

# Jesus Was a God Teacher

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In every country there are sayings to show the value of morality of wisdom and good education. “There is nothing to compare to wisdom.” “Material things are like magic. You see it now and then it disappears, but wisdom cannot disappear.” And also, “A pot of wisdom cannot be stolen.” Every country says it values its teachers. Students in certain countries celebrate their teachers every year. When leaders place education as a priority, it helps every aspect of their country to improve.

The problem is that there are some teachers who are selfish and who are not too concerned for their students. With this kind of teacher, students can't learn very well because the teacher doesn't take interest or isn't a good example of love to them. Besides arithmetic, writing and science, students must learn about morals and love for all people. Love is the heart of morals. Because students don't need teachers who only teach well, they also need the teacher to be a good example as well. This is reflected in the proverb which says, “Do as I say, not as I do.”

There are many people who like to study by looking at a good example, then doing what the example shows them. Therefore, we need a teacher who is good both in teaching and good as an example. There are many who claim that Jesus is a good teacher who has both of these qualities. He taught well and lived correctly according to His own teaching. Let us examine His teachings and His life. Are the claims of Christians true or not? If you see that it is true, we should follow His teaching and example.

## Jesus Was a Famous Teacher

The ancient scriptures record that thousands of people came

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to listen to Jesus teach. There was no building large enough to contain them and so Jesus usually taught in the fields under trees and even beside the seashore from a boat. Adults and children, the rich and the poor flocked to hear His words.

The things He said were simple enough that the uneducated could understand, but deep enough that the most intellectual person also gained something. Jesus often used parables, telling stories that the people could easily relate to and gain practical advice for their lives.

One day Jesus told the story of a farmer who sowed his seeds. Some seeds fell on the pathway and birds flew down to eat the seeds up. Some seeds sprang up in rocky ground but then withered under the sun because they didn't have deep roots. Others grew well but were then choked out by weeds. Still others grew in good soil until they produced a good harvest.

Jesus was comparing the soil to people's hearts and the seed to words of truth. Some people's hearts are hard and they don't listen to wisdom. Some people listen, but make no real change. The rocks of sin stay in their hearts. Others do well and then the busyness of life and the pursuit of riches choke out their decisions to do right. Still others, receive the wisdom deep in their hearts and their lives show the beauty of righteousness.

Truly Jesus' words were helpful and powerful to many people. Let us look at some more of His teachings.

## Jesus Taught About Anger

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will

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be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment” (Matthew 5:21,22a).

This saying of Jesus made people understand very clearly about their sin. This was because even if they hadn’t killed anyone, they knew they had hatred toward others. According to Jesus’ words they must come under judgment because anger is a small sin that can lead to a big sin, which is killing others.

## Jesus Taught about Adultery and Inner Thought

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27,28).

Jesus was causing their eyes to be opened more and more by showing that adultery was not only betraying one’s spouse and taking another one, but also can be within the heart. The sin is just in looking at another girl with sinful desire. If we look at our country at this time, this teaching of Jesus is becoming more and more important. Because the number of people contracting AIDS in our country is increasing. This disease clearly comes from adultery. Can you get AIDS just by looking at a prostitute through evil desires? No. We can’t get AIDS just by looking, but this looking is what leads to committing adultery.

## Jesus Taught about True Love

You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone

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strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well (Matthew 5:39-40).

We’ve never heard it like this! We always praise the one who is patient, who does not cause problems with others first. If, however, someone does something bad to us, we feel free to do something back. That is normal. But in a completely opposite way, Jesus has said that if someone strikes you, do not just endure it, offer them the other cheek as well! Khmers are people who are patient and know how to respect and give good advice. But they don’t have a way better than this.

Jesus said in the Bible, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:43,44). If you do as Jesus’ teaching said, one day your enemies may become your friends. Frustration and killing will go away more and more. This is as the Buddha taught, “Dissolve anger by not being angry.”

## Jesus was a Good Example

The claims of the Bible above, “dissolve anger by not being angry,” shows Jesus’ teaching to be truly good. The words of Jesus have been translated into many languages in this world. Is Jesus as good as His teachings? Is He a good example also? Did He live according to the way He taught?

The Bible shows that, there were many poor people who searched for Jesus. He did not turn away from them, instead he was friendly and pitied them. He did not look down on them. There is no record of any sinful action or unkind words in Jesus’ life. Instead people reported only purity, truthfulness, peacefulness and compassion.

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Even his interaction with children was excellent. The Burmese say, “Give respect to older people, be sincere to your fellow man and have pity on those younger than you.” However, in some countries they don’t consider children as humans. They say, “When I die, don’t bury my body by any children.” But what about Jesus? How much did He love children? “Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there” (Matthew 19:14,15).

Jesus loved the poor, the sick, and even the children. Is there anyone that Jesus was not concerned about?

## Jesus’ Compassion for Sinners

One time when Jesus was teaching in the temple, the religious leaders and Pharisees, brought in a lady caught in adultery and threw her before Jesus and said, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” (John 8:4,5). They did this in order to trap Jesus. Because if Jesus said to condemn her to death, He would not be respecting the command that says not to kill. But if Jesus let her go, He would not be respecting Moses’ law. Jesus did not answer. He bent down and wrote with His finger in the dirt. They kept pushing Jesus with questions, “Teacher, what should we do to her?” Then Jesus stood up and said, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7). When they heard this and saw their sins written in the dirt, they left one at a time until they were all gone. When Jesus saw this, He said, “Woman, where are they? Has no

one condemned you? Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:10,11). Jesus is a great judge who is just, but also takes pity on us.

We have seen His teaching in the Bible that says, “Love your enemies.” The Bible also says that, He never ran away from wicked people. One day, there was a tax collector (a wicked man) who climbed a tree in order to see Jesus. Jesus said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” Those who have sin or do bad things that others despise, Jesus still loves them and always forgives them. The Bible many times shows Jesus forgiving people who have sin and healing those who have diseases as well.

The leaders of the religion of Israel were very angry with Jesus because He did these good things. He was very different from them who were only good in their words, but didn’t do what was right as Jesus did. This is like the Burmese saying, “With the mouth they say ‘god, god’ but in reality they do not follow god’s teaching.” Out of jealousy they argued with Jesus and tried to cause Him problems in order to capture Him. But Jesus, on the other hand, when He knew that they had a bad plan against Him, He loved and pitied them even more. He wanted them to cast off their wicked ways just as Jesus had taught the crowds. Do you see what a good example from Jesus this is?

## The Value of Jesus’ Words

There are many more stories about Jesus’ and compassionate acts. Eyewitnesses wrote them down in four ancient books. In other lessons we will look at how Jesus dealt with evil spirits, dangers, sicknesses and death.

Jesus once told a very interesting parable. He said there was

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a man plowing a field. The field did not belong to him. He was a hired laborer. As he was steadily following the cow, the plow thudded against something hard. The man assumed it was a large rock. When he dug down, he found wood instead. As he cleared away the dirt, it looked like the lid of a box.

Excitedly, he dug deeper until he uncovered a treasure chest someone had buried years before. Quickly he covered it up and smoothed the dirt. He took his plow and cow home. Then he gathered everything he had, including his home and sold it. Perhaps his neighbors thought he was crazy as they saw him sell all his possessions. He knew he was doing the right thing. Nothing was worth as much as the treasure in the box. He was able to buy the land and the riches were his.

Jesus had a very simple but important point. Truth and wisdom are the most important things we can have. We should be ready to give up popularity, power and possessions in order to know and do what is right. We can take nothing with us when we die, but our choices today will determine our eternal destiny. It is like the ancient proverb, "How much better to get wisdom than gold!" Prov. 16:16

We encourage you to learn more about the teachings of Jesus and to act on the good you have learned. Why not ask Him today to help you to find the greatest treasures of wisdom.

## Points to Remember

- \* If the teacher is mean the students will be bad. If the teacher is good, the students will be good, too.
- \* A good teacher is one who makes the students like him and knows how to help them.
- \* Good actions can sometimes come from bad ideas, but

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good ideas always create good actions.

John 13:14. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

## Questions

1--Put T before the true statements and F before the false statements.

Jesus taught the people

\_\_\_\_\_ by love.

\_\_\_\_\_ by parables.

\_\_\_\_\_ by His lack of interest.

2--Underline the sentences that are correct:

Jesus taught the students only by His words.

He was an example.

Jesus didn't concern Himself with people's position in life.

3--Put an X before the sentences that are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus had the people stone the woman.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus wrote on the ground.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus forgave the woman.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus could not forgive the woman.

4--Please fill in the following blanks:

Jesus fed \_\_\_\_\_ people by using \_\_\_\_\_ loaves and \_\_\_\_\_ fish.

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5--Do you like the teaching of Jesus?

Do you believe that today Jesus can teach you?

6--Write about one good teacher that you know (not Jesus).

7-- If this statement is true of your choice today, check it:

\_\_\_\_\_ I choose to turn from anger and lust and choose instead a life of compassion and

helpfulness.

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe Jesus was a good teacher and I want to ask the Father of Life to help me to

do what is good.