
Words of Truth

Jesus Should Have Been A Better Teacher

By: Brian A. Yeager

What did you think when you read the title of this article? I hated typing it, so I cannot imagine how faithful Christians would feel reading it. I certainly meant for it to grab everyone's attention and it was chosen for a reason. Before anyone thinks I am about to suggest Jesus could have actually done something better, let me say that this article is not going to come close to suggesting Jesus really could have done anything better. Jesus is the very definition of perfection leaving Himself as the pattern for us all to follow (Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 7:14-28, I Peter 2:21-22, and I John 2:3-6). He did everything right all of the time for He always did what was pleasing to our Heavenly Father (John 5:30).

So, let me explain why I titled this article the way that I did. Very often I discuss the Scriptures with people who are doing things under the name of our Lord, but without His authority. A few months ago I had an email correspondence with someone who wanted to tell me a more effective way of evangelism. He said he learned it from a Florida College professor and mixed it with things he learned from a man in California. He called it the "Nathan Principle of Teaching" (II Samuel 12:1-14). He said it was a way to teach the Gospel in two-minutes. I tried to help this individual understand that no two teaching situations are the same. I tried to help him see that David being corrected by Nathan was one prophet correcting another and that while principles might be learned from that (Romans 15:4), the direct example would be impossible to follow today. He wouldn't hear it. He said that the men who taught him were very successful evangelists. He urged me to follow their "successful" plan of teaching.

After two emails, I answered some of his questions like this... "Dear _____: I teach people to repent of their sins and be converted (Acts 3:19). I teach them to count the cost of following the Lord to be sure they understand the commitment (Luke 14:25-33). I find out what people know and what they need to learn before I teach them (Acts 8:25-39). I approach every Bible study differently. As far as baptisms are concerned, I cannot recall baptizing anyone recently. I teach people every day. This is what I am going to continue doing. Please study the Scriptures and learn not to use man's wisdom or methods in teaching (I Corinthians 1:18-2:16)."

He responded: "You call yourself a preacher and you have not baptized anyone recently. You cannot even recall baptizing someone. God is not happy with you. You need to learn our system...." Now, let's talk about why I titled this article the way that I did.

When You Create Your Way You Are Denying His Way

Like Jesus, I rarely personally immerse anyone. Jesus gave that work to His disciples (John 4:1-2). I learned long ago, from the inspired Apostle Paul (I Corinthians 14:37 and Galatians 1:10-12), that sometimes people end up following evangelists because that person immersed them (I Corinthians 1:10-17). I know that many in churches of Christ believe that good teaching produces Christians. That is false. Jesus had many disciples walk away from Him (John 6:60-71). Measuring teaching based on conversions, attendance, etc. would make Jesus a failure. Those of us who understand how to teach know a thing or two that is unchanging in every biblical discussion. First, the power to convert is in the Gospel, not the man doing the teaching (Romans 1:16-17, Romans 10:14-17, and Colossians 1:5-6). Secondly, whether or not someone obeys the Gospel is not presentation based. It takes an honest seeker, with a good heart, for the word of God to take root and bear fruit (Luke 8:4-15).

Teaching the way the Lord wants His word taught will always result in few people being saved (Matthew 7:13-23). Teaching people the right way often will cause them to evaluate their true desires which will OFTEN lead them AWAY from Christ (Matthew 19:16-30 and Luke 9:57-62). The goal of teaching the Gospel is NOT to add numbers to an attendance board or to cause “church growth”. The goal of teaching is to get people to Heaven. This means the focus is not just on baptizing people, but on helping them through the Gospel to obey the Lord and continue in His word (John 8:31 and Colossians 1:23). There is much, much more to teaching; but the idea of a man-made teaching plan is absolutely sinful! It is similar to spitting in the face of the Master teacher, but then again people often think they know better than Jesus does. This is also seen in many erring churches of Christ with their sales schemes.

If Only Jesus Would Have Used Carnival Rides And Candy Apples

The Tusculum church of Christ had a carnival in May of 2017 (<http://www.tusculum.org/portfolio/spring-carnival/>). Other churches of Christ have done similar things in recent years. Now, why wasn't Jesus smart enough to have “Ferris Wheel To Heaven Days” or something like that? The fact is, Jesus rebuked people when they wanted to follow Him for food (John 6:1-27). All these carnival ideas, preaching schemes, fun booths, etc. are going to get a lot of people into Hell. Not a one of them will be saved. Let's never allow ourselves to turn to such carnality (Romans 8:5-8 and I Corinthians 3:1-3)? Remember, Jesus will judge everyone (Romans 14:11-12 and II Corinthians 5:10) by HIS way (John 12:48; 14:6).

Conclusion

The word of God fully equips us unto all good works (II Timothy 3:15-17 and II Peter 1:3). We must use His word regarding what we teach and how we teach it (James 1:21-25)! None of us are smarter than our Creator (Isaiah 55:7-9 and Romans 11:33-36)!