

Part 1

Lesson #8

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: Read Matthew 9:27 thru 11:1; 13:54 thru 15:28; Mark 6:1 thru 7:30; Luke 9:1-17; John 6 or Harmony of the 4 Gospels, SECTIONS 66-78

DEVELOPED OUTLINE 3rd year 30 or 31 AD - Jesus is now 36-37 years old.

- A. Capernaum to Nazareth** for the last time c. 23 miles Mk. 6:1-6
1. Teaches in the synagogue and heals a few of the sick but is still rejected.
- B. Nazareth thruout Galilee to Capernaum** (3rd Trip) Mark 6:7-31 Winter
1. Sends the apostles 2 by 2 to encourage the believing remnant; follows them and preaches. Matt. 11:1
2. Joins them in Capernaum. Mk. 6:30
3. Hears about the death of John the Baptist.
- C. Capernaum to E. Bethsaida via Sea of Galilee** 4 miles Mark 6:32-44 April
1. Goes by boat to E. Bethsaida to be alone with the apostles. Lk. 9:10
2. Teaches and heals the people who follow Him by land.
3. Feeds the 5 thousand. Matt. 14:15-21; Mk. 6:35-44; Lk. 9:12-17; Jn. 6:4-13
- D. East Bethsaida to Gennesaret via Sea of Galilee** 6 miles Mk. 6:45
1. Disciples leave by boat for West Bethsaida - crowds sent away.
2. Jesus prays on the mountain while His disciples experience the storm.
3. Jesus appears walking on the water; Peter walks on the water. Matt. 14:28-32
4. They arrive at the plain of Gennesaret. (south of Capernaum)
- E. Gennesaret to Capernaum** 5 miles
1. Passes thru towns, healing those who believe. Mk. 6:53-56
2. Teaches in the synagogues. John 6:22-71
Refuses a political kingdom; proclaims a spiritual one. John 6:15
Loses popularity and many of His followers; the 12 remain with Him.
3. Teaches about traditions of hand washing. Mk. 7:1-23
- F. Capernaum to Tyre/Sidon** Matt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30 May - June
1. Travels 40 miles to the northwest to teach the apostles; heals the daughter of a Gentile woman.
- G. Sidon to region of Decapolis** 60-80 miles Matt. 15:29-38; Mk. 7:31 - 8:9
1. Heals all who believe; feeds the 4000.
- H. Decapolis to Magadan/Dalmanutha via Sea of Galilee** Matt. 15:39; Mk. 8:9-12
1. Pharisees demand a sign but Jesus refuses and leaves by boat.
- I. Magadan to E. Bethsaida via Sea of Galilee** 8 miles Mk. 8:9-12
1. Warns the apostles about the false teaching of the Pharisees; heals a blind man outside the village.
- J. E. Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi** 27 miles Matt. 16:13 - 17:13; Mk. 8:27 - 9:13; Lk. 9:28-36
1. Tests the faith and understanding of the apostles.
2. Tells them of His coming death and resurrection.
3. Is transfigured before 3 apostles.
- K. Caesarea Philippi to Capernaum** 27 miles Matt. 17:14 - 18:35
1. Heals a boy with evil spirit.
2. Pays the temple tax.
3. Teaches about humility and forgiveness.
- L. Capernaum to Jerusalem** 100⁺ miles John 7:2 - 10:21 October
1. Goes thru Samaria and is rejected. Luke 9:51-56
2. Attends the Feast of Tabernacles.
3. Deals with the woman taken in adultery.
4. Teaches in the women's court in Temple.
5. Heals a man **born blind**. (Messianic miracle)
6. Teaches that He is the Good Shepherd.
- M. Jerusalem thruout all Judea** Luke 10:1 - 13:21
1. Sends out 70 to teach and heal.
2. Visits Mary and Martha in Bethany. 2 1/2 miles
3. Teaches the story of the Good Samaritan and the apostles about prayer.
4. Eats in home of a Pharisee and denounces their hypocrisy.
5. Teaches the multitudes and heals a sick woman.
- N. Jerusalem** John 10:22-39 December
1. Attends the Feast of Dedication - Hanukkah.
2. Teaches about His Deity - He is the Messiah, Christ; is almost stoned to death.

EXPLANATIONS

Jesus' Ministry and Teaching

His ministry is now to **individuals**. The Jewish people are no longer to ask the Sanhedrin what they think about Jesus. They must decide for themselves if He is the promised Messiah.

Jesus' teaching is now in **parables**. The Sanhedrin see and hear the *physical* but do not see or hear the spiritual. This condition is because they willfully hardened their hearts and closed their minds to the evidence Jesus gave them that He was the promised Messiah. If they had not rejected Jesus, they could have seen, heard, repented and been forgiven. But even now they are still against Jesus. Parables will keep them from twisting His words. Matthew 13:13-15; Mark 4:11-12

Jesus' Miracles - the last two at the end of His 2nd year of ministry

- Two blind men ask for healing on the national basis. *Son of David* is the national title of Jesus as King in the perfect kingdom. But the nation rejected Him and that kingdom is postponed, so healing cannot be done on that basis. Jesus does not respond. They approach again. Asking if they believe, He heals them on the basis of their faith.
- Man unable to speak because of an evil spirit is healed. It is the 2nd time for this **Messianic miracle**. The 1st time was to force the Sanhedrin into their national decision about Him. This time, He is showing mercy to a man in need. In addition, He is proving to the people that the Sanhedrin deserve God's judgment. Three months earlier, Jesus said their response was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and could not be forgiven. So when they see the Messianic miracle again and repeat their accusation, there is no doubt it is a deliberate, willful choice.

Instructions about Provisions and Protection Matthew 10:9-10

For one 3-month trip, the apostles are not to take anything extra with them so they can travel further and faster. For the rest of their ministry they are commanded to always have provisions and protection with them. Luke 22:36

John the Baptist was sent by God to identify Jesus as the Messiah and to prepare the people for Jesus' message.

John had a God-given ministry that lasted only 3 years; for eighteen months he actively preached and baptized.

The other eighteen months he spent in prison even tho he had totally committed his life to God.

He was arrested and then killed by Herod Antipas, governor of Perea and Galilee province. This happened in spite of the fact that Jesus was a blood relative, Jesus had power to do miracles and Jesus cared about him. The reason it happened is because John had finished the ministry God gave him. If John had continued to preach and baptize, the people would have continued to focus on him instead of turning to Jesus. As he said, *Jesus had to increase; he had to decrease*.

Only God knows why he was in prison for so long and why he died a brutal death. But we do know God gave him the strength and grace he needed for that time. *God will never lead us where His grace cannot keep us.*

Lessons for the apostles

- Feeding a total of some 10,000 involves physical food now; later, the apostles will be giving spiritual food. Even when what they have seems insignificant, God can use it for His purpose. They are to feed the people; but they are incapable of doing it themselves. They can only give what Jesus provides; when they do, Jesus will meet their needs as well.
- Storm on the Sea of Galilee is teaching them dependence on Jesus rather than on their life experience. Even when He is not physically present with them, He is aware of and sufficient for their problems. There are times God will lead us into a situation and then allow a storm of circumstances to almost sink us. He wants to take us to a higher level of dependence, faith and commitment; He will come to rescue us.
- Woman from Phoenicia is teaching that Gentiles have faith and want to believe in Jesus Mt. 15:21-28
Son of David is the national title of Jesus for the **Jews** - asking for mercy on the wrong basis
Lord - title of deity is the basis of Jesus' mercy for Gentiles.
Bread of the little children means *what Jesus says and does for the Jews*.
Dogs are Gentiles. People used the term to mean wild dogs in the street that everyone wanted to get rid of. Jesus uses the term "puppies" to mean dogs in the home that are loved and accepted.
Puppies are loved and accepted in the home and get crumbs from the table.
 She believes Jesus loves and accepts her.
 He will therefore give her a crumb of His ministry.
 She knows just a crumb of His power and grace will be adequate to heal her daughter.



EXPLANATIONS *continued*

Comparison of Beginning and Ending of Jesus' Years of Ministry

Jesus' 1st year of ministry ended in Nazareth when the townspeople tried to kill Him.

Jesus' 2nd year of ministry ends in Capernaum when the Sanhedrin reject Him after seeing a Messianic miracle repeated.
Except for one week, He spent this entire year in Galilee province.

Jesus' 3rd year of ministry begins in Nazareth, to give His former neighbors and friends one last opportunity to personally see and listen to Him. With their rejection, He will never again return to the city.

JEWISH BACKGROUND

Jewish Literature from 1400 BC to 100 AD about eating physically and *eating* spiritually (picture language for *belief*.)

- Moses: Used by God to provide manna or **bread** for the Jews over a period of 40 years. Book of Exodus
- Jeremiah: *When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.* Jer. 15:16
- Ezekiel: He received God's **words** on a scroll; was commanded to **eat** it and then speak to the people. Ez. 3:1-2
- Rabbis: They explained these Old Testament verses in their commentaries, by saying that...
to eat meant to accept or believe God's words.

They also taught that when the Messiah came, the people would **eat** Him.

They explained: *The people would receive Him joyfully and devour His words.*

They would accept all of Him - all that He is and says.

Jesus draws from their knowledge of these writings. He tells the people, *the words I have spoken will give you eternal life.* Jn. 6:35, 63. But they protest,

Why do we have to believe in Him? We have blood-ties to Abraham and are already God's children.

How can He require us to believe who He is and all of His words - that He is greater than Moses, that He came from heaven, is the Messiah and gives eternal life?

Many of the people find it too hard to believe His claims and too hard to accept His goals - He only wants to change their spiritual condition. They want a Messiah who will change their political condition.

Jewish Mishnah laws Mark 7:1-23 Man-made laws about:

- Unwashed hands
Jews became ceremonially unclean by talking with Gentiles, non-practicing Jews or with tax collectors.
Then if they touched food, the food was unclean. Eating the unclean food made them unclean on the inside. This made them unacceptable to God.
So before a meal there was always a special ceremony to pour water over the fingers. This made the Jews ceremonially clean. Mishnah said,
It is better to have to walk 4 miles to water than to incur guilt by neglecting hand washing.
One who neglects hand washing is as bad as a murderer.
- Obeying Mishnah: *it is a greater sin to disobey the laws of the scribes than to disobey the laws of God.*
- Parents: *He that curses his father or mother is not guilty, unless he curses them with express mention of the name of God.* (Mishnah - Sanh. vii 8) Compare with God's law of Ex. 21:17.
- Corban: a dedication of possessions to God This was a law of Mishnah to help people *avoid* the laws of God.
If you dedicated your possessions to God, you could then give them to God or use them yourself.
But they could never be given or made available to anyone else to use (such as parents).
In this way they did not have to help (honor) their parents. Mk. 7:11

APPLICATION: Unanswered prayer

When God does not answer our prayers, His silence forces us to keep asking. The purpose is not so that we change God, but that God changes us to...

...Ask correctly...without disobedience, demands, selfishness or for personal glory.
within God's ability.

ex: we cannot ask Him to *change* someone because God will not go against a person's will.

...Ask humbly... accepting **what** He gives, **when** He gives it and **how** He gives it.

...Ask in faith... When we ask for one thing and God gives us something totally different, we may feel like He has only given us a crumb. But we can be sure that even a crumb of His power and grace will be adequate to meet our needs.

