

Jesus Christ Style Evangelism!

Matthew 28:16-20 [New King James] *“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”*

Jesus Christ disclosed to His disciples His strategy for world conquest.

This is why it is important to observe the way Jesus planned to achieve the goal that God the Father had given Him.

Matthew 4:1-11 [New King James] *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and, “In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.”’ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”*

Jesus Christ always led by personal example.

Note it was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus Christ into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan the present world ruler, [2 Corinthians 4:4]. Jesus Christ had to win this conflict to qualify to be the new world ruler to replace Satan when God the Father decides it is the correct time.

Jesus Christ did **not** deny Satan’s present rulership, [verses 8-9], then won the conflict by commanding Satan to leave, [verse 10].

Jesus Christ the human Son of Man was **not** alone in this conflict with Satan. The Holy Spirit Who had been with Him from conception, remained with Jesus Christ throughout His physical human life, [John 1:32-34; Hebrews 9:14].

For these temptations to be recorded Jesus Christ must have talked to His disciples about them, that they also would know how to resist Satan’s temptations, [James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Galatians 5:25].

John the Baptist identifies Jesus Christ as the Messiah, [John 1:19-36].

Matthew 3:11 [New King James] *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

John explained to his disciples that Jesus Christ’s baptism would be much greater than his.

Matthew 3:13-17 [New King James] *“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?’ But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us*

to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

Suddenly Jesus Christ comes to John and asked to be baptised. John rightly felt unqualified, John wanted Jesus Christ to baptise him.

Why did Jesus Christ ask for baptism?

“*To fulfil all righteousness*” meaning to accomplish God the Father’s mission to bring justification, Greek word translated “*righteousness*” is “*dikaiōsunē*” meaning judgement and its execution, this is only made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Baptism is symbolic of that death and resurrection from the [watery] grave.

In this act Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, relates Himself to the sin and the needed forgiveness of all humanity.

Jesus Christ saw this act as advancing the work that God the Father had sent Him to the earth to fulfil, to reconcile all humanity to God the Father.

Jesus Christ was identifying Himself with the people who expressed repentance through the baptism of John the Baptist **not** with the critical, self-righteous Pharisees who were only watching from the sidelines.

Jesus Christ did **not** need baptism for He was sin-free [2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5], but His act of baptism was approved by the other two Persons of the Triune Godhead in a visible and audible way, [Matthew 3:16-17].

Jesus Christ spent the first year and a half of His ministry developing a close relationship with a small group of people rather than trying to reach the masses.

During this time Jesus and His disciples stayed in the wilderness near the River Jordan and the smaller towns of Galilee.

Jesus Christ’s priority was to spend time with His initial disciples and followers.

During this time we see Jesus Christ ministering to a wide variety of people, and the few miracles He performed were focussed on revealing His identity to the small group of people who followed Him.

This preparation period began at Jesus Christ’s baptism and continued until His rejection at Nazareth, [Luke 4:16, 24].

The major events during this period of Jesus Christ’s ministry were –

Calling of His first disciples, [John 1:37-51].

The first miracle at Cana, turning water to wine, [John 2:1-11].

The time in Capernaum with His family and disciples, [John 2:12].

Jesus Christ’s Passover visit to the Temple at Jerusalem and the cleansing of the Temple, [John 2:13-25].

Jesus Christ’s meeting with Nicodemus, a Pharisee, [John 3:1-21].

Jesus Christ then moved back to Galilee via Samaria, [John 4:3].

Jesus Christ met the Samaritan woman, [**John 4:4-42**].

Jesus Christ healed the nobleman's son, [**John 4:46-54**].

As we have seen by Jesus Christ's example, it takes time to build a good relationship for the ministry ahead.

The leader of any Christian fellowship must build an atmosphere of love, trust and acceptance by those who are going to be used to fulfil the commission of making disciples, who in turn make more disciples.

The two main objectives of this preparation period following Jesus Christ's example were –

- a) Create a God-centred atmosphere for producing disciples.
- b) Begin to identify people who could become a like-minded, committed team who were totally involved in fulfilling the commission of making disciples.

How is this done?

By translating the Great Commandment, [Matthew 22:35-40**] into the Great Commission, [**Matthew 28:18-20**].**

Love for our Creator God and all other human beings is the only motivation that will cause us to fulfil the Great Commission.