

Subject: *Christ the Master Teacher*

Scripture: *Matthew 5:17-20*

I have kept a letter from May 2005 that was written by Don Mumpower, who was at that time Administrator of Tri-Cities Christian School. At that time I was teaching part-time at the school and Mr. Mumpower wrote this to all teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and it said in part: “My dad told me, when I was very young, that when I became old I would realize that if I could identify ten people who made an impact on my life, five of them would be teachers.” What he said in that letter is absolutely true. In this sermon I want us to consider Christ the Master Teacher. We have read a small portion of the Sermon on the Mount. We can read about the setting of His sermon in Matthew 5:1-2, and we can read about the impact of His sermon in Matthew 7:28-29. Christ is the master teacher because He based His teaching on the authority of God’s Word.

1. CHRIST’S HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE

In our text Christ said four things about Scripture:

A. He taught that *Scripture is precious* (vs. 17)

Jesus wanted to remove any idea that He was going to undermine or replace Scripture. He came not to destroy, but to fulfill Scripture. In referring to the law and the prophets, Christ was referring to the OT scriptures. This designation confirms that the Old Testament writings were commonly recognized as God-given holy books. He fulfilled OT prophecies and pictures (types). The four gospels contain a total of 3,779 verses. According to Graham Scroggie, 1,934 (about half) of these verses are the actual words of Christ. In 1 out of 10 of verses in which Christ is speaking, He either quotes or refers to the OT.

He believed all the stories and people in the Old Testament. He never said anything to cast doubt on the integrity and accuracy of Scripture. He honored it in every way. The people were amazed at His teachings because He used Scripture to support everything He said.

B. He taught that *Scripture is permanent* (vs. 18)

Heaven and earth are temporary and changeable, but God’s Word is eternal and unchanging. Christ said that even one jot (the smallest Hebrew letter, like our apostrophe or comma) or one tittle (the smallest part of a Hebrew letter) would not fail until all Scripture was fulfilled. In effect, Christ said “Not the least part of Scripture will pass until every “I” is dotted and every “T” is crossed. This was a powerful confirmation of God’s Word.

C. He taught that *Scripture is preeminent* (vs. 19)

God’s Word is significant and most important and this is a clear warning against anyone who would trifle with it or belittle it. Anyone who has a casual or flippant attitude toward obeying Scripture is condemned. Because Scripture is God’s inspired Word it deserves the highest respect and confidence.

D. He taught that *Scripture is practical*

Over and over Jesus said, “You have heard it said, but I say unto you.” Jesus brought out the spiritual depth of Scripture. Jesus went beyond the external and the superficial teachings of

the scribes and Pharisees. He taught the importance of the heart and the attitude as well as the outward act. He taught the importance of the heart and the attitude as well as the outward act.

2. CHRIST'S FREQUENT USE OF SCRIPTURE

A. He used Scripture to explain His mission

He said that He did not come to destroy the Scripture, but to fulfill it. When Jesus taught it was evident that He not only knew His subject, but He was the subject. When Jesus preached His first sermon, He went into the synagogue at Nazareth and read the Scripture, then explained what it meant.

Luke 4:16-21 *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

John 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

Luke 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

B. He used Scripture to answer moral questions

Jesus referred to the OT scriptures many times, but He never referred to any writings of so-called wise men or philosophers.

Matthew 19:3-5 *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*

C. He used Scripture to overcome Satan's temptations

Matthew 4:4 *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

Three times He quoted Scripture from the OT book of Deuteronomy.

D. Christ used Scripture to explain unbelief and rejection

On one occasion His disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables (stories). He told them that it would be easy for anyone with a humble and teachable heart to understand the parables, but for those who didn't want to hear and believe, the parables would make no sense.

Matthew 13:14-15 *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

John 13:18 *I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.*

E. Christ used Scripture to expose and confront sin

Matthew 15:7-9 *Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

Matthew 21:12-13 *And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

F. Christ used Scripture to warn of coming judgment

Matthew 24:37-39 *But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

In this text and many other places we see Jesus confirming the historical accuracy of the Old Testament. He spoke of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Lot, David, and Solomon. He referred to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He spoke of Moses and the serpent in the wilderness. When asked to give a sign that He was the Messiah, He said, "The only sign is that of the prophet Jonah."

Jesus taught with the authority of God and His Word. He expected people to listen seriously, to believe and obey what He taught. He said this is the sure mark of His disciples then and now.

John 8:31-32 ³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* ³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*