

TEACHER

-Ryan Parsons-

Mark 10:1

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

The word “teacher” conjures all sorts of memories for me. In grade school, I remember thinking adoringly of my teachers. That only lasted a few years. Once I made it to middle and high school, “teacher” became synonymous with disciplinary action, fun-killer, and enemy. Everyone has a different experience and perhaps even a bias when the word “teacher” is used. Regardless, teachers play a vital role in society. Simply put, a teacher is “one whose occupation is to instruct,” yet their contribution is too powerful to over-simplify. Everyone should acknowledge a teacher’s crucial role in forming the lives, minds, and souls of their students throughout life. Teachers are necessary and important.

It is interesting, then, that a frequently used, but infrequently mentioned, word for Jesus is “Teacher.” In the Gospel of Mark alone we see:

“Teacher” is a word the disciples frequently used for Jesus (Mark 4:38; 9:38; 10:35; 13:1).

People in the crowd called Jesus “Teacher” (Mark 9:17).

The rich young ruler addressed Jesus as “Teacher” (Mark 10:17, 20).

It is the word used by Pharisees and Sadducees as they questioned Jesus in the Temple (Mk 12).

Add the word rabbi to the mix and there is a strong case for the significance of Jesus being called “Teacher.” This explains why his custom, habit, or tradition was to teach. Mark records Jesus teaching in synagogues (1:21, 6:2), beside the sea (2:13, 4:1), in villages (6:6), in the Temple (11:17, 12:35). He taught one-on-one, in small groups of disciples, and to large crowds. Jesus was a teacher at the core.

His message?

Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

How would things be different if we referred to Jesus more often as “Teacher?” Would our lives, minds and souls be any different?

Keep Studying,
Ryan