

Jesus Speaks
Mat.5:1-12
2-21-2016

Mat.5:2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed..."

- Blessed are the poor in spirit,...
- Blessed are those who mourn,....
- Blessed are the meek,....
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,...
- Blessed are the merciful,....
- Blessed are the pure in heart,....
- Blessed are the peacemakers,....
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,...
- Blessed are you when others
- Rejoice and be Glad,....

Jesus sat down and taught! You know the saying: "if a tree falls in the woods and no one is around to hear it, did it make a sound?" Of course it did. There was a lot of teaching (speaking) going on that day on the side of the mountain but was there any learning? Yes. The same could be asked of pulpits all over the world today. Is learning taking place?

Ideally teaching and learning are synonymous with each other but that is not always the case. If learning doesn't take place teaching is a failed noise.

As Jesus begins this teaching episode on the side of the mountain what do you suppose was the primary reasons for His success? Is it content? What then?

Like so many others we too desire to teach Jesus because Jesus truly is the answer to our human problems. And like so many others we too teach to people who don't hear or learn. Why? Is it because we don't quote the Words of God clearly enough or is there something else amiss?

Jesus' success as a teacher was not primarily because of the quality of the content of His words. His success was due to the quality of the man. I suspect there is some application here for you and me to experience some learning ourselves.

For us to truly be disciples of Jesus is for us to become more like the man. It is good to study and know God's Word but it is better to be more like Jesus in application. Before Jesus taught the people He loved the people. (Mat.4:23-25) Jesus gained a following because He cared about the people and showed His caring thru his healings.

I can't heal but I could comfort. I can't deliver but I could accept and console. "People will not care how much you know until they know how much you care." Lord, increase our faith! Lord teach us how to love as you loved. Jesus, make us more like you for their* sakes. (*Their = everyone who can't see Jesus because we are standing in the way)

