



## THE CHRIST, TEACHER, PROPHET, FRIEND, LORD, SHEPHERD, BRIDEGROOM

JEFF HOOVER - MAY 31, 2015 - EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Spiritual Maturity**...Knowing who you are,  
what you're here for, and how life in the kingdom of God works!

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."  
~ A.W. Tozer

Matt 16:13–23 NIV

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> "**But what about you?**" he asked. "**Who do you say I am?**"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**" <sup>20</sup> Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.**"

## Teacher

### – Review: Who is Christ to You?

- **Did you notice something different?** In last week's video, the question people were asked was, "Who is *Jesus* to you?" But the focus of last week's message was "Who do you say I am?...the Christ." Remember, Messiah = Anointed in the OT and Christ = Anointed in the NT.
- How would you describe to someone the importance to you of "Jesus, the Christ?" How would you go about making it clear to them? **Again, "Who is Christ to you?"**

### – **Jesus Christ vs. Christ Jesus**

- If we are going to attempt to articulate the importance of Christ in our lives, a student of the Word will quickly notice that **NT writers refer to the person of Jesus using a variety of names...**

Paul, an apostle of **Jesus Christ** by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in **Christ Jesus...** (2 Tim 1:1 NKJV)

- Why does Paul start by saying he is an apostle of "**Jesus Christ**," then reverse it and say that it is by the will of God and according to the life which is in "**Christ Jesus?**"

## Jesus Christ

Emphasis on man part

Son of Man

Soul

King of kings

100% man

Anointed

Creator became man - Jesus

Son of God - man

191 times in the Bible

## Christ Jesus

Emphasis on God part

Son of God

Spirit

Almighty God

100% God

Anointing

Created the world

Son of man - God

57 times in the Bible

- Jesus Christ is Lord, and we are to hide in Him, in His Christ life and take on His Christ identity, we have the mind of Christ, hidden in Christ. See if you can spot the differences in these scriptures that mention both...

Paul, **an apostle of Jesus Christ** by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful **in Christ Jesus**... (Eph 1:1 NKJV)

Paul and Timothy, **bondservants of Jesus Christ**, to **all the saints in Christ Jesus** who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: (Phil 1:1 NKJV)

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called to be saints, with all who in every place **call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord**, both theirs and ours: (1 Cor 1:2 NKJV)

- Regarding our positioning there are 130 references to being “**In Christ**” and zero “**In Jesus**” (yet, some bible versions have one or two scriptures the other way around). So, this is the question we want to be able to answer with clarity... **Who is Christ to you?**
- This is how the Apostle Paul **described and honored “Christ”** when he wrote to the church in Ephesus...

<sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup> For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:4–7 NLT-SE)

## - What kind of Teacher was Jesus?

No one would question that **the message** of Jesus was important. Jesus was a teacher. As important as his message was, **the manner** in which Jesus taught was significant as well. Today's study is on Jesus the teacher. What made him so different from other teachers, which allowed him to make such a huge impact upon humanity? How can we answer the question, “**Who is Jesus, the teacher, to you?**”

**We will add one more question** that came out of the Graham Cooke conference we attended this past week... “**Jesus, what kind of teacher do you want to be for me?**”

- **Jesus, the Rabbi**
  - **Access to the scriptures**...Many modern scholars disregard Jesus as a teacher. The reason may be as simple as the fact that we have the complete bible at our disposal, in numerous translations, or even on the smart phone we carry around with us at all times! To many, **the bible is their teacher**, making it easy to overlook the fact that Jesus is the one teaching in the biblical accounts and the way he taught was nothing short of astounding.
  - **Master, Teacher, Rabbi**...The term most often used when addressing Jesus was “**Master**.” In fact, he even used this term to refer to Himself. In almost every instance, “master” is translated from the Greek *didaskalos*, or “**teacher**.” Occasionally, the title “master” is translated from the Greek *rhabbi*, or “**rabbi**.” The term *rhabbi* did not

displace Jesus as a teacher but actually elevated His teaching status. *Rhabbi* was considered an honorary title of respect for an instructor or teacher.

- **Jesus wasn't just a teacher...** There have been many great teachers throughout history that have not come close to the impact that Jesus made upon humanity. He was not just a teacher, **he was the teacher!** One scholar said it this way, "He was a teacher and a brilliant one, but unorthodox."

- **The Unorthodox Teacher**

- **No one gave Jesus permission to teach...** When Jesus had finished the Sermon on the Mount, the people were astonished by his doctrine. Matthew emphasized that the very large group of people following him were astonished for, "he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law." (Matthew 7:29) This suggests that people were astonished because Jesus was an unauthorized teacher, unlike the scribes. The scribes were trained professionals and regarded as authorized teachers. Even though Jesus was a quality teacher, He did not bear a teacher's credentials of that day, the authorization from the scribes.
- **No formal schooling for Jesus...** Those who were recognized as teachers were typically individuals who taught in the formal educational system. Such instructors taught at either the *bet hasefer* (house of the book), *bet talmud* (house of learning), *bet haknesset* (house of assembly or synagogue), or at *bet midrash* (house of study). It was at the *bet midrash* that exceptional students became teachers and were awarded the rank and title of rabbi. As we know, Jesus was never a student, nor a teacher at *bet midrash*.
- **Jesus captivated their attention...** What's remarkable is that people would even pay attention to Jesus' teaching. Most teachers without proper training would be dismissed without a second thought. Jesus, on the other hand, captivated their attention, leading them to call him "teacher" without the credentials. Some even said his teachings were from God.

<sup>1</sup> There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. <sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." (John 3:1–2 NLT-SE)

- **Jesus taught in a way that disrupted the status quo...** It appears that Jesus' teaching methods were nothing like what people were used to. You can see this when the Pharisees sent the temple guards to arrest Jesus. After listening to his teaching, they returned empty-handed. When confronted by the Pharisees, they were grilled..."Why didn't you bring him in?" The guards responded, "We have never heard anyone speak like this!" (John 7:45-46 NLT-SE)
- **Hooked on the praise of man...** Eventually, most people who heard Jesus teach, were drawn to him. This made life difficult for those who had a lot to lose by following him.

<sup>42</sup> Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. <sup>43</sup> For they loved human praise more than the praise of God. (John 12:42–43 NLT-SE)

- **Where and To Whom Jesus Taught**

- **Teachers are defined by their setting and audience...** Most teachers define themselves according to their setting and audience. When you ask someone, "Where do you teach?" the common response would be to name a place (Church, University, High School, etc.). When asked, "What do you teach?" the answer might be the subject (Math, Systematic Theology, Ballet) or the audience (7th Graders, Grad Students, Beginners).
- **The setting never hindered Jesus from teaching...** Rabbi Jesus never seemed to be bound to a classroom. Whether he was at a well in Samaria, on the side of a mountain (Matthew 5:1–2; 15:29–30; John 6:3), at the temple (Luke 19:47; John 7:14; 8:2), on the seashore (Mark 2:13), in cornfields (Matthew 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28), or even at a chief Pharisee's house (Luke 14:1), Jesus was always teaching.
- **Jesus wasn't defined by his students...** One of the things about the manner in which Jesus taught that was unorthodox was the type and variety of his students. Typically, a teacher's students consist of a fairly restricted group. For example, Jewish teachers taught only males, and modern teachers teach only those enrolled in their classes.
- **Becoming a student of Jesus...** Another distinctive regarding Jesus' teaching was the way he connected with his students. In that day, the student always offered to be disciplined. The teacher would never invite someone to be

his student. The unorthodox approach of Rabbi Jesus hinged upon His invitation. Among His first disciples were Andrew and John. These two followers of the Baptist once asked. “Rabbi, where are you staying?” In quick response, Jesus invited them to “come and see” (John 1:39).

- **A teacher, in season and out...**It was clear that Jesus would teach anywhere and in any setting. So, he as a teacher day and night (John 3). It seemed that, for this Rabbi, whoever found themselves in his presence could become a student of his. Even though some would say this teaching style of Jesus was rather unorthodox, for Jesus it was just another day in the classroom.

- **The Language of the Teacher**

- **Lost in translation** (sometimes)...Jesus had an uncanny ability to connect with his students through language. It wasn't that he had mastered the structure, form, syntax, or content of the language, but he masterfully used language to teach in a way that made a strong connection between him and His students. Jesus used repetition of sounds and words, rhythm, rhyme, and language structure in this teaching. Unfortunately, much of these insights often get lost in the translation to English. However, by examining Aramaic, the native language of Jesus and the Jews of His time, interesting insights of Jesus' unorthodox use of language are revealed. For example, Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and scribes saying...

“Blind guides! You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a **gnat**, but you swallow a **camel**!... Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness. (Matt 23:24, 28 NLT-SE)

- **Creating memories with language...**While the imagery in Jesus' message is striking, his playful use of a pun is difficult to translate effectively. The key parts of this phrase in Aramaic are, “You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a **galma**, but you swallow a **gamla**!” The comparison of a gnat to a camel is dramatic enough, but adding the play on words make his example even more memorable.
  - **Playing to the crowd...**Dry wit was common to the culture of Jesus' culture and time. Accordingly, we find the Rabbi Jesus using witty, compassionate, direct, and even biting tones in delivering His message. As a teacher, the Rabbi intended to teach. This was necessary because His audience was spiritually typically immature, stubborn, and intellectually snobbish.
  - **“My sheep know my voice”**...Jesus spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep (John 10:14). Since he knows what his students are like, he can connect with them through teaching in a very direct and dramatic way.
  - Understanding Jesus' message did not require special education or even a life marked by holiness. Ordinary people heard Jesus' words and believed they were the word of God addressed to them. The important thing to remember is that the tone and words never created a wedge between the teacher and His students. His language fit His audience in a way that gave His students the best opportunity to become connected with the Master. This is a big reason why Rabbi Jesus was considered a Master.
- **So, here's the question again** that pertains directly to our topic tonight...”**Jesus, what kind of teacher do you want to be in my life?**”
  - **Relationships**...My personal spiritual growth will come mostly from out of relationships with others and the challenges they bring. Desiring to see the fruit of the spirit manifest in my life will be a strong focus.
  - **Academics**...My personal spiritual growth will come mostly from submitting myself with mentors and instructors who can challenge me to learn and grow in understanding the Word.
  - **Philosophy**...My personal spiritual growth will come mostly from shaping the principles I live my life by to the heart and character of God. Living by Godly principles, not rules, will drive my decisions.
  - **Hard knocks**...My personal spiritual growth will come mostly from overcoming adversity.
  - **Worship**...My personal spiritual growth will come mostly from the time I spend in the presence of God. Discovering the deep places in God, pursuing the habitation of the Lord and not just a visitation, and learning to linger in that place of intimacy with the Father's heart will become a lifelong pursuit.