



3. Who was Jesus talking to?: His students

Matt 5:1,2

Luke 12:1,2

Jesus clearly distinguished between how He dealt with His disciples and what He shared with the crowd. His disciples were men of His own choosing who followed Him everywhere. This group was regularly taken aside and gained insight into the essentials of the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught them the values of the Kingdom and how they should interact with each other. They learned what was true and what was not true. He warned His students about certain people.

There was clearly a relationship of authority. Jesus was the master, He set the policy and mapped out the route. The students or disciples were allowed to follow. As they listened and did what was demonstrated, an explanation came that the crowd did not receive. The disciples were instructed to do the same that Jesus did. They were even given authority.

- *Jesus communicates His thoughts, His plans with people who want to follow and obey Him.*

Luke 10:3-11

Jesus clearly instructs His disciples what to do with those who will listen and those who will not. He points out that not everyone will receive them kindly. They have to stay with the people who do.

- *Jesus gives clear instructions on how to carry out the commission and with whom to associate.*

John 15:14-17

In this text, Jesus says that His disciples are also His friends. He tells them everything He has heard from the Father.

- *Jesus shares His heart with His confidants.*

Acts 1:3-8

After Jesus is raised from the dead, He speaks again about the importance of the Kingdom of God. He says that He is leaving, but also that He will not leave them alone. The relationship will remain.

- *Jesus understands the fears of His friends and comforts them, but He also promises a solution.*

We also deal with many people in our lives. Think of employer - employee, teacher - students, parents - children, pastors - church members, there are always a few who come under our authority, who we can teach what we have learned. People we love even with our own lives. We can tell them the secrets. We can treat them as Jesus did His disciples.

Who was Jesus talking to? 4) opponents

Luke 11:37-39

Luke 14:2-6

Luke 15:1-3

Jesus was very clear about His opponents. The main reason is that they were not telling the truth. They imposed laws on people that kept them from God. By His explanation, He clearly showed the opponents what God had intended and how they had violated the truth. Still, He continued to visit them and ate with them regularly, but He didn't like their imposed rules.

- *Jesus opposed these rules and made it clear in many places. He did not make Himself popular with His opponents. However, He did not avoid His opponents, He kept in touch with them.*

Luke 22:3,4,21,22

Judas, one of His disciples turned against Jesus and decided to betray Jesus. Jesus knew what this meant. He knew that even this evil act would be used in God's plan. The rejection did not make Him bitter. The betrayal didn't make Him angry, He accepted it.

- *Jesus sets an example for us on how to deal with unrighteous people. He clearly speaks the truth but is neither bitter nor rejected. Jesus always keeps His purpose and destiny for life in mind.*





5. Who was Jesus talking to?: the government

Matt 22:19-21

John 19:6-11

Not once in His life has Jesus called for a rebellion against the government. Not against the Romans and not against the Jewish authorities. On the contrary, He clearly showed His disciples that He was complying with the laws set by the government.

This did not mean that He agreed with everything. Sometimes He spoke plain language. Pilate wants to have Jesus crucified. Jesus lets it be known that God is ultimately in control. Pilate can do this because God is in control and His will will be done on earth.

- *Jesus gives Himself completely to the torture and the death sentence. He's not saying He's innocent or defending Himself. Sometimes He is even silent.*

GROUP EXERCISE:



Discuss the importance of communicating openly with each other. Also discuss Jesus' attitude toward Judas, who was a confidant. Jesus shared a lot with him knowing that all the information was being used against Him.



Discuss how you deal with criticism and contradiction. What lessons can you learn from Jesus in this area?