

The Teacher and Responsibilities and Rewards

Key Verses

**“Be not many teachers, my brethren knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment”
(James 3:1, RV).**

Lesson Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

The learner will recognize the great responsibility of the calling to teach God's Word.

The learner will restate the rewards of being a Christian teacher.

The learner will explain the importance of preparing ones-self for the teaching ministry.

The learner will practice careful preparation of lessons.

The learner will discuss the importance of the Holy Spirit unction upon a Christian teacher.

The learner will express that a teacher must be a life-long learner.

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Teacher---You Have the Power to Loose or Bind.

II. Teacher ---You Are a Gift to the Church.

III. Teacher----The Kingdom of God is Not Yours.

IV. Teacher--- Know Your Attitude.

V. Teacher---Keep the Big Picture in Mind.

VI. Teacher---Know the Value of Preparation.

Conclusion

Key Words

Coin	-Object given value, used in exchange for merchandise.
Conduit	-A channel or pipe through which material is carried.
Commitment	-A continuing sense of obligation to a cause.
Preparation	-To get ready for by study, work, or practice.
Secular	-Concerned with the temporal, worldly matters.
Unction	-An anointing, as with oil.

Introduction

You must understand your responsibility as a Christian teacher. You must teach and live the truth. You become a visual object lesson for your students. A Christian teacher must know, go, and show the way.

“The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not” (Matthew 23:1-2).

Jesus pronounced the following judgment: “And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered” (Luke 11:46, 52).

I. Teacher: You Have the Power to Loose or Bind

Apostle Peter was given the Kingdom keys with the power to loose and bind. As a teacher you can either open or lock the door of knowledge to a student. “Ye have taken away the key of knowledge” (Luke 11:52). God help you to open doors.

You must have a true born-again experience. Jesus gave: “Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel... for ye make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess... hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres which indeed appear beautiful outward but are within full of dead men’s bones and of all uncleanness” (Matthew 23:24-27).

In another warning Jesus says: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19).

The responsibility may be great – but so are the rewards, for those who teach.

II. Teacher: You Are a Gift to the Church

A Christian teacher is a gift to the church. You are special. You are great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

1. The church will, "be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine..." (verse 14).
2. By, "speaking the truth in love," the body "may grow up into him in all things ...even Christ" (verse 15).
3. The Gifts of Ministry will keep, "the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which [every supporting ligament supplieth, *NIV*]" (verse 16).
4. "...The effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (verse 16).

"And God hath set in the church, first Apostles, secondly Prophets, thirdly Pastors, Teachers." It is God who has set you in the Church. If you are a Christian teacher, you are a gift to the Church. What an honor! What a responsibility!

You must be totally committed to the cause. It is "Your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). "...Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Apostle Paul said, "And, I will gladly spend and be spent for you" (II Corinthians 12:15). "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and the Barbarians; both to the wise, and the unwise" (Romans 1:14).

Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone" (John 12:24).

III. Teacher: The Kingdom of God is not Yours

Too often we assume ownership of the message. This is understandable, since to be a teacher you must become totally involved in the cause. There is a danger however, of forgetting the Kingdom has a King and we are His messengers. The lesson and students are not ours. They belong to God.

Jesus made sure the Jews understood His message came from above: "...My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me, If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him" (John 7:16-18).

In Matthew 8, the centurion not only showed great faith but also an understanding of delegated authority. He said, "For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: And I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it" (Matthew 8:9).

When Jesus heard this, the Bible says He "marveled." Notice he did not say he was a man in authority; but under authority. The centurion always kept in mind his authority came from Caesar. The reason he was able to tell his men to go and come was due to the authority Caesar had vested in his position as centurion. Authority comes with the position; it is not given to an individual.

The centurion recognized that the power of heaven stood behind the authority of Jesus Christ. As a Christian teacher you are under the authority of Jesus Christ. The power of heaven is backing your decisions.

What a privilege! What a responsibility! The power, praise, and authority of teaching come from God. You are the conduit; "a teacher come from God".

IV. Teacher: Know Your Attitude

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

Why do you want to teach? Is it for honor and acclaim or do you really want to serve? "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). Is your heart in your teaching? If it is not, be honest and step down.

How about your spirit? "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them..." (Luke 9:55-56).

Do you want to build or destroy with your teaching? Are you giving life, or do you want to see judgment? "The words that I speak they are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63).

Your tongue can be used as an instrument of life or destruction. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:5).

"My brethren, be not many masters, teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and is able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:1-2).

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. [but] If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:4-5).

"Wherefore, My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

V. Teacher: Keep the Big Picture in Mind

Don't get bogged down in little matters. The cause is too big. Time is too short. "Time is the coin of learning." Don't waste it on things that will not count for eternity.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:23-24).

Do not spend your time on that which would take from your ministry. “...It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables... We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2-4).

V. Teacher: Know the Value of Preparation

The author was asked once for the greatest weakness he observed in teachers. He replied, “There are two. 1) The lack of a defined teaching objective; and 2) the lack of preparation.” If a teacher is having trouble in the lesson delivery or with discipline in the classroom, it is usually due to lack of a well-defined lesson goal, and/or the lack of adequately preparing for the lesson.

Lack of preparation comes from a lack of commitment due to low value placed on the importance of the lesson.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

“My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee that thou shalt be no more priest to me” (Hosea 4:6).

A teacher never ceases to learn. You cannot give more than you have taken in. If you are going to have knowledge; you must seek it in order to share it.

Many teachers experience burnout and stress because they are not replenishing their supply of unction and spiritual food. Jesus set a great example for us; “...And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35).

Never allow your students to leave class unsatisfied. Jesus told His disciples, “They need not depart, give ye them to eat” (Matthew 14:16). You need to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and instruct you, so you in turn can serve as a conduit of the Holy Spirit. You can claim the promise from God, “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye” (Psalm 32:8).

Conclusion

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10).

The Bible says, "He was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given" (Ezra 7:6). "For Ezra had prepared... to seek the Law of the Lord" (Ezra 7:10). Ezra was an enthusiastic student of the subject he was going to teach. You cannot share what you do not have.

Before Ezra taught, he took time and made the effort to prepare for his ministry. Let us examine the steps he took as he prepared himself for the solemn responsibility of teaching the statutes of the Lord in Israel. Every Christian teacher would do well to follow each of these steps and in the same order, so as to be an effective teacher for Jesus Christ.

1. Ezra prepared his heart to teach God's laws.
2. Ezra was a student of God's laws.
3. Ezra was willing to follow God's laws.
4. Ezra had a target for his teaching. He wanted to teach Israel.

Much power to influence others has been placed in the teacher's hands. You are an instrument in the hand of your Master.

If you want to make a difference, you must realize that the position of teacher is not yours, it is a ministry of God's to others. The Christian teacher is a gift prepared and given to the church to strengthen and build up the body of Christ. All benefits should go to the church and all glory must go to God, who gave the gift.

Keep your attitude right and pure before God. Always put Kingdom business first in your heart and mind.

Lastly, be willing to put in the time and energy to prepare to be a good steward in His Kingdom.

"Apollos... an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures... This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the Spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord..." (Acts 18:24-25).

"Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Class Discussion

How is the responsibility greater for a Bible teacher than for a secular teacher?

Homework

1. Read Ezra Chapter 7.
2. Write a short paper on the steps Ezra and Apollos followed to prepare themselves to teach.
What areas of your life must you now focus on in your preparation?
3. What are your rewards as a Christian teacher?

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Lesson in Review

Name: _____

Nation: _____ Date: _____

1. In what ways can you open the door to spiritual knowledge?

2. How is your role different than the ministry of an Evangelist?

3. Why do you want to teach?

4. How can a teacher be hindered by focusing on small issues?

5. What two components must be prepared for a successful lesson?
