

---

---

## “STANDING OUT”

I believe that God created us to be outstanding. Yet sadly, most Christians are far from outstanding and are happy just getting by. They're content just doing enough to make it through another day. Their vision fits through a peephole! These people are doubtful, cynical, and skeptical about everything, even doubting that their efforts would ever amount to much. These are the kind of people who probably believe that Humpty Dumpty was pushed! Sound like anybody you know?

Let me clarify. Outstanding here takes the meaning of “standing out” among the norm, the crowd, or your peers. It means being recognized as the one who is going further, expecting more, doing more, and being different. These are people who make a conscience decision to be set apart from the rest. They have a sense of authority that's admired and noticed. Whether it's in our spiritual walk with Him, our marriages, our parenting, our relationships, our jobs, our businesses, our service to others, our endeavors, etc., *God calls us to be outstanding*. He clearly wants us to excel far beyond our normal capacity. So how do you become outstanding for God? Does it come from being an expert in the field of theology? Or being able to recite Scripture at a moment's notice? How about having perfect church attendance or an excellent tithing record? While all of these are an enhancement to becoming outstanding, in and of themselves they are not sufficient enough to be the “stand out” that causes people to take notice. For the answer, we need to take a look at Jesus and what was said about Him early in His ministry.

In the Gospel of Mark (1:21-22), we see that Jesus taught in the synagogue and the people were amazed at His teachings. The people had heard many other teachers before Jesus who taught at the same synagogue, but it was *Jesus* who caused quite a stir. There was something different about *this* teacher. The people saw something outstanding in Him that no other teacher had displayed before. I'm sure that they were quite content with the previous and current teachers, but it was *this* teacher, Jesus, that seemed to stand out. Why? Well, the verse tells us that it was the authority in His teaching that caught their attention. How could Jesus display such authority to the extent that He stood out among other teachers? He had conviction about Him. Jesus knew who He was. He knew His purpose and this allowed Him to exude confidence and authority. He commanded attention! He was (*and still is*) outstanding!

*What will make us stand out for God?* When we know who we are in Him and begin to walk in the conviction that we were created for a greater purpose, we will begin to exude this confidence and authority also. We too will command attention, thus becoming outstanding for God!

*By Jesús Maymi*