

The Gospel of Matthew

Booklet 12 – Three Lessons

Lesson 29 - Matthew 10:1-15

Lesson 30 - Matthew 10:16-25

Lesson 31 - Matthew 10:26-42

*Jesus Chooses His
Disciples*

The 12

International ESL/Bible Lessons
Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series. Other content comes from Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Choosing the Disciples and Sending them Out.

Material for this section is from William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew: The Daily Study Bible Series*. The Westminster Press. Philadelphia. 1975. Matthew's Gospel is carefully designed.

Section One includes The Genealogy of Jesus, The Birth Story, The John the Baptist Sequences, Baptism and Temptation of Jesus.

Section Two, from Chapters 5-7 is The Sermon on the Mount, or the Teachings of Jesus. These are gathered into a group from all the time of Jesus's ministry. These are the *words* of Jesus.

Section Three shows the actions or *doings* of Jesus.

Chapter 8 shows the Miracles of Jesus.

Chapter 9 shows the growing opposition to Jesus

Chapter 10 shows the choosing of the Disciples and sending them out

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 29 - Matthew 10: 1-15

¹0 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him / and gave them authority / to drive out impure spirits / and to heal every disease and sickness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: / first, / Simon (who is called Peter) / and his brother Andrew; / James son of Zebedee, / and his brother John; / ³ Philip and Bartholomew; / Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; / James son of Alphaeus, / and Thaddaeus; / ⁴ Simon the Zealot / and Judas Iscariot, / who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve / Jesus sent out with the following instructions: / “Do not go among the Gentiles / or enter any town of the Samaritans. /

⁶ Go rather / to the lost sheep of Israel. / ⁷ As you go, / proclaim this message: / “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” / ⁸ Heal the sick, / raise the dead, / cleanse those who have leprosy, / drive out demons. / Freely you have received; / freely give.

⁹ “Do not get any gold / or silver / or copper / to take with you in your belts— / ¹⁰ no bag for the journey / or extra shirt / or sandals or a staff, / for the worker is worth his keep. / ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, / search there for some worthy person / and stay

at their house / until you leave. / ¹² As you enter the home, / give it your greeting. / ¹³ If the home is deserving, / let your peace rest on it; / if it is not, / let your peace return to you. / ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you / or listen to your words, / leave that home / or town / and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, / it will be more bearable / for Sodom and Gomorrah / on the day of judgment / than for that town.

Vocabulary

1. Authority: A person or thing made unable to move.
2. Impure spirits: Polluted. Contaminated.
3. Bearable: Manageable. Acceptable.

Related Words

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	Authority	To authorize	
Bearable	A Bear (animal)	To Bear	Bearably

The Many Meanings of Bear

As a verb: bear, bore, borne or born.

1. To tolerate. With God you can bear many troubles and be OK.
2. To support something: How much weight can this wall bear.

3. To carry something: He is strong enough to bear the sorrow of her death.
4. To produce something: That vine can bear many grapes. The branch of the apple tree is too weak to bear so many apples. It has broken.
5. To give birth to a child: The child was born yesterday.

Popular Idioms

1. The worker is worth his keep. You deserve your pay or “keep”.
2. Shake the dust off your feet. You are shedding the responsibility of the rejection of the message of God. (Or perhaps any other message you take.)

Questions

1. How did the twelve become disciples?
2. Which of these do you recognize?
3. What kind of authority did Jesus give the disciples?
4. What were they to take with them? How could they survive?

Notes

1. Matthew, Mark and Luke list the disciples.

Matthew [Mt 10:1–4]	Mark [Mk 3:13–19]	Luke
Simon, who is called Peter	Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter)	Simon, whom he named Peter
Andrew, his brother	Andrew	Andrew his brother
James the son of Zebedee	James the son of Zebedee	James
John, his brother	John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges)	John
Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew
Thomas	Thomas	Thomas
Matthew, the tax collector	Matthew	Matthew
James the son of Alphaeus	James the son of Alphaeus	James the son of Alphaeus
<u>Thaddaeus</u>	Thaddaeus	Judas the son of James
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Simon who was called the Zealot
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot

The list in the Gospel of Luke differs from Matthew and Mark at two points. It lists "Judas the son of James" instead of "Thaddeus".

2. Barclay tells us that "Jesus is looking, not so much for extraordinary men, but ordinary men who can do ordinary things really well.
3. The group is quite a mixture of people. Matthew was a tax collector, hated as a collaborator with the conquering Romans.

Simon the Zealot was a patriot and in a group willing to die for his country.

4. Why 12 disciples? We don't really know but it fits with the Old Testament making of the twelve tribes of Israel.
5. Luke 6:13 says that Jesus called the disciples, and he then chose 12 from the group. He learned about and with worked with them, and knew whom to call.
6. The word *disciple* means *learner*. The people that Jesus wants need to be willing to learn for the closed mind is unteachable.
7. The disciples were chosen to be with Jesus for the next 3 years.
8. The orders or instructions are given in verses 5-8. Barclay tells us the word used in the scripture is the Greek word *paragellein*. It has 4 meanings: a. The regular word of military command; b. Word used for calling friends to help; c. The word used for a teacher giving rules to a student; The word used for an imperial or king's command.
9. The division of Jew and Samaritan seems strange here. We know Jesus went to Samaria and met a woman there. So here, it is probably a rule or order for this particular time. Perhaps, too, the disciples were not yet well enough trained to work with the Samaritans or the Gentiles, but later Jesus and the disciples did work with both.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 30 - Matthew 10: 16- 25

¹⁶ “I am sending you out / like sheep among wolves. / Therefore / be as shrewd as snakes / and as innocent as doves. / ¹⁷ Be on your guard; / you will be handed over to the local councils / and be flogged in the synagogues. / ¹⁸ On my account / you will be brought before governors / and kings / as witnesses to them / and to the Gentiles. / ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, / do not worry about what to say / or how to say it. / At that time / you will be given what to say, / ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, / but the Spirit of your Father / speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, / and a father his child; / children will rebel against their parents / and have them put to death. / ²² You will be hated by everyone / because of me, / but the one / who stands firm to the end / will be saved. / ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, / flee to another. / Truly I tell you, / you will not finish / going through the towns of Israel / before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, / nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students / to be like their teachers, / and servants like their masters. / If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, / how much more the members of his household!

Vocabulary

1. Shrewd: Astute. Wise. Insightful.

2. To flog: Whip. Beat. Lash. Scourge.
3. To flee: Escape. Fly away. Run away.
4. Beelzebub: Satan. The devil. Evil persons.

Popular Idioms

1. Like a sheep among wolves: The good among the evil. (Can be destroyed you are not also wise and brave.)
2. Be as shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove: Be shrewd and intelligent, yet innocent in dealing with others.

¹⁶ *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. KJV*

Questions

1. What does Jesus tell his disciples to expect on their journey?
2. How can someone be shrewd and also innocent today?
3. What is a good man? Shrewd, honest, diplomatic or what else?
4. Why are authoritarian governments afraid of Christianity or freedom of Religion?

Notes

1. Remember Matthew collects the sayings on a topic and presents them in a unit. In this passage Matthew collects his material from different time and occasions. Yes, Jesus told his men what to expect the first time he sent them out. The temporary immediate injunction against Gentiles and Samaritans is removed as he

speaks of persecution and trials before rulers and kings. This part was spoken after the Resurrection.

2. Jesus was very honest with his disciples. He told them the way would be difficult. After all, a sheep among wolves can simply be ripped apart and eaten. Both the Jews in religious courts and the Romans in their courts of law would persecute them.
3. The Roman government persecuted the Christians for over 300 years. There were many reasons: Only Caesar could be Lord, so all had to pledge to Caesar. Christians pledged only to God. Also, slavery was very common. Barclay tells us there were 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire in the days of early Christianity. Yet the church said all were equal and inside the church they were treated equally. This was a direct threat to civil society and could lead to rebellion.
4. In addition, Christians were a threat to economic stability. They did not spend their money on statues or honors to the gods, and they did not buy the meat from the temple sacrifices.
5. "Pliny was governor of Bithynia in the reign of Trajan, and in a letter to the Emperor (*Pliny: Letters 10:96*) he tells how he had taken steps to check the rapid growth of Christianity so that "the temples which had been deserted now begin to be frequented: the sacred festivals, after a long intermission, are revived; while there is a general demand for sacrificial animals, which for some time past have met with few purchasers." (Barclay. P 378.)
6. Verse 23 tells the Christian to flee. It does not mean to be a coward, but to run to safety to continue to live for God. Sometimes there is more heroism in daring to fly from danger

than in stopping to meet it. That can be real wisdom. Trying to find a reason and dying a foolish death does not do anyone any good.

7. The kingdom of God did spread, and this is often misinterpreted that Jesus would return before all people listening would die. Mark tells us that there were some listening to Jesus who would not die until they saw the Kingdom of God coming with power. That is the Christian church and faith. Many saw that happen in the coming years, even before the Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 72.
8. The CIA's World Factbook gives the world population as 7,021,836,029 (July 2012 est.) and the distribution of religions as (2010 estimate):
 - Christian 31.59% (Roman Catholic 18.85%, Protestant 8.15%, Orthodox 4.96%, Anglican 1.26%),
 - Muslim 23.2%,
 - Hindu 15.0%,
 - Buddhist 7.1%,
 - Sikh 0.35%,
 - Jewish 0.2%,
 - Baha'i 0.11%,
 - other religions 10.95%,
 - non-religious 9.66%,
 - atheists 2.01%.

[\[1\] Wikipedia](#)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 31 - Matthew 10: 26-42

²⁶ “So **do not be afraid** of them, / for there is nothing concealed / that will not be disclosed, / or hidden that will not be made known. /

²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, / speak in the daylight; / what is whispered in your ear, / proclaim from the roofs. / ²⁸ **Do not be afraid** of those / who kill the body / but cannot kill the soul. / Rather, / be afraid of the One / who can destroy both soul and body in hell. / ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? / Yet / not one of them will fall to the ground / outside your Father’s care. / ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head / are all numbered. / ³¹ So **don’t be afraid**; / you are worth more / than many sparrows.

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, / I will also acknowledge / before my Father in heaven. / ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, / I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not suppose / that I have come to bring peace to the earth. / I did not come to bring peace, / but a sword. / ³⁵ For I have come to turn /

“a man against his father, / a daughter against her mother, / a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— /

³⁶ a man’s enemies / will be the members of his own household.’ /

³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me / is not worthy of me; / anyone who loves their son or daughter more than

me / is not worthy of me. / ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross / and follow me / is not worthy of me. / ³⁹ Whoever finds their life / will lose it, / and whoever loses their life / for my sake / will find it.

⁴⁰ “Anyone who welcomes you / welcomes me, / and anyone who welcomes me / welcomes the one who sent me. / ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet / as a prophet / will receive a prophet’s reward, / and whoever welcomes a righteous person / as a righteous person / will receive a righteous person’s reward. / ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water / to one of these little ones / who is my disciple, / truly I tell you, / that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Vocabulary

1. To conceal: To hide. Something not seen.
2. To proclaim: To announce formally.
3. Soul: Spirit. Personality.
4. Sparrow: A small bird.
5. Acknowledge: Greet. Recognize.
6. Disown: Renounce. Disclaim. Deny.

Questions

1. Name two things you are afraid to do.
2. What are the three commandments Jesus gave the disciples as he prepared to send them to heal, teach, and cast out demons?
3. What is the soul of a person?
4. Why do men get so angry about God?
5. Religious wars continue to take place all over the globe. Why?

6. Would you be willing to be a disciple for Jesus?

Notes:

1. Three times in this passage, Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid. These are like commandments to the disciples. The first can be explained in two parts.
 - a. Everything will be known, nothing hidden. The truth will be known. Therefore speak the message of God boldly. Speak “with authority.” The first step is to listen to God. Then study the scripture and know it well, and then, speak and teach with clarity and boldness.
 2. b. “The second commandment is in verse 28. To put it very simply, what Jesus is saying is that no punishment that men can ever lay upon a man can compare with the ultimate fate of one who has been guilty of infidelity and disobedience to God. Man can simply kill the body, but God can condemn the soul to hell or gehenna.
3. Fear of God is a combination of awe, reverence, love and fear. God is powerful. However, we also know and experience the love of God. That love must be accompanied with awe, a mixture of wonder and dread.
4. c. The third commandment not to fear is in verse 31, and it is based on the certainty of the detailed care of God. Sparrows were the example. In the time of Jesus, two sparrows were sold for a

penny. If you wanted to spend two pennies, you got five sparrows, not four, for the fifth was thrown in for free. So sparrows, little birds, were essentially worthless. But God cares and know even about the sparrow.

5. “The courage of the King’s messenger is founded on the conviction that, whatever happens, he cannot drift beyond the love of God. He knows that his times are for ever in God’s hands; that God will not leave him or forsake him; that he is surrounded for ever by God’s care. If that is so — of whom then, shall we be afraid?
6. We can deny God through our words, our silence, and our actions. We need to live our faith.
7. In the passage of v. 34-39. Jesus was using the language that the Jews knew in their own time. The Jews knew that these were the features of the *Day of the Lord*, when God would break into history. People would be divided and would fight. Families would turn on each other. So, Jesus is being honest with his disciples. It can be hard to be a follower of Jesus.
8. Jesus, in verses 40-42, speaks of the reception of his followers. If a person welcomes a stranger, it is like welcoming Jesus. We should honor the representatives of God.