

Jesus The Preacher

Introduction. The greatest preacher of all time is Jesus Christ, who according to Luke 4:43 said, "I must preach the kingdom of God ... I was sent for this purpose." Preaching is simply proclamation, but most preaching today has turned into an entertaining sideshow, which must always be brief and amusing.

As we look at Jesus as a preacher, we will learn more about Him. We will see the nature of preaching, and we will be challenged in our commitment to the kind of preaching God wants from us today. It can mean the difference between walking in the light and living in the dark.

I. ***He Spoke To The People***

- A. Why did He travel to the places He visited?
 - 1. Why did He climb the mountains (Matthew 5:1)?
 - 2. Why did He venture into the villages (Matthew 9:35)?
 - 3. Why did He move among people (Matthew 12:46)?
 - 4. Why did He teach them in their synagogues (Matthew 13:54)?
 - 5. Why did He go to Jerusalem a week before His execution (Matthew 21:10-11)?
 - 6. He did all of this to get into the presence of people!
- B. Why did He speak in parables, and use simple words and tell stories?
 - 1. Jesus did not use the classical Greek -- the language of the scholar. He spoke the common language of the people, probably Aramaic (Mark 5:41; 7:34; 14:36).
 - 2. His purpose was not to come across as a scholar, or a classical lecturer. His purpose was to reach people (Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 12:37).
- C. It did not matter if Jesus spoke to one person or 5,000, His heart was set on people who needed to be taught (Luke 19:10). Effective preachers see people, knowing their hurts and their temptations, and directs the word of God to their issues.

II. ***He Identified The Problem***

- A. Jesus knew about the problem.
 - 1. It is sad to say that many preachers today either do not know what the problem is, or if they do, they refuse to address it.
 - 2. Early in the Bible the problem is revealed; it is documented with bold type -- sin. Sin is a failure to act as God has directed us to act (1 John 3:4). It is knowing His will, but finding empty excuses to ignore it (Genesis 3:6, 12-13).
- B. Jesus directly addressed the problem (John 8:21-24, 30-36). Sin is our master, but Jesus came to make us free. Moreover with Jesus, sin was

not a vague generic. He spoke specifically about behavior that is offensive to God (Mark 7:21-22).

- C. Biblical preaching puts us in touch with exactly what is wrong with man, and calls upon us to confess it and give it up.
 - 1. You can teach people the history of the Bible, get them to memorize passages and define words, and recognize the literary styles, etc.
 - 2. But if you do not take people into the reality of sin and let them see how ugly it is to offend God, then preaching has failed.
- D. Jesus was the master teacher, and His preaching exposed man's problem. He had perfect exegetical skills; He knew the word of God; He could take people into all the rich details of words and phrases. But above all that, He wanted people to understand they were lost.

III. ***He Gave The People Good News***

- A. It would have been an awful letdown for people if Jesus had exposed the problem without giving a solution.
- B. He did not leave people without the message of salvation, and salvation is God's offer based on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Luke 4:18-19).
 - 1. His death expressed God's love and God's plan (John 3:16). The love of Jesus moved Him to give His life for each of us (Matthew 20:28).
 - 2. When He was setting up His memorial that we remember every first day of the week, He spoke of the eternal significance of His blood -- the remission of our sins (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 2:13).
- C. Gospel preaching must announce that good news. Jesus looked around and saw distressed, downcast, and lost people (Matthew 9:36-38). He renewed their hope without ignoring their sin (John 8:10-11).

IV. ***He Dared People To Change***

- A. Can you imagine Jesus concluding a sermon by saying, "Well, thanks for listening, have nice day now"? Or could you imagine Him saying, "All right, I see that my time is up"?
 - 1. Jesus, in His preaching, brought people to an understanding of the truth of God, then He challenged them to respond.
 - 2. He did not just want them to listen -- but listen and obey (Matthew 13:9)! He did not just want them to confess their sins -- but turn to God and repent (Mark 1:14-15)!
- B. In Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount," He spoke to the people simply and with great power. When Jesus gave people information, He was not finished. He concluded with the choice to be wise or foolish (Matthew 7:24-27).

1. He stormed the will of the people, challenging them to face their individual choice.
 - a) He challenged the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23).
 - b) He challenged Nicodemus (John 3:18-21).
 - c) He challenged the woman at the well (John 4:25-26).
2. Preaching must turn information into motivation; hearers need to be put in the position to make their decision (cf. Acts 2:40).

Conclusion. Jesus was the perfect preacher. From Him I can learn what preaching is about. From His example you can learn what listening is about. So when we come here, if I preach as I should and you listen as you should, we will discover what we need for a good life and great eternity.

But there will always be the need to accept the challenge. For most of us, it may not be a visible response, of coming down an aisle, but it will always be taking the message out the door and into the life. So will you fill your life with the truth of God? To have your emotions touched is not the destination; you must change your life and keep yourself in the hand of God.

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