

CHRIST'S MINISTRY
Part III
Matthew 4:18-25

Introduction: It is irrefutable that Jesus Christ was the incomparable, premier Teacher of all time. His imprint on humanity indelibly reaches people in every quarter of the globe. Given a fair read, one must come away from His irrefragable teachings with clear knowledge of what He taught. While the teachings of Jesus were immensely profound, He presented His deep, life-changing revelations in a simple form so that a person could understand, no matter how limited one's education. Note *Romans 1:20*.

I. Christ's ministry

- A. The oppositeness of his teaching. He ironically compares the carping critic to a man with a log in his eye. *Matthew 7:1-5*. All His illustrations were adapted to the circumstances before Him.
- B. Its practical character. He never sets before us impossible ideals and unattainable heights, but He insists that we do what is right. "...Do this and you will live..." *Luke 10:28*. "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." *John 13:17*. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven." *Matthew 7:21*.
- C. The brevity of His teaching. His teachings are marvels of compression, yet clear and complete (like computer compressed files). Note the parable of the leaven in *Matthew 13:33*. If a hundred words were used, they could not have made the point more clear: if the mitigating factor is strong enough, it will affect the whole batch, good or bad. He never engaged in guesswork at the truth. He never said "I suggest," "I submit," or "perhaps." There is nothing tentative about His teaching. His tone is always, "I say to you..."
- D. The universality of his teaching. It is true that He said, "*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" *Matthew 10:6*. But He also said, "...*I am the light of the world...*" *John 8:12*. He also said, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*" *Matthew 28:19*. "*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.*" *John 12:32*. The most local man was the most universal. What He taught exceeded the bounds of time and space. Buddha and Mohammed were oriental like Christ, but they were powerless to reach the West. The race has yet to be found which cannot find in the teaching of Christ the expression of its deepest thought and the answer to life's most pressing questions. *Nolloth*, the Christian historian, says, "...Authority, sureness, universality of scope and bearing, lift His teaching above that of every other religious leader."
- E. The finality of His teaching. "...*The word that I have spoken will judge Him in the last day.*" *John 12:48*. When we have heard Him speak, we have put ourselves under an inescapable obligation to heed. He said, "*The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*" *John 6:63*. "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." *John 14:6*. The most of what other men have said is out of date, but immortality stamps all that the Messiah said. He is the Omega as well as the Alpha of all utterance. His word is the last word because *He is the Word*.

II. The results of His teaching

- A. As His teaching began to spread, many priests were obedient to the faith. *Acts 6:7*. Imagine what a miracle this was. Accepting the Christian faith brought great disrepute on them with their families and with their religion. This is undeniable proof that the teaching of Christ was the truth.
- B. Think of the miracle present when the Gentiles accepted His teaching. The cultural and racial barriers to overcome were monumental. *Acts 11:1, 2, 11, 15-18*.
- C. Any wonder Paul said, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*" *Galatians 3:28*.

Conclusion: The all-encompassing nature of the teaching of Christ exceeds beyond all reasonable expectations. We are a testimony of the power of His transforming grace. Without the knowledge of His truth, we would be lost and headed for a devil's hell. Knowing Him in the power of His resurrection has transformed us into creatures of righteousness who are destined to live with Him forever.