



Come. Follow. Me.

Jesus's Invitation of Life

#5 - Follow My Teaching (Matthew 7:24-29)

The Teacher

1. Jesus's _____ ministry consisted of preaching, teaching, and healing (Matthew 4:23).
 - a. His preaching proclaimed the good news (lit = gospel) of the reality of the kingdom of God. This new kingdom was "not of this world" (John 18:36) but rather encompassed those _____ to the reign of God over their heart (Luke 17:21). Citizenship in the kingdom requires repentance (a change of thinking/perspective) and belief (Mark 1:14-15).
 - b. His teaching ministry focused on what life in this new kingdom is like. The basis is a personal and _____ relationship with God as Father through faith in God the Son. He taught the simple requirement of faith (belief + trust) for entrance into the kingdom, the ethics that would govern the kingdom and disrupt the world, and the expression of the kingdom that would be displayed through a new corporate community: His church (the "called together" ones).
 - c. His healing ministry confirmed His identity as the promised Messiah (Luke 4:14-21), demonstrated the _____ God has for those suffering (Matthew 14:14), and provided a glimpse of the world to come untainted by disease, deformity, disability, and death (cf. Revelation 21:1-7).
2. All three of these endeavors aimed to draw people to a whole-hearted and whole-life allegiance to Jesus. Such allegiance is _____.

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self.'" - Luke 9:23-25 (New International Version)

3. Jesus's acclaim as a teacher was not only for *what* He taught but *how* He taught.
 - a. Even today His use of parables continues to capture peoples' attention and imagination. A parable is a simile or metaphor connecting things of everyday life with deep spiritual truth. The application is open-ended and, therefore, each person can apply it as best they understand. Jesus used this tool often (Matthew 13:34) and deliberately to entice those who truly desired to know God and make an _____ (cf. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" - Mark 4:9, 23).

- b. His main distinction as a teacher was the authority with which He spoke. At that time, most Jewish religious teaching was reciting the historical interpretations of rabbis. Jesus spoke directly and even _____ His words with the very words of God the Father (cf. Matthew 5:21-48).

"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.'" - John 14:23-24 (NIV)

4. Even religious leaders who did not accept His teaching acknowledged His role as a teacher (Matthew 12:38). Even today many respect Jesus's moral instruction and example but reject His teaching about Himself and the source of His teaching. A great teacher must teach _____ to be considered great.

The Teaching

1. Jesus's teaching continues to be _____ and _____.
 - a. Jesus is the reason we view the Creator God as a _____ heavenly Father. In Judaism, God's fatherhood was corporate (the nation) or metaphorical (the fatherless - Psalm 68:5).
 - b. Jesus redefined righteousness as a _____ right with God first then followed by obedience, with God as the audience, not people. Righteousness ≠ mere outward obedience or rituals.
- "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 6:1 (English Standard Version)*
- c. Jesus solely transformed ancient vices into virtues and vice versa, e.g., humility, compassion, service, forgiveness. The _____ ethics of the kingdom continue to transform.
 - d. Love⁴ - "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).
 - i. God - heart, soul, mind, & strength (Mark 12:30).
 - ii. Neighbor - as yourself (Mark 12:31).
 - iii. One another - _____ Jesus loves (John 13:34-35).
 - iv. Enemies (Luke 6:27-28). NOTE: no prior religious or _____ teacher ever taught this!

2. How can we best follow Jesus's teaching?
 - a. Apply the "Golden Rule" (Matthew 7:12) _____!
 - b. "Hold to my teaching" - trust and do what Jesus says even when difficult - so that you can be _____ (John 8:31-32).