

Read: Luke 4: 31-37 & 5: 1-11

Evil spirits come out: Luke 4: 31-37

1. When Jesus taught on the Sabbath, what amazed the people?
2. What did the demon know about Jesus?
3. Jesus commanded the demon to quit speaking. He did not need or want the testimony of demons as to who He was. What amazed the people about this miracle?

Authority over nature: Luke 5: 1-11

4. Why did Jesus get into Simon Peter's boat?
5. What made Simon Peter hesitate to obey Jesus' direction to go to deep water and let down the nets?
6. Simon said, "Because you say so, I will let down the nets." What about Jesus made this fisherman obey a carpenter?
7. What was Simon Peter's response to the huge catch of fish?
8. How did Jesus treat Peter's reaction?
9. How did Simon, Andrew, James and John react to Jesus?

Today's Thought

Do I believe Jesus still has authority over evil spirits and nature?

Read: Mark 2: 1-12 & 3: 7-12; Matt. 8: 5-13; Luke 7: 11-16

Paralytic healed: Mark 2: 1-12

1. What did the friends of the paralytic do that demonstrated their faith to Jesus?
2. When Jesus said, "Son, your sins are forgiven," what troubled the teachers of the law who were present?
3. How did Jesus answer their doubts?

Healing the multitudes: Mark 3: 7-12

4. Take a minute to look on a map of Israel and the surrounding territory during Jesus' life. Find the places mentioned in verse 8. This indicates that people, not only from Israel but from all over the region, had heard of Jesus' ministry and came to see Him. Did Jesus show favoritism for the Jews?

The faith of the centurion: Matt. 8: 5-13

5. The centurion was not a Jew, he was a Roman. What did the centurion do that demonstrated his faith?
6. What did Jesus say that indicated that not only Jews, but Gentiles, would be welcome in the kingdom of heaven?

Raising the widow's son: Luke 7: 11-16

7. How did Jesus act when He saw this funeral procession?
8. What was the response of the people to Jesus raising this man from the dead?
9. These portions have shown Jesus in several different situations. In what areas could you see that Jesus had authority?

Today's Thought

Jesus has all authority.
In what area of my life does
Jesus want to demonstrate
His authority?

***Knowing
Jesus***

Note:

The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' most famous sermon.

We cannot study the whole sermon in detail. The goal of our study is to help you become familiar with the major themes of this great sermon.

Read: Matt. 5: 1-48

Jesus' description of a righteous person: Matt. 5: 1-16

1. Verses 3-12 describe the people that Jesus said would be happy. How does this list measure up to society's description of a happy person?

2. Verses 13-16 give two examples of the influence that those who live righteous lives will have. What are Jesus' followers supposed to be like?

Jesus and the Pharisees interpret the law differently: Matt. 5: 17-48

3. In verses 17-20, Jesus says that the Law must be completely and perfectly fulfilled. The Pharisees were known for their righteousness. But according to Jesus, was their righteousness enough to let them enter the kingdom of heaven?

4. In verses 21-26, Jesus said the law that said, "Do not murder," meant more than just to avoid the physical act of murder. What else did Jesus say was wrong?

5. In verses 27-30, Jesus taught that it is not enough to deal with adultery which is lust's outward manifestation, but lust itself must be dealt with. Does Jesus really mean someone should gouge out an eye or cut off a hand if they cause sin?

6. In verses 31-32, Jesus condemned the easy divorce practices of the Jews. What was the only cause for divorce that Jesus allowed?

7. In verses 33-37, Jesus said the taking of oaths to verify the truth of a statement would not be necessary if our yes really meant yes and our no really meant no. Where does He say anything more than this comes from?

8. In verses 38-42, Jesus said the law allows retaliation in kind for hurts we suffer. But what kind of behavior does He claim is more righteous?

9. In verses 43-48, Jesus said the law requires us to love our neighbor. The Pharisees had interpreted this to mean one could hate his enemy. Jesus said true righteousness exceeds what the law demands. What does Jesus say we should do with our enemies?

Today's Thought

Am I willing for God to show me areas of sin in my life for which I have not yet repented ?

Note:

Today's lesson continues the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus contrasts His teaching to the Pharisees'.

Read: Matt. 6: 1-34 & 7: 1-6**Jesus rejects the Pharisees' motive to be noticed: Matt. 6: 1-18**

1. In 6: 1-4 Jesus discusses the Pharisees' practice of almsgiving. We demonstrate our love for God when we are merciful to those in need. But when the Pharisees called attention to their giving of alms, what reward had they received?

2. Who will be rewarded by God, those who give to the poor "so that others can see" them do it, or those who do it secretly?

3. In 6: 5-8 Jesus condemns the practice of attention-seeking praying in public. What are the two things Jesus tells us NOT to do when we pray?

4. In 6: 9-15 the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray is recorded. This is a model for our prayers. (Because of the limited scope of this study, we will not go into detail about this prayer. There are many good commentaries on this prayer that your pastor can help you find.) Jesus focused on forgiveness. What must you do if you want to be forgiven?

5. In 6: 16-18 Jesus condemns the practice of showing-off when fasting. Who should see you fast?

Jesus rejects the Pharisees' attitude toward wealth: Matt. 6: 19-34

6. In 6: 19-24 Jesus shows the folly of storing up earthly treasures. These treasures can be destroyed or lost by moth, rust, and thieves. Why does Jesus say money is a bad master?

7. In 6: 25-34 Jesus contrasts the way the world worries about future needs and the way His disciples should act. In verses 25-27, what are three reasons Jesus gives that worry over our needs is unnecessary?

8. Jesus said for us not to worry. What did He say we should do instead?

Jesus rejects the Pharisees' practice of judging: Matt. 7: 1-6

9. How does Jesus say we will be judged?

10. Who are we supposed to judge first?

Today's Thought

Matt. 6: 14-15 is Jesus' statement on forgiving others. Is there anyone I have not forgiven?

Note:

The final part of the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' instructions to those who would enter the kingdom of heaven.

Read: Matt. 7: 7-29

How we are supposed to pray: Matt. 7: 7-11

1. In Matt. 6: 5-8, Jesus told His followers not to pray in mindless repetitions. In Matt. 7: 7-11 Jesus tells His followers how they should pray. Asking and seeking and knocking show that prayer should have a goal in mind and be persistent. Will this kind of prayer be answered?

2. In verse 11, why does Jesus say we should believe that our prayers will be answered?

What true righteousness looks like in action: Matt. 7: 12

3. In Matt. 6: 1-8 Jesus condemned the Pharisees for the way they tried to be righteous. In Matt. 7: 12 Jesus shows what real righteousness is. This is commonly called the Golden Rule. What does it say?

The gate to eternal life: Matt. 7: 13-14

4. Does the wide gate or the narrow gate lead to eternal life?

Warning against false prophets: Matt. 7: 15-23

5. Jesus describes false prophets. Will they look like false prophets?

6. How do we know that someone is a false prophet?

7. What does Jesus say we have to do to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Wise and foolish builders: Matt. 7: 24-29

8. The final part of the Sermon on the Mount is a story about two builders. One built on rock, and the rain, storms, and winds could not cause that house to fall. When the rain, storms, and winds beat on the house built on sand, it fell. Who did Jesus say was like the man who built on the rock?

9. When Jesus finished teaching, the people were amazed. Why were they amazed?

Today's Thought

Am I building on sand or rock?
Am I putting Jesus' words into practice?

Day 1

- 1.** The people were amazed because Jesus' message had authority.
- 2.** The demon knew that Jesus was the Holy One of God (Messiah).
- 3.** The people were amazed that Jesus had the authority and power to give orders to evil spirits and they obeyed Him.
- 4.** There were too many people crowding around Jesus and He wanted to be able to teach them.
- 5.** Simon Peter was tired. As a fisherman he was sure that if they had not caught fish at night, they wouldn't catch fish in the heat of the day.
- 6.** Simon Peter had listened to Jesus' teaching and he was beginning to believe Jesus.
- 7.** Peter was humbled, he recognized his sinful nature, and he was astonished by the catch of fish they had taken.
- 8.** Jesus told Simon Peter not to be afraid and that from now on he would catch men.
- 9.** Simon and Andrew, James and John pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Day 2

- 1.** When the friends of the paralytic found they could not get in the door to see Jesus, they found a way to lower him down near Jesus.
- 2.** The teachers were troubled because no one but God had the right to forgive sins and here was a man saying He could forgive the sins of the paralytic.
- 3.** It would have been easy to merely say, "Your sins are forgiven." How could anyone verify that indeed they were forgiven? But if He said, "Get up, take your mat and walk," everyone could see if it happened. So to prove He could forgive sins, He told the man to walk and he did.
- 4.** Jesus did not show favoritism to the Jews.
- 5.** The centurion understood that Jesus did not have to be physically present to have a command obeyed. He believed that if Jesus said the word, his servant would be healed.
- 6.** In verse 11 Jesus said, "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."
- 7.** His heart went out to the widow and He told her not to cry. He then touched the coffin and told the young man to get up.
- 8.** Everyone was filled with awe and praised God. They recognized Jesus as a great prophet and news spread about Jesus.
- 9.** Jesus had authority to forgive sins. He had the authority to minister to people whether they were Jews or Gentiles. He had the authority to heal even when not physically present. He even had authority to raise a person from the dead.

Day 3

- 1.** Society doesn't place a high value on being poor, in mourning, in meekness, in being hungry and thirsty for righteousness, in being merciful, in being pure in heart or being a peacemaker. These seem to be the opposite of happiness.
- 2.** Jesus' followers are to be like salt and light to the world.
- 3.** Jesus said the righteousness of the Pharisees was not enough to let them enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 4.** Jesus said being angry without a cause and calling someone "fool" are also wrong.
- 5.** No, Jesus does not mean that we should gouge out an eye or cut off a hand. A blind man can still lust. But He meant that we should be that serious about getting rid of the root of sin in our lives.
- 6.** The only cause for divorce that Jesus allowed was for marital unfaithfulness.

7. Jesus says anything more than yes or no comes from the evil one.
8. Laying down our right of retaliation demonstrates righteousness and godliness.
9. Jesus says we should love our enemy and pray for those who persecute us.

Day 4

1. The Pharisees had received the praise and honor of men.
2. Those who give to the poor in a way that does not bring attention to themselves will be rewarded by God.
3. Jesus tells us that we are not to pray to be seen by men and we are not to babble, using endless repetitions in prayer.
4. If we want to be forgiven, we must forgive those who have hurt us.
5. Only God should know you are fasting. (Note: Telling those in your family who would be affected by your fasting does not cancel the value of your fast. That is being responsible: it is not the same as showing off.)
6. Money is a bad master because it is impossible to serve it and God.
7. Jesus said worry over our needs was unnecessary because our life and body are more important than food and clothes. Our Father feeds even the birds, and we are much more valuable than they. Worry cannot add even an hour to our life anyway.
8. Jesus said we should seek God's kingdom and righteousness instead of worrying.
9. Jesus says we will be judged by the same measure we use to judge others.
10. We are supposed to judge ourselves first.

Day 5

1. Persistent prayer with a goal will be answered.
2. Our prayers will be answered because we have a Father in heaven who gives good gifts to those who ask Him.
3. The Golden Rule says we should do to others what we would want them to do to us.
4. The way to eternal life is through the narrow gate. That gate is believing in Jesus (see John 10: 9).
5. No, false prophets won't look like false prophets. Like a wolf in sheep's clothing, false prophets are not immediately obvious.
6. We know false prophets because their lives are not righteous, just like we know a tree is bad because it has bad fruit.
7. We have to do the will of God the Heavenly Father to enter the kingdom of heaven. Pleading or even doing miraculous things without obedience to the Father does not lead to eternal life.
8. Everyone who hears the words of Jesus and puts them into practice is like the man who built his house on the rock.
9. The people were amazed because Jesus taught as one who had authority, and not like their teachers of the law.