

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

Q1. "Jesus came "home"; to what does "home" refer?

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³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.

Q2. "Some men came": what do you think is their relationship to the paralytic?

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⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

 NOTE: Construction of the typical house is thought to consist of stone walls, with fairly flat roofs made of mud and straw and some sticks and logs. There was generally an outside stairway leading to the roof.

Q3. What did these men do to a house that was not their own?

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Q4. What does this say about their belief in Jesus?

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Q5. Where do you think these friends received their belief?

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⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Q6. Why did Jesus say, "your sins are forgiven"?

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Continued

Day 2

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⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Leviticus 24:15-16 Say to the Israelites: `If anyone curses his God, he will be held responsible; ¹⁶ anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.'

Q7. From a religious leader's viewpoint was Jesus' words disturbing?

Q8. Was Jesus implying that He was equal to God?

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?"

Q9. Imagine sitting there and then suddenly being confronted by this man, with the very concerns you hadn't voiced, but were merely thinking about! If it had been you, do you think that you would have recognized Jesus' divinity?

⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?

Q10. Why didn't Jesus just heal the paralytic? Why did He begin with "Your sins are forgiven."?

¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

Daniel 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Q11. What does "Son of Man" mean to you?

Continued

¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Q12. How could anyone doubt Jesus after this?

Day 3

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The Calling of Levi

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

Q13. What did people think of tax collectors?

Q14. Were tax collectors poor? Or wealthy?

Q15. Did Levi appear to hesitate before he obeyed Jesus?

Q16. Do we today hesitate to obey Jesus?

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

Q17. Do you think the people were happy to have a Teacher of the Law (Jesus) partying with them?

Continued

Q18. How do you think these people (" 'sinners' and tax collectors") reacted to Jesus?

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Q19. What does "righteous" mean?

Q20. Are we "sinners"?

Q21. Jesus said He came to "call the... sinners"; did Jesus come to call us, too?

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

Q22. What is "fasting"?

Q23. Does fasting seem important in the Bible?

 The ancient practice of fasting had a rich heritage in Judaism. The Day of Atonement was celebrated with a fast (Leviticus 16:29, 31). A four-day fast commemorated the fall of Jerusalem (Zechariah 7.3, 5; 8.19). Fasts could be acts of penitence (1 Kings 21.27; Joel 1.14; Isaiah 58.1-9) or could be associated with mourning (Esther 4.3). Pharisees fasted twice a week, on Monday and Thursday (8.12; *Didache* 8.1; Behm 1967a.924-35). Fasts are serious expressions of worship. [Quoted from InterVarsity Press New Testament Commentaries, © Copyright 1995-2005 Gospel Communications International; *Didache* (did-a-key), Διδαχή, or the *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*, is an early Christian text and may be found at this link: <https://legacyicons.com/content/didache.pdf>]

Continued

Q24. Why were “some people” concerned whether Jesus’ disciples fasted?

¹⁹ Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.

Q25. Jesus referred to Himself as “the bridegroom”. Do you see a connection between penitence (or mourning) AND the joy and gaiety surrounding a wedding celebration? (Hint: Jesus didn’t either.)

Q26. What did Jesus mean, when He called Himself the “bridegroom”?

Q27. Do you think this word picture of Jesus the bridegroom was used in the Old Testament to describe the Messiah?

Q28. Since this is a new description of the Messiah, could this signal the beginning of a new covenant (a binding promise) between God and mankind?

²⁰ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

Q29. What event does the phrase “bridegroom will be taken from them” represent?

Q30. Why will followers of Jesus then begin to fast?

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Day 5

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²¹ "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

Q31. What would happen if a tailor sewed a new (unshrunk) cloth over a tear in an old garment?

Q32. If Jesus is talking about a new covenant, to whom might the new cloth refer? And what might the old garment represent?

²² And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."

Q33. If Jesus is talking about a new covenant, to whom might the new wine refer? And what might the old wineskin (or bottles) represent?

Day 6

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Lord of the Sabbath

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

Q34. Were the religious leaders closely watching Jesus? If so, why?

Q35. What was the religious reason for declaring that picking some heads of grain was unlawful?

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Continued

²⁵ He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?"

²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

Q36. Who was David in Jewish history?

Q37. What point was Jesus making to the religious leaders?

1 Samuel 21:6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Q38. What are Jews supposed to do on the Sabbath?

Q39. On the bottom of the previous page is the "Sabbath" Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11). Are we to keep the Sabbath holy? If yes, how?

Q40. Who is the "Son of Man"?

Q41. What did the "Son of Man" mean when He said He "is Lord even of the Sabbath"?

Psalms 80:17 Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

Ezekiel 2:3-7 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' ⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen for they are a rebellious house - they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶ And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. ⁷ You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

Daniel 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

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