

WHEN WE LEARN FROM JESUS

Each person is a product of what he or she has learned. Humans learn from all angles. We learn by structured education; we learn randomly; we learn at all waking hours; we learn on purpose and we learn accidentally. But if we learn from Jesus it will be no accident! That's right! You must **intend** to sit at the feet of Jesus Christ and His apostles? Jesus has invited you! Are you willing to learn from Jesus?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ. Good morning and welcome to this program.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have written descriptions of the last 3 years of Jesus' life on earth. Those four documents can be found in the book called the ***New Testament of Jesus Christ***. Jesus was about 30 years old when he came to the river Jordan where his cousin John was baptizing. Reluctantly John baptized Jesus because Jesus insisted in "fulfilling all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15) John had received from God a command to baptize people. Jesus insisted on obeying God's command, and so He submitted to that command by being baptized by John.

Upon being raised from the waters of the Jordan, Jesus began to travel about Galilee teaching and working miracles. We estimate that His ministry lasted about 3 years. **Thus the common people of Galilee began learning from Jesus.** This reminded Jesus' apostle Matthew of an Old Testament scripture: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ([Matthew 4:15-16 ESV](#))

Those common people began to believe that Jesus was a teacher come from God (John 3:12). People more readily accepted Jesus' teaching because of the miracles that Jesus was doing. Jesus called those miracles the "works" that God had given him to do. (John 5:36)

Something wonderful happens to people when they begin to learn from Jesus. Consider these points: (1) When we learn from Jesus Christ we are learning from the source! Jesus taught with a characteristic that the people were not accustomed to hear. In fact, "the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." ([Matthew 7:28-29 ESV](#)) Jesus could not help we preach and

teach in this manner, for Jesus is the person who knows! Jesus once said to an audience "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. (25) So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. (26) I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." (John 8:23-26 ESV) You see, when we sit at the feet of Jesus we are learning from the One who has come from the presence of God. As far as we know, there is only one thing that Jesus' Father had NOT given Him to know. Jesus confessed that He did not know when the end of the world would come. (Matthew 24:36) But, Jesus knows everything else! Are you sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ? Then you are learning from the Voice of Truth; you are learning from the One who knows!

Furthermore, when you learn from Jesus Christ you are learning from a person who has the proper interpretation of Scripture. We all know that how we interpret a Bible reading is at the heart of learning from Jesus. Jesus knew how to interpret His Bible! In fact, an angel told the apostle John that Jesus' testimony is the "spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10) In other words, Jesus' teaching is the essence of all prophecy. Jesus Christ is the center of all true interpretation. From that passage in Revelation we learn that even angels learn from Jesus. That's right!

Jesus' apostle John was imprisoned on an island in the Aegean Sea called the Isle of Patmos. That angel who revealed the future to John must have been impressive; John fell at his feet to worship that angel! That's right! But the angel said this: "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and [with] your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10 ESV) Like Christians today, the angel said that he was no different that the brotherhood of Christians for he also was holding to Jesus' testimony.

When we learn from Jesus we can learn His principles of interpretation and properly interpret God's Word. Jesus' principles of interpretation are these: (1) Jesus interpreted by believing and obeying express commands: explicit statement of truth. (2) Jesus interpreted His Bible by accepting and following God-approved examples. (3) Jesus interpreted His Bible by believing and following God's implications. We call these "implications" "necessary inferences." Well, that all sounds technical, but Jesus shows us

that God teaches believers and leads believers by His commands, His faithful people's approved examples, and by His implications. (In another program I show the episodes in Jesus' life when He interprets God's Word with these principles. You can also find that program at the voiceoftruth.us website.) Friends, when we sit at the feet of Jesus we can learn how to interpret God's Word.

Furthermore when we learn from Jesus we are learning the Truth, the cosmic truth! Objective Truth; Inflexible Truth; Eternal Truth; the Truth that has always been! When we sit at the feet of Jesus we will learn truth that has come from God, Jesus' Father.

You will remember that Jesus' enemies were seeking a way to kill Him. Jesus explained their motivation this way, "**but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.**" (John 8:40 ESV) A few verses later Jesus told this same crowd, "**because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.**" (John 8:45 ESV) You see, the truth was NOT something that crowd wanted to hear. Are you among the enemies of Christ, or are you among those who are seeking and desiring the truth, Jesus' truth? Friends, when we learn from Jesus we can learn the joyful truth, and also the painful truth!

Obviously, when we learn the truth from Jesus, that knowledge enables us to recognize error. That's right! We need to be able to recognize error, whether my error or someone else's error. We need to be able to see the difference between right and wrong, righteousness and unrighteousness. We need to be able to approve and practice those things in our lives that are "excellent."

Jesus' apostle Paul once prayed for the Philippian Christians "that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11 ESV) Being able to approve and practice good things gets people ready for the "day of Christ"; that is the day when Jesus comes again.

Earlier, I said that Jesus invites you to come and learn from Him. That invitation is found in Matthew 11:25-30.

(25) At that time Jesus declared,

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

that you
have hidden these things from the wise and understanding
and
revealed them to little children;

(26) yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

This is astounding! Jesus' heavenly Father does not bless those who are wise in their own eyes and arrogant! That's right! The arrogant and the self-righteous people of the world will NOT desire to sit at the feet of Jesus! Those who will wish to learn from the Lord Jesus are those who have the heart of children. Jesus once drew some children into his arms and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (Luke 18:16-17 ESV) David once wrote a song that speaks about this kind of humility: "O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me." (Psalms 131:1-2 ESV) Among those seven things that God hates is "a proud look" (Proverbs 6:17).

Then Jesus showed how exclusive the teaching of Christ is:

(27) All things have been handed over to me by my Father,
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

(28) Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest.

(29) Take my yoke upon you, and
learn from me,
for
I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and
you will find rest for your souls.

(30) For

my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Will you answer the Lord's invitation to come to Him and learn from Him. You can take His yoke upon you by believing in Him, repenting of your sins, confessing your faith and being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Christ then adds you to His body, the church. (Acts 2:47) And even while you take upon yourself Jesus "burden", Jesus' "testimony", you will still find "rest for your soul."

Visit a church of Christ near you and begin your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher.