

## Jesus and Others

### Intro:

1. So much of our lives involves interaction with others. A large portion of the NT devoted to properly treating and responding to others.
2. Jesus' attitude/example valuable as we consider proper treatment of others.

### 1. Jesus' Stated Purpose in Coming to Earth

#### A. Focused on welfare of others:

1. **Save:** *"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost"* (Mt 18:11; cf. Lk 9:56; Jn 12:47).
2. **Serve:** *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ..."* (Mt 20:28a).
3. **Sacrifice:** *"... and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Mt 20:28b); *"the hour has come ... for this purpose I came to this hour"* (Jn 12:23, 27).

#### B. Concern led to constant interaction:

1. Surrounded by multitudes wherever He went (Mt 14:13-14). No time to eat (Mk 3:20; 6:31); fear of being trampled (Mk 3:9).
2. He went into homes and ate; cause for criticism (Lk 7:34 – *"a glutton ..."*).
3. Jesus had time for individuals (Nicodemus – Jn 3; RYR – Mt 19:16ff; Zaccheus – Lk 19). He dealt both comfort and criticism where needed.
4. Broke social protocol and spoke to female/Samaritan (Jn 4:7ff).
5. In spite of mission to "save the world," He enjoyed close personal friends such as Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Jn 11; Lk 10:38-42) and Peter, James and John.

#### C. Jesus wasn't arrogant, vengeful, self-centered as some are today.

1. He bypassed the Samaritan village that rejected Him (Lk 9:53-56). He had the power, but not the desire, to destroy them.
2. He prayed for the Father to forgive His executioners (Lk 23:34).
3. He offered eternal life to the penitent criminal (Lk 23:39-43).

## **2. Jesus' Life In a Word: Teacher**

- A. *"You call Me Teacher and Lord ... and so I am"* (Jn 13:13); *"For One is your Teacher, the Christ ..."* (Mt 23:10).
- B. Jesus made several trips through the cities and towns of Galilee teaching; He often went into the temple to teach when in Jerusalem (Jn 18:20; Lk 19:47 – *"daily"*).
- C. Jesus taught some painful lessons:
  - 1. Simon the Pharisee: Jesus accused him of judging the sinful woman harshly because he did not see himself in need of forgiveness (Lk 7:39-47).
  - 2. Rebuked those vying for best places at feast (Lk 14:7ff).
  - 3. Taught RYR that his treasure was on earth (Mt 19:21-22).
  - 4. Taught Sadducees that they were ignorant of Law regarding resurrection (Mt 22:29-33).
  - 5. Taught scribes, Pharisees that they valued tradition above Law (Mt 15:3-9).
  - 6. Taught the lawyer what the first commandment of all truly was (Mk 12:28ff).
  - 7. He called men hypocrites, fools and blind, blind guides, full of lawlessness, white-washed tombs, (Mt 23); sons of the devil (Jn 8:44); liars (Jn 8:55); small in faith (Mt 8:26; 14:31). *These things were not said in anger but in attempt to break through hard hearts and confront men with their true nature.*

## **3. Jesus and His Enemies**

- A. Jesus' attitude/teaching concerning enemies was revolutionary.
  - 1. He taught benevolent consideration toward adversaries (Mt 5:43-48).
  - 2. He taught timely resolution of conflict (Mt 5:23-25; Mt 18:15-17).
  - 3. He always had the perfect answer for any situation (Mt 21:25; 22:21).
- B. We will all at times face uninvited hostility, ill-treatment. We must learn to define ourselves by God's standards and not man's approval (Jn 12:42-43). Our job is to teach and exhort, forgive and restore. We must let God handle wrath and restitution (cf. 1 Pet 2:23).
- C. No one will get to heaven by himself. We must look sympathetically upon the needs of others. The stronger we get, the more obligations we have to assist others.