

## Comparing Today's Teachers to the Master Teacher

Being married to a teacher helps me to understand the great joys and difficulties in the work that they do. It is a rewarding occupation, but it can be absolutely exhausting.

The thought struck me that a real comparison can be made between what today's teachers and Christ, the Master Teacher, have to endure. This is especially so because they both become completely worn out in their work! How do they have strength for it?

Here are my thoughts:

- 1) they are both overwhelmed by the multitudes of needy people who yearn for healing<sup>1</sup> or to view a student's work
- 2) because of this, they have to find ways of getting away from the stress, like finding time alone on a mountain to pray<sup>2</sup> or hiding in the bathroom for a moment of quiet (and perhaps to eat lunch)
- 3) they are both constantly being judged not so much for not doing the right things, but for not doing things "right"<sup>3</sup>; this includes doing the right things on the wrong days<sup>4</sup>, as well as having requests being rejected because they were made on the right form but the wrong-colored paper
- 4) they both have many demands made on them about how exactly they must do their work; rules upon rules, etc.<sup>5</sup>
- 5) they are both "overseen" by those who do not practice what they preach<sup>6</sup>; those who are blinded by their own agenda over their true mission; those who had not taught in years but thought that they had progressed beyond the mere "working" phase; those who no longer had a concept of reality as it applied to making demands of the people that they depended on
- 6) they both provide healing without authorization<sup>7</sup> from those who tried to manage their activities; Christ healed in spite of it, as do our present-day teachers who are not allowed to out Tylenol or Band-Aids (it is solely the school nurse's duty)
- 7) they are both criticized for their choice of students; both rejected selective bigotry<sup>8</sup> vs. an "all color" scope for their attention; both sought to teach all who were eager to learn
- 8) similarly for their manner of loving their students; touching them, especially in physical contact such as hugging; "management" declared this off limits, but teachers cannot be stopped from showing true affection; especially those that are sick (including the leprous<sup>9</sup> and dead<sup>10</sup> in the case of Christ; handicapped, poor, slow, and dirty in the case of modern teachers)
- 9) both were pushed to teach certain lessons in behavior based on the view of teaching management (without reference to God's Word), and both had to teach their own view of the truth<sup>11</sup>; each used visual imagery in their parables and stories to accomplish the essence of their mission

It was no wonder that each of them have to rest (or collapse) after each work day!

1. see Matthew 15:30, Mark 5:24, Luke 5:15, and Luke 8:45
2. see Matthew 14:23 and Mark 6:46
3. see Matthew 12:1-8 – gleaning and the Lord of the Sabbath

4. see Matthew 12:1ff and Luke 6:6ff
5. Matthew 15:9, Matthew 23:23-24
7. Matthew 21:23ff
6. Matthew 23:3
8. Matthew 9:11 and Matthew 11:19, see also Acts 10:34 about God not being a respecter of persons
9. Luke 5:13
10. Matthew 9:23-25 (synagogue leader's daughter) and Luke 7:14 (widow's son)
11. see the beatitudes, for instance (Matthew 5:3-13)

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