

What was the message Jesus
preached to the Jews?

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus
began to preach and say, "Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is at
hand."

Some teach that Jesus taught the multitudes and the Scribes and Pharisees about His kingdom, but Jesus speaks to the these about the Law of Moses as he only spoke of the Kingdom in parables unless it was to the disciples.

Mat 13:10-11 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
(11) And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Matt 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

John 13:34 "A new
commandment I give to you, that
you love one another, even as I
have loved you, that you also love
one another. 35 "By this all men
will know that you are My
disciples, if you have love for one
another."

What was new about that? As Jesus points out in the Law of Moses – Mt 22. 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

that you love one another, even as
I have loved you,

Jesus didn't just teach that we
love one another. He wanted us
to love each other like he loved
us.

Literally to give our lives for each
other.

Those who heard Jesus' message
decided they had to do
something. How did God prepare
those who were to spread the
gospel?

Mark 1:16 And as He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And they immediately left the nets and followed Him. ... 21 And they went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach.

An effective group of preachers -
apostles trained for 3 ½ years

Acts 1:8 ... you shall be My
witnesses both in Jerusalem, and
in all Judea and Samaria, and
even to the remotest part of the
earth. "

How were they trained?

No classes

No schools

No tests

They simply went with him and
listened to him.

They asked questions when they didn't understand what He said.

Luke 8:9 And His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable might be. 10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, in order that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

The disciples watched as the seed fell on
good and honest hearts.

Matt 13:8 "And others fell on the good soil,
and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some
sixty, and some thirty.

We can learn more by looking at where, with
whom and how the apostles and evangelists
of the NT shared the word.

A common thread was an interest
in religious things by those to
whom the gospel was preached.

Jesus didn't cast pearls before
swine!

In Acts 8.27-40 ... and behold, there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship. 28 And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household had been baptized,

The message was tailored to the audience, their background and beliefs.

For instance, when the gospel was preached to Jews, believers in God, but not in Jesus, the lesson is based on fulfillment of prophecy by Jesus

Acts 2:5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words. ... 16 this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

In Acts 13 Luke records the events in Pisidian Antioch where Paul preached to "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

The message was the fulfillment of prophecy by Jesus moving to Jesus giving his life for all men.

Act 13:28 "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to* death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. (29) "And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.

The message preached might have a different beginning but ended with the same conclusion -
Jesus is risen from the dead.

Acts 17.16-32 The philosopher's in Athens were gathered on Mars Hill – Paul uses an illustration of those things around him – the idols which they worshiped.

Paul then reasons with them – God does not dwell in temples made with hands, not gold, silver, stone, an image formed by man. Paul then transitions to the resurrection – some continue and some do not.

What was the result of watching the apostles
as they taught the word.

They imitated their faith and began preaching
too.

Acts 8:4 Therefore, those who had been
scattered went about preaching the word. 5
And Philip went down to the city of Samaria
and began proclaiming Christ to them.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed
Philip preaching the good news
about the kingdom of God and
the name of Jesus Christ, they
were being baptized, men and
women alike.

Acts 21:19 And after he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed,

When the number of conversions was especially great, the apostles and evangelists stayed longer.

Acts 18:8 And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city. "

11 And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Acts 19:20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. 21 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

What have we learned?

First - we must be willing to give our lives for each other.

Second – to be effective, we need training that comes from watching and listening to others who successfully preach and teach.

Third - those interested in religious things will be the most receptive group.

Fourth, we must tailor our discussion to the audience, their background and beliefs.

Fifth, when the number of conversions is high, we must keep on doing the things we're doing.

Do you love Jesus enough to
follow his commandments?

Mark 16:16

"He who has believed and has
been baptized shall be saved; but
he who has disbelieved shall be
condemned.