

# Jesus the Messiah

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did  
1 John 2:6 (NIV)

## **BOOK TWO:** Jesus' Popularity, Opposition, Spiritual Truth, Divine Identity

Based on the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John



A programmed instruction study on the life and teachings of Jesus the Messiah (the Christ):

*Suggested use: extension training and small group Bible study*

**GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE MESSIAH**

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## **BOOK TWO: Jesus' Popularity, Opposition, Spiritual Truth, Divine Identity**

### **PREFACE:**

The study of *Jesus the Messiah* is divided into four ten-week courses. The first book covered the Old Testament promises of a Messiah, the birth of Jesus and the beginning of His ministry in the province of Galilee. This is the second ten-week course. Book two covers the popularity of Jesus, his conflict with the Pharisees and teachers of the law, powerful miracles that prove He is God and powerful teachings on spiritual truth.

Some of the most interesting teachings of Jesus involve his parables and his teachings using symbols. Those who came to Jesus seeking spiritual truth could understand the parables and the symbols. Those who came to Jesus desiring worldly favors were often confused. Even his apostles and close disciples sometimes struggled to see the application of his parables to spiritual matters. Thus He occasionally explained them in private to those who sincerely wanted to follow him.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law certainly struggled to understand Jesus' spiritual teachings hidden within his parables and symbolic language. However, occasionally they understood enough of the symbolism to know He was condemning them. They also understood that He claimed to be God.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law challenged Jesus publicly because He was a threat to their leadership. Jesus' amazing miracles became well known facts that they could not deny. His miracles gave credibility to his teachings. Confrontations with the Pharisees became a battle over what is God's truth. The Pharisees had many traditions which they used to control the people. They claimed their traditions were based on God's truth, but many of them were a perversion of God's truth. They often used their traditions as an excuse to bypass God's truth.

The common person seeking spiritual truth accepted Jesus' teachings because they could tell that Jesus truly loved them and wanted to help them. He did not live a wealthy life style. He did not demand respect like the Pharisees. Instead He appealed to them to listen and follow his teachings if they wanted to have a close relationship with God. He appealed to them to trust him, follow him and discover for themselves if his ways were of God. He led like a shepherd leads his sheep.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law presented their traditions as if they were commands from God that had to be obeyed. The teachers of the law defended their traditions as if they were the Word of God. They depended on their position of leadership in the culture to bring them respect. They saw no reason to earn the respect of the people like Jesus did.

It is interesting to see how this battle plays out among the Jewish people as Jesus traveled from place to place to gain followers through his miracles and teachings. The more the Pharisees tried to destroy Jesus, the more their hypocrisy was revealed.

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