

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01 The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02 The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04 The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05:1-16..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05:17-45..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10.....and More Miracles**
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- While teaching inside and outside the Synagogues, Jesus continued to heal every kind of disease and illness. We cannot escape the reality that Jesus was breaking the known laws of nature to bring healings to everyone who needed it – BUT WHY?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 9:1-8	<p>Your Sins are Forgiven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reality, all sins are against God, and only God can forgive sins since it's only His laws which are broken • Matthew truncates the story of the paralytic (who was let down through the roof of Peter's house) to solely highlight Jesus' divine attribute of having authority to forgive sins, clearly indicating His claim to being God • Rhetorical Question. If Jesus wasn't the Son of God, would God allow a man to supernaturally heal another man with God's power while claiming to be God?
9:9-13	<p>Eating with Sinners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew, a Jew, and a Roman tax collector, was considered the worst of all sinners as he was a greedy traitor to his homeland since he extorted taxes from Jews to enrich himself and the conquering Romans • Yet, this was the kind of man Jesus called into service • Yes, Jesus ate and fellowshiped with sinners, but in all likelihood, they were repentant sinners • Consider this. Would Jesus fellowship with someone who was sleeping with their step mom? Paul told the church to kick out such a sinner and break fellowship until he repented..... 1Corinthians 5 • Consider this. We are warned and commanded throughout Scripture to spend as little time as possible and even to avoid unrepentant sinners, lest we become like them or they do harm to the church. In like manner, Jesus would not violate His own word and fellowship with unrepentant sinners, though, He would witness to them where He could. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BUT, Jesus had no problems fellowshiping with repentant sinners and being labeled "A Friend of Tax Collectors and Sinners". ♦ "How blessed is the man...who does not hang around with sinners" (NLT)Psalms 1:1 ♦ "Avoid the path of the wicked, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."Prov 4:14-15 ♦ "We need to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him."Malachi 3:18 ♦ Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?.....2Cor 6:14

Passage	Comments
9:14-17	<p>Fasting and Patching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These 3 analogies or parables don't seem to go together – until its realized Christ is breaking down man's tiresome traditions & instilling better teachings • God's law required only 1 day of fasting each year, the Day of Atonement. But soon there were many more. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Fasting is good until it becomes a sacred cow. • When legalism is established, it often takes the death of one or more traditions or sacred cows (old garment or wineskin) before biblical truth and reason is restored • Statistics show it is easier to start a new church than to rekindle the fire in an old church – Shame on us
9:18-26	<p>Sometimes What has Priority is What is in Front of Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes we have to guard our priorities in life • Other times, new priorities hit us and redirect us, and we must discern if it's God's redirection or a distraction • Jesus was asked to restore the life of a little girl, but a woman with a bleeding disorder slowed Him down by touching the hem of his garment for a much needed healing. Was this a God-ordained appointment? YEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "Your faith has made you well" – Yet, everyone who touched His cloak walked away healed..... Mat 14:36 ♦ What was special about this woman's faith? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider this. By touching Jesus' cloak or "Talith" as she did she believed she was touching God. For more on this Talith, see lesson on Numbers 10-15 • v26. ...and the news spread throughout the land.
9:27-31	<p>Secret Healings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two blind men somehow tracked Jesus down and followed Him into a house where Jesus could deal with them more privately • v29. "It shall be done to you according to your faith" – YET, Jesus healed others without faith and with weak faith, so why did their faith matter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God loves to work with our faith, and for those who are bold to ask for big things, God loves to say "be it done according to your faith" – SO LET'S BE BOLD • vv30-31. Jesus told them to keep this healing to themselves, "but they went out and spread the news" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Did Jesus use "reverse psychology" to extend His reputation? Is this trait part of His noble character?
9:32-34	<p>Casting Out Demons By Satan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pharisees showed their desperation by making this statement to try & discredit Jesus (Beware of men) • But how do you tell when someone has a medical condition (e.g., bipolar disorder) vs a demonic issue?
9:35-38	<p>Healing Every Kind of Disease and Illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Jesus take a "minimalist" approach toward miracles and evangelism? He said "pray for more workers" – when He could've just said a word, and it would've been done? "God can raise stones to shout" • Jesus knew He and His miracles would be of a short duration, and His disciples (including us) would need something to greatly help us share the Gospel • That would be Prayer and the power of Human touch



**Lepers ...
I Heal Lepers**

Passage	Comments
10:1-15	<p>Healings Transferred to the Apostles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1, 8. Jesus gave the Apostles the same “authority” They had to cast out demons and heal the sick of anything and everything, anytime and every time, anywhere and everywhere they went. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The faith these men had was nothing to brag about ♦ Even Judas, the Son of Perdition, was able to heal ♦ The power to heal was not in them, but in God • vv5-7. “Do not go to the Gentiles, but to Jews only” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Aren’t we glad this command was for a short period of time and just for the Apostles? Else, even fewer of us would be saved right now. ♦ BUT what makes this passage a short-lived command? There is nothing in the context to suggest otherwise? ♦ Hermeneutically, we have to consider the whole counsel of God, as we do with all passages, including v8 – “Heal the sick, raise the dead” • vv9-11. “Do not acquire silver or gold” – Jesus never meant for His followers to acquire wealth from their ability to heal – but to help people freely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ So why do modern faith healers have private jets and stay in posh homes and hotels when Apostles were told to stay in the homes of local town people? • vv12-15. “If your host is not worthy, take back your blessing” – How is a host not worthy, and how do you take back your blessing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. Worthiness comes about by aligning with God’s will. If someone is antagonistic to the Gospel message, then we might need to avoid casting pearls before swine. See Matthew 7 lesson. ♦ Take Back Your Blessing. We may not be able to request God’s blessings of peace and prosperity on a household, for God often withholds good things from sinners..... Jeremiah 5:25
10:16-23	<p>Be Shrewd as Serpents, Gentle as Doves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. How can we be wise as serpents? Does this permit us to lie, cheat, and steal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jesus once said that the children of this world are wiser than children of light (Luke 16:8), conveying we Christians can be too naïve at times <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We can be too generous, e.g., helping those whom God doesn’t want to be helpedJer 5:25 2. We can be too forgiving allowing the wicked to live amongst us too long.....1Cor 5:1-2 ♦ Consider this. We need to know when to flee and when to fight, when to hide and when to take a stand ♦ Gentle as Doves. Christians are designed to be a vulnerable people with open hearts, homes, and wallets. But there are God-designed limits. Jesus knew when to be silent as a lamb, and when to crack the whip, to call certain people “vipers” and “hypocrites”, and when to escape from the crowds. • vv17-18. What does it mean “Beware of men”? What actions should be taken to protect ourselves? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. Apostle Paul knew when to take a beating, and when to invoke his lawful rights • vv19-23. “Do not worry about how or what to say...” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Since this was written to the Apostles, was this only applicable to them, or will the Spirit of God also give us the right words to say at the right time?

Passage	Comments
10:24-33	<p>Discipleship is Costly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v26. Do Not Fear those who don’t like you • v28. Do Not Fear murderers – But Fear God • v31. Do Not Fear anything • What is God trying to convey to us about what to fear and what not to fear? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Christians have died horribly throughout the years for their faith, yet God says don’t even fear that ♦ In essence, once we perceive whatever happens to us in this short lifetime in these temporal bodies that we will be fully compensated for, we can live in full confidence and boldness
10:34-39	<p>Jesus Did Not Come to Bring Peace, but WAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the Prince of Peace be the King of War? • Jesus did nothing to incite warfare. In fact, He avoided crowds who looked to make Him King John 6:15 • Jesus knew His 1st coming would cause division. One part of society who oppose Him would set themselves against those who believe in Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Battle of the Ages → Creatures with Free Will can choose other avenues besides God’s path ...BUT all other avenues lead only to Hell
10:40-42	<p>Rewards for Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is a rewarder of those who seek HimHeb 11:6 • He rewards even the smallest effort to obey and serve • When you obey the speed limit, when you support a missionary, when you pray for someone → Rewards

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- There is a lot of wisdom packed tightly in these 2 chapters. Jesus proclaimed and substantiated His deity for us; He is eager to forgive and to hang around us; He wants to free us from our old and tiresome traditions; He asks us to be shrewd yet gentle in our dealings with all kinds of people; and He promises to reward us for the simplest of obedience, including praying for more harvesters
- We can’t lose in this deal. But there is a cost to being His disciple.
- The work may be hard, long, with little gratitude – but the rewards are eternal

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 11. Jesus continued teaching and preaching and working most of his healings & miracles in unrepentant towns

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Thanks to Shane Blanchard (See 2Thessalonians 3:10) 08-05-2002

**Don’t heal me...I’ve got great disability.
If you heal me I’ll have to go back to work.**