Abstract

Right from the dawn of culture of the human race, teachers are conceived as nation builders. Teaching is the noblest profession, which is closely related with the moulding of future generation of students and of society. There is a deep relationship between the work of teachers and almost every aspects of the working of the community and its progress, its moral standards, its cultural atmosphere, its civic interest, its economic growth and its vocational and professional occupation. Becoming a teacher is not a simple transition from one role to another, but it is a social process involving multi tasks at a time. This research article analyses the quality of Jesus Christ as a great teacher.

1. Introduction

The world has considered Jesus as the greatest teacher of all times, a true model teacher. Jesus Christ is a universal teacher who divided the chronological order of the world into B.C. and A.D. The magnetic words of Jesus have been accepted as inspiring not only to the intellectuals but also to the ordinary people. His role presented as a teacher in the Holy Bible is of par excellence.

2. Objective

To analyse the greatness of Jesus Christ as a teacher.

3. Supposition

The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are embedded with qualities for a great teacher.
4. Methodology

Historical and Documentary Research is followed for the study. In historical research the documentary analysis is done solely with past events. The data collected were subjected to criticism to ascertain the authenticity of the document and validity of the contents. The investigator’s obligation is to establish the trustworthiness of all data collected from documentary sources.

5. Sources

For the present study the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Holy Bible were taken as the primary source. Amongst the various version of the Holy Bible available, the researcher collected the relevant primary data from the ‘New International Version’ of the Holy Bible because it is accepted as the standard of reference in research for theological and secular studies related to Jesus Christ.

6. Findings

A careful examination of the documentary evidences resulted in the following findings which are as under:

- The greatness lies in the uniqueness in the teaching style, methodology, content and to the qualities required for a great teacher. He is an undisputed, reverberating, shaking, transforming and moulding teacher transfiguring the entire world irrespective of caste, creed, religion, colour, gender and nationality. His individualistic and unique approach distinguishes him from other teachers. This is highlighted through the four gospels written by his disciples. To a teacher, each student is valuable. The parable of prodigal son (Luke 15: 11 – 28), the lost sheep (Luke 15: 8 – 10) all reveals that each individual is valuable in the hands of the great teacher.

- This quality cannot be practiced by an ordinary teacher in a classroom where the teacher should develop this to become a great one. This makes him a unique personality. Jesus employed different techniques of teaching to make the multitude understand even the complex idea. Certainly the central theme of his preaching and teaching was the ‘good news or gospel about the ‘Kingdom of Heaven’ ascribed as the ultimate goal of human life (Mark 1: 14 – 15). This is seen in the parable of mustard seed (Matthew 13: 30 – 32) and parable of three servants (Luke 19: 11 – 27).

- Jesus’ words about the quality of excellence one could attain is perfectly seen in the gospel of Matthew (Matthew 5:48). That shows the utmost goal of education – personality development. The extend of personality development is pointed here. The creation should transform and transfigure like the creator. As a great teacher, he has set a level one should attain and that in the goal of life. He taught great things using simple objects, closely identified with the nature. He led an utmost spiritual life. He himself baptized by John the Baptist the river Jordan (John 1: 29 – 34). His words and deeds is a proof for his simple life. Simplicity is the core quality embedded in His personality making. He gave greater importance to the pursuit of truth (John 1: 9, 10). Truth, honesty are the values embedded in the life of Jesus Christ (John 15: 26, 27).
He taught great things using simple objects, closely identified with the nature. When a teacher teaches a complex idea, it is usually digested only to the student of superior IQ. But to cater to the ordinary and average students, he should familiarize with simple, natural words and objects. This is often difficult to practice in totality by an ordinary teacher. This type of teaching can be seen in Jesus Christ right from the beginning of his ministry. The techniques of teaching of Jesus Christ can be seen from three major dimensions.

- **Preaching – To the multiples**
- **Teaching – To the disciples**
- **Healing – To the suffering people**

His target group comprised not only high class of society but also the lower strata of society. Jesus is a man of history. Through the teaching he became the great teacher of all seasons. His teaching community included sinners, fisher folk, high priests and the common man.

Jesus Christ referred to himself as a Teacher others called him ‘Teacher’ and his enemies recognized him as a Teacher. Forty five times Christ is referred to as Teacher in the Gospel’s. This we see in the gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (Matthew 8: 18 – 19, 9: 9 – 11, 19: 16 – 22, 22: 15 – 22, 22:23 – 33, 22: 34 – 40, 26: 17 – 25), (Mark 4: 35 – 41, 5: 21 – 43, 9: 5, 9: 17 – 18, 9: 28, 10: 17 – 31, 10: 35, 10: 51, 11: 20 – 21, 12: 13 – 27, 12: 12: 28 – 34, 13: 1-2, 14: 12 – 21, 14: 13 – 14, 14: 45), (Luke 7: 36 – 40, 8: 22 – 24, 8: 49, 9: 37 – 38, 10: 25 – 26, 11 – 45, 18: 18 – 30, 19: 39, 20:20 – 26, 20: 27 – 40, 21: 7, 22: 7 – 14), (John 1: 35 – 42, 1: 47 – 49, 3: 1 – 2, 6: 25 – 26, 8: 4 – 5, 9: 1 – 3, 11:8, 13: 12 – 15, 20: 16, 13: 21 – 30). The teaching was an important part of Christ’s public ministry. Without receiving any formal education, he became a teacher at an early age. His excellent teaching ability is revealed in (Luke 2: 41 – 49). Even his parents and Jewish teachers were amazed at his intelligent answers. Jesus was able to move from simple to complex, concrete to abstract and at every turn ‘His’ objective was clear. He was committed to changing lives for total transformation of the individual and society. Jesus would consistently include scriptures into his teachings (Matthew 19: 4 – 6), (Luke 24:27, 32, 44, 35). A story or a parable was not told just because Christ enjoyed telling stories. They were used as a method of teaching an important lesson. When His disciples question about this in (Matthew 13: 3 – 13) the use of parable in teaching, Jesus answered them with a riddle. “I speak to them in a parable, because seeing they do not hear nor do they understand”. He went on to use a metaphor – the seed that a sower casts will only grow on fertile ground. Real life opportunities were used to teach a valuable lesson (Matthew 12: 1 – 8). His use of asking questions formed the centre of his teaching method.

The Gospels record over a hundred different questions Jesus asked. He used a variety of question techniques. He used questions as a spring board to teach (Matthew 13: 10 – 23). To get the attention of His students, he would ask provocative questions that would make a student think. (Luke 13: 18, 20). To elicit what his student believed Jesus asked probing question. The younger lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus answered “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it? (Luke 10:26). At the end of the lesson, Jesus would ask a question (Luke 10: 36 – 37). This method of teaching induces curiosity in the mind of learner which enhances the learning. Jesus was a creative
teacher. He used the concrete to teach a difficult abstract concept. He used known objects as visual aids (Matthew 6: 26 – 30, John 4:35). He created the symbols to help each one of us understand the spiritual realities and remember Him (Matthew 26: 26 – 29).

There are basic teaching principles demonstrated by Christ that we can use today. He was always well prepared (Matthew 5 – 7) and he developed his lesson around the needs of the student (Matthew 4: 18, 19). He was concise, clear and went to the heart of the manner. He did not ramble (Mark 2: 2 – 12). He used illustration and was never distracted (John 4: 7 – 25).

The great teacher has a unique opportunity to help, mould and develop his student as disciples. He is their shepherd, guide, friend and philosopher. Great teachers will have disciples who proclaim the greatness of the master over the centuries. This we can see in Christ. His greatness explained in the four gospels through his disciples.

7. Conclusion

Jesus set a perfect example and held a high standard of personal qualities for each of us to follow. His model of teaching does not confirm to any strict pattern, either of content or method. He talks about spiritual truths in unholy places: at the shores of a lake by a well, along the road, at the homes of the unclean people, in the field or at the entrance of a town. Those who just want to have a theological discussion with him, he brings down to earth. He acknowledges the deep theological insight of those who show their faith through down-to-earth actions.

8. References