

- Last week we looked at first events in the middle part of Jesus' life and ministry. We noticed how and why Jesus spoke in parables. (Matthew 13:10-17, Mark 4:9-12, Luke 8:10) We looked at the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9, Luke 8:1-10) and how Christ said it should be interpreted. (Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:13-25, Luke 8:11-15). We also looked at the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Mark 4:26-29) and how it was similar to the parable of the dragnet. (Matthew 13:47-52). We also looked at the similarity between the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-33, Mark 4:30-32) and the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price. We talked about how Christ stilled the storm (Matthew 8:18-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25) and how He cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-21, Luke 8:26-40) raised a dead girl to life (Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-43, Luke 8:41-56) and cures a blind man, troubling the Pharisees (Matthew 9:27-34)
- Today we are going to look at specific instructions and power Christ gives to the twelve apostles when he sends them out all over the world. We are also going to look at a couple of times Christ fed a great multitude of people. We will also look at Herod's and the Jewish religious leader's confusion about Christ- a situation compounded by Christ continuing to perform miracles.
- Jesus is continuing to preach and heal in and around Galilee where he was born and raised. As He does, He is struck by the opportunity represented all around him, and expresses it by saying "pray to the Lord of harvest to send forth reapers." (Matthew 9: 35-38)
- Christ gives the apostles the same power to heal that He has, gives them a mandate to preach and heal, and sends them out "two by two" to cover more of the opportunity. (Matthew 10:1, 10:7-8, Mark 6:7, Luke 9:1-2)
- Christ specifically tells the apostles at this point to go to those Jewish people in Israel who need Him, and not to the Gentiles. (Matthew 10:5-6)
- In sending the apostles out, Christ specifically tells them to take money, two coats, shoes, or a staff. They should instead work to earn their food. (Matthew 10: 10, Mark 6:8-9, Luke 9:3)
- Christ also admonished the apostles not to stay in any one place, especially if people aren't listening. He says as soon as you realize this, go somewhere else. The metaphor He uses here is "shake the dust off your feet." (Matthew 10:11-15, Mark 6:10-11, Luke 9:4-6)
- Jesus says He is sending them out as sheep in the midst of wolves, and to be crafty as serpents but harmless as doves. He says that they will be resisted and even put to death but they should endure all this because they should not fear what can hurt them on earth but what can hurt them eventually at judgment. (Matthew 10:17-42)
- Because of all the things Jesus is doing, King Herod wondered if Jesus was John reincarnated, because he had John put to death because that was what his daughters asked for (at her mom's request) when he told her she could have anything he wanted and

his daughter pleased Him by dancing for him. Herod already had John in prison because John told Herod that it wasn't permissible that he had married his brother's wife.

(Matthew 14:1-2, Mark 16:14-29, Luke 9:7-9)

- The apostles reassemble, tell Christ about what happened with John and go away with Jesus into a place they think is private. (Matthew 14:13, Mark 6:30-32, Luke 9:10)
- The place they thought was private was not so private. The crowds follow Jesus and His love for them motivates Him to preach to them and heal them. When it gets late the apostles urge Jesus to let them go into the villages around there to buy food. Jesus asks what they have and they have collected five loaves of bread and two fishes. Jesus prays over it and this not only feeds over 5,000 people - then they collected twelve baskets full of leftovers. (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:33-44, Luke 9:11-17)
- After sending the multitudes away, Christ sends the apostles on along in a boat. To catch up with them, Jesus walks out on the water to the boat. At first, they think it is a spirit until he identifies himself. Peter wants to try to, so Christ encourages him to come and it is working at first then he gets scared and starts sinking so Christ pulls him back up. (Matthew 14:22-36, Mark 6:45-56)
- The Jewish religious leaders ask Jesus why his disciples break with Jewish tradition by not washing their hands before they eat. Jesus explains that true worship which they aren't really practicing is a lot more important. (Matthew 5:1-20, Mark 7:1-23)
- A woman comes to Jesus to have her sick daughter healed. Jesus notes the fact that she isn't even Jewish and says it is not really proper to essentially throw good food the dogs. She points out that even dogs get scraps from their master's tables. He says this is true and uses her belief as an example of faith and heals her. (Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)
- On a separate occasion in a different place. Jesus has seven loaves of bread and some small fish and feeds over 4,000 people. There were seven baskets of food leftover this time. (Matthew 15:29-39, Mark 8:1-9)
- In at least two separate incidents, Christ illustrates the insufficiency of leaven bread that represent the teaching the Jewish leaders of the day. (Matthew 16:1-12; Mark 8:10-26)

1. What does Jesus mean when He says to pray to the Lord of harvest to send forth reapers?
2. What power and mandate does Christ give the apostles?
3. How does he split the apostles up when he sends them out?
4. Who does Jesus tell them to preach to initially?
5. What things does God specifically forbid the apostles to take with them when He sends them out?
6. What does Jesus say to do if people aren't responding to their message in a particular place? How does He express that?
7. What animals does Jesus use to describe the apostles and the world He is sending them into?
8. What does Jesus say therefore his apostles should be wise as? As gentile as?
9. Who does Jesus say His apostles should not be afraid of and of whom should they be afraid?
10. Why does Herod think Jesus is John? Why would that be impossible?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: madison@madisonlaird.com

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Preparing the Disciplines and Beware the Pharisees

Matthew 9:31-10:1; 10:5-11:1; 14:1-36; 15-16:12

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11. What does Jesus multiply in order to feed 5,000 people? How many baskets of leftover are there?
12. Why does Christ originally walk on the water?
13. What do the apostles think Christ is when they see Him on the water?
14. What happens when Peter tries to walk on the water?
15. Why does Jesus say when criticized because the disciplines are always washing their hands before they eat?
16. To what does Jesus compare the teachings of the religious leaders of the day?
17. What exchange about how dogs eat occurs before Christ heals a woman's daughter? c
18. To what does Jesus multiply in order to feed 4,000 people? How many baskets of leftover are there?

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