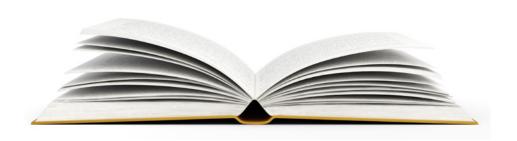


TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



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LESSON 8

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
MIRACLES
PARABLES

CHART 1 - THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

There is no question that Jesus of Nazareth was and is the most controversial figure in history. Even 2,000 years after His death and resurrection, He is still the center of much discussion and controversy.

One of the reasons He caused such a stir in ancient Israel was because His teachings were so unique. He taught in a way that showed He had authority. He wasn't a student teaching other students, He was the Teacher and the rest of the world were the students.

» Mark 1:22 "And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

Some of Jesus' most memorable teachings were presented to the world in what is known as the 'Sermon on the Mount'. These teachings were radical to the Old Testament Israelites, but they painted a perfect picture of what it means to truly know and follow God.

Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount:

- » Good and bad begins in the heart. READ: Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28
- » Serve and submit to others. READ: Matthew 5:38-42
- » Love all people, READ: Matthew 5:43-48
- » Don't have fake faith. READ: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18
- » Trust God to provide for you. READ: Matthew 6:25-26; 33
- » Do not condemn others for their faults. READ: Matthew 7:1-5

CHART 2 - MIRACLES

Another thing that drew both positive and negative attention to Jesus were the miracles He performed. He wasn't just another philosopher or wise teacher, He literally exercised authority over the supernatural to support His message.

Miracle: an unusual or wonderful event that is believed to be caused by the power of God.

Miracles Demonstrated by Jesus

Healing of Sickness and Disease/Deliverance from Demonic Forces

» Mark 1:34 "The He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons..."

Restoring Those Paralyzed

» Mark 2:10-12 "...He said to the paralytic. "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went..."

Opening Blind Eyes and Deaf Ears

- » John 9:6-7 "...He anointed the eyes of the blind man... So he went and washed and came back seeing."
- » Mark 7:32-35 "Then they brought to Him one who was deaf...and He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears... Immediately his ears were opened."

Multiplying Food

» Luke 9:14-17 "For there were about five thousand men...Then He took the five loaves and the two fish...He blessed and broke them... they all ate and were filled."

Commanding the Weather

» Mark 4:39 "Then He arose and rebuked the wind...and the wind ceased and there was a great calm."

Raising the Dead

» Luke 8:53-55 "And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He...took her by the hand and called saying, "little girl, arise."... and she arose immediately."

CHART 3 - PARABLES

As the miracles and practical teachings of Jesus attracted crowds, Jesus knew that not everyone in these crowds would actually become His disciples.

In order to weed out those who were serious about following God from those who were only following Him for entertainment, Jesus often taught in parables.

- Q. Do you know what a 'parable' is?
- A. A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

When Jesus taught in parables He often did not explain the meaning of the parable to the crowds of people. Instead of entertaining the crowds, He chose to speak with symbolism and allow His hearers the opportunity to draw closer to Himself in order to learn the hidden truth.

Those who drew closer to Jesus and became His disciples would receive understanding into the things of God.

- » Matthew 13:10-11 "And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?' He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'"
- » Matthew 13:13-16 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand...But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear."

CHART 4 - PARABLES (CONTINUED)

Examples:

- » Parable of the Sower READ: Matthew 13:1-9
- » Parable of the Wheat and the Tares READ: Matthew 13:24-30
- » Parable of the Hidden Treasure READ: Matthew 13:44
- » Parable of the Pearl READ: Matthew 13:45-46

Jesus' objective was to show the world that He was in fact God and that He had come to save souls from sin and hell. In teaching through parables, instead of through entertainment or manipulation, Jesus allowed the Spirit of God to lead souls to Himself.

It is only by the power of God that a soul will see beyond the teachings, miracles, and parables, and have a desire to truly know Jesus.

» John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

In order for us to receive understanding from the Word of God and experience personal salvation, we must seek God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We must pray and ask Him to draw us close to Jesus so our eyes and ears can be open to His message.

As we are drawn toward Him, He will come close to us and begin to transform our lives and lead us to salvation.