

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Jesus Exercises His Authority Matthew 9:14–10:20

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness...He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.” Matthew 9:35; 10:1

Day 1: Read Matthew 9:14-17.

1. The traditional expectation was that a rabbi and his followers would practice fasting. Why, then, don't Jesus and his disciples fast?
2. What is the significance of Jesus' likening himself to the bridegroom? (Hos. 2:16-20; Jn. 3:27-29; Rev. 19:6-9; 21:1-3) (📖* Mt. 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Eph. 5:23-32)
3. What are the two illustrations in verses 16 and 17 that Jesus uses to describe the relationship between the existing Jewish system and Jesus' new kingdom? What is Jesus saying about his new kingdom?

Day 2 and 3: Read Matthew 9:18-38.

4. What essential element is present at each of the miracles in this passage? (vv. 18, 28, 29)
(📖* Contrast 13:58.)
5. In Jewish society, strict codes existed concerning what could and could not be touched. At the top of the “do not touch” list were menstruating women and dead people; touching them rendered a person “unclean” and required a course of ritual cleansing.
 - a. How does Jesus approach the “do not touch” regulations? (vv. 20, 21, 25)
 - b. When Jesus touches the woman and dead girl, he does not become unclean; instead, they become clean. How does this illustrate what happens to us spiritually? (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24)
6. The two blind men following Jesus call out for mercy and address him as the “Son of David” (v.27). What associations would these cries have called up in the minds of those who were listening? (2 Sam. 7:8, 11b-14, 16; Lk. 1:32, 33)
7. After healing the blind men, Jesus casts out a demon from a mute man and restores his ability to speak. What reason do the Pharisees come up with to explain the power of Jesus? What logical explanation are they unwilling to entertain, let alone embrace? Why?

* The 📖 symbol identifies verses for further study.

8. As Jesus goes through the towns and villages people flock to him in droves. How does Jesus respond to them? (v. 36a) Why does he respond this way? (v. 36b)
9. Because “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” (v. 37), Jesus exhorts his disciples to pray and then sends them out into the “harvest field” (v. 38). Ask the Lord to open your eyes to your harvest field. Then purpose to pray for those people he places on your heart or in your path, and look for tangible ways to reach out to them. (Jn. 4:34-36)

Day 4: Read Matthew 10:1-20.

10. Jesus decides that it is time for his disciples to have some on-the-job training.
 - a. With what resources does Jesus provide them? (vv. 1, 20)
 - b. To whom are they to minister? (vv. 5, 6)
 - c. What are they to do on their mission? (vv. 7, 8)
11. What reasons do you think Jesus has for telling the disciples to “pack lightly”? (vv. 9, 10)
12. What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples “Freely you have received, freely give” (v. 8b)? How could this serve as a paradigm [pattern] for your Christian life?

Day 5: Read Matthew 10:1-20.

13. If God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire from heaven because of their gross immorality and grievous sin (Gen. 18:20; 19:24-28), why will judgment be more severe for those who do not receive the disciples nor heed their words? (10:40)
14. Picture what it would be like to be a sheep surrounded by a pack of snarling wolves. (v. 16)
 - a. Why would Jesus use this word picture?
 - b. What “wolves” can the disciples expect to encounter?
 - c. How are the disciples to respond to these wolves? (vv. 16b, 19, 20)
15. Jesus instructs his disciples to go only to the Jews. How then will God’s promise to bless all nations be accomplished in the process? (v. 18)