

The Supreme Teacher

© Jerry Lawson 8.16.2003

Introduction:

- A. With all the teachers here, I'm a bit nervous. Visions of 6th grade speech class.
- B. TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
 - 1. Name the last 3 Nobel Prize winners, PGA tour winners, Senate Majority Leaders, Presidents of company you work for...
 - 2. Name 3 teachers who made a difference.
 - 3. Henry Adams – “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”
- C. Illustration: Catholic school helps with math.

Matt 23:5-8 NKJV

But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' 8 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

- D. Here Jesus is talking about hypocrites.
 - 1. They wanted to be called “teacher.”
 - 2. Somehow, the name “teacher” is not so desirable by many anymore (Bishop, Reverend...).
 - 3. JESUS WAS THE SUPREME TEACHER.
- E. In fact, Jesus reminds me of school teachers in many ways:

I. Jesus Is Compassionate.

A. Teachers are overworked, underpaid, underappreciated.

1. Dr. Johnny Long story: *“Most important job is Kindergarten teacher. Graduate teachers are paid more. That’s like teaching a bulldog to eat raw meat. How do you teach a grad student? Throw a book at him.”*
2. Teachers do what they do b/c they CARE!

B. Jesus is also full of compassion.

Matt 9:11-13 NIV

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

1. When many were seeking a place of majesty, Jesus sought a place to do ministry.
2. Many think Christianity is all about sacrifice. Jesus said it’s about MERCY!!!
3. To be like Jesus, show MERCY – COMPASSION!

C. Jesus always looks at us with Compassion:

Matt 9:36 NIV

When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

1. THIS IS HOW JESUS SEES YOU!
2. These are not perfect people.
3. Lazy, curious, murdering Pharisees had just called Him a “ruler of demons.”
4. Upon THIS crowd, Jesus had COMPASSION!!!

D. Today, not matter what your condition, Jesus looks at you with Compassion!

1. He's not overlooked you – “His eyes roam over all the earth to strongly support those who love Him.”
2. You cannot be mean enough, bad enough, sinful enough, to change His mind!

E. David was full of sin when he said:

Ps 51:1 NIV

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

1. When Jesus sees you, this is HIS desire.
2. Mercy/ Compassion/ Love – Not Judgment!
3. Forget what you have gotten from others.
4. Today, Jesus offers Mercy, Grace, Help!

II. Jesus Is Interested in Your Learning.

A. Mrs. Ophelia Sellers loved to learn.

1. She loved for her students to learn.
2. “If I meet you in the elevator, you’d better know you’re gonna’ talk. You know something I don’t know.”

B. Today, many are “ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of TRUTH.”

1. *“The people of God are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos 4:6).*
2. WHAT IS TRUTH???

John 14:6 NKJV

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

C. You can know this truth:

John 8:32 NIV

2 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

D. Jesus specializes in setting people free.

1. Isaiah prophesied 600 years prior to Jesus' birth:

Isa 61:1-3 NKJV

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning"

2. Oh, how man has changed the message of Jesus.

E. This is what Jesus has to offer you today:

1. "Good News" – had any bad lately?

i. Jesus specializes in turning things around!

Rom 5:20 NKJV

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

ii. What Satan meant for evil, God meant for good!

2. If your world is crashing in around you, you're a prime candidate for Jesus to work!

2 Cor 12:9

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

3. *“Bind up Broken Hearted.”*

- i. Do you know that He notices, when no one else does?
- ii. Not one sparrow falls from the sky – not one tear from you eye.

“Oil of gladness instead of mourning...comfort all who mourn...beauty for ashes...”

4. *“Proclaim freedom for captives, release from darkness of prisoners.”*

- i. Satan will use trials of this life to bind/imprison you.
- ii. Bondage: Destructive habits, Doubt, Depression, Fear!

John 8:36 NIV

36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- You may have walked in BOUND – But YOU WON'T LEAVE HERE LIKE YOU CAME IN JESUS NAME!!!
- Jesus wants you to have the knowledge of TRUTH – THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!!!

III. Jesus Is Interested In Your Future.

A. Good teachers are always pushing their students.

1. Mrs. Zorn gave me a lower grade when my work was just as good as my best friends.
2. “That’s not your best. I expect more from you.”

3. She wanted the best future for me.
- B. God has BRIGHT plans for your future.
1. Many times we cannot live up to other's expectations.
 2. You CAN be all that God wants you to be!

Jer 29:11 NIV

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- C. These are high aspirations – “Maybe that’s okay for a preacher...”
1. “How can I live up to that?”

Jer 29:12 NIV

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

2. He expands that thought:

Ps 91:15-16 NIV

15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

- D. It's the troublesome times (out of nowhere) that destroy us:
1. PROMISE: “With you...Deliver you.”

John 16:33 NIV

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2. I don't know what you are facing, but Jesus has power over it.

3. Medical, Financial, Family, Job, Spiritual, Emotional.

Mark 11:24 NKJV

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

John 14:14 NKJV

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Conclusion:

- A. Ms. McQueen, in Kindergarten, told me I could be the President of the United States.
 - 1. Olivia wants to be President so she can be the boss of her daddy.
 - 2. Some wanted to be astronauts, football stars, teachers
- B. Many goals & dreams have changed through the years.
 - 1. I don't know what has become of your dreams.
 - 2. Maybe they seem unattainable...
- C. I KNOW God's plan for your life is never out of reach!
 - 1. And it's much brighter than your own.
 - 2. WHATEVER you need to get that plan...
 - i. Prosperity, peace, joy, hope...
 - 3. You'll find it at the FOOT of the Cross!

***“When you find He’s all you’ve got,
You’ll find He’s all you ever needed!”***

Closing Song: “Draw Me Close”