
JESUS RETURNS TO CAPERNAUM (Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8)

Jesus again entered into Capernaum, after His tour of Galilee. Immediately the word spread, and the people crowded in upon Him, so much that no one could get through the door. But this didn't stop four men who devised a plan to get their palsied friend to Jesus.

1. In your own words, what was their plan? _____

2. Mark 2:5 - *When Jesus saw their _____, He said unto the sick of the palsy, _____, _____.*

3. What were the scribes reactions? (Mark 2:6-7)

4. Discerning their thoughts, immediately, Jesus challenged them. What did He ask them? (Mark 2:8,9) _____

He then tied healing and forgiveness of sins together, and said that His healing power should be accepted as authority for His forgiving power (Mark 2:9,10). Then He spoke healing to the man (Mark 2:11).

5. What did the man do? (Mark 2:12) _____

JESUS CALLS MATTHEW (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:13-15; Luke 5:27-29)

The Jews did not think kindly of tax collectors. When Jesus passed by the receipt of custom, He saw Matthew, also called Levi, sitting there.

1. What did Jesus say to him? (Matthew 9:9)

2. How did Matthew respond? (Matthew 9:9) _____

JESUS EATS WITH SINNERS (Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:29-32; Matthew 9:10-13)

Matthew followed Jesus and invited Him, His disciples, others who were sinners, and tax collectors to a feast in his home. This feast was to honor Christ whom he was now to follow; it was also to announce His conversion to Christ, and his leaving his old life, profession, and circle of friends. Many scribes and Pharisees saw Jesus eating with sinners, for they followed Him to Matthew's house (Mark 2:15,16).

1. In Mark 2:16, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples a question.

(a) What was it? _____

(b) What was Jesus' answer? (Mark 2:17) _____

This was a welcome announcement to those of

low estate. This was also a rebuke to His critics. He told them to go and learn the true meaning of Hosea's declaration, *I will have mercy, and not sacrifice*. (Hosea 6:6) (Matthew 9:13).

THE QUESTION ABOUT FASTING (Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39)

1. Who asked this question, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but Thy disciples fast not? (Matthew 9:14) _____

John's disciples felt either they and the Pharisees were wrong, or Jesus and His disciples were wrong (because they had no such practice).

2. Explain in your own words the answer Jesus gave them in Matthew 9:15. _____

Then Jesus spake a double parable to them explaining His point about fasting (Luke 5:36-39).

The old custom of the Jews regarding their attitude toward publicans and sinners, for instance, as well as their rigged custom of fasting was now old and should be discarded. (But when the Bridegroom would be taken away, then they would fast [Luke 5:35].) The new wine of the Kingdom which Jesus brought had life and flexibility in it and deserved new bottles. He was saying, "Don't try to force Me and My teaching into your old hardened traditional ways for there is inevitable (unavoidable) conflict between the two."