

WEEK 22, 2025

Bible Reading

	Event	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
1	Miracle 9 – Leper Cleansed	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-15	
2	He went into the wilderness to pray			5:16	
3	Miracle 10 – The Sick of Palsy is Healed	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-25	
4	The Calling of Matthew – Eating with Sinners	9:9-13	2:13-17	5:27-32	
5	Disciples Fast Not – Jesus Teaches About Fasting	9:14-17	2:18-22	5:33-35	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Many leprous people were healed in Jesus' ministry. Describe the sickness called leprosy and the law that governs it.

Answer

- Leprosy is a plague, a white-reddish sore that appears in the skin of the flesh and spreads in the skin over time. Simply put, leprosy is a skin disease. (Leviticus 13:3-8,43)
- In the Law of Moses, a Leprous man is regarded as ceremonially unclean, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean, and send him out of the camp (or city). That means, a leprous man will be isolated, not being allowed to dwell in the city, among the people, until he is healed.

2. Mention three cases of Leprosy in the Old Testament, and two cases in the New.

Answer

Old Testament (Mention any three)

1. **Mariam.** (She spoke against Moses in Numbers 12:1-16, and God struck her with leprosy)
2. **Naaman, the Syrian.** (A non-Israelite who got healed by the God of Israel through God's servant, Elisha. 2 Kings 5:1-27)
3. **Gehazi.** (Elisha's servant who inherited the leprosy of Naaman due to his covetousness and love of material things. 2 Kings 5:27).
4. **King Uzziah.** (The King that God struck with leprosy due to his pride and dishonour of the Priest's office. He burned incense on the temple's altar of incense. 2 Chronicles 26:16-21)
5. **The Four Lepers.** (During the time of Jehoram (Joram), son of Ahab, when Ben-hadad, the king of Syria warred against Israel. Elisha gave a word, that by this time tomorrow, the terrible famine will turn to abundance. God used these four lepers in fulfilling that prophecy. 2 Kings 7:3-10)

New Testament (Mention any two)

1. **Jesus healed a man, full of leprosy.** (Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)
 2. **Jesus healed Ten Leprous men; 9 Jews, 1 Samaritan.** (Luke 17:11-19)
 3. **A man named Simon the Leper. Jesus visited his house and dined with him.** (Matthew 26:6; Mark 14:3)
3. Describe the story of the man Jesus healed of leprosy in Matthew 8:1-4; (same as Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16). And after the healing, who did Jesus ask the man to show himself to, and why?

Answer

When Jesus came down from the mountain on which he preached the sermon on the mount, a leper came to him and worshiped him.

This leper said to him, Lord, if you will, you can make me clean. And the Lord put forth his hand, touched the man, and said unto him, "I will, be clean". Immediately, this man, whose body was full of leprosy, became instantly healed (cleansed).

Jesus gave this man these instructions :-

- i. Tell no man
- ii. Go thy way and show yourself to the priest.
- iii. Offer the gift Moses commanded (as written in Leviticus 14:3-4)

Jesus sent him to the priest because every leprosy man healed in Israel must be examined by the priest for confirmation of his healing. It is after then that he would be permitted to live among the people.

4. **Luke 5:16** “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed”.
From whom did Jesus withdraw himself, and what can we learn from it, both for ministry, work and career.

Answer

Reading the preceding verse, the bible says great multitudes came to hear him and be healed by him of their infirmities.

Then, the Bible says, he withdrew himself. Meaning that, he withdrew himself from the great multitudes who came to him.

What we can learn is that, as ministers of God, we must not be so engulfed into ministry that we no longer have time for a personal and private time with God in prayer and fellowship. Ministry must not be our excuse for failing to observe our quiet-time and personal devotion. We must not allow our attendance to the crowd affect our attendance to God. We must be deliberate about withdrawing ourselves, going on vacation, both to rest and also commune with God.

This is not only for ministry, but also in our work and career. We must not allow ourselves to be entangled with work and career to the point that we no longer have time for God. We must be deliberate about withdrawing ourselves from the busy life of work to seek God.

5. In **Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12** and **Luke 5:17-26**, Jesus healed a man that was sick of palsy (i.e. paralysed). What was the cause of his paralysis, and how did Jesus heal him?

Answer

The man's paralysis was caused by his sins. And this was the reason why, in healing him, Jesus began by saying “Son, be of good cheer; **thy sins be forgiven thee**”. After declaring him free from his sin, Jesus said unto him,

Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. Immediately, the man arose, took his bed, and went to his house, glorifying God.

6. **Matthew 9:2** “And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and **Jesus seeing their faith** said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”

Matthew said Jesus saw their faith. That means, although faith is internal, it happens in the heart of a man, yet faith can be seen externally. How did Jesus see their faith, and how can we see the faith of people?

Answer

Jesus saw their faith by their works (i.e. what they did, their action)

Other gospel writers, Luke and Mark, gave the background of this story. The four men that brought the paralyzed man were determined to see Jesus at all costs. For they believed in their heart, that if they can bring this man before Jesus, the man would be healed. And although the multitude made it nearly impossible, yet, they went to the extreme, climbing the rooftop, breaking the roof, and letting down the man into Jesus' presence.

These men exercised their faith in the healing power of Jesus, and demonstrated it through their action. Indeed, a man who has faith, we will see it through his action. For faith without works is dead.

7. In the story of the paralyzed man that was healed in **Matthew 9**, **Mark 2**, and **Luke 5**. State two things that Jesus did that showcased his deity (being God).

Answer

- i. Only God has the power to forgive sins. None of the prophets of God had this power. Yet, Jesus, demonstrating that he was more

than a prophet, and that he was indeed God, and that he had the power to forgive sins, said to the man, “your sins are forgiven you”.

- ii. And, to give a proof that, indeed, the man’s sins were forgiven, he declared the man free from his sickness (which was caused by his sins), and instantly, he was healed.

8. **Luke 5:27 (KJV)** “And after these things he went forth, and saw a **publican**, named **Levi**, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. 28. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.”

- i. What is the more popular name for the man called Levi in the scripture above? (1 mark)
- ii. Levi was called **a publican**. Who is a publican? (1 mark)
- iii. State two reasons why the Jews considered publicans as sinners? (3marks)

Answer

- i. The more popular name for Levi was **Matthew**. (The same Matthew that wrote the book of Matthew).
- ii. A publican is a tax collector.
- iii. The Jews considered publicans as sinners because :-
 - they were considered as traitors of the Jews. These tax collectors were Jews, yet, they worked for the enemy and oppressor of the Jews (i.e. the Romans). They were Jews employed by the Romans to collect taxes from their fellow Jews.
 - Many of the tax collectors were corrupt. The Romans would give them a tax target, but they would add their own money on top, thereby putting more burden upon the people to make wealth for themselves. (This was why John said to them, **Luke 3:12-13**

(NLT), “Even **corrupt tax collectors** came to be baptized and asked, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He replied, ‘**Collect no more taxes than the government requires**’”. That means they were known for collecting more than the government requires. Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector that later got saved, became rich from such corruption).

9. **Mark 2:16** “And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?”

In the Jewish custom, what was the big deal in eating and drinking with sinners, and what was Jesus’ response to those scribes and Pharisees?

Answer

In the Jewish custom, their worship of God was not limited to praying, studying the bible, or singing. Even eating and drinking were parts of worship. As part of their worship, there were food that other nations can eat, which were forbidden for the Jews. This restriction was not just on food, but also the kinds of people they can eat with.

In Jewish custom, eating and drinking with someone are not casual, but a symbol of fellowship. A religious Jew will therefore not sit on the same table, to eat and drink, with someone that is a sinner. And to a religious Jew, a person is a sinner if :-

- i. He is a gentile (i.e. non-Jewish). **This explains why the Jewish apostles contended with Peter when he visited Cornelius and ate with him (Acts 11:1-3).**
- ii. He is a sinful Jew, like the tax collectors.

So, when Jesus was eating with the tax collectors and other sinners, the religious Jews (Pharisees and scribes) raised eyebrow against him,

saying, if Jesus was truly religious and holy, why will he pollute himself by eating with those sinners?

Jesus responded by saying “They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”.

10. In Matthew 9:13-15, when the disciples of John asked Jesus was asked why his disciples didn’t fast. He replied “Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.”

His response was related to Jewish weddings.

- In that response, who were the children of the bridechamber?
- What does the word “mourn” signify?
- Who was the bridegroom.
- And how was the bridegroom taken away from them?

Answer

- The children of the bridechamber were the disciples of Jesus.
- The word “mourn” means fast. Because, scripturally, fasting is regarded as mourning.
- The bridegroom was Jesus Christ himself. He is the groom of the bride (which is the church).
- The bridegroom (Jesus Christ) was taken away from them, first by his death, then later by his ascension.