

What Jesus knew

Before launching any project to promote change in the community, public relations experts do *thorough research*. Jesus did this in preparing for His own public ministry.

First, at 12 years of age He probed current theological thought in Israel, “sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” Luke 2.42,46.

Second, at the outset of His ministry He rightly assessed humanity: “Jesus . . . had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.” John 2.25.

He therefore understood the true source of sin.

He said, “From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” Mark 7.21-23.

Third, He foresaw that the religious leaders (the Pharisees) would reject Him. Mark 2.21-22. So He must “start again.” He would use a small team of twelve men.

Fourth, He saw the people of Israel were “like sheep not having a shepherd.” Mark 6.34. But would they accept him as the Good Shepherd? John 10.11.

NEXT: Jesus' action plan

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Why did Jesus come? To show that only God can satisfy human hearts.

Ken Packer