

## **JESUS HAD A PLAN. DO WE ?**

Eph. 1:3-10 Gal. 4:4 Acts 1:7

**Introduction:** Jesus did not approach His life and ministry haphazardly. His mission was far too important. He gave His best; He gave His all. His approach and method were appropriate for the time, setting, and people to whom He related.

As a result, people characterized His teaching as new, authoritative, and different from the teaching they heard from others. Those who received Jesus and His message were transformed. The transformation was spiritual but evidence of the change could be seen in the external practices and personal character of those who experienced it.

Jesus moved from place to place, wherever the people were. He was part of a long range plan that originated in the mind of God the Father and the goal of that plan was redemption and bringing all things under Christ in God's time. What was Jesus' plan?

### **I. JESUS CULTIVATED PEOPLE**

1. Jesus called people to Himself in order to teach them and then send them out. (Mk. 3:14-15; Lk. 10:1; Mt. 10:1-10; 28:19-20).
2. Jesus had confidence in those He sent out as the Holy Spirit would be going with them.

### **II. JESUS PRESENTED THE MESSAGE**

1. "Attention getters, crowd drawers, etc." was not the message Jesus brought. His only message was one of salvation and redemption. (Mk. 1:38)
2. Drawing a crowd is not what the message of Jesus is all about.

### **III. JESUS MODELED THE MESSAGE**

1. Jesus washed the disciples' feet during the night of the Passover supper. (Jn. 13:12-15).
2. Jesus not only taught a lesson, but He also offered Himself as the lesson.

### **IV. JESUS USED A VARIETY OF TEACHING APPROACHES**

1. Jesus told earthly stories with heavenly, spiritual meaning. Some were true, some realistic illustrations. Lk. 15:11-32 (Prodigal Son); Lk. 10:29-37 (Good Samaritan); Mt. 13:1-9 (Parable of the Sower).
2. Jesus used objects to illustrate a lesson. Mt. 18:1-4 ( a little child); Mt. 6:25-30 (birds overhead).
3. Jesus used dramatic action to make a point. Jn. 13:12-15 (washing the disciples' feet), riding into town on

a small donkey (Mk. 11:1-10)

4. Most often Jesus used discussion as His method with individuals. Jn. 3 (Nicodemus); Jn. 4 (Samaritan woman); Mt. 19:16-22 (rich, young ruler).
5. Jesus often engaged in questions and answers. Mt. 16:13-17 (His disciples); Mk. 10:35-40
6. Jesus even used lecture to large crowds. Jn. 6:25-59; Mt. 5-7; Jn. 14-17

#### **V. JESUS WAS INNOVATIVE**

1. Jesus taught anytime, not just on Sunday morning at 9:30, but whenever a person or a crowd was present. Nicodemus, at night; Samaritan woman, at noon, Emmaeus Disciples on a road.
2. Jesus taught anyplace, the Synagogue, on a mountain side, in the market, a home, sea shore, from a boat, while walking.
3. Jesus used whatever resources were at hand, nature, children, farmers, fishermen, seeds, plants, etc.
4. Jesus did more than just present a lesson. He modeled the lesson. He didn't wait for a class to gather, but whenever any opportunity came.

#### **CONCLUSION: DO WE HAVE A PLAN?**

1. We are to be about God's work, not our work. To do God's work, we must do it God's way. Jesus is our example.
2. There is no excuse for laziness or saying, "it can't be done." We have been ordered, commissioned by our Lord Jesus to action: Go make disciples!
3. We have a message to present - the same one Jesus gave day after day.
4. We must cultivate people, train them and then send them out into the world as Jesus did.
5. We must model the message. Live what we teach. Practice what we teach.
6. We must use various teaching approaches as Jesus did. (Relate to people, musical, logic, nature, drama, reflective, visual, lecture, etc...)
7. We must remember that drawing a crowd is not what Jesus was about. He was about spiritual change in the lives of people.