

5/25/97 - a.m.
Acworth, GA

“A Teacher Come from God”

Intro:

1. Imagine “deserted island”: Palm trees, water falls, sugary sand, sparkling ocean, etc.
No people: Phones, salesmen, bad drivers, trashy neighbors, egotistical bosses, etc.
2. **Forget it!** *Ain't gonna happen.* The world is full of people, and God has ordained man a social creature. We live in context of nationality, work, family, friends, church.
3. Much of the flavor/character of life determined by how we respond to people: **flaws** (incompetence, irritation, disappointment); **needs** (material, emotional, spiritual). This is in *our* hands; our *attitude* will determine how well we get along with others.

1. Jesus: the Master Teacher

A. What made Jesus great, endeared Him to common people?

1. Jesus **understood** people (He should; He *made* them!). “*He had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man*” (Jn 2:25). We all want to be understood, for others to take time to know what we think, how feel.
2. Jesus had **compassion** on people (He was not arrogant, distant or overbearing): sick in need of physicians (Mt 9:12); sheep w/o shepherd (Mt 9:36); lost loved ones (Jn 11:35); the widow who gave her two mites (Mk 12:41-44); blind Bartimaeus in Jericho (Mk 10:46ff); the multitudes in their hunger (Mk 8:2); the disciples in their fear (Mk 4:38-39); children (Mt 19:13-14).
3. Jesus gave people what they **needed** (if not what they *wanted*): Nicodemus needed spiritual rebirth; Samaritan woman needed living water; Peter needed both patient teaching and words of rebuke.

B. Jesus' charisma, influence lay not in *raw power* or in speaking *truth* but **how He exercised** them: His miracles were not merely divine physics or a magic show but benevolent acts to help man. His teaching was not in condescension or point-less academics but to help man understand himself and relation to God.

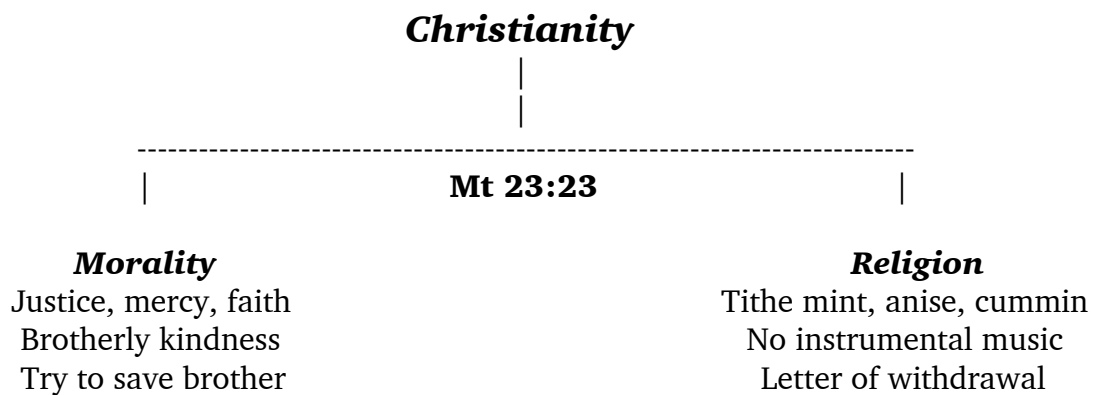
C. Jesus gave **Himself** to people; He invested His life in their betterment.

1. He traveled throughout Palestine seeking the “*lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” In so doing He exposed Himself to the elements, tired, hungry, thirsty, uncomfortable, homeless (in a sense).
2. He was dogged by crowds, assailed by critics, taken advantage of.

3. Came to “*seek and save that which was lost*” (Zacchaeus, Lk 19:10). He **demonstrated** what we should be, how we should look at others rather than *telling*.

2. Need For Ethical Teaching Today

- A. **Ethics:** “The study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by the individual in his relationship with others” (Am. Heritage).
1. When John preached repentance/kingdom, he taught return to ethical standards of Law of Moses - Lk 3:10-14.
 2. Our society is similarly plagued with ignorance, apathy, callousness to the feelings, rights, possessions, *even lives* of others. **Illus:** Friend’s car-buying experience; car sold out from under them. “A sale is a sale.”
- B. The danger for Christians: separate “religion” from “morality.”



- C. Will we succumb to these influences and become callous, hateful, belligerent and apathetic as the rest? Or will we live by a higher standard and “*let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify our Father*”?

3. Christianity: A “People” Business

- A. So much of the NT is devoted to the proper treatment of others. Emphasis is upon how Christians treat each other. If we don’t get *this* right, how will we treat those outside the body of Christ with whom we have *less* in common?
- B. Though Jesus was God, and therefore had certain prerogatives/insights we do not have, **He is still our example!**
- C. How did He speak to others? How did He treat others? What did He teach? How can we implement this in our own lives? **This is our focus this week.**