

Series: The Teachings of Jesus
Title: Living a Life of Blessing
Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction

The teachings of Jesus were simple and yet profound, especially considering the times in which He lived. Jesus began his teaching ministry about 30 AD during a time of ruthless and often brutal Roman occupation of Palestine.

1. The _____ were Rabbinic teachers who required strict observance of the Mosaic Law.
2. The _____ were a priestly group of Levites in charge of the temple.
3. The _____ were a priestly order believed to be descendants of the "legitimate" high priestly lineage, which the Hasmoneans ousted.
4. The _____ were a group of militant Jews who wanted to throw off Roman rule and bring freedom to their homeland by force.
5. The teachings of Jesus were a fresh new _____ to the old established traditions.
6. The message of Jesus was one of humility, charity, and _____.
7. Jesus taught about the transformation of the _____ person.
8. The Kingdom so long awaited in the Old Testament is not of this world; it is the _____ of the Kingdom of Heaven.
9. Jesus offered a way of living that would result in _____ life in the Kingdom of Heaven.
10. He taught that a much _____ life could be experienced in eternity than the very best life lived here on earth!

I. Jesus Teaches From a Position of Authority

11. The typical _____ for teaching in that culture was for the teacher to sit and the hearers to stand.
12. A life built on faith rests upon a _____ power backed by a _____ God.
13. The teachings of Jesus gave the people new _____ regarding authority.
14. Living up to these standards seems _____, yet we know the teaching is true.
15. All suffering, sorrow, and grief must _____ to the authority of Christ.

II. Jesus' Teachings Are Proclaimed With Authority

16. Jesus spoke so freely and passionately that the _____ crowded in to hear him.
17. Jesus presented a radically different _____ than the Nation of Israel expected from the Messiah.
18. None of the Jewish groups could _____ on what the messianic Kingdom would be like.
19. Jesus taught that peace was first to be achieved in the _____!
20. Jesus taught that a person's inner _____ dictates their outward behavior and that their core beliefs influence their ethics and daily living.
21. You might say the Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' " _____ " sermon.
22. Matthew shows Jesus instructing his disciples in a message He knew would change _____ forever.

III. His Followers Were Captivated by Authority

23. America is definitely a "house _____."

24. Our Judeo-Christian system is based on _____.
25. God's authority is _____, unshakeable, and unchangeable.
26. Not only were _____ crucial to the community's religious life, but they were essential to the success of the Nation.
27. By Jesus' time, the voice of prophecy had gone _____.
28. Because the people no longer had prophets to guide them, they turned to the scribes and the teachers, the _____ in the scriptures, for guidance in spiritual matters daily.
29. Most of the prophets were people of _____, not just big talkers.
30. In the days of the prophets, the prophets were the point of the _____.
31. Jesus spoke not with the borrowed authority of scripture but with an authority even more _____ than that of the prophets of old.
32. Jesus was giving a new _____ with the same authority as the scriptures.
33. Jesus is much more than a prophet: He is the _____ of the Living God.

Conclusion

34. Christian authority comes from one source only, from the _____ who is a person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is true that Jesus is alive this very day, and through his gift of the Holy Spirit, He can bring the Gospel to life in your heart and His body, the Church. Just as Jesus preached, healed and forgave, it is not through good words alone that the Church

shows it is the living Body of Christ, but through its ministry, mission of healing, mercy, and prayer.

Answers

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| 1. Pharisees | 13. insight | 25. absolute |
| 2. Sadducees | 14. impossible | 26. prophets |
| 3. Essenes | 15. surrender | 27. silent |
| 4. Zealots | 16. multitudes | 28. experts |
| 5. approach | 17. agenda | 29. action |
| 6. love | 18. agree | 30. spear |
| 7. inner | 19. heart | 31. significant |
| 8. future | 20. attitude | 32. teaching |
| 9. eternal | 21. standard | 33. Son |
| 10. better | 22. lives | 34. Truth |
| 11. posture | 23. divided | |
| 12. supernatural | 24. authority | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Logical reasoning may very well point us to the reality of God, but it doesn't cause us to experience God's love and community. What prevents you from experiencing God's love and community? What can you do to live in faith in a way that will allow you to experience this more fully?
2. The Beatitudes are instructions from Jesus that would change lives forever. How have these instructions changed your life or the lives of Christians that you know? What about Jesus' teaching changes lives?
3. The people in the synagogue immediately realize that Jesus is someone special, although they do not fully understand who he is. How do people today misunderstand who Jesus is? How does this affect opinion of Christianity? What can you do to help combat the misunderstanding about Jesus for those you know?