

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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Copyright May 22, 2006
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JESUS OF NAZARETH
Part One

There are some differences of opinion concerning Jesus of Nazareth and His three and one-half year ministry on the earth. Some of them center on who He was. For example, was He man or was He God or both? Under whose authority did He minister? He did miracles but referred to Himself most of the time as the Son of Man and yet no man ministered as He did. Why was He so successful? Why did he not have failures?¹ What can we glean from His ministry that may be useful to us today? How and when were His disciples saved? Could His three and one-half year ministry be replicated today? The purpose of this *letter is to address some of these issues.*

I have underlined and italicized for emphasis certain words, and have also inserted explanatory information in brackets, in the following eight scripture references.

Jesus Alone.

(1) "And when He sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain *by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.*" (Matthew 14:23).

(2) "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, *He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed.*" (Mark 1:35).

(3) "Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. *And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.*" (Mark 6:46).

(4) "*So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*" (Luke 5:16).

(5) "But they [the twelve] *understood none of these things* [that Jesus said concerning the crucifixion]; *this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.*" (Luke 18:34).

(6) "And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, *but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet.*" (Luke 21:37).

(7) "And everyone went to his own house. *But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives [to pray].*" (John 7:53; 8:1).

(8) "And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?' *But they [His parents] did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.*" (Luke 2:49, 50).

Glance briefly at the underlined italicized words in the first seven scripture references. From these references, it appears that once Jesus began His ministry, He never went back home again. He would send the multitudes and His disciples away and then go to the Mount of Olives, for example, to be alone with the Father and to pray. Once He started His ministry He had no home. He was a homeless Savior.

Look now at reference #8. Here is the background for this exchange between Jesus and His parents. The family had come to Jerusalem for the Pentecost celebration. They apparently traveled in a caravan for security reasons, as was the custom in those days. When the festival was over and the caravan started home, the parents of Jesus were a day's journey out of Jerusalem when they were unable to find their twelve-year-old child among their friends and relatives. This tells you something about His parents. They were like you and me today. They made mistakes.

When they discovered the absence of their young Son, they hurried back to Jerusalem and searched for Him three days before finding Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. Since they were a day's journey out of Jerusalem, it took another day to get back to Jerusalem. It then took them another three days to find their twelve-year-old child. That's an absence of five days, which is why His parents were frantically searching for Him.²

One day I was talking to Jesus about this incident and He said when His parents found Him, "they really chewed Him out royally," which is translating His phrase into modern vernacular. Nevertheless, I like that phrase. When I asked Jesus about His response, He said, "A soft answer turns away wrath."³

Now note that Jesus asked His parents, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Then observe in scripture reference #8 that His parents did not know what He was talking about. The reason they did not know was because they

¹I do not consider Judas Iscariot the failure of Jesus but the failure of Judas Iscariot.

²See Luke 2:41-52 for the story of the trip to Jerusalem.

³Proverbs 15:1 (a).

both were born under the Adamic sin-curse, like everyone else born since Adam's sin, which their Son was sent to remove. The only way they could have known would have been by revelation of the Holy Spirit. If you will carefully read the Gospels, you will find that none of the Jews, including His family, the twelve and all of His acquaintances, knew the purpose of His ministry until the Holy Spirit was sent on the first Pentecost after His resurrection.

For the thirty-three and one-half years of His life, the destiny of Jesus was unknown to everyone except Himself and the Father. The Father was the only One to whom He could go to pour out His heart for solace, strength and understanding, particularly during this time. That's why you find Him time and time again getting away from everyone to spend time in prayer alone with the Father, Who was His only source of comfort, understanding and direction.

One day when I was talking to God, I asked Him why the ministry of Jesus was so eminently successful, beginning with His first day, when others called to the ministry usually need many years of maturation to become successful. And the instant answer He gave me was, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, *but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.*"⁴ From the first day of His ministry, He did everything He advised others to do who would follow Him.

When He dismissed the crowds and the twelve went home, He went to the mount of Olives to pray.

Jesus was totally alone in this world and had no one to whom He could go or with whom He could talk or in whom He could confide except the Father!

One day Jesus said to me, "It is difficult to be reared in a home where a child is the Savior of the parents."

Neither His parents nor his brothers [and sisters] understood Him. The burdens that He carried are unfathomable to the finite mind. That is why in desperation He often needed to get away from everyone and spend time alone with the Father, to cry out to Him, the only One who understood His destiny and the only One Who could help Him to get there.

Everything Jesus asked others to do, He first did Himself. He forsook everything in obedience to the Father. So must we do the same thing. However, this may not be done as an intellectual decision. It may only be known or understood by revelation. *Hence the reason to learn to listen and hear His rhema words about which I write and teach.*

⁴Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58.

Who He was.

You hear many things about Jesus of Nazareth and Who He was. One of the best places to go and find the truth is the Gospels. Numerous times in each of the four Gospels, He identifies Himself as the Son of Man. Only a very few times in the Gospels did He identify Himself as the Son of God. Of course, He was both.

Here are three reasons why I believe most of the time He identified Himself as the "Son of Man." (1) He literally was the Son of Man, being born of woman, as everyone has been born since Adam's sin of disobedience, (2) He had to be born as the Son of man, as the last Adam, likened unto the first man (Adam), in order to become the sacrificial Lamb to negate at Calvary the sin of the first Adam and (3) Identifying Himself as the Son of man (which He was) was less offensive to the Jews, who wanted to kill Him from the beginning of His ministry, and thus allowed Him time to fulfill His destiny.

One of the things said about Jesus of Nazareth is that He was both very man and very God. That is not true. He never said that He was God and quite to the contrary, during His ministry, He referred to Himself most of the time as the Son of Man and very infrequently as the Son of God. God was not crucified. Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.

He came as the Son of man since He was born through the birth canal of a woman and as the Son of God because the Holy Spirit deposited a seed in the womb of Mary. Here are two reasons why He came as the Son of man and the Son of God. (1) He had to come as the Son of man in the likeness of the first man Adam and live a sinless life as the Son of God in order to offer Himself as a sacrifice for Adam's sin. (2) He had to come as the Son of man and the Son of God in order to legally cut covenant for both man and God at Calvary which Abram was unable to do.⁵

Jesus and the Father.

The following scriptures define the authority of Jesus of Nazareth during His personal ministry. I have underlined and italicized key words for emphasis.

"All things have been delivered to Me *by My Father* and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one

⁵See the 15th chapter of Genesis for the story of God cutting covenant between Himself and Abram to confirm that though at 90 years of age and childless, his descendants would be as numberless as the stars in the sky and would possess the biggest chunk of real estate ever covered in one contract, the meets and bounds of which are in Genesis 15:18-21.

to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Luke 10:22).⁶

“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’” (John 4:34).

“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do. . . .’” (John 5:19a).

“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” (John 5:39).

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:38).

“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.” (John 7:16).

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.’” (John 8:28, 29).

“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore whatever I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak.” (John 12:49, 50).

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.” (John 14:24).

“For I [Jesus] have given to them [the disciples] the words which You [the Father] have given Me and they have received them. . . .” (John 17:8a).

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:44).⁷

It is clear from these selected scripture verses that Jesus of Nazareth had no authority whatsoever during His personal ministry except that which the Father gave Him, including even the words He spoke, and that His success was entirely dependant upon obedience to the Father’s clearly given instruction and direction.

For further enlightenment, here are some rhema

⁶Jesus and the Father were the only ones who knew the destiny of Jesus during His personal ministry.

⁷From these words of Jesus, we know that before He called His twelve disciples the Father was drawing them individually through His Holy Spirit. The Father then made His choice known to Jesus who then called them. As each one was specifically drawn by the Father and His choice was then announced to Jesus, then and only then did Jesus issue the call. That is why each one called responded immediately. Jesus did not initiate anything during His personal ministry. Everything He both said and did was orchestrated by the Father down to the most minute detail. As Jesus was then obedient to the Father’s instruction and guidance, He experienced no failures.

words I was given on March 11, 2006 (beginning at 5:20 A.M.) concerning the ministry of Jesus, which will help unravel some more of the questions asked at the beginning of this *letter*. I have personally underlined for emphasis certain words and phrases and added the footnotes for clarity.

“My son, listening for and hearing My rhema words today provide everything necessary for an individual, including healing and robust health – just as the disciples were provided for during the three and one-half year ministry of Jesus. They were made clean by the words He spoke.⁸

“And yes, My son, that is why I said the Father had given Me authority over all flesh.⁹ Since He gave Me that authority, as I spoke, so it was. As I spoke, demons were dispatched. As I spoke, lepers were made clean. As I spoke, a withered hand was restored. As I spoke, loaves and fish were multiplied. As I spoke, water was made wine.

“All of this was done, My son, to demonstrate the reestablishment of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. During My ministry, I was in the process of restoring everything man lost through Adam’s sin. Look at what I said – look at what I did – everything I said and did was said and done as I was authorized and directed to say and to do by My Father, for His glory. Those who would be great must become a servant of all.

“I, My son, became a servant. a love slave, of My Father. I humbled Myself that My Father could highly exalt Me and give Me complete authority in heaven and on the earth.

“And I am in the process – it is a process, My son, – of doing the same thing with you. You are in training, My son. I am training you even as the Father trained Me, by obedience to His love commands to Me. So long as I was obedient, what I said came to pass. I had what I said, the same as reported in Mark 11:22-24. I operated within those parameters, My son.

“I now give you that authority. Go ye therefore and practice what I said for the manifestation of the miraculous. I now give you that authority, My son. Begin to believe without doubt and speak into existence the best for yourself that I, My son, have promised you. You have the authority. Now use it.

“You have proclaimed that over others. Now proclaim it over yourself for My glory. So long as the three principles of ministry govern your life, My word

⁸See John 15:3.

⁹See John 17:2.

will not return void.¹⁰ However, you can nullify My word through disobedience, My son. Not a rebuke nor correction, My son, but something to teach. The three principles are a must and they may have to come by revelation, as you know.

“You will have what you say instead of saying what you have.”

Here are additional rhema words received the morning of March 19, 2006.

“Remember what I said about listening to My rhema words. There is healing, as a matter of fact, **THERE IS ALL PROVISION IN MY RHEMA WORDS.** My words and My presence were the necessary ingredients for the sozo¹¹ salvation of My disciples, My son. Try and drink that in, for it is important.

“You will note that My disciples did not pray.¹² I was the One who prayed. When I asked them to watch and pray in Gethsemane they went to sleep. My rhema words and My presence were all they needed. When I commissioned them, My presence and My rhema word instruction were all they needed. You are the same, My son. My presence in you through My Spirit and My rhema words of training and instruction are all you will need during the remaining part of your three and one-half year training, during which you will be doing as Jesus began to do at age 12 – that is, being about the Father’s business.

“Concerning the Rapture preparation project, wait until you have funding to pursue that to conclusion. Then share with those involved as necessary to bring to fruition those plans.

“My ministry while on the earth is a microcosm of the intended ministry of My John 14:12 servant stewards. All (or what) it takes is My presence and My rhema words to supply every need of man. Do you realize I am

¹⁰The three principles of ministry are, (1) The Lord must be first in everything, (2) one must be guided daily by the rhema word and (3) one must give Him the praise, glory and honor. These three principles may not be achieved through an intellectual process, but must be revealed by the Holy Spirit.

¹¹Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16). The word saved in this scripture is translated from the Greek word sozo (Strong’s #4982), which means “healed, saved, delivered, preserved and made whole.” Sozo salvation includes all five of these attributes. The disciples of Jesus were saved (1) by being in His presence and (2) by hearing His rhema words.

¹²Although I have read and reread the Gospels a number of times, I had not “seen” the fact that the disciples of Jesus did not pray and fast until the Lord pointed this out to me. Jesus was confronted on this issue by the Scribes and Pharisees and His reply gave an answer concerning fasting but He gave no explanation on the absence of prayer. See Luke 5:33-35.

bringing you to this point? You will remember that more than once I have said to you that you may forego your usual prayer time and that I would take care of that for you. You see, all the while I have been bringing you to the point of training you as I did the twelve disciples. They did not pray because My presence and My rhema words provided their sozo salvation in addition to the necessary training to be commissioned to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19a).

“The reason I have freed you or excused you from your prayers is the same reason My disciples did not pray. Remember when I began to say to you that you could discontinue praying an assignment I had given you? That was training, My son. I have gradually excused you from your usual prayer time as you have learned to listen to Me. That, My son, is most important to you now.

“Do you also remember I told you that you could spend your quiet time with Me with no prayer agenda but to listen to Me? You are now at the same place as were the twelve during My personal ministry. I will provide everything you need with My presence and My rhema words. That, My son, is My sozo salvation today, even as it was for the twelve. Chew on that for a while, My son. The remaining three years will be interesting and exciting for both of us. Enjoy Me, My son. I enjoy you.

“Remember, My son, My presence and My rhema words are your sozo salvation. You may teach that, My son, for it is the Truth because I have said it to you. Remember, I, Jehovah-Jireh, have said it to you this morning. The “Lord will provide” is all contained in My presence and My rhema words to you and everyone else who comes to Me with an obedient, receptive heart. Teach that, My son, for it is Truth. This means if there is a need you are to provide, I will tell you. That relieves you of all responsibility and puts it on My shoulders. That is freedom, My son, real freedom. That is also complete peace, fulfillment and joy unspeakable in the midst of a world under the control of the enemy. How important it is for you to teach that. It is essential as complete protection from the enemy.

“You see there are two ways to be protected from the enemy today: (1) Use My word (logos), believe it in your heart and confess it with your mouth as rhema. The other way is, (2) along with My presence in you, learn to listen for and to hear My rhema words. That way is best and that way you rest from your labors and I do the work through My presence and My rhema words.

“If (when) I give you a word, be not reluctant to speak it My son, but leave the timing to Me.”