

● Lesson 9

JESUS THE TEACHER

Jesus used different methods to teach God's Word to different people. During Jesus' time on earth, He spent much time teaching. Very early in His ministry, even a powerful Pharisee named Nicodemus recognized Him as a teacher sent by God.

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, the "supreme court" of the day. In John 3:2 Nicodemus said to Jesus, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." The word *rabbi* means "teacher."

Jesus taught Nicodemus one-on-one, like a tutor. Apparently, Nicodemus became a believer through Christ's teaching (John 7:50-52, 19:39).

Jesus used **parables** in His teaching to help His followers better understand spiritual truths. One example of a parable is found in Matthew 7:24-27.

1. This is a parable about a _____ and a _____.

2. To what does Jesus compare the wise man who built his house on the rock? vv.24-25

3. To what does He compare the foolish man who built his house on the sand? vv.26-27



Besides parables, another teaching method Jesus used was sermons. The "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew chapters 5 through 7 is one example.

Jesus taught in synagogues and in the temple. He also taught whenever people came to Him, whether in a home, on the seashore, or on a mountainside.

While teaching religious leaders who knew the Old Testament well, Jesus often spoke sternly, showing them that they were not understanding God's Word. While speaking to people living in terrible sin, He often spoke lovingly, calling them to turn from their sin and follow Him as they received His forgiveness by faith.

In all He taught, Jesus wanted people to know and believe that He was the One who came to save people from their sin.

4. When Jesus taught in the synagogue at Capernaum, how was His teaching different from the scribes? Mark 1:22

5. How did the people react to His teaching? v.22

6. John records another later visit to Capernaum. What was the response then? John 6:60, 66 _____

Memory Verse

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus had many followers, who were often called **disciples**. The Greek word translated “disciple” means “pupil” or “apprentice.” In the New Testament, it refers to those who listened to and followed Jesus’ teachings. Jesus chose 12 of those followers or disciples to be His “apostles” (Luke 6:13). The word “**apostle**” means “sent one.”

7. Why did Jesus appoint these apostles? Mark 3:14-15

The earthly ministry of Jesus was about three-and-a-half years long. During this time, Jesus not only called the 12 apostles, but He also equipped them to make more disciples after He ascended to heaven.

In what is now known as “the Great Commission,” Jesus gave the apostles one command: “make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19). Wherever His disciples would go, they were to literally “disciple” others.

Fast Fact: Casting nets



- A casting net was a circular net that could be thrown by one man (Matthew 4:18). It was made from rope and required daily hand mending by the fishermen.
- For example, seven of the disciples were fishermen (John 21:8). Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen by trade. Jesus called them to leave their boats and nets and become “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17).

Word Works 1

When Jesus commanded His disciples to “make disciples of all the nations,” He encouraged them with two important truths: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” and “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Fill in the missing words to learn some other important truths Jesus taught. How many can you complete without looking up the verses?

Choose from the following words:

glorify	shepherd	way
truth	life	children
ransom	bread	seek

1. “I am the _____ of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” John 6:35
2. “But _____ first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33
3. “I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6
4. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and _____ your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
5. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a _____ for many.” Mark 10:45
6. “Permit the _____ to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18:16
7. “I am the good _____; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

8. Jesus gives His disciples two ways to “make disciples.” What are they? Matthew 28:19-20

9. This task was and is beyond the ability of His followers to accomplish on their own. But what promise does Jesus give to encourage His disciples in Matthew 28:20?

10. In what ways do you see yourself as a “pupil” or “student”?

11. In what ways do you see yourself as a “discipler” or “teacher”?

12. How does Mark 1:17 apply to you as a “student” and as a “teacher”?

Catechism Corner

1. How do we rightly use the Word of God? (Q. 7)
We must first look to God for the enlightenment of His Spirit and then read the Word with devotion and an earnest purpose to live according to it.
2. Who should read the Bible? (Q. 8)
It is the will of God that all should use His Word and love it as a dear gift.
3. Jesus was called “Good Teacher” in Mark 10:17. What makes Jesus a good teacher? John 1:14, 17; 6:63
4. Would Jesus be a good teacher if what He said was not always absolutely true? Why or why not?

Word Works 2

Who was it? Match each of the 12 disciples with the correct description. Some will have more than one match.

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| Thomas | 1. Which three disciples were from the town of Bethsaida? (John 1:44) |
| James | 2. Who was in Galilee when Jesus said, “Follow Me”? (John 1:43-46) |
| Philip | 3. Which two brothers were fishermen by the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called them? (Matthew 4:18-19) |
| Simon | 4. Which disciple left his tax collector booth to follow Jesus? (Matthew 9:9) |
| John | 5. Which two brothers were fishermen who left their father to immediately follow Jesus? (Matthew 4:21-22) |
| Judas Iscariot | 6. Which disciple did Jesus see from under the fig tree? (John 1:45-48) |
| Thaddaeus | 7. Which disciple was also called Didymus and doubted Jesus’ resurrection? (John 20:24-25) |
| Andrew | 8. Which disciple was the son of Alphaeus? (Mark 3:18) |
| Matthew | 9. Which disciple is not well known and also called Judas (not Iscariot)? (Matthew 10:3; John 14:22) |
| James | 10. Which disciple is called “the Zealot”? (Luke 6:15) |
| Peter | 11. Which disciple was a treasurer and also a thief? (John 12:4-6) |
| Nathanael | |

29 A.D.

33 A.D.

Start of Jesus’ public ministry

Death and resurrection