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Theology of Jesus' teaching objectives toward his listeners

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Abstract

A good teacher should know why they teach and what their teaching goals are. One's success in teaching depends on how well they understand and embrace the objectives of their teaching. The study aims to see what was the purpose of Jesus in conveying His purpose through teaching. The research design used is descriptive and qualitative. The researcher's reflection found from the sources is the principles of Jesus' purpose in teaching. The results of the study found ten principles of Jesus' purpose in teaching, namely: bringing people to repentance to God, bringing people to have a harmonious relationship with others, increasing true knowledge and understanding, instilling firm belief, fostering good character, taking action, and equipping to serve.

Keywords: Theology; Jesus; teaching his followers

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' success in attracting people to His teaching was not only the way He began to attract the attention of those to be taught but more importantly that Jesus demonstrated the relevance of His teaching to real life for the people who were taught. The purpose of His teaching was preparation for his life of ministry. Mike Murdock lists Jesus' successes. One of them is that Jesus established specific goals (Murdock, 2000, p. 100). He never taught anything because He had to teach. He always had goals to be achieved and He truly knew what He desired. He knew His direction and purpose and steadfastly moved towards it (Price, 1997, p. 35). Jesus knew His purpose and mission. In Luk. 19:10, it says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Similarly, in John 10:10, Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but that he may steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and may have it to the abundantly." From the above verses, it is clear that Jesus had a clear purpose, "to seek and save the lost," and to give people abundant life. Throughout His teachings, Jesus always had a purpose in mind (Sihombing et al., 2022).

Jesus was a teacher who never taught without having a goal to be achieved. His goals encompassed all aspects of human life (mind, emotions, and will). Valeri A. Wilson stated that His purpose was not only to influence intellect and emotions but also to transform lives. Based on the statements above, it is clear that Jesus' general purpose was to bring about life transformation. His teaching goals become evident when we carefully observe all the teachings He conveyed. The following are examples of Jesus' teaching goals found in the Gospels, where the goal of religion is to make human beings have the values of Christ (Habeahan & Ndona, 2021).

The objective of the study is to discover what Jesus' teaching goals were. This research is a literature review study. The researcher derived theological principles regarding Jesus' teaching. The findings of this research are expected to stimulate Christian educators to have the correct

teaching goals, similar to Jesus' teaching goals. Understanding Jesus' teaching goals becomes a model for the task of teaching all members of the body of Christ.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bringing People to Repentance to God

Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all perish" (Luke 13:3). He also told Nicodemus, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Firstly, Jesus taught to bring people to repentance to God. This experience of repentance is described as a new birth, a resurrection, a new heart, or a change of mindset. Repentance involves the intellect, emotions, and will. In short, it encompasses surrendering oneself to God and embarking on a new life as a Christian. Accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior personally is the first step towards an abundant life. The decision to accept Christ can arise spontaneously as a result of careful teaching (Sihombing et al., 2022). In the story of Nicodemus, Jesus taught and successfully led Nicodemus to repentance through the experience of being born again. Similarly, in the case of the Samaritan woman in John 4, after dialoguing and teaching her many things, she was able to receive the eternal living water by believing in Him. As a result of their repentance, their love for the Lord is demonstrated through a total surrender of their lives. Jesus desires them to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:29-30). With this reality, it is clear that being a teacher carries a great responsibility. Jesus also made disciples. Like most Jewish rabbis, Jesus had some followers called His disciples. Evangelists testify that Jesus began His mission by meeting two a pair of brothers fishing on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18).

Bringing People to Have Harmonious Relationships with Others

Mark 12:31 states, "Love your neighbor as yourself." In another passage, Jesus said, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar" (1 John 4:20). When emphasizing the doctrine of rewards in the afterlife, Jesus made it clear that those rewards are based on how individuals treat others in this world. For example, giving food to the hungry, providing water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and showing kindness to those in prison and the sick (Matthew 25:35-36). Jesus emphasized that every person should have harmonious relationships with both God and fellow human beings. This can be demonstrated through love, as He said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus wanted to emphasize that every person needs one another and cannot stand alone. He set an example of loving one another (Tarigan et al., 2022). Therefore, Jesus' goal was for those He taught to have good relationships with one another, demonstrated through loving and helping one another in every aspect of their lives.

Improving Knowledge and Understanding that Is Right

Accurate knowledge and understanding are necessary to live rightly. One cannot live better than what they know. Righteous behavior is rooted in correct knowledge and understanding. This statement is true because having the right concepts will result in the right

conduct as well. Thus, the purpose of teaching is also to enhance proper knowledge and understanding. Jesus said, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" ([Matthew 5:48](#)). In this passage, Jesus is teaching about the nature of God, which is love. "Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#)). Jesus seeks to provide a clear understanding of God as a loving Father, whose heart is grieved by human sin, rather than an indifferent and harsh ruler disregarding the suffering of his people. Knowledge alone is not sufficient for the Christian life; understanding is not a guarantee of Christian maturity. However, accurate knowledge and understanding of biblical facts must be clear and correct.

In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught intending to provide correct understanding about obtaining true happiness, a worthy lifestyle, mastering anger, restoring relationships, and avoiding adultery and divorce. He spoke about keeping promises and responding to evil with goodness. He then taught practical aspects of life such as giving selflessly, praying, storing treasures in Heaven, and overcoming worry. He also emphasized not to judge others, to persist in seeking God to meet their needs and to be wary of false teachers. The teachings of Jesus mentioned above constitute a philosophy of life that is instilled and will determine future behavior. Jesus not only emphasized problem-solving and the application of principles to events but also implanted divine truths in the minds of His disciples and shaped their life aspirations.

Instilling Firm Beliefs

Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" ([John 8:32](#)). His teaching emphasized not only the importance of having a correct understanding of God's truth but, even more deeply, "instilling firm beliefs in those He taught." Jesus taught the truth but also sought to strengthen the convictions of His followers regarding those truths. Questions He often posed, such as "Who... in your opinion" ([Luke 10:36](#)) and "What is your opinion about the Messiah" ([Matthew 22:42](#)), were questions that could capture people's attention and solidify their beliefs. Surely you will not enter the kingdom of heaven ([Matthew 5:20](#)). So, to ensure that the disciple of Jesus learns the Bible facts, it may be necessary to set specific knowledge for each lesson that students should know upon completion of the lesson ([Benson, 2000](#)).

Fostering Good Character

Jesus' teaching was not only limited to meeting the needs of His listeners but He also nurtured in His followers great character ([Lestari Uriptiningsih & Daliman, 2022, p. 123](#)). He fostered honesty, selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice. He openly condemned the Pharisees who pretended to be religious but were hypocrites inwardly. The right character is rooted in the right understanding. One example in this passage is the proud Pharisee loudly extolling his virtues, while the lowly tax collector begged God to love him ([Luke 18:9-14](#)). For Jesus, formal prayers, fasting, and offerings are meaningless if they are not done with the right heart attitude. Jesus encouraged His followers to do more than what was written in the law and the prophets. Those

who became His disciples should be honest, they should rid themselves of the desire for revenge, and they should love their enemies as their friends.

To make their experience a complete and permanent one, the Lord Jesus encouraged His listeners to carefully consider all the possibilities they faced before following Him. They must know with certainty that their love for Him exceeds their love for their relatives and family on earth. They had to deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Him. For Jesus, it is quality, not quantity, that matters.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:3-12](#)), Jesus taught the character traits that should characterize the life of a citizen of the kingdom of heaven in one's personal life as well as in society. He warned people to beware of feelings of pride, greed, anger, and the principles of life that will determine one's character. This is one of Jesus' teachings that also makes many people interested in listening to His teaching because something valuable in this life is given by Jesus. A clear knowledge of the concept of Christianity, as well as the illumination from God the Holy Spirit, will be a guarantee for the believer that his life character will also be in line with his faith.

Doing An Action

One example of the purpose of teaching by expressing it through action is when Jesus taught Peter to express his love for Christ ([John 21:15-19](#)). Jesus wanted Peter not only to know that he loved the Lord Jesus, or Peter not only to feel that he wanted to love Jesus, but Jesus wanted Peter to express his love for the Lord in a certain way by doing something to serve others. The purpose of the Lord Jesus in His teaching was for His disciples to do something as a result of His teaching. For example, when the scribe wanted to tempt Jesus. Jesus said: "Go and do likewise" ([Luke 10:37](#)). Jesus did not teach His disciples to memorize stories but to do something ([Lewis, 1994](#)). The Lord Jesus taught His disciples to do something to experience the necessary change by performing an action. The disciples continued to do something as a result of the lesson ([Lewis, 1994](#)). Nicodemus believed and the Samaritan woman repented. As seen below:

Disciple	Needed by the disciple	Jesus Purpose	The disciple's condition after teaching
Nicodemus (John 3)	Need to understand who Jesus is	For Nicodemus to be born again	Trust
Samaritan Woman (John 4)	Need living water, namely the Lord Jesus	To have eternal life	Repent

The example above is one of the many examples given by Jesus when teaching ([Sihombing et al., 2022](#)). There is a real change from not understanding who Jesus is, what rebirth is, and who the Living Water is to understanding. And the result was that both were transformed. They received Jesus personally and there was a testimony of their lives ([John 7:50-](#)

51; John 4:29, 30, 42). They were truly transformed. This was the purpose of Jesus' teaching. Another example is in Matthew 18:21-35, Peter needed to forgive others continuously. In this passage, the Lord Jesus taught Peter with the aim that Peter would forgive those who wronged him. Likewise in Luke 10:25-37, Jesus taught the scribe that he needed to practice love in his life, he had to say love to everyone who needed help. That is why Jesus said to him "Go and do likewise."

Equipping to Serve

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that he had commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). From this verse, Abineno (Abineno, 1999) says that the teaching in Matthew 28:19 is not the reading and memorizing of Torah texts, nor the knowledge of their meaning and significance, but the teaching to observe all that Christ commanded. It was from this command that the disciples of the Lord Jesus eventually spread throughout the world to realize the command that had been given to them.

Price (1997) sees the disciples' experience with Jesus on some levels: first, there was personal contact between Jesus and the disciples so that they witnessed Jesus' compassion, comfort, feeding, and healing, and they were influenced by Him. Secondly, they listened to His incomparable teaching under various circumstances and covering various subjects. They learned by hearing with their ears." After all this, the disciples were given practical tasks. They were sent out to teach around. So were the seventy disciples who were sent out. When they had finished their task, he called them all together to report on their work. This is how Jesus guided and supervised. So they learned by example, instruction, and practice.

Equipping disciples to serve others is one of Jesus' purposes in teaching. Each worker needs to be trained, prepared, and then sent out to teach others to do all of God's commands (Matthew 28:19-20). This is one of the duties of a teacher. This passage shows an actual act of doing something after the disciples have been taught and equipped. The action to be taken is to go out to make disciples of Christ by teaching everything that God has commanded them (Sahertian et al., 2021, p. 151). Price (1997) considers this part to be the final task of a teacher, which is to train His disciples to spread His teachings throughout the world. Most of his time in the last days of his work was devoted to this task. Even though His disciples had never formally received an education, their association with Jesus was an opportunity to learn from His example and they eventually became the most prominent teachers in the world. Training, and equipping disciples is the job of the teacher. Making someone a disciple through the process of teaching everything that Jesus has commanded.

The conclusion is that the purpose of Jesus' teaching was tailored to the needs of the disciples and also for the disciples to take action or experience life change. New life was the subject of His teaching. Deliverance and life change occupied a prominent place in His work (Price, 1997, p. 131). Peter was transformed from an impetuous and unstable man to one who

was steadfast and trustworthy. John was transformed from an angry young man to a compassionate old man. Matthew was transformed into a new personality. Paul was transformed from a persecutor of Christians to a famous evangelist. Zacchaeus, a greedy man of money, became the first Christian philanthropist who gave half of his wealth to the poor and returned four times what he had taken from others by dishonest means. Teaching like Christ is teaching that relates to life and results in a changed lifestyle. Teaching is not just giving information but rather results in transformation (Warren, 1999, p. 236). Jesus always directed the truths that were conveyed to the application in life. This is one kind of teaching method of Jesus that is sometimes forgotten by Christian teachers today.

Many teachers only share information, and tell facts about knowledge but do not connect that knowledge, especially God's word to the reality of daily life. This may also make many people less interested in teaching. Even some of the teachers themselves end up lacking enthusiasm and interest in the work of teaching (Warren, 1999). The important thing that is meant in this passage is that there must be a purpose for teaching (Sinaga et al., 2021, p. 18). Jesus never taught without a purpose. Based on Jesus' example of having a clear purpose for teaching as described above, there are some principles that every reader who is a teacher needs to consider for teaching.

METHODS

The object of this study is the purpose of Jesus' teaching of His disciples. The type of research used is descriptive and qualitative. The method is using a systematic literature review where the research uses references in the form of existing findings, articles, or theories sourced from previous researchers to become the basic framework in the available research. The literature review was conducted by collecting secondary empirical evidence from pre-existing articles and critiquing their validity using a descriptive surfacing approach. In this case, existing theories were compiled and reviewed so that a theory was found about finding Jesus' purpose in teaching.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Teaching Objectives

In general, teaching objectives are divided into two parts: general objectives and specific objectives. The general objective is a discussion of what the teacher expects students to do after learning (Wiriadinata, 2001). There are four characteristics of general lesson objectives, namely: (1) From the learner's point of view (what is expected after this lesson). (2) The statement is broad/general. (3) State the main learning outcomes such as changes in knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills. (4) Shows a fairly narrow subject matter (Wiriadinata, 2001).

The lesson-specific objective is to make various activities suitable for students according to their needs as an action to achieve the general objective or as evidence of learning outcomes (Wiriadinata, 2001). In other words, the lesson-specific objective is to bring about a real change in the student's life according to his or her needs or that the student continues to act as a result of

the lesson (Lewis, 1994). There are three elements contained in a lesson-specific objective. They are: (1) States the action the learner will perform. (2) States how the learner should act. (3) Describes how the action should be performed (Wiriadinata, 2001).

Importance of Setting Teaching Objectives

The importance of setting teaching objectives in the teaching and learning process is seen in the function it serves. An objective is a clear statement of what a teacher intends to accomplish by teaching the lesson (Benson, 2000). Often a teacher already knows the best way or method of teaching, whether it is at the start of the lesson or when getting into the content of the lesson, but they sometimes do not succeed because they do not have a goal to achieve. Thom and Joani in their book *Improving Church Performance* emphasize that "without clearly formulated goals, we will speak aimlessly and never get the prize." But if our teaching objectives are good and clear for everyone, then we will change lives through the power of God (Schultz, 1993, p. 20). In one book, the objectives of teaching are described at length: general objectives and specific objectives.

Teaching is the same as hunting. Without aiming at a specific target or goal, an endeavor will be less successful or fail. Without a specific goal, the whole lesson will be as haphazard as the first raindrops that fall on the earth (Schultz, 1993). That is why goals need to be set for success in teaching. Setting a teaching objective is the teacher's job (S. Kure, 1997, p. 214). There are several reasons why a teacher needs to set teaching objectives in teaching. These reasons are as follows. *First*, teaching objectives determine the direction of the lesson. Every aspect of the lesson must be directed so that it is carried out following the set objectives. The lesson plan progresses step by step from opening, content, and closing to application and each part must be related to the objective (S. Kure, 1997). It is not enough for a teacher to just stand and talk. He must know the direction and purpose of the lesson (S. Kure, 1997, p. 215). An objective will determine the direction of the lesson. Without an objective, the teacher will not know the direction of the lesson and may reach the wrong target. Many teachers do not have an objective so they do not know the direction of the lesson and they do not even know the reason for teaching. A predetermined goal will help a teacher to be a successful teacher because he knows the direction of his teaching and can deliver the lesson clearly and well. *Secondly*, teaching objectives help in the delivery of lessons in a good way. These objectives can assist in preparing and delivering lesson content successfully. A teacher cannot convey lessons clearly and well if he has not determined his goals. *Third*, the purpose of teaching determines the teaching method to be used. Setting teaching goals are very helpful in choosing the right delivery method and materials to be used effectively. Whether the teacher will tell a story, lectures, discussions, questions and answers, lectures, props, plays, and projects are all determined based on objectives. Objectives are very helpful in preparing and delivering lesson content successfully. *Fourth*, the purpose of teaching explains what students will do. In teaching the contents of the Bible, that goal explains how students obey God's word. The teaching must relate closely to the students and not the teacher. By watching what students do, a teacher can

determine if they have learned. When the students prove it through actions, then it is clear that they understand the lesson. If the goal does not define something the student will do, then there is no way of knowing whether the student is successful or not. This is a basic requirement for teachers to evaluate their teaching. Evaluation is the most important part of all teaching activities. Clear goals serve as a yardstick for teaching outcomes. Many teachers set goals but those goals only describe what students will know, and not what to do. Likewise, many teachers think that the purpose of teaching explains what the teacher has to do, not what the students have to do. This opinion is wrong. A successful teacher is a teacher who helps his students set goals that can be done by his students. *Fifth*, the purpose of teaching must contain words that explain something that is implemented. Good teaching goals contain words that explain something that is done. Words that determine actions for example: come to Him, read the Bible, pray every day, witness to others about Christ, give your money to God, and so on. Words like the above will explain how the disciples will obey the word of God. Examples of stories of the good Samaritans to prove that they have mercy on others can be seen in their actions. How do they help other people? The words that describe what the disciples did are verbs. When teaching, a teacher needs to ask himself. In this goal are words that describe as well as that which can be seen or heard. *Sixth*, the purpose of teaching must match the needs of students. Good teaching goals must match or suit the needs or needs of students. A teacher must be careful to set goals that are consistent with the text of the Bible but also relate to the lives of students. This is a huge responsibility. Setting goals that do not match the needs of students is not good. Just as it is useless to give blankets to hot people. It is useless to give food to a full person and their application of God's word will be carried out through actual experiences and simulated experiences. This method will prevent the people being taught from getting bored with teaching. Given how important it is to set teaching goals in teaching, every reader who is a teacher must do the things above. Without this success in teaching would be useless to show beautiful pictures to the blind. ever achieved.

How to define Teaching Objectives

Teaching with a clear purpose makes students able to see the essence and subject matter of the lesson. There are four characteristics that must be considered when selecting and writing teaching objectives. The characteristics in question are as follows: (1) The essence of the objectives must be stated clearly. (2) The important expression of the goal must be based on the student's concept. (3) Objectives must include learning outcomes. (4) The results of the objectives achieved are knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills. Furthermore, in the PAK diktat in the Local Church, Kevin Humble reminded four things that must be considered in setting teaching goals, namely: Goals must be measured and have a time limit. If the goal cannot be measured, it will not be known whether the goal has been achieved or not. If the goal is not good if the goal specifies something that the students don't need. Sometimes the goals set are good but not necessarily the goals are following the needs of the person being taught. Good goals do not necessarily answer the needs of students. If someone is cold, a glass of water will not

help. If a God-fearing person memorizes laws, God will not help him. If a person is disobedient to God, learning about how God heals is not what he needs.

To complement each of the above descriptions of specific objectives, effective objectives have the following characteristics: short enough to be memorable; special enough so that it can meet the needs, bright enough so that it is obvious, practical enough so that it can be achieved; interesting enough to generate participation; related enough to the lesson to sustain that lesson. Of course, all of the above characteristics must be based on Bible verses and the needs of the students (Imeldawati et al., 2022). In terms of adapting teaching goals to the needs of students, teachers must also remember that students have many needs. So, the teacher must try to find out and try to understand their needs and also need to pay attention to their goals.

In addition to emphasizing the importance of a teacher formulating goals to be achieved, another important thing is also added, namely using active learning methods (Sihombing & Seri, 2022). The point is learning by doing something or involving students. By involving students, understanding does not contain a time limit, so that goal has not been made. The most important thing in our culture is strategic goals, so we can see very clearly what follows is very easy to see, whether the goals can be achieved or not up.

According to Leigh, good goals are: first, they must be written in the student's language. The goals should state the expected results of the student and not the teacher. Second, Goals should be short, maybe twelve words or less. Shorter goals are easier to handle and remember. Third, the goal must be single, directed at one thing only. When trying to achieve more than one goal in a lesson, you are less likely to achieve something than trying to achieve just one. Fourth, the goal must be clear. General goals may end up with the students can only say general things anyway. But if you expect something special, it is more likely that a student will act. Fifth, goals must be achievable. If you want students to succeed, you need to set goals within achievable limits. The goals that have been set can be used to evaluate the lesson, and whether the goals were achieved. This is one of the reasons for setting goals in the words of the student so it is a strong reason for evaluation.

Lelia also added that the objectives of a good lesson are: Clear, Perform a specific action; be practical, and follow the needs of students and personnel. One example in this passage is the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-27). If this story is taught at the youth level, then the student's need is to pay attention to the needs of others. The objective of the lesson is for students to show love by helping others this week. One way to set good lesson goals so that the lesson is successful in following procedures is to look at the needs of students. Next, study the purpose of God's word that will be taught by exploring its contents. Then apply God's word to the needs of students. Not for all students, but only one or two students (because maybe what is needed by one student is also needed by other students).

In addition to the several things above, another thing that also needs to be considered by the teacher when setting teaching goals is the basis for setting goals. There are two most important bases for determining teaching goals, namely first: the content of the Bible texts to be

taught, and second the needs of the people being taught. A teacher must study the Bible diligently so that it becomes part of his life. He must understand the context and circumstances at the time the passage was written so that he can clearly state the objective truth stated in the passage.

Likewise with the importance of knowing the needs of students. The teacher must know who the people to teach are, and what their current needs are, then adapt the teaching to their needs appropriately. A book writer says: it's rare for someone to accept teaching if he doesn't understand that the lesson is according to his needs.

According to him, there are several ways to find out the needs of students, namely: (a) Conducting visits to student homes; (b) Conversation privately before and after the lesson is over; (c) Paying attention to students when holding activities, and (d) Asking each student to tell about his family, hobbies, and other activities. In this case, it takes sacrifice from a teacher so that he is willing to spend time and energy to prepare true teaching following the Bible and also to get to know his students for the sake of effectiveness and success in teaching.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research on the purpose of Jesus' theology teaching to his listeners can still be developed by looking for the impact of Jesus' theology teaching on the activity of the congregation or service in the Church. Researchers hope this paper can have an impact on the progress of science in Indonesia. The researcher also hopes that this paper will be a reference for future researchers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it was found that the purpose of Jesus' teaching is as follows: bringing people to repentance to God, bringing people to have a harmonious relationship with others, increasing true knowledge and understanding, instilling firm belief, fostering good character, taking action, and equipping to serve. Every teacher should be able to create a learning process that produces a life pleasing to God and every teacher should take part in the ministry.

BIODATA



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