

The Ministries of the Messiah

Chapter 3

Audio lesson: New Testament 3



Objective: To explore the three main emphases of Jesus' ministry.



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

—John 14:6

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

—1 John 4:9-10

In the gospels, we discover that Jesus was a Man with a mission. He clearly knew what His mission was and stated His objectives frequently. In the last chapter, we explored His "magnificent obsession," which was accomplishing the work His Father sent him to do. When He came to the end of His three years of public ministry, He went into the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed: "I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do" (John 17:4). And His last words on the cross were a loud cry of triumph: "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

But what work did Jesus accomplish? When we read the four gospels, we find that they describe three main aspects of Jesus' ministry, and they give almost equal attention to each aspect. One third of the gospels tells of His teaching—the truth about life and God's purposes for His people. One third of the gospels tell of His mighty works—His miracles of healing and deliverance that showed that He was truly from God. And one third of the gospels tell of redemption—Jesus' death and resurrection, and how His sacrifice saved us from our sin. Jesus expressed this threefold ministry in John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



1. True or false? Jesus considered the ministry of casting out evil spirits to be real and important.
2. True or false? If Jesus understood as much about mental illness as we do today, He would not have tried to cast demons out of people.
3. True or false? Jesus came only to redeem us, not to teach us.
4. True or false? Jesus not only taught us truth, He showed us truth by the way He lived.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Which of the following terms did Jesus use to describe Himself?
 - a. The Way
 - b. The Truth
 - c. The Life
 - d. All of the above
6. Which of the following is often considered the greatest discourse of Jesus?
 - a. The Great Commission
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. His defense at His trial
 - d. His seven sayings on the Cross
7. Which of the following is the longest discourse of Jesus?
 - a. The Upper Room discourse
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. The parable of the Prodigal Son
 - d. The Olivet discourse

8. What kind(s) of dialogue did Jesus engage in?
- Friendly dialogue with people
 - Hostile dialogue with people
 - Dialogue with God, or prayer
 - All of the above
9. Match each of Jesus' terms for Himself with the kind of ministry it represents.
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|----------------|-----------------|
| a. "The Way" | i. Teaching |
| b. "The Truth" | ii. Miracles |
| c. "The Life" | iii. Redemption |
10. What does the biblical word "confess" literally mean?
- To "justify" oneself
 - To say "I am sorry"
 - To "say the same as"
 - To "change" one's mind
11. Which gospel is most unlike the other three?
- Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John
12. Match each gospel with its primary emphasis.
- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Matthew | i. Jesus as a man |
| b. Mark | ii. Jesus as King of the Jews |
| c. Luke | iii. Jesus as God in the flesh |
| d. John | iv. Jesus as a servant |



Which of the three ministries of Jesus have you experienced personally? How have His teaching, His works, and His redemption affected your life?



Thank God for the ministries of Jesus—His teaching, His works, and the redemption He offers. Ask Him to help you "confess" His truth when you read or listen to His Word. Ask Him to cause His Word to transform your life. Ask God to make you a strong testimony of a life transformed by his redemption.



Going Deeper

1. Why has the Holy Spirit, Who is the Author of the Bible, given us four Gospels? Why would not one have been enough? _____

2. Based on the emphasis they place on His life, what are the four ways the Gospels present the most important life ever lived? _____

3. What are some of the unique characteristics of the Gospel of John? _____

4. How can you divide the content or emphasis of the message of the four Gospels into three thirds? _____

5. Relate that to the declaration of Jesus: "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6).

6. How does this declaration describe His ministries of redemption, revelation and regeneration?

7. How completely have you received the blessings of this threefold ministry of Jesus Christ by reading and studying these four Gospels? _____
