

Day 1

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

*A Prophet Without Honor*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

Q1. Where was Jesus' hometown?

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Q2. Why would Jesus want to speak at a synagogue?

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Q3. Did the Jews invite anyone to speak at the synagogue?

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Q4. Why do you think the people were "amazed" at His teaching?

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<sup>3</sup> "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

 Note: the people recognized His wisdom and His miracles.

Q5. What did He say that provoked them so?

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<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

 Note: In Mark 5 we studied the woman who suffered from bleeding for 12-years. Jesus strongly encouraged her to reveal herself to Him and to the entire crowd. What was Jesus' parting blessing? From Mark 5:34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Q6. Is Jesus teaching us that we must have faith?

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**Continued**

Q7. Why is “faith” important?

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**Luke 4:14-30**

*Jesus Rejected at Nazareth*

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to release the oppressed,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [Isaiah 61:1-2]

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup> and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' "

<sup>24</sup> "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed -- only Naaman the Syrian."

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

**Day 2**

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

***Jesus Sends Out the Twelve***

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

Q8. Why would He send them out two-by-two?

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Q9. What was Jesus' objective in sending out His disciples?

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**Continued**

<sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff -- no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra tunic.

Q10. Had you received similar instructions, no food or toiletries or change of clothes, would you have accepted the challenge?

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Q11. Why do you think Jesus wanted them to travel "light"?

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<sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

Q12. Did "shake the dust off your feet" have a significant meaning 2,000 years ago?

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<sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

 Note: all of a sudden, instead of one person (Jesus) performing miracles and teaching repentance, the region had six teams.

 Mark 6:30 [completes this teaching on this, the disciples' first missionary journey] The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

Q13. What do you think the disciples learned from their travels?

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Continued

### Day 3

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

#### *John the Baptist Beheaded*

 Note: Herod was tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. Tetrarch is precisely defined as the ruler over the fourth part of a province; but tetrarch herein denotes a ruler of a province generally. Herod Antipas was also referred to as "king".

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

Q14. Did Herod have some knowledge of the Jewish religion?

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#### **Malachi 4:1-6**

##### *The Day of the LORD*

<sup>1</sup> "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. <sup>2</sup> But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. <sup>3</sup> Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup> "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Q15. Many people throughout the ages have refused to believe Jesus' claim as the Son of God. Herod heard about Jesus, yet he made excuses as to whom Jesus was. Why?

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 Note: Some people think that if they can name what He is – prophet, teacher, good man – they can weaken His claim on their lives. However, what they think does not change who He **is**.

 Note: verse 15: "like one of the prophets from long ago" could refer to one of the teaching prophets like Moses, Isaiah, or Jeremiah.

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.

Q16. What does this tell you about Herod?

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Q17. Do you think that Herodias had any say in who her husband was?

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**Continued**

<sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Q18. Do we like to keep our sins private, in the dark?

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Q19. Do you think that, as John was in the desert preaching his message of repentance and baptism, he was using Herod and Herodias as real-life examples of sin?

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Q20. We have this example of John the Baptist confronting King Herod. How should we confront sin in our society?

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<sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,

Q21. Why was Herodias so incensed against John?

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<sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

Q22. We can only speculate, what kind of dancing did Herod encourage his stepdaughter to perform and what kind of father would encourage it?

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<sup>23</sup> The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

 Note: Since he didn't "own" his kingdom (Caesar did), he couldn't really give away any part of his province. What he meant by this statement was "You were great! I'll give you most anything you want within reason!"

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"  
"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

Q23. Was life valued?

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**Continued**

Q24. Do people today treat life so lightly? Any examples?

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<sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.

Q25. How should Herod the father have reacted? (He missed a parental "teaching moment".)

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Q26. What human emotions clouded Herod's judgment?

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<sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother (Herodias).

Q27. What did Herodias feel?

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<sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Q28. What did John's disciples feel?

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Q29. Do you think they were angry at the Lord?

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Q30. What do you think Jesus felt losing his relative and the person who "Prepare[d] the way of the Lord"?

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### John 3:26-36

<sup>26</sup> [John's disciples] came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan -- the one you testified about -- well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

<sup>27</sup> To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater; I must become less.

<sup>31</sup> "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup> The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. <sup>34</sup> For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

## Day 4

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

### *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

 Note: "Apostle means 'one sent' as a messenger, authorized agent, or missionary. The word became the official title for Jesus' twelve disciples after His death and resurrection." (Life Application Study Bible by Tyndale Publishing)

Q31. Where had the disciples been? (See Mark 6.7-12)

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<sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

 Note: The Lord showed His compassion for His weary disciples.

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

Q32. The "solitary place" must have been a pretty inconvenient location. Why did the people want to be with Jesus and His disciples?

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<sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Q33. Did Jesus react with a typical human emotion?

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**Continued**

Q34. What does “sheep without a shepherd” mean to you?

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Q35. What “things” did He teach the crowd?

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<sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

Q36. Do you think the disciples were surprised by Jesus' response to the dilemma?

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 Note: In today's dollars, if an average person earns \$30,000 per year the cost to feed the crowd was \$20,000.

Q37. Do you think that there would even be enough food in the surrounding countryside to feed the mass of people? Who prepared bread for the typical family?

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**Day 5**

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

<sup>38</sup> "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five -- and two fish."

Q38. The disciples were undoubtedly weary from their respective journeys. Do you think the disciples were overwhelmed at the thought of “How do we feed this big crowd with this small amount of food?”

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Q39. Had the disciples seen enough of Jesus' miracles, so that they knew in their hearts that Jesus could (and would) provide? Or were there lingering doubts?

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**Continued**

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

Q40. When do you think the disciples realized that there would be enough food for all?

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Q41. If you had been in the crowd watching and listening to this remarkable teacher, what would have been your reaction on being fed?

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Q42. Why did the Lord give thanks (“looking up to heaven, he gave thanks”)?

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Q43. Something to think about: do you give thanks for the food you eat in the privacy of your own home? How about when you are in a restaurant? Or when you have people over to your house?

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<sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

Q44. Why did the Lord ask the disciples to pick-up the leftovers?

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Q45. When the Lord blesses us with something, are we ever awed by His abundance? Does anyone have any examples?

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<sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Q46. Did this number include women and children?

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**Continued**

**Day 6**

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

***Jesus Walks on the Water***

<sup>45</sup> Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

Q47. Why did He tell His disciples to leave Him alone with the crowd?

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<sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Q48. Jesus is the Son of God and He prayed. Why was it important to Him to pray?

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Q49. Is praying important for us, too? Why?

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<sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and He was alone on land. <sup>48a</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.

Q50. Do you think that the disciples could still see Jesus?

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Q51. What can we learn from this?

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<sup>48b</sup> About the fourth watch of the night He went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought He was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw Him and were terrified.

 Note: Old Testament Jews divided the night into three watches, which were used to evenly divide the task of guarding the camp from marauders or animals. When the Romans conquered the Jewish lands, they instituted four watches. In this case the fourth watch would be the last 2-3 hours before sunrise.

Q52. Why did they think Jesus was a ghost?

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**Continued**

Q53. They had seen Jesus perform miracles, why would this be so terrifying?

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<sup>51</sup> Immediately He spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed,

Q54. Verse 51: What two miracles just occurred?

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<sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Q55. What does "their hearts were hardened" mean?

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Q56. "Their hearts were hardened": why do you think this happened?

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<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever He went -- into villages, towns, or countryside -- they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of His cloak, and all who touched Him were healed.

Q57. Do you think the disciples and Jesus were tired?

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Q58. Was Jesus happy, sad, over-whelmed, overjoyed, or angry?

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Q59. If you had been in the crowd at the time, do you think you would have been listening to Jesus' words and acting upon them? (An attitude of gratitude.) Or would you have been thinking, "What can He give me today?" (A spiritual vending machine.)

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