



Content

I. Jesus of Nazareth Is Our Rabbi and Teacher.

A. He was called the *Teacher* by his followers.

1. Nicodemus, John 3.2
2. Nathanael, John 1.49
3. Mary Magdalene, John 20.16
4. Martha, John 11.28
5. He referred to himself as the *Teacher*, or *Rabbi*, John 13.13.
6. He is our Rabbi and Teacher exclusively, Matt. 23.8-10.

B. He taught the Word of God.

1. He taught his disciples privately, Matt. 5.1-2.
2. He taught the multitudes, Mark 6.34.
3. He taught daily in the Temple, Luke 19.47.
4. He taught the Word of God, and himself as its subject and theme, Luke 24.27.
5. He claimed that his teaching was from the Father himself and not merely his own.
 - a. John 7.16 - So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me."

- b. John 8.28 - So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”
 - c. John 12.49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. [50] And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.
- C. He preached God’s kingdom plan.
- 1. He claimed that he had come for the purpose of preaching the Good News, Luke 4.43.
 - 2. He preached the Gospel of God’s Kingdom throughout Galilee, Matt. 4.23.
 - 3. He preached in the synagogues of the people, and confirmed his word with exorcisms of demons, Mark 1.38-39.
 - 4. He preached God’s message of hope to the poor, Luke 7.22.
 - 5. He both taught and preached in public, and often in the Temple, Luke 20.1.
- D. He spoke as God’s prophet on the way of salvation.
- 1. He is the prophet that Moses foretold who would lead the people into Yahweh’s will, Deut. 18.18-19.
 - 2. He was recognized as a prophet “mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,” Luke 24.19.

3. Christ's miracles confirmed his identity as the Prophet God would bring into the world, John 6.14.

II. Jesus of Nazareth, Their Rabbi and Ours

Like the rabbis of his day, Jesus drew to himself disciples, whom he personally taught and commissioned to teach others.

During the Golden Age of Greece the young Plato could be seen strolling through the streets of Athens in pursuit of his master: the shabby, barefoot and brilliant Socrates. Here, probably, was the beginning of discipleship. Socrates wrote no books. His students listened intently to every word he spoke and watched everything he did in preparation to teach others. Apparently the system worked; Plato later founded the Academy, where philosophy and science continued to be taught for 900 years.

Jesus used a similar relationship with the men He trained in order to spread the kingdom of God. His disciples were with Him day and night for three years. They listened to His sermons and memorized His teachings. They saw Him live the life He taught. Then, after His ascension, the disciples entrusted the words of Christ to others and encouraged them to adopt His life-style and obey His teaching. A disciple is a student who memorizes the words, actions and lifestyle of his teacher in preparation to teach others.

*~ Dr. Keith Phillips. *The Making of a Disciple*.
Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1981, p. 15.*

- A. He represented the will of God, and kept and taught the Law among the people of God.