

## WE COME TO TEACH—DT 4:5-9

### I. INTRODUCTION:

#### A. OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY, PURPOSE AND MISSION

1. **Who** we are: the body of Christ and the children of God
2. **Why** we exist: exist to love God and to love our neighbor
3. **What** we do: make disciples

#### B. OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT (GSBC)

**We exist to glorify God and make disciples by loving and serving people in all situations of life. “**

#### C. WHAT WE DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

- Worship
- Give
- Teach
- Serve
- Witness

#### D. KEY FOUNDATIONS

- a. Worship—**all** we do flows from our **devotion** to God
- b. Giving—good stewardship of what God gives us—glorifies Him and helps others
- c. Teaching—**how** we do our mission depends on how effectively we teach the body

### II. TEXTUAL BACKGROUND

#### A. PRIMARY TEXT—AN ANCIENT HERITAGE

**Dt 4:5-9**—*See I have **taught** you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may **follow** them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will **show your wisdom and understanding** to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” What other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you **do not forget** the things your eyes have seen **or let them slip** from you your heart as long as you live. **Teach** them to **your children** and to **their children** after them.*

#### 1. MEANING—‘TEACH’—IN HEBREW

- **Influence the mind—deliver content:** make known—inform—acquaint, advise
- **Influence behavior—direct action**—prod/goad with rod—give incentive/ discipline
- **Improve quality/productivity—by showing**—develop skill, expertise
- **Guide/show the way**—to point to—as with the finger

**Ex: Michelangelo’s ‘finger of God’ (Sistine Chapel)**

## 2. KEY POINTS FROM TEXT

### a. **Follow-ship**—verse 5

1. Church is a fellowship—but our first purpose is ‘follow-ship’—obedience to God
2. Good teachers must first be good followers!

### b. **Obedience** produces two things—verse 6

- Wisdom and understanding
- Others recognizing these qualities in us

### c. **Wisdom** is active—not static—it produces 4 things—verse 9

1. **Remember**—*not forget*—consciously rehearse God’s truth daily
2. **Steadfastness**—*do not let slip—do not depart*—actively apply His Word to our hearts
3. **Transfer**—pass it on—teach our *children* that truth
4. **Permanent legacy**—disciple our children how to teach *their children*

## 3. EXAMPLE—THE FIRST AND FOREMOST TEACHING—THE SHEMA

**Dt 6:4-9**—4 *“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

## B. ANCIENT HERITAGE REINFORCED BY NEW TESTAMENT

**II Tim 4:2-4**—2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

### 1. MEANING—‘TEACH’—IN GREEK

#### a. Three key words

1. **διδασκω**—instruct, explain, impart information by discourse—**didactic**
2. **κατεχεω**—oral instruction—hearing personal words from teacher—**catechism**
3. **μαθετευω**—make/teach a disciple—show the ropes to a follower/trainee/neophyte

#### b. Meanings

- **Declare** (publicly)—proclaim—deliver message (the content)

- **Speak** (privately)—sound into ear = indoctrinate—catechize (orally—not just books!!)
- **Cause to learn**—if there is no learning—teaching has not occurred!
- **Stir up**—to cause a personal change—get a response

## 2. KEY POINTS FROM TEXT

- a. Sound teaching—is a foundation of effective ministry—with two outcomes:
  - Preaching the Word—**verse 2**
  - Evangelism—**verse 4**
- b. Sound teaching—is perpetually pro-active—**verse 2**
  - Always ‘prepared’—in season/out of season—perpetually learning/teaching
- c. Sound teaching—balances truth with love
  - Confront people with the right and wrong: correct and rebuke—**verse 2**
  - But do this with love: encourage and with patience—**verse 2**
- d. Sound teaching—focuses on what is genuine—not what is counterfeit
  - Turns people back to sound doctrine—**verse 3**
  - Turns their ears back to the truth—**verse 4**

## III. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

### A. ATMOSPHERE

- Create a **learning environment**—where people yearn to learn
- Give **incentives** to learn
  - ✦ Encourage (+)
  - ✦ Stir up (+/-)
  - ✦ Even prod (-)
- Set clearly defined **boundaries**—the truth of God’s Word

### B. ACTION

- **Inform** ourselves about God
  - ✦ His nature, will, and plan
  - ✦ His actions in history and our lives
- **Train** ourselves—regulate and condition our lives
  - ✦ Repetitive exposure to truth
  - ✦ Discipline—stay within boundaries—take corrective action

### C. GOALS—FIVE OUTCOMES

- Honor God
- Impart knowledge
- Change lives
- Develop skills
- Produce service

## IV. OUR MODEL—JESUS THE ‘MASTER TEACHER’?

### A. HIS IDENTITY—AS ‘TEACHER’

1. First Evidence—in Temple with Teachers—listening, understanding, answering—**Luke 2**
2. Disciples first called Him “Rabbi”— **John 1**
3. Title—called ‘Rabbi’, ‘Master’, ‘Teacher’—50 times in the Gospels
4. Three-fold ministry in Galilee—Jesus **taught**—preached—healed
5. Content—divine origin of His truth—“I AM the Way, the **Truth**, and the Life”—**John 14**

#### Testimony—quote by Herbert Hoover:

“Speaking not as a religious man, not even as a Christian—which I hope I am—the greatest Teacher who ever lived was Jesus. His teaching was brilliant, beautiful, persuasive—and above all, he taught anyone, anywhere, by the roadside, on the mount, on the sands of the Sea of Galilee. They didn’t have to have credentials or grades, they just had to have interest enough to stand still and listen. And His Teaching has come down to us, over the centuries, as no other teaching has. Not too long ago the *New York Times* listed His Teaching from the Mount as the most important event in all history. He had something wonderful to say and He said it wonderfully, and it still means more to us than anything else that ever happened.”

### B. JESUS’ METHODS

1. **Parables**—33 in the New Testament
2. **Metaphors**—You are the salt of the earth—You are the light of the world
3. **Similes**—Behold, I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
4. **Hyperboles**—If your right eye makes you stumble, gouge it out and throw it away; if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away.
5. **Proverbs**—Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
6. **Poetry**—Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.
7. **Irony**—He quoted proverb—“Red at night . . .”—then said, “Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times.” [Mt 16:2-3]
8. **Questions**—Who do people say the Son of Man is? . . . But who do you say that I am?  
Why do the teachers of the law say that Christ is the Son of David?  
I will ask you one question . . . John’s baptism was it from men or from heaven?

## V. WHO ARE 'TEACHERS'?

### A. 'TEACHERS'—FIRST—ARE GOOD AND TRUE FOLLOWERS

1. They must know the Teacher—Jesus—but this is not enough!
  - a. Teachings and knowledge do not save—Jesus saves!
  - b. But we cannot *say* we follow Him and plead ignorance to His teachings!
2. They know and follow His Teaching
  - a. They stay within bounds—of His διδαχη!

**II John 9**—*Who ever goes out of bounds and does not stay within the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who stays in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*

- b. They keep His commandments—His prescribed rules—εντολη

**Jn 15:10**—*If you keep my commandments, you will stay in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and stay in His love.*

**Jesus did not say just “come here”—but also “follow Me”!**

**Jesus gave specific directions—“enter through the narrow gate”**

### B. 'TEACHERS'—SECOND—ARE EVERY CHRISTIAN

1. Some Christians specialize in teaching
  - Spiritual ‘gift of teaching’
  - Vocational ‘call as a teacher’
2. But **every** Christian should “teach”
3. **Evidence = Great Commission:** “Go ye therefore and teach all nations”
  - “As you are going” = **lifestyle** mandate for every Christian in every walk of life
  - “teach” = **make disciples** (μαθητευσατε imperative!) = ‘make followers/learners’
  - “all nations” = all peoples (ethnicities)—**every kind of person** we meet along the way

## V. WHAT DO TEACHERS DO?

### A. 'TEACHERS'—DO FOUR THINGS [4 METHODS]

- ❖ TELL
- ❖ TRAIN
- ❖ SHOW
- ❖ GO

### B. TEACHERS TELL

1. **Impart knowledge** about God—didactic and catechetical

2. Tells **who, what, why** about the Gospel—**theological** information

3. **Prophetic** and **institutional**

a. Prophetic = proclamation—as in preaching and evangelizing

- Every Christian a preacher/proclaimer and witness!!!
- Every Christian—must be well-informed—and a good informer

b. Institutional

- Church—Sunday School and Discipleship Training
- HOME!!!—every parent and sibling should be a teacher!!!

**The Greatest Teaching Institution = The Home**

**Example:** 4 ministers discussing merits of different versions of Scripture

- KJV—beautiful literary quality
- NASV—literal faithfulness to text
- NIV—contemporary language and flow
- Mother's Version—brings Bible alive and shows child how to live it

**C. TEACHERS TRAIN**

1. **Develop ability**—through repetition

- a. To become **mature** Christians
- b. To develop useful **skills** to serve God
- c. To **think theologically** and to **act morally**

2. Tells **how**—understand **practical** application

3. **Programmed** and **institutional**

a. Church—Mission Programs, Discipleship Training, Music/Choir, Prayer Meeting

b. HOME!!!—again!!!

- Parents catechizing children—family altar and regular prayer
- Small groups—homes as basis for growing church—deeper (as well as larger)

**D. TEACHERS SHOW**

1. **Role modeling**—discipleship by **showing** the ropes

2. Tells—**how, when, and where**—specifically

3. Three levels:

a. **Small groups**

- Sunday School
- Cell groups
- Informal accountability groups
- Deacons—men-men—women-women groups

b. **Personal** coaching

- One-on-one—mentor teaching follower about servant leadership

c. **Generational** transition

1. Legacy training—passing the torch
2. In Church—teaching next generation how to ‘do church’ [committees/systems]
3. HOME—teaching children how to teach their children—lifelong mentoring

## E. TEACHERS GO

1. **Ultimate goal**—make **disciples** = make **learners**
2. What this really *means*—make **followers**—lead others to follow Christ—the Master Teacher  

**“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men [who follow me!]**
3. Importance of living the **Christian example**
  - Our lives should be an open book for everyone to read
  - We are the only Bible that many people see!!!

### Example: Henry Ward Beecher

“What influenced you most toward Christ?” a friend once asked Beecher [famous preacher and son of renowned evangelist Lyman Beecher]. “Was it some college professor, some great preacher, or a faithful Sunday School teacher?”

Beecher replied, “I doubt if the man knew at the time what an influence he was. He used to lie on his cot and read the New Testament, hardly aware that I was in the room. Then he’d talk to himself about what he read. Sometimes he would smile as he read. I never saw the Bible enjoyed like that. It challenged me more than any other thing.”

“But you didn’t tell me who this great man was.”

“Oh, I’m sorry—that man was Charles Smith—a hired man on my father’s farm.”

## VI. PRINCIPLES OF A GOOD CHRISTIAN TEACHING

1. Begins at **home!**
2. **Scripturally sound**—within the bounds of Christ’s doctrine
3. Makes **practical** application—not just theory—but theology put into action
4. **Continual process** of growth—lifelong learning

- Introduces and reiterates the basics
  - Disciplines and trains—through repetition and constant application
  - Builds to maturity—becoming perfect—all Christ made us to be
5. Seeks an **ethical** end—serves God by loving others
6. **Edifies** the church
- Grows the church deeper as well as larger
  - Connects worship (devotion to God) with service (obedience to God)
7. **Glorifies** God and **builds** His kingdom—accomplishes divine purpose