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# **Mentor Training**

# **Mission Of Christ**

## **Lesson 1 – The Character of Jesus**

### **1. Grasp the Issue:**

#### **Focus:**

It is commonly observed that the personality of any given organization takes on the character or personality of its leader. This is because the character of the leader is a major influence on the course of action (mission) of any organization.

When we begin to study the mission of Jesus, it is vital that we start with a study of the character of Jesus. Who was Jesus? Systematic theology books are full of material discussing the deity and nature of Jesus. Most of these discussions focus on metaphysical issues such as his nature being fully God and fully human. However, when we look at his character and how this impacts his mission, we need to study more of his human personality; his observable character. Understanding his character will help us understand his mission. This is the goal of this lesson, to understand the character of Jesus and how this impacts his mission.

**Sound Bites:** (These are statements that may or may not reflect biblical truth, but represent a variety of common statements you may here in our culture on the topic. The purpose is to get you thinking about the lesson topic.)

- Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.  
Napoleon Bonaparte
- God speaks to me not through the thunder and the earthquake, nor through the ocean and the stars, but through the Son of Man, and speaks in a language adapted to my imperfect sight and hearing.  
William Lyon Phelps
- I thank God for the honesty and virility of Jesus religion which makes us face the facts and calls us to take a man's part in the real battle of life.  
Henry Van Dyke
- None speak of the bravery, the might, or the intellect of Jesus; but the devil is always imagined as a being of acute intellect, political cunning, and the fiercest courage. These universal and instinctive tendencies of the human mind reveal much.  
Lydia M. Child

- Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.  
Phillips Brooks
- Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair.  
Blaise Pascal

## **2. Study the Scriptures:**

Read through the gospel of Luke. Make a list of all the character traits of Jesus that you can find. Observe his actions, teaching or the way others react to him. Be prepared to share from your list during the discussion session. Feel free to include references of Jesus character taken from the other gospels (Matthew, Mark, or John).

## **3. Discuss the Issue:**

1. What are the character traits of Christ.
2. Choose 3 or 4 of Jesus' character traits that seem most interesting or significant to you. Explain how Jesus' mission is shaped or determined by these character traits.
3. As you look through the list of character traits, do you observe any contrasts in Jesus' character (i.e. Love and Judgment)? Why is this?
4. How is Jesus' mission affected by the contrasts in his character that you observed in the question #3 above.
5. Think of the various types of leaders that you encounter in our modern world civic (government, schools, law enforcement), business or military and the kind of character that is common among these leaders. Compare this to the list of Jesus' character traits.
  - Which of Jesus' character traits are similar?
  - Which of Jesus' character traits seem opposed? Why?
6. How might Jesus' mission be different if he had the character of a typical modern leader in our culture as discussed in question #5 above.