

Read: Luke 5: 27-32 & 6: 12-16; Matthew 12: 1-13

Matthew's call to follow Christ: Luke 5: 27-32

1. Levi, or Matthew as he was called in the other gospels, was a tax collector. He was treated as a traitor because he was a Jew who collected taxes for the ruling Romans. What was Levi's response to Jesus' call to follow Him?

2. Who did Jesus say He had come to help?

Naming the Twelve Apostles: Luke 6: 12-16

3. What did Jesus do before naming His twelve disciples or apostles?

4. What have you already learned about any of these men? (NOTE: Traditionally, Bartholomew is thought to have been Nathanael.) What does Jesus' choice say about God?

Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath: Matt. 12: 1-8

5. In the Law, the Sabbath was a day of rest. The Pharisees made strict laws about what they considered work. They considered picking grain the same as harvesting and rubbing grain the same as threshing. They reasoned that the disciples were working and what they did was unlawful. Using their reasoning, who else did Jesus say the Pharisees would have to judge as lawbreakers?

6. What does Jesus mean by quoting God saying, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice?"

7. Who did Jesus say had authority over the Sabbath?

Healing on the Sabbath: Matt. 12: 9-13

8. Jesus was known for healing any who came to Him. Since the Pharisees considered healing to be work, the Pharisees wanted to use this case to trap Jesus. What reason did Jesus give for healing the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath?

9. How was the man healed?

10. What was the Pharisees' response?

(See additional study, topic #16)

Today's Thought

To what kind of people am I reaching out?

Those who know they are sick and sinful may be the most ready to receive our message.

**Knowing
Jesus**

Note:

This completes the first year of Jesus' ministry. The Pharisees had become quite jealous of Jesus and had begun to oppose Him.

Read: John 5: 1-47

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda: John 5: 1-14

1. The Pool of Bethesda was surrounded by blind, lame, and paralyzed people. There was a tradition that when the water was stirred, the first to reach the water would be healed. Jesus approached one man in that crowd. What did he ask him?

2. The man answered that he didn't have anyone to help him get to the water. Jesus didn't offer to carry him to the water. Instead, what did He tell him to do?

3. What was the Jews' reaction to this miracle healing?

4. When Jesus found the man later, what did He tell him was important for him to keep his healing?

The role of Jesus as Son of God: John 5: 16-30

5. What were the two reasons the Jews wanted to kill Jesus?

6. What did Jesus say the Son of God does?

7. Whose job is it to judge?

8. What must a person do to have eternal life?

Testimonies about Jesus: John 5: 31-47

9. Jesus claims that three others testify for Him. Who or what are these three testimonies?

10. Jesus says Moses would accuse the Jews. Since Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible which include the Law, Jesus is saying these writings themselves would condemn the Jews. Jesus said that since they didn't believe the Law, they also couldn't believe what?

Today's Thought

Am I believing the traditions of men so much that I can't enjoy a miracle from God?

Read: Matt. 10: 1-42

Jesus sends out the twelve: Matt. 10:1-16

1. What did Jesus give the twelve when He sent them out?

2. What were three things Jesus told them about going out?
To whom should they go?
What should they do?
What should they take?

3. How would they know where to lodge?

4. What did Jesus mean in verse 16 about sheep, wolves, snakes, and doves?

Persecution would come: Matt. 10: 17-22

5. What are some of the possible forms of persecution they would face?

(See additional study,
topic #17)

Comfort in persecution: Matt. 10: 19-20, 26, 28-31

6. What are the three things Jesus said not to worry or be afraid about?

7. What are Jesus' greatest words of comfort for them?

The cost of discipleship: Matt. 10: 32-39

8. How important is it that we acknowledge Christ before men?

9. Where would they feel the cost for discipleship?

Reward for those who receive Jesus' disciples: Matt. 10: 40-42

10. What is promised to those who receive Jesus' disciples?

Today's Thought

I want to know how much
God cares for me so I will be
ready to do whatever He
asks of me.

**Knowing
Jesus**

Read: Matt. 11: 20-30; Luke 7: 36-50 & 8: 1-3

Jesus condemns unbelief: Matt. 11: 20-24

1. What had happened in the towns of Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum?

2. What did the people in these towns fail to do?

3. Why did Jesus say these towns would be judged more harshly than Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom?

(See additional study,
topic #18)

Those who believe: Matt. 11: 25-30

4. From whom are the mysteries of God hidden?

5. To whom does the Father reveal His mysteries?

6. Who knows the Father?

7. What are the requirements for rest?

Jesus anointed by a sinner: Luke 7: 36-50

8. The Pharisee thought Jesus was not a good prophet since He didn't seem to shun the sinful woman. What did Jesus say her washing, drying, and anointing showed about her?

9. In verse 50 what does Jesus say has saved her?

Jesus' traveling ministry: Luke 8: 1-3

10. Who traveled with Jesus?

Today's Thought

I want to accept Jesus' words as humbly and willingly as a child.

**Knowing
Jesus**

Note:

The Pharisees made their decision to attribute the miracles of Jesus to the Devil. Once they made that decision, the result was their rejection of everything Jesus taught. Eventually it led to their demand for His crucifixion. This is a major turning point in Jesus' ministry.

(See additional study, topic #19 & 20)

Read: Matt. 12: 22-50

Jesus, from God or the devil?: Matt. 12: 22-37

1. What miracle had Jesus performed?
2. After seeing the miracle, the Pharisees thought they knew the source of Jesus' power. Who, did they say, made Jesus able to cast out demons?
3. What did Jesus say had come to them if He drove demons out by the Spirit of God?
4. What blasphemy did Jesus say would not be forgiven?
5. What does Jesus say is the source of what we say?

The sign of Jonah: Matt. 12: 38-45

6. What did the Pharisees and teachers of the law want Jesus to do?
7. What sign did Jesus say they would see?
8. What did the people of Nineveh do that Jesus' generation was not doing?
9. What did the queen of the South do?

Jesus' mother and brothers: Matt. 12: 46-50

10. Who did Jesus say were His mother and brothers?

Today's Thought

What am I thinking about?
What am I storing in my heart?

Day 1

1. Levi immediately got up and left everything and followed Jesus. He was so happy about it that he gave a great banquet for Jesus at his house.
2. Jesus said He came to call sinners to repentance.
3. Jesus spent the night on a mountainside praying to God before naming His twelve disciples.
4. Simon Peter and Andrew his brother were fishermen. James and John were also brothers and were Simon's partners in fishing. Philip and Nathanael or Bartholomew were two who followed Jesus from early on in His ministry. Jesus had amazed Nathanael by knowing where he was and what he was doing before Philip came for him. Matthew had been a tax collector who eagerly followed Jesus as soon as he was called. God seemed to be interested in people from every walk of life and every type of temperament.
5. The Pharisees would have to say King David and the priests who serve on the Sabbath would be law-breakers.
6. God is much more interested in men's motives. He prefers our being merciful to others to great sacrifices that come from a legalistic heart.
7. He said, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."
8. Jesus reasoned that since it was not against the law to do good, He could heal the man.
9. Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand. When the man stretched out his hand, it was as whole as the other hand.
10. The Pharisees were furious with Jesus for healing this man. They were plotting how they might destroy Him.

Day 2

1. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well.
2. Jesus told the man to get up, pick up his mat, and walk.
3. The Jews told the man it was unlawful for him to carry his mat on the Sabbath.
4. Jesus cautioned him to stop sinning so that something worse would not happen to him.
5. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because He was breaking the Sabbath and because He was calling God His own Father.
6. Jesus said the Son does nothing by Himself. He can only do what He sees His Father doing. Specifically, Jesus says He gives life.
7. God, the Father, has entrusted all judgment to the Son.
8. A person must hear what Jesus says and believe in God who sent Jesus.
9. First, John the Baptist testified for Jesus. Second, the works that Jesus did testified that the Father had sent Him. Third, the Father Himself had testified for Jesus through the Old Testament.
10. If they didn't believe the Law, they couldn't believe what Jesus said about Himself.

Day 3

1. Jesus gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease.
2. He told them to go to the Jews, not the Gentiles or Samaritans. He told them to freely preach, heal, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons. He told them not to take anything with them; what they needed would be provided.
3. They were to search for a worthy person and if they were received in peace, they should stay there.
4. The disciples were likened to defenseless sheep going into a dangerous place with wolves. Their defense was in being wise like snakes and innocent like doves.
5. Arrest, flogging, betrayal by family, and hatred were some of the forms of persecution they would face.

- 6.** Things Jesus said not to worry about or to be afraid of:
 - what to say: the Spirit would speak through them.
 - their persecutors: God would reveal hidden things.
 - those who kill the body: God can kill both body and soul.
- 7.** Not even a sparrow can fall apart from God's will. He knows all about us and values us more than many sparrows.
- 8.** Jesus promises that if we acknowledge Him before men, He will acknowledge us before the Father. However, if we don't acknowledge Him before men, He won't acknowledge us before the Father.
- 9.** The highest cost for discipleship would be with family. First, some families would be torn apart by their differences of believing or not believing in Christ. Second, some would find it too hard to follow Christ and leave their family behind.
- 10.** Those who receive Jesus' disciples will receive the same reward as the disciples they receive. Even giving a cup of water will be rewarded.

Day 4

- 1.** Most of Jesus' miracles had been performed in these towns.
- 2.** The people failed to repent when they saw these mighty miracles.
- 3.** Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom had not seen such mighty miracles. Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum had no excuse not to believe.
- 4.** The mysteries of God are hidden from the wise and learned. In other words, being intelligent or being a scholar may make it harder to learn God's truth.
- 5.** God reveals His mysteries to little children, those who are humble enough to learn.
- 6.** The Son knows the Father and reveals the Father to those He chooses to.
- 7.** To find rest one must come to Jesus, come into relationship with Him (taking His yoke), and learn from Jesus.
- 8.** Jesus said washing His feet with her tears, drying His feet with her hair, and anointing Him with perfume showed how much the sinful woman loved Him. She had been forgiven much.
- 9.** Jesus said her faith had saved her.
- 10.** The twelve, some women cured of evil spirits and diseases, the wife of Herod's household manager, Susanna, and many others traveled with Jesus.

Day 5

- 1.** Jesus healed a demon-possessed man so he could both see and talk.
- 2.** The Pharisees said Jesus could only cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons.
- 3.** Jesus said that if He cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God had come to them.
- 4.** Jesus said blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven. (Note: If you are worried that you might have committed this sin, set your mind at ease. As long as you care whether you might have offended God, you can know the Holy Spirit is still working in your life. Therefore, He has not rejected you.)
- 5.** Jesus said that what we store up in our hearts is what we say.
- 6.** The Pharisees and teachers of the law wanted Jesus to do a miraculous sign.
- 7.** Jesus said He would be three days and three nights in the earth (dead).
- 8.** The people of Nineveh repented when they heard Jonah's preaching, but the people of Jesus' generation were not repenting when they heard Him preach.
- 9.** The queen of the South traveled a great distance to hear Solomon's wisdom.
- 10.** Jesus said whoever does God's will are His mother and brothers.

Day 1

16. The Sabbath:

The Ten Commandments includes the Sabbath Law- Ex. 20: 8-11
God comments on a Sabbath rest each week- Ex. 31: 12-18
Blessings for those who observe Sabbath- Isa. 56: 1-8
Carrying loads on the Sabbath- Jer. 17: 19-27
The children of Israel rejected the Sabbath- Eze. 20: 12-21

Day 3

17. Persecution:

Blessed are those who are persecuted- Matt. 5: 10
Pray for persecutors- Matt. 5: 44
If they persecuted Jesus- John 15: 20
Endure- I Cor. 4: 12
Not abandoned- II Cor. 4: 9
All who live godly lives- II Tim. 3: 12
Can't be separated from the love of God- Rom. 8: 35-39

Day 4

18. Sodom and Gomorrah:

Lot chooses Sodom- Gen. 13: 1-13
Abraham pleads for Sodom- Gen. 18: 1-2, 16-33
Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed- Gen. 19: 1-29

Day 5

19. The story of Jonah the prophet:

Jonah chapters 1-4

20. The Queen of the South:

I Ki. 10: 1-13
II Ch 9: 1-12