

Living with Jesus

First Church of Squantum • Rev. Doug Gray
Monday Night Bible Study • January 23, 2017

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 9 and Luke 5

I. Welcome, Introductions and Prayer

Teaser: If you were in a jam at 3 a.m, which four friends would you call?

II. Overview of Living with Jesus

- What would it have been like to “hang out” with Jesus? What were the things that were important to him?
- Fly-over of Jesus’ life and teachings

III. Things to Keep in Mind for Tonight

A. Matthew

1. Written ca 75 AD (2nd or 3rd)
2. Uses the same outline as Mark
3. Written for a Jewish audience
4. Watch for ties back to the Old Testament

B. Luke

1. Written ca 75 AD (2nd or 3rd)
2. Uses the same outline as Mark
3. Written for a non-Jewish audience
4. Watch for “doubling up” on the main points.

IV. A Few Notes on Matthew 9

- 1 *own town.* Capernaum is meant here, not Nazareth which is up on the hills.
- 2 *their faith.* Jesus acts not on the paralyzed man’s faith, but that of his friends.
- 3 *blaspheming.* The word for “disrespecting” God, or putting yourself in God’s place. According to Jewish law, blasphemy was a stoning offense, literally throwing head-sized rocks designed to kill you.
- 4–8 Forgiveness and healing were both thought to be things only God could do.
- 9 Tax collectors were pretty prosperous people. They collected the Roman taxes, but could keep any additional “taxes” people paid as a “commission.” Jews who did this were about as popular as Jews who collaborated with the Nazis.
- 10–11 How do the Pharisees know who Jesus is partying with? In the relatively warm, dry climate of Palestine, in Jesus’ day most dinner parties were held in a courtyard open on one side to the street. People could see who was attending just by walking by, or even stop by for a chat. Plus, it’s a small town. Everybody knows!

- 13 "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6. Read Hosea 6:1–6. Speaking through Hosea, God makes it clear that keeping all the rules is not as important as loving. In Hosea, the word *mercy*, is the Hebrew word, *hesed*, and it is mercy, but also steadfast love or sacrificial love.
- 14–17 Fasting is the spiritual discipline, where for a time a person may forego certain kinds of food or all food or even all food and drink. The thought is that it reminds us that God is more important than what we need to consume, and those who do it report a great clarity of mind. Fasting in Jesus' day was a sign of taking God seriously.

V. A Few Notes on Luke 5

- 2 *washing their nets*. Every day, after bringing in the catch, you had to wash the nets to get the junk out
- 3 *Simon*. Fairly well-to-do fisherman, who owned more than one boat with his brother, Andrew, and their partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

Conclusions

The Forgiveness: More important than physical healing and necessary to be whole. Is there a place where you need forgiveness from God or someone else? Is there a place in your life where giving forgiveness would allow you to "take up your mat and walk"?

The Celebration: Where is the party and who gets to come? What does that tell us about the love of God? What should our parties be like?

The Big Catch: Are we staying too close to shore to get the big catches in our lives? What is the deep water Jesus might be calling us to put out into? What would happen if we experienced that kind of catch in our lives? What would we do?

Steadfast, Sacrificial Love: What is it? How do we recognize it? Is it the hallmark of our lives? How does it connect up with the other themes we have identified so far?

Schedule for "Living with Jesus" Bible Study

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
1/30	Jesus feeds 5,000	Mark 6:30–44
2/6	Communion: Peter's Confession	Matthew 16:13–28