

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 7A

*[Assigned Reading: Matthew 5-13, John 3]  
[Themes to Teach: The New Birth]*

Jesus' ministry lasted for three years. It began at the age of 30. Most of His ministry took place in the region around the sea of Galilee and around the city of Jerusalem.

### I. JESUS' TEACHING WAS EXTRAORDINARY:

#### **Matthew 7:28–29 (NKJV)**

**28** And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

**29** for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

#### **John 7:45–46 (NKJV)**

**45** Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

**46** The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

### II. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: (Read Matthew 5:1-12)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us how to pray and the principles of the Kingdom. He internalized the Law of God and focused specifically on the issues of the heart. He revealed that mere external adherence to Law was not sufficient to make us righteous.

#### **Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)**

**20** For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

In this sermon, He taught the spirit of the law, not just the letter of the law. He helped them apply the Law, both to their behaviors and to the heart.

Matthew 5:22 – Jesus identifies hatred as a sin, not merely murder.

Mathew 5:28 – Jesus identifies lust of the heart as a sin, not merely adultery.

When the Law is properly applied, we see how sinful we really are.

### III. JESUS TAUGHT THE NEW BIRTH: (Read John 3:1-8)

Nicodemus was a religious leader for the Jews. He came to Jesus by night. Jesus taught him one of the most fundamental lessons of Christianity – the New Birth.

1. Jesus revealed that the Kingdom of God was not an earthly kingdom.
2. To enter the Kingdom of God, one must be born again.
3. We must be born of the water and of the Spirit:
  - a. Born of water = Water Baptism (Read Mark 16:16)

b. Born of Spirit = Holy Spirit Baptism (Acts 1:4-5)

Throughout much of His ministry, Jesus pointed people to a future when they could be filled with the Holy Spirit. Religion cannot not change our nature; we must be born again.

**John 7:37–39 (KJV 1900)**

**37** In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

**38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The promise of the Spirit was to anyone who believed and was spiritually thirsty.

**IV. JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES:** (Read Matthew 13:1-16)

Throughout His ministry Jesus often taught in parables. A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual application. Jesus taught more than 30 different parables.

One great example of this is the Parable of the Sower:

**Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)**

**18** "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

**19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

**20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

**21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

**22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

**23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

1. The seed is the Word of God
2. There are four soils:
  - a. Wayside – Hard
  - b. Stoney – Shallow
  - c. Thorny – Polluted
  - d. Good – Ready for the seed
3. What type of soil am I? We are the soil of our own choosing.