

Read: Matt. 15: 29-38 & 16: 1-28, Mark 8: 22-26

Jesus feeds four thousand people: Matt. 15: 29-38

1. Why did Jesus want to feed the crowd? (Note: This crowd was mostly Gentile, from the Decapolis, in what is modern-day Syria and Jordan.)
2. In last week's study Jesus fed 5,000 people. Not much time had passed since that event, yet how did His disciples respond to His desire to feed the people?

Demand for a sign: Matt. 16: 1-4

3. In Matt. 15: 29-31 the Bible records miracles Jesus had just done. What were these Pharisees and Sadducees really doing when they asked for a sign?

The Pharisees increase their attacks on Jesus: Matt. 16: 5-12

4. When Jesus warned the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees, they immediately worried that they had forgotten to bring bread. In Matt. 16: 12, Jesus explained what He meant by yeast. What was Jesus warning His disciples about when He said, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees?"

Peter's confession of Christ: Matt. 16: 13-20

5. Some said Jesus was John the Baptist, others said Elijah, and others said one of the prophets. Who did Peter say Jesus was?

Jesus predicts His death: Matt. 16: 21-28

6. How did Jesus say He would die?
7. When Peter rebuked Jesus for talking about His death, Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan." Why did Jesus consider what Peter said as wrong?
8. What did Jesus mean in verse 25, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it"?

Healing of a blind man at Bethsaida: Mark 8: 22-26

9. How did Jesus heal the blind man? Was the man healed immediately?

(See additional study, topic #24)

Today's Thought

Do I look for a human solution instead of asking what God wants to do?

**Knowing
Jesus**

Read: Matt. 17: 1-13; Mark 9: 14-32

Jesus' Transfiguration: Matt. 17: 1-13

- 1.** Who went with Jesus up the high mountain?

- 2.** How does the Bible describe Jesus' appearance when He was "transfigured"?

- 3.** Who appeared with Jesus?

- 4.** In Mark 9: 6 the Bible tells us why Peter spoke up. It says he did not know what to say because they were so frightened. What did Peter offer to do? If you were in their place and were frightened, what would you offer to do or what would you say?

- 5.** Who do you think said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!"?

- 6.** Elijah was an Old Testament prophet and had just appeared to Jesus on the mountain. In verse 13, the disciples understood that Jesus was comparing John the Baptist to Elijah (See Matt. 11: 13-14). John the Baptist had recently been killed by Herod; but what was Jesus trying to tell the disciples about Himself?

Healing a boy with a demon: Mark 9: 14-32

- 7.** Jesus was coming back from the miraculous experience of talking with Moses and Elijah. He had predicted His own death to His inner circle of disciples. Now He was faced with a crowd and the failure of His other disciples to cast out the demon. What was Jesus' response to all this?

- 8.** What did Jesus say that caused a change in the boy's father?

- 9.** Back a few chapters, in Mark 6, Jesus had given His disciples power over demons. When they had been unable to cast out this demon, they wanted to know why. Jesus told them this kind came out "by prayer." Jesus had told the boy's father, "Everything is possible for him who believes." What do you think would happen in prayer to make it possible for the disciples to cast out the demon?

- 10.** What did Jesus clearly teach His disciples in Mark 9: 31?

Today's Thought

Is there an area of my life in which I need to say, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief?"

Read: Matt. 17: 24-27 & 18: 1-35

The Temple Tax: Matt. 17: 24-27

1. Peter, knowing that Jesus was law-abiding, said He would pay the Temple tax. This tax was voluntary and traditional. Why did Jesus say they should pay it?
2. How did Peter get the money to pay the tax?

Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?: Matt. 18: 1-9

3. What characteristic of the little child did Jesus say was necessary to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
4. What activity did Jesus condemn in the strongest possible terms?
5. Is Jesus advocating self-mutilation in verses 8 and 9? Would cutting off body parts solve our problem of sin? What is Jesus saying?

The Parable of the Lost Sheep: Matt. 18: 10-13

6. What does God want for a believer who wanders off?

When a brother sins against you: Matt. 18: 15-20

7. What process does Jesus teach for dealing with someone who sins against us?
8. What does Jesus say about two or three meeting in His name?

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matt. 18: 21-35

9. How did the master treat the servant who asked to be forgiven? How did that servant treat another servant who asked to be forgiven by him?
10. How does Jesus say we are supposed to forgive others?

(See additional study,
topic #25)

Today's Thought

Is there an area of my life in which I should be more child-like, more humble?

**Knowing
Jesus**

(See additional study,
topic #26)

Read: John 7: 1, 7, 10, 14-44

Jesus' going to the Feast of Tabernacles: John 7: 1, 7, 10

1. Why was Jesus purposely staying away from Judea?
2. What reason does Jesus give for the world hating Him?
3. How did Jesus go to the Feast of Tabernacles?

Jesus' teaching at the Feast: John 7: 14-24

4. Who did Jesus say gave Him His teaching?
5. How did Jesus say someone could know whether His doctrine was from God?
6. Jesus used the argument that the Law allowed for a baby boy to be circumcised on the Sabbath. Since that did not break the Law, how could healing the sick be breaking the Law? How did Jesus tell them they should judge these matters?

Is Jesus the Christ?: John 7: 25-44

7. Read these verses and list the different comments "the people" made about Jesus.
8. From these same verses list any action or comment "the Pharisees" or "the Jews" made about Jesus.
9. In verses 33 and 34 Jesus tells where He was going. Where does Jesus indicate He is going?
10. In verses 37-39 Jesus promises that those who believe in Him would have streams of living water flowing from within them. John explains what Jesus was referring to. What does John say Jesus meant by living water?

Today's Thought

Verse 7 says the world hates Jesus because He testifies that what it does is evil. This explains why people who don't know Jesus are uncomfortable around Christians.

Read: John 7: 45-52 & 8: 1-20

Unbelief of the Jewish leaders: John 7: 45-52

1. What did the temple guards answer when questioned about why they didn't arrest Jesus?
2. Why did the Pharisees think that they were right in trying to get rid of Jesus?
3. Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees who had come to Jesus secretly. (See Week 3, Day 2) What question did he ask the Pharisees in Jesus' defense?

Forgiveness of an adulteress: John 8: 1-11

4. What was the Pharisees' reason for bringing the woman caught in adultery to Jesus?
5. Jesus didn't answer the Pharisees' question with logic or vindication for the woman. What did Jesus do?
6. What was Jesus' response to the woman when all her accusers were gone?

Jesus is the Light of the World: John 8: 12-20

7. Jesus said He is the light of the world. Who did He say would have this light?
8. What does it mean to you to "never walk in darkness but have the light of life"?
9. What reason does Jesus give that His testimony about Himself is valid even if He testified on His own behalf?
10. Why did no one try to arrest Jesus even though He spoke openly in the temple area?

Today's Thought

Do I judge myself
before I judge others?
I should judge myself and
show mercy to others.

**Knowing
Jesus**

Day 1

1. Jesus had compassion on the people. They had been with him for three days and had nothing more to eat. He didn't want them to collapse on their way home.
2. The disciples' response was that there was no way to get enough bread to feed them in that remote place.
3. The Pharisees and Sadducees were testing Jesus.
4. Jesus was warning them to guard against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
5. Peter told Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
6. Jesus said He would suffer many things, be rejected by the religious leaders, be killed and after three days rise again.
7. Jesus said Peter was thinking in a human way and not understanding God's reasons.
8. Jesus was saying that if we try to "play it safe" and not commit ourselves to God, we will not have eternal life. But even if standing up as a Christian means you are killed, you will live forever.
9. The Bible says Jesus spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him. The man saw people like trees walking after the first touch. Jesus touched him again and then he saw everything clearly.

Day 2

1. Jesus took only Peter, James, and John with Him up the high mountain.
2. The Bible says Jesus' face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light.
3. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Jesus.
4. Peter offered to build three shelters or tabernacles—one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.
5. I believe it was God. The voice came out of a bright cloud and no one else would have said such a thing.
6. Jesus was trying to tell His disciples that He was going to suffer and die.
7. Jesus was troubled by their unbelief and wondered out loud how much longer He would be with them.
8. The father had pleaded with Jesus to heal his boy "if He could." Jesus said, "Everything is possible for him who believes." The father's instant change was, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief."
9. I think that when the disciples prayed they would not be relying on past experience, but their faith in God and their dependence on God would grow. In these ways, they would be able to cast out the demon.
10. Jesus clearly taught His disciples that He would be betrayed, that He would be killed, and that after three days He would rise again.

Day 3

1. Jesus said they should pay the tax so as not to offend them.
2. Peter caught a fish and found a four-drachma coin in its mouth.
3. Jesus said the humility of the little child is necessary to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
4. Jesus condemned, in the strongest terms, any activity that causes believers in Jesus to sin.
5. Jesus is NOT advocating self-mutilation. Jesus has consistently shown that sin begins in the heart, so cutting off body parts won't keep a person from sin. This is clearly a figurative portion of Scripture and we should understand that He considers causing someone else to sin a very grievous sin.
6. If a believer wanders from his faith, God wants him restored. He is not willing that any be lost.
7. The process Jesus teaches for dealing with one who sins against us is: 1) go personally and talk to the person alone, 2) take one or two others, 3) take it to the church. Keep the circle of offense as small as possible. Give plenty of opportunities for repentance before making it public.

8. Jesus says that where two or three come together in His name, He is with them. If they agree about anything they are asking for in prayer, the Father in heaven hears and answers.
9. The master forgave freely. The servant refused to forgive another servant who owed him.
10. Jesus said we are to forgive our brother from our heart.

Day 4

1. Jesus purposely stayed away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to kill Him.
2. Jesus said the world hates Him because He testifies that what it does is evil.
3. Jesus didn't go with His brothers to the Feast, He went secretly.
4. Jesus said God gave Him His teaching.
5. If anyone wills to do God's will he will know that what Jesus teaches is from God.
6. Jesus said they should not judge by mere appearances, but they should think about it and make sound judgements.
7. Verses 25-27- Isn't He the one they want to kill? Why aren't the authorities doing anything about Jesus? Do they think He is the Christ? We know where Jesus is from, we don't know where the Christ is from.
Verse 31- Many in the crowd put their faith in Him- will the Christ do more miracles that this man does?
Verses 40- 43- Surely this man is the Prophet. He is the Christ. How can the Christ come from Galilee? The people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him.
8. Verse 32- The chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest Jesus.
Verse 35- 36 Where does Jesus intend to go that we cannot find him? Will He go to the dispersed Jews? What does He mean, "You will seek Me and not find Me?"
9. Jesus said He was going to the One who sent Him- He was going back to God. They could not find Him there and could not come to Him there, because He was speaking of His death, resurrection, and ascension—His going into Heaven.
10. John explains that the living water is the Holy Spirit. He says that the Holy Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet died and been raised again or glorified.

Day 5

1. The temple guards answered, "No one ever spoke the way this man does."
2. The Pharisees thought Jesus was deceiving the people. They knew the Law and they thought they "knew" Jesus could not be the Messiah—"No prophet ever came from Galilee." (They didn't investigate and find out that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.)
3. Nicodemus asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"
4. They brought the woman in order to trap Jesus and to have a reason for accusing Him.
5. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground. He said that if there were any among them that had never sinned, he should be the one to throw the first stone.
6. Jesus said He didn't condemn her either and that she should go and leave her life of sin.
7. Jesus said that whoever follows Him would not walk in darkness, but would have light.
8. When we follow Jesus and do what pleases Him, we no longer have to try to hide our sins and sinful way of life. We no longer have to walk in the darkness of confusion, but have His direction to "light" our way.
9. Jesus said His testimony would be valid because He knew where He came from and where He was going. He said His two witnesses were Himself and God.
10. No one tried to arrest Jesus because it was not yet the right time.

Day 1

24. Elijah:

Elijah's ministry- I Ki. 17
No rain at his word
Fed by ravens
Fed by the widow
Raised the widow's son
God answers with fire- I Ki. 18: 16-46
Elijah threatened by Jezebel- I Ki. 19
God appears to Elijah
Elijah taken into heaven- II Ki. 2: 1-12
Prophecy of Elijah's return- Malachi 4: 5-6
John the Baptist in the "spirit and power of Elijah"- Luke 1: 17
John denied being Elijah in the flesh- John 1: 21
Appeared to Jesus- Matt. 17: 3-5

Day 3

25. Forgiveness:

Defined:

Not holding sins against you- Isa. 43: 25
No longer remembering wrongs- Isa. 31: 34

God's forgiveness:

Full of constant love- Psa. 86: 5
Forgiven through Jesus- Col. 1: 13- 14

God forgives:

He forgives all my sins- Psa. 103: 3
If you forgive- Matt. 6: 14
In accordance with God's grace- Eph. 1: 7
If we confess our sins- I John 1: 9
God is merciful- Psa. 78: 38

Forgive one another:

When you pray- Mk. 11: 25
Just as God forgave you- Eph. 4: 32
Bear with one another- Col. 3: 13

Day 4

26. Feast of Tabernacles:

Description of the Feast- Deut. 16: 13- 16; Lev. 23: 39-43
Dedication of Solomon's Temple- I Ki. 8
Rebuilding of Temple- Neh. 8: 13- 18