach everyone, nor did He convict everyone He did teach. Jesus only taught those who wanted to hear what He was saying, and he commands us to do the same. There are many in this world who simply do not want to hear (1 Corinthians 1:26), and we need to move past them to those who are interested in what we say. When we failed to convict, we need to understand that (unless our hypocrisy is the issue) it is not our fault.

4. Jesus Taught with PATIENCE

Luke 24:25,27 *And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"... Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

Acts 1:6-7 *So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority"*

We see how often Jesus had to repeat Himself on subjects to His most attentive students. Sometimes it takes a while to understand. Jesus was always willing to explain things another time, and we ought to be too. We need to be patient as teachers, being repetitive without judgment. Perhaps it requires approaching a subject different ways. This is, according to 2 Timothy 2:24-26, a key characteristic of a Spiritual teacher.

The results of Jesus' teaching was not what we often believe. Jesus was not able to convince most people. Consider that even after removing the “swine”, very few who heard believed, and even believers often misunderstood. We need to understand that success is NOT achieving results, it is conveying the message