

Matthew 10:32 - 12:14

Day 1

The Nature and Reward of the Disciples' Ministry. Matthew 10:32-42

1. What are the consequences for accepting or rejecting Jesus Christ? 10:32,33

- What does our confession of Jesus Christ indicate? Romans 10:9-11

IT'S GREEK TO ME **Confess** Strong's NT:#3670 *homologeō*; to assent, i.e. covenant, acknowledge
deny Strong's NT:#720 *arneomai*; to contradict, i.e. disavow, reject, abnegate: KJV - deny, refuse

2. What did Jesus' coming cause? 10:34 (What is this called in Luke 12:51)

- What effect can belief versus unbelief have on relationships? 10:35,36 Cf. 10:21,22 (Why are families often hard to witness to?)

3. What is the reason for this hatred and discord? John 3:20; 15:18

4. What did Jesus say about His peace versus the world? John 14:27; 16:33

5. Underline how we find God's peace:

- Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. NKJV
- Romans 8:6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; NIV
- Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

6. How should we prioritize our relationships to Christ? 10:37

- However, how will our love for God impact our relationships? John 13:34

7. What do you think taking up our cross (a symbol of death) means? 10:38 What is carrying a cross linked to in Luke 9:23?

- What mindset does this give us? Colossians 3:2,3

8. What do you think Jesus meant by the paradox in 10:39? (What is added to that in Mark 8:35.36?)

- What life and death is talked about in Romans 6:6-8?

IT'S GREEK TO ME: **Find** Strong's NT:#2147 *heurisko* ..."to gain, procure, obtain"
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

9. What significance did Jesus give to the ministry of the apostles? 10:40 How do you think that made them feel?

- What significance did Jesus give to those who support the ministry of others? 10:41
- How does God feel about even the smallest gestures? 10:42

Applying the Word: *Have you faced tensions or divisions in any of your relationships because of your belief in Christ? How do Jesus' words help you?*

Day 2

John the Baptist Questions Jesus. Read Matthew 11:1-15

10. What prompted John's message to Jesus? 11:1,2 (What might John have been questioning personally, politically, spiritually... ? Isaiah 61:1,2)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: "**the one who was to come/the Expected One**" Strong's NT:#2064 *erchomai*; to come or go (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively)

"The coming One, i.e., the future One, He who shall come, the Messiah" - The Complete Word Dictionary New Testament (656) (See Psalm 118:26; John 6:14; 8:42)

11. What credentials did Jesus present to John? 11:4,5

- What had been prophesized about the Messiah? Isaiah 35:4-6
- What was Jesus saying to John? John 5:36b

12. How would Jesus' statement in 11:6 be both a warning and an encouragement to John?
(What reason can you see for people being offended by Jesus?)

IT'S GREEK TO ME "**not fall away/take offense/stumble** Strong's NT:#4624 *skandalizo*; to entrap, i.e. trip up (figuratively, stumble or entice to apostasy or displeasure

"To be offended at someone, to take offense at his character, words, conduct so as to reject him"
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament (1292)

13. How did Jesus challenge the opinions people had about John? 11:7,8 (Contrast 3:4,7)

- What was Jesus saying about John's character?

FYI: "The rhetorical questions are a gently ironic way of eliminating obviously false answers in order to give the truth in 11: 10-11

"**Fine** (*malakos*), (used in 1 Corinthians 6:9), connotes 'softness' or even 'effeminacy' and may be ironic. Contrast the rugged garb the prophet actually wore (3:4-6). Those who are 'in kings' palaces' is a sly cut at the man who was keeping John in prison."
- Expositor's Bible Commentary

reed shaken by the wind: "This describes a wavering, fickle, vacillating individual." - Irving Jensen (35)

14. How did Jesus further commend John's ministry?

- 11:9,10
- 11:11a (Consider what John had said about himself. 3:11)

15. How did John's announcement of the kingdom compare to someone's participation in it?
11:11b (i.e. What would that person see or experience that John didn't?)

16. What forces had been at work during John and Jesus' ministries? 11:12

FYI: There is confusion and questions about the meaning of "violence" in 12:12, whether it is referring to a forceful advance of the kingdom or to attacks on the kingdom. Various translations of 11:12 include:

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. NAS

The kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and forceful people lay hold of it. NET

The Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing,^[a] and violent people are attacking it. NLT

The kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. NIV

"Simultaneous with the kingdom's advance have been the attacks of violent men on it. (i.e., from the beginning of Jesus' ministry--the kingdom has been forcefully advancing (the point also made in Luke 16:16). But it has not swept all opposition away, as John expected."
- Expositor's Bible Commentary

"Violence refers to both the intensity of spiritual warfare surrounding the ministry of Jesus and His herald, and also to the intensity required to persevere in following God and "taking" the kingdom into our hearts." - David Guzik

17. What did John's ministry mark the end of? 11:13

- Who was John seen as? 11:14 (Cf. Malachi 4:5) How did Jesus explain this in Luke 1:17a?

18. In your own words, what challenge did Jesus give the people? 11:15

Digging Deeper
For insights into "ears to hear": see Ezekiel 40:4; Psalm 78:1; contrast Zechariah 7:11.

Applying the Word: *Have you found anything confusing, frustrating, or difficult to understand or accept about Jesus' ministry? Has that been resolved? What did you learn?*

Day 3

Jesus Rebukes and Invites. Read Matthew 11:16 -30

19. To what did Jesus compare the peoples' attitude? 11:16 In the illustration, what adjectives would you use to describe the attitude the children had? 11:17

20. How did the people judge John and Jesus' lifestyles? 11:18,19 What adjectives would you use to describe this attitude?

21. How should they have been judged? 11:19b (Compare Hosea 14:9; Matt 7:16)

FYI: Wisdom is proved right "The wise man is shown by his wise actions... such as the wisdom to accept both Jesus and John for what they were and what were called to be." - David Guzik

22. Why did Jesus begin to rebuke certain cities? 11:20

- How did Jesus compare Chorazin and Bethsaida (cities that received much of His ministry) to Tyre and Sidon that hadn't? What did that indicate about how deep this refusal was? 11:21,22

FYI: "Chorazin was a village about two and a half miles north of Capernaum; Bethsaida was about three miles east. Both of these cities were in Galilee and both had witnessed Jesus' ministry firsthand...Capernaum, on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, was the base of operations for Christ ministry. In 9:1, Capernaum is called 'His own city.'" - The Nelson Study Bible (1594)

23. What did Jesus say about Capernaum (His headquarters) and their refusal to believe? 11:23,24 What does this teach about accountability?

Digging Deeper
See the description of the wickedness of Sodom in Genesis 13:13; Jude 7.

For Tyre and Sidon, see Joel 3:4-6.

Jesus Calls

24. For what was Jesus grateful? 11:25 (Cf. 13:11) Why do you think Jesus called His disciples *little children/infants*?"

- What do you think Jesus was referring to by "*the wise and intelligent*?" (See 1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19)

25. How does God feel about our knowing Him and His ways? 11:26 (See Ephesians 1:9)

26. What amazing claims did Jesus make about His unique relationship to the Father? 11:27

27. What did Jesus promise? 11:28 How welcoming and open would this invitation have sounded after the denunciations in 11:16-24 and the restrictive statement in 11:27?

28. Why do we find rest in Jesus? (Contrast the Pharisees' teaching in 23:4.)

- 11:29

- 11:30

Digging Deeper
 Why did the psalmist find "rest for his soul"? Ps. 116:7,8

29. What three verbs describe the response Jesus wanted from people?
 11:28-29 What two phrases describe the result?

Applying the Word: When and how has the Lord Jesus brought rest into your life? What are some areas where you still need to find rest? Which of His commands in 11:29,30 do you need to follow?

Day 4

Sabbath Questions. Read Matthew 12:1-14

Eating on the Sabbath

30. Why did the Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples? 12:1,2 (Was it unlawful for them to pick the grain? Deuteronomy 23:25)

FYI: "To the Pharisees, the issue was the keeping of the Sabbath, not stealing. The law of Israel allowed people travelling through an area to "glean" enough grain for a small meal from fields in the area ([Deuteronomy 23:25](#)).

This was not a violation of the Mosaic law, but of scribal traditions, which had precisely determined that to **pluck the heads of grain** was to "harvest." To rub them between your hands to separate the chaff was "milling." To blow away the chaff from your hand was "winnowing." All of this was forbidden on the Sabbath. At this time, Rabbis filled Judaism with elaborate rituals related to the Sabbath and observance of other laws." - David Guzik

"The Pharisees recognized that the Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic covenant [see Exodus 31:12-14] Therefore, to desecrate the Sabbath was to flaunt disobedience to the entire Law of Moses. See Numbers 15:29-31...Because of Jesus' view of the Sabbath, the Pharisees concluded that He was trying to overthrow the entire Mosaic system, and therefore had to be destroyed. Their antagonism toward Jesus was growing." - The Nelson Study Bible (1595)

31. What example did Jesus use first to defend His disciples? 12:3,4 (Cf. 1 Samuel 21:3-6)

- What does this examples say about God's priorities and compassion for human needs? (See Mark 2:27)

32. What was the second example He used? 12:5 (What kind of work did the priests do on the Sabbath? Numbers 28:9-10)

- Why was eating on the Sabbath even more appropriate for the disciples than the priests? 12:6

33. What was wrong with the Pharisees' attitude? 12:7 (Note: What word did He use to describe the disciples?)

- What did Jesus say about Himself and the issue of the Sabbath? 12:8 What claim was He making about Himself? See Exodus 20:10

34. Underline claims made about or by Jesus in the following verses:

- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. NIV
- John 1:3-4 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. NIV
- John 8:23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. NIV
- John 8:58-59 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. NIV
- John 10:30.31 "I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him. NIV
- John 14:8-9 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. NIV

Healing on the Sabbath

35. Where did Jesus go and why? 12:9,10a (See Luke 6:6)

36. What motivated the Pharisee's question about the man with the withered hand? 12:10 What does their expectations reveal about their understanding of what Jesus can do?

37. Before answering them, what question did Jesus ask? 12:11 What was Jesus revealing about their hearts?

- How did Jesus apply this situation to the man? 12:12 In answering their question, note the words He used in place of the Pharisee's "heal" (v. 10b).

38. How did Jesus heal the man? 12:13 (See Mark 3:5 for more details.)

- What do you think those miraculous changes looked like?

39. What attitude do the phrases in 12:14 convey?

- *But*
- *went out*
- *plotted/conspired together against (See Mark 3:6)*
- *how they might kill/destroy Jesus*

40. Why do you think the Pharisee's response was so hostile?

- How would you say their legalistic adherence to the law affected their relationship with God and with others?

Applying the Word: How can you be careful to be obedient without becoming legalistic? Why is legalism so easy to fall into? What does motive and your source of strength have to do with that?

*"Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matt 10:39 NIV*