

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

LESSON 7

I. JESUS' MINISTRY LASTED FOR **THREE YEARS**:

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

- a. Year of Introduction
- b. Year of Popularity
- c. Year of Opposition

II. 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!"

a. Jesus Taught the **Sermon on the Mount**

Jesus internalized the Law of God and focused specifically on the issues of the heart. He reveals that mere external adherence to law was not sufficient.

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, Jesus repeatedly uses the phrases; "You have heard that it was said... but I say unto you." Jesus teaches the spirit of the law, not just the letter of the law.

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.

b. Jesus Taught the **New Birth** (Read John 3:1-8)

- i. Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that the Kingdom of God was not an earthly kingdom.
- ii. In order to understand or enter the Kingdom of God, one must be born again.
- iii. Born of water = Water Baptism (See Mark 16:16)
- iv. Born of Spirit = Holy Spirit Baptism (See John 7:38-39)

c. Jesus Taught in **Parables** (Read Matthew 13:1-16)

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Matthew 13:10–11 (NKJV)

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

11 He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

THREE PARABLES OF MATTHEW 13:

i. 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. Four soils:
 - a. Wayside – Hard
 - b. Stoney – Shallow
 - c. Thorny – Polluted
 - d. Good – Ready for the seed
2. What type of soil am I?

ii. Parable of the Pearl of Great Price:

Matthew 13:45–46 (NKJV)

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1. What is Jesus worth to us?
2. What price will we pay?

iii. Parable of the Talents: (Read Matthew 25:14-30)

1. What will I do with what I have been given?