

# LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST

*Forging Faith, Following Jesus*

*Session #1 Jesus the Master Mentor*

Mark Chapter 3 Verses 13-15

*“Come, follow me, Jesus said...” – Mark 1v 17*

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

[www.sladebrook.org.uk](http://www.sladebrook.org.uk)

## **Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:**

We are followers of “*The Way*” (Acts 9v 2; 22v 4; 24v 14). Being Christian is not about adhering to strict rules or attaining some kind of spiritual superiority, nor is it about anything particularly religious. Following Jesus means exactly that. He simply says, “*Follow me*” (Mark 1v 17) offering us an invitation to go God’s way instead of our own. In order to do this, we look to the Lord and, by faith, seek to walk in the Way marked out by Christ Himself. However, Jesus never expected anyone to attempt what He would not do. So, as we trust His lead and look to His example, we can begin to make spiritual strides on the roads to maturity.

By following in the footsteps of Jesus, we discover more about who He is and what He would have us do. *How did Jesus act? What motivated Him? What are the priorities He wants us focus on?* One thing is for sure, there can be no standing still in the Christian life! If someone seeks to walk with you and you lag behind, steam on ahead, or even attempt an alternative route, you no longer walk together!

In this short series, we will attempt to look at some lessons from the life of Christ: Each week studying Christ’s own example to see how He exemplified what He now calls us to do. For us to grow as a church, we will need to go beyond the sermon, seeking to apply these principles in our own lives. To help in this, there are some discussion questions and practical opportunities to explore further in these notes.

The only evidence of Christian growth in our lives is how much we are becoming like Jesus. This challenge should be one that continues to inspire our Christian walk through life until, in a coming day, we present all that we have done before Christ Himself. So may these life lessons from Jesus help us to forge faith, by following Christ.

## **Lessons from the Life of Christ #1: Jesus the Master Mentor**

*Jesus is our Saviour: the Son of God and the chosen Messiah. We recognise His essential, powerful intervention within our fractured world and that it affords us forgiveness from sin, peace with God a new life to live for Him. Ultimately the prospect of eternity with Christ in heaven should spur us on to follow the Master. After all, He has done a lot for us!*

*Jesus should also be Lord of our lives. As we increase in understanding and appreciation of all that He has done for us, we should become increasingly drawn to follow Him as he first commanded. With the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we can become increasingly focused on how Jesus would have us live, not simply to please ourselves, but to bring glory to God and to serve him and the cause of His great good news.*

*Jesus never calls us to anything that He didn't first exemplified in His own life. To that end Jesus is also our ultimate example. The One to whom we look for guidance, instruction and example. In this teaching series, we will look again at some aspects of the life of Christ to see how we to should live. After all, in one of his epistles Peter says: "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps."*

### **Read: Mark Chapter 3 verses 13-15**

- Jesus Called His first followers
- Jesus Appointed His first followers
- Jesus Invested in His first followers
- Jesus Commissioned His first followers

*Jesus didn't look for volunteers: From the beginning He called His first followers personally. Then He appointed them, gave them a focus and intended them to be around Him long enough to see how He, as the master mentor, did things. His aim in this was to commission them to spread the good news after He had gone, by thoroughly equipping them for the huge task that lay ahead. This model is still effective today, but are we investing in it?*

## **Jesus: The Master Mentor**

### **What is a mentor?**

*"A **mentor** is a person or friend who guides a less experienced person by building trust and modelling positive behaviours. An effective **mentor** understands that his or her role is to be dependable, engaged, authentic, and tuned into the needs of the mentee."*

### **How do we mentor?**

- Investment
- Example
- Instruction
- Prayer
- Opportunity
- Feedback
- Progression

## **Forging Faith by Following Christ:**

- *Think again about how, for three years, Jesus spent time investing in a small but significant group of people. Despite being popular with the crowds, He focused on twelve key people. Why do you think He did this?*
- *Do you think you are growing as a Christian? Explain your answer.*
- *What do you rely on to grow? Who do you rely on to grow?*
- *What does a mentor do? Why is it important in discipleship?*
- *Is anybody mentoring you at Sladebrook? Who do you think could?*
- *Who are you mentoring at Sladebrook? Who do you think you could?*
- *Pray about how this essential aspect of discipleship is meant to look and think again whether it is happening in your own life.*
- *If you think it is, thank God for those who are mentoring you and those whom you are mentoring.*
- *If not, take some time to pray about it and ask God to reveal who might appropriately fill these roles in your life. If someone comes to mind, approach them and politely ask if they would be happy to start forging faith together in this way.*