



# ***THE NEW TESTAMENT***

## **THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY**



Year 1 – Quarter 1  
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## LESSON 1

# THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Luke 1

**INTRODUCTION.** Before the world was created God purposed to send his Son into the world to save mankind from their sins. The Bible, though written over a period of some 1500 years, is an organized and complete unit, revealing the mind of God and his eternal purpose to save man from his sins.

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...” (Rom. 15:4). The Old Testament scriptures were written for our learning. From the first prophecy of Christ in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15) to the close of the Old Testament, God's plan unfolds, revealing the lineage of Christ through the seed of woman, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the tribe of Judah, and the family of David.

The New Testament begins with the birth, ministry, death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God—the fulfillment of the *spiritual* promise to Abraham, “...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). The New Testament then continues with the establishment of Jesus' church, guidelines and principles for Christian living, and closes with the victory of Christ over Satan.

In the gospel of Luke as the New Testament opens, we are introduced to Zacharias and his wife Elisabeth who were both descendants of Aaron, the first high priest of Israel. They were chosen by God to have a son and to call his name John. The angel Gabriel announced this special event to Zacharias while he was in the temple performing his priestly duties.

John's mission was prophesied in the Old Testament. Both Isaiah and Malachi prophesied of a messenger who would prepare the people for the coming of God's Son. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all affirm that the son of Zacharias and Elisabeth was the one spoken of by the Old Testament prophets.

**A. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZACHARIAS**

1. To whom was the book of Luke written? (Luke 1:1-4)
2. Who was Zacharias? Describe his character. (Luke 1:5-7)
3. Who was his wife? Describe her character. (Luke 1:5-7)
4. What priestly duty was Zacharias performing? (Luke 1:8-9)
5. What was the multitude doing at this time? (Luke 1:10)
6. Who appeared to Zacharias in the temple, and what was Zacharias' reaction? (Luke 1:11-12)
7. What message did the angel have for Zacharias? (Luke 1:13-14)
8. What special characteristics was John to have? (Luke 1:15)
9. What was John's mission to be and to what Old Testament prophet was he compared? (Luke 1:16-17)
10. What question did Zacharias ask? (Luke 1:18)
11. What was the angel's name? (Luke 1:19)

12. What sign was given to Zacharias that he would know the angel was sent by God and spoke the truth? (Luke 1:20)
13. What did the people perceive when Zacharias came out of the temple? (Luke 1:21-23)
14. What occurred as the result of the angel's visit? (Luke 1:24-25)

## **B. THE BIRTH OF JOHN**

1. What unusual event occurred when Elisabeth was visited by Mary? (Luke 1:39-42)
2. Those who came to circumcise the son of Zacharias and Elisabeth wanted to call him by what name? (Luke 1:57-59)
3. Elisabeth said her son should be called by what name? (Luke 1:60)
4. When the people made signs to Zacharias what did he do? (Luke 1:61-63)
5. What was Zacharias able to do then? (Luke 1:64)
6. Describe the reaction of the people. (Luke 1:65-66)
7. Zacharias prophesied when what occurred? (Luke 1:67)

**C. THE PROPHECY OF ZACHARIAS.** About 400 years had elapsed from the prophecy of Malachi at the close of the Old Testament to the birth of John at the beginning of the New Testament. During this time the spirit of prophecy had been silent. Now, as Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, the spirit of prophecy returned, making this an exciting occasion for the people of God.

1. Zacharias begins with a hymn of thanksgiving, blessing God for the salvation that is come in fulfillment of his promises (Luke 1:68-75).

a. God has raised this "horn of salvation" from whose house? (Luke 1:69)

b. God has remembered his holy covenant, the oath He swore to

\_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 1:72-73)

*Note.* The holy covenant, sealed by God with an oath to Abraham, was God's gift to Abraham. "By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord...in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..." (Gen. 22:15-18).

2. Zacharias continues his prophecy and speaks concerning his son John and his mission as the forerunner of Jesus, the Messiah (Luke 1:76-79).

a. the child shall be called prophet of the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 76)

b. he shall go before the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 76)

c. he shall give knowledge of salvation to his people regarding

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 77)

d. remission of sins is possible because of the tender \_\_\_\_\_ of God (vs. 78)

e. because of God's mercy the dayspring shall visit us and give light or

shine on those who are in \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 78-79)

*Note.* Dayspring means a rising, such as the sun in the morning. Just as the dawn of a new day brings light, so the coming of Christ will bring light into the world.

f. this light will guide our feet into the way of \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 79)

3. Describe John as he grew. (Luke 1:80)

## LESSON 2

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-21

**INTRODUCTION.** "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal. 4:4). God's plan for the salvation of man continues to unfold as the birth of his Son takes place.

"When the fulness of the time was come"—the time was right. Daniel had prophesied of four world kingdoms in Daniel 2 and 7. In the days of the fourth world kingdom, the God of heaven would "set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed..." (Dan. 2:44). The fourth world kingdom, the Roman Empire, was ruling the world. It was time for God's everlasting kingdom to be revealed.

"God sent forth his Son, made of a woman"—the seed of woman was prophesied in Gen. 3:15. It was time for God to send forth his Son, the Savior, the seed of woman.

### A. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY (Luke 1:26-38)

1. Who was the angel sent by God to Nazareth? (Luke 1:26)
2. Describe Mary. (Luke 1:27)
3. For what miraculous event had Mary been chosen? (Luke 1:30-31)
4. What was the name of Mary's son and what would He be called? (Luke 1:31-32)
5. Whose throne would He receive? (Luke 1:32)

6. Over whose house would He reign, and how long would his kingdom continue? (Luke 1:33)
7. How would this miraculous event be made possible? (Luke 1:34-35)
8. What was Mary's response? (Luke 1:38)

**B. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO JOSEPH** (Matt. 1:18-25)

1. Describe Joseph. (Matt. 1:18-19)
  2. Who appeared to Joseph and what was the message? (Matt. 1:20)
  3. What should Mary's son be called, and what would He do? (Matt. 1:21)
  4. According to the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet, the child should be called *Immanuel* which means \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matt. 1:22-23)
- Note.* Isaiah prophesied this event more than 700 years earlier (Isa. 7:14).
5. What did Joseph do as the result of the angel's visit? (Matt. 1:24-25)

**C. THE BIRTH OF JESUS** (Luke 2:1-20)

1. What decree did Caesar Augustus make? (Luke 2:1)
2. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem? (Luke 2:4-5)



3. When the child was born, how was He clothed and where was He laid? (Luke 2:6-7)
4. Why were Mary and Joseph in this place? (Luke 2:7)
5. The angel of the Lord announced Jesus' birth to whom? What did the angel call the newborn babe? (Luke 2:8-11)
6. What sign was given to the shepherds? (Luke 2:12)
7. Who suddenly appeared with the angel and what were they saying? (Luke 2:13-14)
8. What did the shepherds do? (Luke 2:15-17)
9. When the shepherds returned from their visit to Bethlehem, what did they do? (Luke 2:18-20)

**D. JESUS' CIRCUMCISION** (Luke 2:21). In order to fulfill the requirements of God's covenant with Abraham and the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple for the rite of circumcision. By this act Jesus bore the sign of the covenant nation (Israel) and became subject to the Law of Moses (Gal. 4:4).

1. How old was Jesus when He was circumcised? (Luke 2:21)
2. What other event occurred at the same time? (Luke 2:21)
3. God's covenant or agreement with Abraham is recorded in Gen. 17:1-12.
  - a. What did God promise Abraham? (Gen. 17:3-4)
  - b. What was the sign of this covenant? (Gen. 17:9-12)
4. What did the Law of Moses require regarding the birth of a male child? (Lev. 12:1-3)

## LESSON 3

### THE BIRTH OF JESUS (CONT.)

Matt. 2; Luke 2:22-39

**INTRODUCTION.** An angel appeared to both Mary and Joseph to prepare them for the miraculous birth of a son. In great faith Mary believed the announcement of the angel and prayed for its fulfillment (Luke 1:38). Joseph also believed the angel's message regarding the son of prophecy, Immanuel, and did as he was commanded (Matt. 1:24).

In obedience to the decree of the Roman Emperor, Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem to be enrolled for the census. There in that village the child Jesus was born as prophesied by the prophet (Mic. 5:2).

**A. THE LAW OF PURIFICATION** (Luke 2:22-39). Luke records two incidents that occurred when Jesus was an infant. The first was his circumcision when He was eight days old (Luke 2:21). The second occurred when Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for Mary's purification (Luke 2:22-39).

1. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:1-8), when a son was born to an Israelite, the parents were required to make a sacrifice at the temple after forty days. In obedience to the law, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem at the appropriate time. What sacrifice did they make? (Luke 2:22-24)
2. This sacrifice indicated they were poor. What sacrifice was required for those who were able to afford it? (Lev. 12:6, 8)
3. Describe Simeon who was at the temple. (Luke 2:25)
4. What had the Holy Spirit revealed to him? (Luke 2:26)

5. As Simeon held the baby Jesus in his arms, he blessed God. (Luke 2:28-32)

a. Simeon said he could depart in peace for his eyes had seen God's

\_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 2:29-30)

b. God prepared the salvation for all people: a \_\_\_\_\_ to the

Gentiles, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel. (Luke 2:31-32)

6. What were Mary and Joseph's reaction to these words? (Luke 2:33)

7. In Luke 2:34-35, Simeon spoke a prophecy to Mary regarding her child.

a. "...this child is set..." (Luke 2:34)

Isaiah writes of a stone of \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 8:14)

a precious \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 28:16)

b. "...for the fall and rising again of many in Israel..." (Luke 2:34)

Jesus states, "...whosoever shall exalt himself shall be \_\_\_\_\_;

and he that shall humble himself shall be \_\_\_\_\_." (Matt. 23:12)

*Note.* Jesus is our cornerstone or foundation. If we reject him, we stumble and fall. If we accept him, we build upon him and are lifted up (rise).

c. "...a sword shall pierce through thy own soul..." (Luke 2:35)

How would a sword pierce through the soul of Mary? (John 19:25, 28-30)

*Note.* Simeon speaks of a figurative, not literal sword. By this statement Simeon is preparing Mary for the rejection, persecution and death of Jesus as prophesied by the Old Testament prophets.

8. Describe Anna. (Luke 2:36-37)

9. What did she speak concerning Jesus? (Luke 2:38)

- B. THE WISE MEN AND HEROD THE GREAT** (Matt. 2). Herod the Great was appointed King of Judea by the Romans and ruled from 37 B.C. to 4 B. C. He was an Idumaeen (an Edomite, a descendant of Esau). He is mentioned in the New Testament only in Matthew 2 and Luke 1.

Herod was ambitious, a leader of men, and a great builder. He engaged in many building projects, but his most magnificent achievement was the restoration and enlargement of the temple in Jerusalem which was begun in 20/19 B. C. The temple proper was completed in a few years, but other building work and additions continued until about A. D. 64 long after his death.

Although he was a clever politician, Herod was unpredictable, merciless, and cruel. The family of Herod was totally immoral with so many intermarriages the family tree is almost impossible to trace. It was near the end of Herod's reign when the child Jesus was born.

1. Who was Herod? (Matt. 2:1)
2. What sign was observed by the wise men from the east? (Matt. 2:1-2)
3. For what purpose did they come to Jerusalem? (Matt. 2:2)
4. How many wise men were there?
5. What did Herod inquire of the chief priests and scribes? (Matt. 2:3-4)
6. What was their answer? (Matt. 2:5-6)

*Note.* Micah spoke this prophecy more than 700 years earlier (Mic. 5:2).

7. What did Herod tell the wise men? (Matt. 2:8-9)
8. Where did the wise men find the child? (Matt. 2:9-11)

9. What gifts did they present to the child? (Matt. 2:11)
10. Why did the wise men not return to Herod? (Matt. 2:12)
11. In order to escape Herod, God warned Joseph to do what? (Matt. 2:13)
12. Joseph and Mary remained in Egypt with Jesus until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,  
“Out of Egypt have I called my \_\_\_\_\_.” (Matt. 2:14-15)
- Note.* These words spoken by Hosea (Hos. 11:1) primarily referred to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, but Matthew applies the prophecy to this event also.
13. When the wise men did not return to Herod after finding the child born to Mary, what did Herod do? (Matt. 2:16)
14. Then was heard the voice of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_, Rachel weeping for her children...because they are no more. (Matt. 2:17-18)
- Note.* Although the words of Jeremiah in this prophecy referred to the mourning in Judah as the people were carried into Babylonian captivity (Jer. 31:15), Matthew through inspiration of the Holy Spirit applies these words of the prophet to this slaughter of the Bethlehem children.
15. When Herod died, Joseph was told by an angel to do what? (Matt. 2:19-20)
16. In what village did he dwell with Mary and the child thus fulfilling the prophets? (Matt. 2:21-23)

*Note.* Matthew here uses the plural, *prophets*, for no one prophet speaks of Jesus dwelling in Nazareth. In New Testament times Nazareth was a despised, insignificant place and one living there, a Nazarene, was held in contempt. Many prophets spoke of the hatred and contempt for Jesus by the Jews and their rejection of him.

## LESSON 4

# JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:40-52

**INTRODUCTION.** The only episode in the Bible regarding the childhood of Jesus is recorded by Luke. When Jesus was twelve years old, He and his parents went to Jerusalem to observe the Passover Feast.

The Passover Feast was celebrated each year by the Jews to commemorate the night the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites and slew the firstborn of the Egyptians (Ex. 12:1-14). Immediately following the Passover Feast, the Jews observed a seven day festival of unleavened bread. The unleavened bread was a reminder of the first days of their journey out of Egypt when they ate this unleavened bread of affliction and haste (Ex. 12:15-20; Deut. 16:3).

Every Jewish male was required to go to Jerusalem each year to observe the Passover and two other feasts (Ex. 23:14-17). However, as the Jews became scattered throughout the world, it became almost impossible to make the long pilgrimage three times each year. Devout Jews tried to attend at least the Passover. Although women were not required to attend, many did as an expression of their piety. Friends and relatives generally traveled to and from the feast together for pleasure and safety. As Joseph and Mary were godly people, they journeyed the seventy miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem to observe the Passover Feast.

### A. THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

1. Describe Jesus as He grew. (Luke 2:40)
  
2. How old was Jesus when He and his parents went to Jerusalem to observe the Passover Feast? (Luke 2:41-42)

3. What occurred when Jesus' parents were returning to their home? (Luke 2:43)
4. How long did they travel before they realized Jesus was not with their company? (Luke 2:44)
5. How long did they search for him? (Luke 2:45-46)
6. Where did Joseph and Mary find the boy? (Luke 2:46)
7. What was Jesus doing when they found him? (Luke 2:46)
8. What was the reaction of those that heard him? (Luke 2:47)
9. What was Jesus' response when his parents questioned him? (Luke 2:48-49)
10. Did his parents understand? What did Mary do? (Luke 2:50-51)

## **B. THE GROWTH OF JESUS**

1. To whom was Jesus subject as a child? (Luke 2:51)
2. Describe Jesus' growth. (Luke 2:52)
3. What Old Testament character is described in a similar manner? (I Sam. 2:26)
4. What was Jesus' occupation or trade as He grew up? (Mark 6:3)

## LESSON 5

# THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matt. 3; Mark 1:4-11; Luke 3:3-22; John 1:28-34

**INTRODUCTION.** John was sent by God to bear witness of the Light that all might believe through him (John 1:6-7). As John prepared Israel for the coming of the Son of God, he called the people to repentance, preaching the message of baptism for remission of sins (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3).

Jesus came to John to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15). Righteousness is the quality of being right or just; it is the sum total of the requirements of God—"...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..." (Matt. 6:33). When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father in heaven acknowledged him as his Son. Jesus' Divine nature was revealed in this event.

### A. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

1. What message did John preach? (Matt. 3:1-2)
2. What did he preach about baptism? (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3)
3. Describe John. (Matt. 3:4; Mark 1:6)
4. Who were baptized by John?
  - a. Matt. 3:5-6
  - b. Mark 1:5
  - c. Luke 3:7, 12-14
5. Where did John baptize? (Matt. 3:6; Mark 1:5; Luke 3:3; John 1:28)



6. The apostle John said John was baptizing in what place for what reason? (John 3:23)
7. What did the people who were baptized do? (Matt. 3:6; Mark 1:5)
8. Jesus came to John to what place and for what purpose? (Matt. 3:13)
9. What did John say to Jesus? (Matt. 3:14)
10. What reason did Jesus give to John for submitting to baptism? (Matt. 3:15)
11. As Jesus came up out of the water, what occurred? (Matt. 3:16)
12. What did the voice from heaven say? (Matt. 3:17)

## **B. THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN**

1. What did John call Jesus? (John 1:29)
2. John said this is the one of whom I said comes after me who is preferred before me, for He was before me (John 1:30). If Jesus came after John, how was He before John? (John 1:1, 14)

*Note.* The apostle John declares Jesus was in the beginning with God as the eternal Word (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1). The Word, the Son of God, became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Jesus is eternal and is preferred or worthy of more honor than John the Baptist, but as a man He was born six months after John (Luke 1:30-41) and his public ministry began after John's mission.

3. John said the reason he came baptizing in water was that Jesus be made manifest (known) to \_\_\_\_\_. (John 1:31)
4. John said he was a witness of what event? (John 1:32)
5. How did John know that Jesus was the Son of God? (John 1:33-34)
  - a. "...he that sent me to baptize with water, the same \_\_\_\_\_ unto me..."
  - b. "Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining (abiding) on him...I \_\_\_\_\_, and bare record (have borne witness) that this is the Son of God."

*Note.* John *heard* the voice of the Father and *saw* the dove-like Spirit. At the baptism of Jesus, John witnessed the double testimony from heaven to the Deity or Divine nature of Jesus—the voice of the Father acknowledging Jesus as his Son, and the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. For this reason John came baptizing in water to make Jesus known to Israel as the Messiah (John 1:29-34)

### **C. THE ANOINTING OF JESUS**

1. Isaiah spoke a prophecy regarding the "Branch" out of the root of Jesse:  
"And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord shall rest upon him..." (Isa. 11:1-2)

*Note.* Jesus is the descendant of David, the son of Jesse (Matt. 1:6-16). Thus Jesus is the "Branch" out of the root of Jesse. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form as a dove and rested upon him. All four gospel writers affirm this truth (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32).

2. What does Peter say God did when Jesus was baptized? (Acts 10:38)

## LESSON 6

# THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

**INTRODUCTION.** Immediately following his baptism, Jesus was taken by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days where He was tempted by the devil. This event revealed the humanity or human side of Jesus. This is in contrast to his baptism where his Divine nature was revealed by the descent of the Holy Spirit and the Father's voice from heaven.

When Jesus became flesh (John 1:14), born of a woman (Gal. 4:4), He also became human and endured temptation in the same manner as all men and women. It was necessary that Jesus be tempted, for his mission was to overcome and defeat Satan. By resisting the temptations offered by Satan, Jesus demonstrated He was stronger than Satan.

As a man, Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, but He withstood the temptations without sinning (Heb. 4:15). Since Jesus himself suffered by being tempted, He is able to succor or help us when we are tempted (Heb. 2:18).

### A. THE FIRST TEMPTATION

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (Matt. 4:1)
2. What occurred there? (Matt. 4:2)
3. How did Satan tempt Jesus? (Matt. 4:3)
4. What was Jesus' answer? (Matt. 4:4)
5. Jesus quoted Deut. 8:3 to Satan. What Old Testament event does this passage discuss?

## **B. THE SECOND TEMPTATION**

1. Where did Satan take Jesus? (Matt. 4:5)
2. What was the temptation? (Matt. 4:6)
3. Satan quoted Ps. 91:11-12 to Jesus. What does this passage promise?
4. Jesus quoted Deut. 6:16. What was Jesus' answer to Satan? (Matt. 4:7)
5. How was Jesus to prove to the world that He was the Son of God—by jumping off a high building and allowing angels to protect him, or by some other means? (Luke 24:44-48; John 20:30-31; Acts 13:32-34; I Pet. 1:3)

## **C. THE THIRD TEMPTATION**

1. How did Satan tempt Jesus the third time? (Matt. 4:8-9)
2. This time Jesus quoted Deut. 6:13. What was Jesus' answer? (Matt. 4:10)
3. What was God's plan for Jesus according to the Psalmist?
  - a. The Lord said, "Thou art my \_\_\_\_\_; this day have I begotten thee...I shall give thee the \_\_\_\_\_ for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the \_\_\_\_\_ for thy possession." (Ps. 2:7-8)
  - b. Jesus told Pilate, "My \_\_\_\_\_ is not of this \_\_\_\_\_..." (John 18:36)

*Note.* Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly kingdom. If Jesus had yielded to this temptation of Satan to become king over an earthly kingdom, then God's plan for the salvation of man would not have been accomplished. Old Testament prophecies would not have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and there could be no salvation for sinners.

4. When Satan left, who ministered to Jesus? (Matt. 4:11)

#### **D. TEMPTATION**

1. Why was Jesus tempted? (Heb. 2:18)
2. Jesus was in all points tempted as we are, yet without \_\_\_\_\_. (Heb. 4:14-15)
3. When Jesus was tempted, how did He resist each temptation? (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)
4. What will help us to resist the devil and temptation? (Ps. 119:105)
5. What promise do we have to help us to resist temptation? (I Cor. 10:13)
6. In I John 2:15-16 there are three categories of sin named by John. These are listed below on the left. Each of the three temptations of Jesus can be placed into one of these categories. These are listed on the right. Match the temptations of Jesus in the right column to the sins in the left column.

• Lust of the flesh	Worship Satan and receive the kingdoms shown
• Lust of the eyes	Turn stones into bread
• Pride of life	Cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple
7. In the garden of Eden, Eve was tempted with the same sins named by John. Match the temptations of Eve in the right column (Gen. 3:6) to the sins listed in the left column (I John 2:15-16).

• Lust of the flesh	Desired to make one wise
• Lust of the eyes	Pleasant to the eyes
• Pride of life	Good for food

## LESSON 7

# THE CALLING OF THE APOSTLES

Matt. 4:17-22; 9:9; 10:1-42; Mark 1:14-20; 2:13-14; 3:13-19;  
Luke 5:27-28; 6:12-16; John 1:35-51

**INTRODUCTION.** After his baptism in the Jordan River and his temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began his earthly ministry—teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Early in his ministry, Jesus chose twelve men to assist him in his mission. These men would accompany Jesus from his baptism until He ascended into heaven. Thus they were to be witnesses of all He said and did and of his resurrection (Acts 1:21-22).

### A. THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

1. How old was Jesus when He began to teach? (Luke 3:23)
2. In what manner did He return from his temptation in the wilderness and commence preaching? (Luke 4:14)
3. What message did Jesus preach at the beginning of his ministry?
  - a. Matt. 4:17
  - b. Mark 1:14-15

### B. JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES (John 1:35-51)

1. When John the Baptist saw Jesus one day, what did he call him? (John 1:35-36)
2. What did the two disciples of John then do? (John 1:37-39)

3. What was the name of one of these disciples? Whom did he find and what did he tell him? (John 1:40-41)
4. What does Messiah mean? (John 1:41)
5. What did Jesus call this disciple and what does the name mean? (John 1:42)
6. The next day Jesus told whom to follow him? (John 1:43-44)
7. Whom did Philip find and what did he tell him? (John 1:45)
8. What was Nathanael's answer? (John 1:46)
9. When Jesus saw Nathanael, what did He say? (John 1:47)

*Note.* To announce that Nathanael was an Israelite in whom was no deceit or guile was a compliment. Jesus here demonstrated his supernatural knowledge that enabled him to know the thoughts and character of Nathanael.

10. When Nathanael asked Jesus how He knew him, what was Jesus' answer? (John 1:48)

*Note.* Jesus' answer again indicated that his knowledge of Nathanael was miraculous. Jesus was not present physically when Nathanael was under the fig tree, but yet Jesus "saw" him there.

11. What did Nathanael confess? (John 1:49)
12. Jesus told Nathanael he would see what things? (John 1:50)

**C. JESUS CALLS FOUR FISHERMEN AND A PUBLICAN** (Matt. 4:18-22; 9:9; Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-14; Luke 5:27-28)

1. As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, whom did He see and what was their occupation? (Mark 1:16)
2. What did Jesus say they would become? (Mark 1:17)
3. Jesus also saw whom and what were they doing? (Mark 1:19)
4. What was their father's name? (Mark 1:19-20)
5. How soon did the four men follow Jesus? (Mark 1:18, 20)
6. When Jesus called Matthew, what was he doing? (Matt. 9:9)
7. What do Mark and Luke call this man? (Mark 2:13-14; Luke 5:27-28)

**D. JESUS SENDS THE TWELVE FORTH TO PREACH** (Matt. 10:5-42). After choosing the twelve disciples, Jesus sent them forth to preach to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. We call this the *limited commission*, for they were to preach to the Jews only.

1. Jesus sent his twelve disciples to preach to whom? Where were they forbidden to go? (Matt. 10:5-6)
2. What message were they to preach? (Matt. 10:7)



3. What four miracles were they able to perform? (Matt. 10:8)
4. What were they forbidden to take with them? Why? (Matt. 10:9-10)
5. When they entered a city or town, where were they to abide? (Matt. 10:11-13)
6. These men were sent forth as sheep in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_. They were to be wise as \_\_\_\_\_, and harmless as \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 10:16)
7. When these men would be brought before councils, governors, and kings, who would help them to speak? (Matt. 10:17-20)
8. How would these men be received? (Matt. 10:22)
9. What were they to do when they were persecuted? (Matt. 10:23)
10. What were they to fear? (Matt. 10:28)
11. What will be the reward of the person who confesses Jesus? (Matt. 10:32)
12. What will be the reward of the person who denies Jesus? (Matt. 10:33)

## THE TWELVE APOSTLES

	<b>Matthew 10:2-4</b>	<b>Mark 3:16-19</b>	<b>Luke 6:14-16</b>	<b>Acts 1:13</b>
1 2 3 4	Simon called Peter Andrew his brother James son of Zebedee John his brother	Simon surnamed Peter James son of Zebedee John brother of James Andrew	Simon named Peter Andrew his brother James John	Peter James John Andrew
5 6 7 8	Philip Bartholomew* Thomas Matthew the publican (tax collector, tax-gatherer)	Philip Bartholomew* Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew* Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew* Matthew
9 10 11 12	James son of Alphaeus Lebbaeus Thaddaeus  Simon the Canaanite (Cananaean) Judas Iscariot who also betrayed him	James son of Alphaeus Thaddaeus  Simon the Canaanite (Cananaean) Judas Iscariot who also betrayed him	James son of Alphaeus Simon called Zelotes (the Zealot) Judas brother (son) of James Judas Iscariot who also was the traitor	James son of Alphaeus Simon Zelotes (the Zealot) Judas brother (son) of James

The word *apostle* means "one sent forth." A *disciple* is a "learner" and refers to "one who follows one's teaching." Thus the twelve men chosen by Jesus were his disciples as they learned and followed his teaching. Later He sent them forth as apostles or ambassadors to teach others.

In the chart above, Matthew and Mark list the same names for the twelve although the order is slightly different. Luke's lists (Luke and Acts) are somewhat different. Judas, brother (son) of James, in Luke's lists is identified with Thaddaeus in Matthew's and Mark's lists.

\*Bartholomew is generally identified with Nathanael (John 1:45-51). The name Bartholomew is a surname and means son of (Bar) Tolmai.

## LESSON 8

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT THE BEATITUDES

Matt. 5:1-12

**INTRODUCTION.** Following his temptation in the wilderness, Jesus announced that his kingdom was at hand (Matt. 4:17). Sometime later Jesus went up into a mountain near the Sea of Galilee and preached to his disciples and a multitude that had gathered, explaining the nature of the kingdom that He had announced earlier. We call this discussion the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5; 6; 7).

Jesus begins his sermon with eight statements called the beatitudes. The word beatitude comes from a Latin word, *beatitudo*, which means blessed. The beatitudes describe the qualities or characteristics of the citizens of the kingdom that Jesus said was at hand. The rewards are the same for all eight, that is, spiritual blessings that citizens of the kingdom enjoy.

Following each beatitude below is a Biblical example illustrating the meaning of the beatitude. (Suggestion for study: assign each student one beatitude for explanation and discussion of the beatitude and corresponding example.)

**A. THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD BEATITUDES** deal with a person's attitude toward himself.

1. *Blessed are the poor in spirit* (Matt. 5:3)—those who have a humble opinion of self and are aware of their spiritual needs; they lack self-righteousness and pride and are willing to do God's will. The kingdom of heaven is theirs because they seek it and find it.

➔ When Solomon became king of Israel following the death of his father David, the Lord appeared to him in a dream. Describe how Solomon was *poor in spirit* as a young man. (I Kings 3:4-15)

- How did Solomon express his humility to God? (I Kings 3:7-8)

- For what did Solomon ask? (I Kings 3:9)
- What was God's answer? (I Kings 3:10-13)
- The Lord promised to lengthen Solomon's days if he did what? (I Kings 3:14)

2. *Blessed are they that mourn* (Matt. 5:4)—those who sorrow over sin that they and others have committed. These shall be comforted when they obey God and receive his mercy.

➔ Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. His father and grandfather before him were evil, and during their reigns the people had become idolatrous. When Josiah was sixteen, he began to seek after the Lord; when he was twenty, he began to destroy the idols and places of idolatrous worship. Later in his eighteenth year when he was twenty-six, he ordered the repair of the temple, and during the process the high priest Hilkiah found the book of the law. Describe how King Josiah *mourned* for the sins of himself and the people, and what he did to correct the problem. (II Kings 22:1-20; 23:1-3)

- What did Josiah do when the book of the law was read to him? (II Kings 22:10-11)
- What did Josiah tell the priest to do? (II Kings 22:13)
- What prophecy did Huldah speak against the people? (II Kings 22:14-17)
- What did Huldah say about Josiah? (II Kings 22:18-20)
- What covenant did Josiah make before the Lord? (II Kings 23:1-3)

3. *Blessed are the meek* (Matt. 5:5)—those who have a humble heart and accept God's dealings with them as good without struggling or resisting; they are gentle and have patience towards others when they have endured wrong or harm. These people may suffer, but God's blessing will follow them in this life and on this earth. “A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked” (Ps. 37:16). The earth will belong to them as long as they use it to glorify God.

➔ Job was a righteous man and a wealthy man. One day when Satan appeared before God, he suggested that Job was righteous because the Lord had protected him and blessed him. The Lord then permitted Satan to test Job's faith. In one day Job's seven sons and three daughters were killed, his flocks and herds stolen, and his servants killed. Describe the *meekness* of Job as he suffered throughout his ordeal. (Job 1:1-22; 2:1-10)

- What did Job do when he received this disastrous news? (Job 1:20-22)

- What accusation against Job did Satan then make to the Lord? (Job 2:1-5)

- What did the Lord allow Satan to do? (Job 2:6-7)

- What did Job's wife tell him to do? (Job 2:9)

- Throughout his suffering, what was Job's attitude? (Job 2:8, 10)

**B. THE FOURTH BEATITUDE** deals with a person's attitude toward God.

4. *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness* (Matt. 5:6)—those who have an intense desire to do right and receive God's forgiveness. Those who search for God's word and righteousness shall find it.

➔ When Philip, the evangelist, was in the city of Samaria, the angel of the Lord told him to go to a desert place. Here he encountered an Ethiopian nobleman who was journeying home after worshipping in Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet. Describe the Ethiopian's *hunger and thirst for righteousness*. (Acts 8:26-39)

- What did Philip ask, and what was the Ethiopian's response? (Acts 8:30-31)

- The Ethiopian was reading in the prophet Isaiah the scripture describing the suffering servant (Isa. 53). What question did he ask Philip? (Acts 8:32-34)

- What did Philip do? (Acts 8:35)

- What was the result of the Ethiopian's thirst for God's word? (Acts 8:36-39)

**C. THE FIFTH, SIXTH, AND SEVENTH BEATITUDES** deal with a person's attitude toward others.

5. *Blessed are the merciful* (Matt. 5:7)—those who show mercy or compassion to others and try to help them. These people receive mercy both from God and man because of their attitude.

➔ As a man journeyed from Jerusalem to Jericho, he was attacked by robbers, beaten and left for dead. Three men passed by the injured man. Describe the *merciful* man. (Luke 10:25-37)

- Who was the first man who passed by and what did he do? (Luke 10:31)

- Who was the second man and what did he do? (Luke 10:32)

- Who was the third man and how did he show mercy? (Luke 10:33-35)

6. *Blessed are the pure in heart* (Matt. 5:8)—those who have an honest and good heart and are free from evil desires. These people see God in this life by their faith and shall see God face to face in heaven.

➔ When Daniel was a young man, he was brought as a captive to the king's palace in Babylon. The purpose was to train him and the other young Jewish boys for three years in the Babylonian language and culture. The king provided his own food and wine for the captives—food that was forbidden in the Law of Moses to eat or food that may have been offered to idols. Describe how Daniel was *pure in heart*. (Dan. 1)

- In order to remain pure, what did Daniel purpose in his heart? (Dan. 1:8)

- What agreement did Daniel make with the prince in charge? (Dan. 1:9-13)

- What was the result of the test? (Dan. 1:14-16)

- At the end of the three years when Daniel was brought before the king, what did the king observe? (Dan. 1:17-20)

7. *Blessed are the peacemakers* (Matt. 5:9)—those who are at peace with God, with others, and with themselves; they seek to reconcile man to God by preaching the gospel of peace. These are called God's children because God is the God of peace.

➔ Peter was sent by the Holy Spirit to Caesarea to preach the gospel to Cornelius, a centurion in the Roman army. Cornelius was a devout man, one that feared God, gave alms to the people, and prayed to God always, but he did not know about Jesus. Describe Peter, the *peacemaker*. (Acts 10)

- Peter said that God sent what word to the children of Israel? (Acts 10:34-36)

- God anointed Jesus with whom? (Acts 10:38)

- What did Peter say the Jews did to Jesus? (Acts 10:39)
- What did God do for Jesus? (Acts 10:40-41)
- What did Jesus command Peter and others to do? (Acts 10:42-43)
- After Peter preached the gospel of peace to Cornelius, what occurred? (Acts 10:44-48)

**D. THE EIGHTH BEATITUDE** deals with the attitude of others toward me.

8. *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake* (Matt. 5:10)—those who suffer because of their loyalty to God. By remaining faithful to God, all the gifts and blessings of the kingdom belong to them.
- ➔ Stephen, a righteous man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, was accused falsely of blaspheming Moses, God, the holy place, and the law. In his defense before the high court, Stephen preached a sermon relating the history of the Jews from Abraham to the days of Solomon and the building of the temple. Describe how Stephen was *persecuted for righteousness' sake*. (Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-60)
- As Stephen concluded his sermon, of what did he accuse the Jewish council? (Acts 7:51-53)
  - What did the members of the court do? (Acts 7:54)
  - When Stephen looked to heaven and said he saw the Son of man (Jesus) standing on the right hand of God, what happened? (Acts 7:55-58)
  - As Stephen lay dying, what did he say? (Acts 7:59-60)



## LESSON 9

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT INFLUENCE, THE LAW, LOVING ENEMIES

Matt. 5:13-48

**INTRODUCTION.** In his sermon on the mount, Jesus describes what citizens of the kingdom are supposed to be (Matt. 5:1-16). Then in the remainder of his sermon, He explains what citizens of the kingdom are supposed to do (Matt 5:17-7:29).

**A. INFLUENCE** (Matt. 5:13-16). In these verses Jesus tells the citizens of his kingdom that their influence over others is important and that He requires two more qualities in addition to the ones described in the beatitudes.

1. A person's influence is compared to what two things? (Matt. 5:13-14)
2. What happens to salt when it has lost its savor or ability to flavor and preserve food? (Matt. 5:13)
3. What do we do with a light? (Matt. 5:15)
4. Why should the citizens of the kingdom be like salt and light? (Matt. 5:16)

**B. JESUS AND THE LAW** (Matt. 5:17-20)

1. Jesus came for what purpose? (Matt. 5:17)
2. What would not pass from the law till Jesus accomplished his purpose? (Matt. 5:18)
3. Who would be called great in the kingdom? (Matt. 5:19)

**C. ANGER** (Matt. 5:21-26). In these verses Jesus gives three degrees of anger (without a cause) and three degrees of judgment. Jesus quotes the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13), and then proceeds to say that anger leads to murder which is worthy of God's judgment.

- Anger (Matt. 5:22)

*Angry*—anger that is a silent feeling or somewhat controlled in its expression.

*Raca*—a term of utter contempt which scorns a person's mind signifying stupidity or an empty head; to rebuke with this word is worse than to have a feeling of anger that is not expressed.

*Fool*—another term of contempt meaning a wicked rebel against the Lord; this word scorns the heart and character of a person and is thus a more serious reproach than Raca which scorns the mind.

- Judgment (Matt. 5:22)

*Judgment*—a court of seven judges that was appointed in the cities.

*Council*—the Sanhedrin, the great Council of Jerusalem, consisting of seventy-one members of families of the high priests, elders, and scribes.

*Hell fire*—*Gehenna*, the place of eternal punishment.

1. Who was in danger of judgment in old times? (Matt. 5:21)

2. Who did Jesus say is in danger of judgment? (Matt. 5:22)

3. Who is in danger of the council? (Matt. 5:22)

4. Who is in danger of hell fire? (Matt. 5:22)

*Note.* The motive for murder is anger. Therefore, all anger without a cause places one in danger of the same judgment as murder (I John 3:15).

5. Before offering a sacrifice, what should one do? (Matt. 5:23-24)

6. Why should one agree with his adversary? (Matt. 5:25-26)

7. All anger is not wicked. Jesus was righteously angry at times. What did He do at least two times? (John 2:13-17; Matt. 21:12-13)

**D. LUST** (Matt. 5:27-32). Jesus quotes the seventh commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20 14), then condemns the sin in the heart.

1. According to Jesus, who is guilty of committing adultery? (Matt. 5:27-28)
2. Jesus says that anyone who puts away his wife except for what cause makes her an adulteress? (Matt. 5:31-32)

**E. SWEARING** (Matt. 5:33-37). Jesus quotes the law regarding the swearing of oaths (Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21), then condemns the practice of swearing falsely. This is not a prohibition of judicial oaths for Jesus took an oath at his trial (Matt. 26:63-64).

1. Why should we not swear by heaven? (Matt. 5:33-34)
2. Why should we not swear by earth? (Matt. 5:35)
3. Why should we not swear by Jerusalem? (Matt. 5:35)
4. Why should we not swear by our head? (Matt. 5:36)
5. What should our speech be? (Matt. 5:37)

**F. TREATMENT OF OTHERS** (Matt. 5:38-42). The Old Testament law regarding injury to another specified "...eye for eye, tooth for tooth..." (Lev. 24:19-20). This was a penalty of the law, not personal revenge. Jesus gives four examples for us to follow today. These principles teach us that we should not seek revenge or return evil for evil. "Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord..." (Heb. 10:30). The laws of the land punish criminals, and God will ultimately punish the wicked.

1. *Physical violence*

- a. What are we to do if someone smites us on the cheek? (Matt. 5:38-39)
- b. What did Jesus do when struck by one of the officers of Annas? (John 18:22-23)

2. *Judicial injustice*—the coat was an inner garment, and the cloak was an outer garment which was not to be kept overnight by a creditor because it was used as a bed covering (Ex. 22:26-27). What did Jesus say regarding this? (Matt. 5:40)
  3. *Government oppression*—a Roman courier was authorized to force men or their animals to help him on his way.
    - a. Although the Jews despised this requirement, what did Jesus say? (Matt. 5:41)
    - b. As an example of government oppression, what was Simon the Cyrene forced to do? (Matt. 27:31-32)
  4. *Borrowing and lending*—the Old Testament law forbade a Jew to charge interest when he lent money to another Jew (Ex. 22:25). We are to be generous in what way? (Matt. 5:42)
  5. Jesus does not expect us to stand by and allow someone to take our lives or our possessions illegally, but we can resist such evil without the spirit of revenge, remembering that the government has the authority to deal justice to criminals. When Paul was beaten and imprisoned unjustly and illegally in Philippi and the authorities planned to release him privately, he insisted that the authorities do what? (Acts 16:37)
- G. LOVE OF ENEMIES** (Matt. 5:43-48). Love for our enemies is not tender affection such as we have for the members of our family or close friends, but love that seeks the welfare of others and wishes no ill to anyone.
1. What are we to do for our enemies? (Matt. 5:43-44)
  2. The sun rises and the rain falls on whom? (Matt. 5:45)
  3. What do the publicans and Gentiles do? (Matt. 5:46-47)
  4. How are we to be like our heavenly Father? (Matt. 5:48)

## LESSON 10

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## ALMS, PRAYER, FASTING

Matt. 6:1-18

**INTRODUCTION.** As Jesus continues his sermon on the mountainside, He teaches a variety of subjects to his disciples and the people gathered. He instructs them in almsgiving, the necessity of prayer, and fasting which are acts of righteousness to be performed sincerely from the heart and not to be seen of men.

### **A. ALMS (GIFTS, AID TO OTHERS)** (Matt. 6:1-4)

1. We will not be rewarded by God if we do righteousness in what manner? (Matt. 6:1)
  
2. In what manner do the hypocrites give their alms? (Matt. 6:2)
  
3. How are we to give alms? (Matt. 6:3)
  
4. Why should our alms be done in secret? (Matt. 6:4)

### **B. PRAYER** (Matt. 6:5-15)

1. Why do the hypocrites pray in the synagogues and streets? (Matt. 6:5)
  
2. How are we to pray? How will the Father reward us? (Matt. 6:6)

3. What should we avoid when praying? (Matt. 6:7)
4. What does our Father know? (Matt. 6:8)
5. In Matt. 6:9-15, Jesus teaches his disciples the proper way to pray.
  - a. To whom do we pray and give praise? (Matt. 6:9)
  - b. Whose will is to be done? (Matt. 6:10)
  - c. For what necessities may we ask? (Matt. 6:11)
  - d. We may ask forgiveness of our sins if we do what? (Matt. 6:12)
  - e. We pray for deliverance from what? (Matt. 6:13)
  - f. What belongs to God? (Matt. 6:13)
6. Why is it necessary for us to forgive others when they sin? (Matt. 6:14-15)
7. Paul instructed the Thessalonians to pray how often? (I Thess. 5:17)
8. In whose name (by whose authority) do we pray? (Col. 3:17)

**C. FASTING** (Matt. 6:16-18)

1. What do the hypocrites do when they fast? (Matt. 6:16)
2. If we fast, in what manner should we do it? (Matt. 6:17)
3. Our fasting is not to be seen of men but to be seen of the Father who sees in secret and will reward us how? (Matt. 6:18)

**D. TIMES JESUS PRAYED.** Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and He himself prayed often. Luke particularly mentions many times that Jesus went to his Father in prayer. Below are some examples of the times Jesus prayed.

1. *The Baptism of Jesus.* What did Jesus do at his baptism? (Luke 3:21)
2. *The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry.* What did Jesus do one evening and morning at the beginning of his ministry? (Mark 1:32-35)
3. *The Selection of Jesus' Disciples.* Upon what occasion and where did Jesus pray all night? (Luke 6:12-13)
4. *Jesus' Transfiguration.* When Jesus went up into the mountain, what occurred as He prayed? (Luke 9:28-31)
5. *Jesus and Peter*
  - a. Jesus prayed before Peter confessed what? (Luke 9:18-20)
  - b. Before Peter denied Jesus, what did Jesus tell him? (Luke 22:31-32)

6. *The Garden of Gethsemane*. When Jesus was in the garden praying, what occurred? (Luke 22:44)

7. *Jesus' Death*

- a. For whom did Jesus pray as He hung on the cross? (Luke 23:33-34)
- b. What were Jesus' last words on the cross? (Luke 23:46)

**CONCLUSION.** Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven often. He prayed at his baptism (Luke 3:21). He prayed at the beginning of his ministry (Mark 1:35), and He prayed at the end of his ministry as He hung on the cross (Luke 23:46). He prayed when exalted at his transfiguration (Luke 9:29), and He prayed when in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44). He prayed for his disciples before selecting them (Luke 6:12), and He prayed for his murderers who rejected him (Luke 23:34). He prayed before Peter confessed him as Christ (Luke 9:18), and He prayed before Peter denied him (Luke 22:32).

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and  
when thou hast shut thy door,  
pray to thy Father which is in secret;  
and thy Father which seeth in secret  
shall reward thee openly.  
Matt. 6:6*



## LESSON 11

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT DEPENDENCE UPON GOD

Matt. 6:19-34

**INTRODUCTION.** In his sermon on the mountainside, Jesus discusses hypocrisy and self-righteousness in the religious acts of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting (Matt. 6:1-18). These deeds of righteousness are not to be done with false devotion in order to be seen of men. Rather, the citizens of the kingdom are to perform these acts sincerely from the heart in order to serve God.

Hypocrisy deceives others, but it is possible for us to deceive ourselves, too. Jesus continues his sermon, teaching about self-deception (Matt. 6:19-34). The citizens of the kingdom must guard against deceiving themselves by pretending to trust God while trusting mammon or worldly things.

### A. HEAVENLY TREASURES (Matt. 6:19-24)

1. What are the dangers in laying up treasures on earth? (Matt. 6:19)
2. Where should we lay up treasures? Why? (Matt. 6:20)
3. Where will our heart be? (Matt. 6:21)
4. If our eye is single (good), the whole body will be full of \_\_\_\_\_;  
if the eye is evil (bad), the whole body will be full of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matt. 6:22-23)

*Note.* If we set our affections (eye) steadily on spiritual things (good), then we will be concerned with the true treasures and the righteousness of God (our vision will be clear and our body full of light). However, if we set our affections (eye) on worldly things (evil, bad), then we will be deceived and place earthly treasures above all others (our vision will be distorted and our body full of darkness).

5. How many masters can we serve? (Matt. 6:24)
6. If we try to serve two masters, what will we do? (Matt. 6:24)

**B. ANXIETIES** (Matt. 6:25-34)

1. Jesus said we should not be anxious for: (Matt. 6:25)
  - a. our \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. what we \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. what we \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. our \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. what we \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus gave some examples in nature that illustrate we do not need to be anxious for our food or clothes:
  - a. What about the birds? (Matt. 6:26)
  - b. What about our stature (height)? (Matt. 6:27)
  - c. What about the lilies of the field? (Matt. 6:28)
  - d. How does Solomon in all his glory compare to the lilies? (Matt. 6:29)
  - e. If God has clothed (in beauty) the grass of the field, which today is, but tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not \_\_\_\_\_ clothe you? (Matt. 6:30)

3. We should, therefore, not be anxious about what things? (Matt. 6:31)
4. The Gentiles (unbelievers) seek after these things, but our heavenly Father knows what? (Matt. 6:32)
5. What are we to seek first? (Matt. 6:33)
6. Why are we not to be anxious for the morrow? (Matt. 6:34)



Lilies of the Field

## LESSON 12

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT JUDGING AND THE TWO BUILDERS

Matt. 7

**INTRODUCTION.** In his sermon on the mount, Jesus presents a series of teachings concerning the kingdom of heaven and its subjects or citizens. After teaching about the importance of seeking first the kingdom (Matt. 6:33-34), Jesus discusses judging, the golden rule, and false prophets (Matt. 7:1-23). He concludes his sermon with an application for his hearers—the dramatic comparison of the two builders. He spoke with authority and astonished the people with his teaching (Matt. 7:24-29). For those who would seek the kingdom first and follow his doctrine, Jesus promises all the gifts and blessings of the kingdom.

### A. JUDGING (Matt. 7:1-6)

1. What does Jesus say regarding judgment of others? (Matt. 7:1-2)
2. What must we first do before we judge someone else? (Matt. 7:3-5)
3. What should we not give to the dogs and swine? Explain. (Matt. 7:6)

### B. PRAYER AND THE GOLDEN RULE (Matt. 7:7-12)

1. What will be our reward from God if we ask, seek, and knock? (Matt. 7:7-8)
  - a. ask: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. seek: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. knock: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note.* Jesus here speaks of prayer as the means of obtaining our needs. These three words indicate degrees of intensity or strong emotion. We ask humbly in prayer with our voice, we seek diligently for what we have asked by our efforts and labors, and we knock earnestly at the gate or door to gain admission into God's favor.

2. What comparison does Jesus make between an earthly father and our heavenly Father? (Matt. 7:9-11)

3. What is the "Golden Rule"? (Matt. 7:12)

### **C. TWO WAYS AND FALSE PROPHETS (Matt. 7:13-23)**

1. Where does the broad way lead? How many enter in thereby? (Matt. 7:13)

2. Where does the narrow way lead? How many enter in thereby? (Matt. 7:14)

3. How can we identify a false prophet? (Matt. 7:15-16)

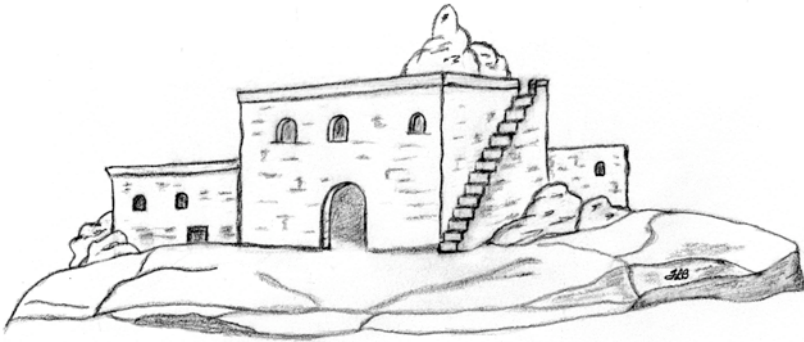
4. What does a good tree produce, and what does an evil tree produce? (Matt. 7:17-20)

5. Who shall enter the kingdom of heaven? (Matt. 7:21)

### **D. TWO BUILDERS AND THE CONCLUSION (Matt. 7:24-29)**

1. Who is like the wise man? Where did the wise man build his house? (Matt. 7:24)

2. Why did the wise man's house withstand the storm? (Matt. 7:25)
3. Who is like the foolish man? Where did the foolish man build his house? (Matt. 7:26)
4. What happened to the foolish man's house during the storm? (Matt. 7:27)
5. What rock should we build upon? (Eph. 2:19-20)
6. Why were the multitudes astonished at Jesus' teaching? (Matt. 7:28-29)



## LESSON 13

# THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29, Luke 9:7-9

**INTRODUCTION.** Herod the Great was appointed King of Judea by the Romans and ruled from 37 B. C. to 4 B. C. He was an Idumean (an Edomite, a descendant of Esau). It was Herod the Great who ordered the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. He is mentioned in the New Testament only in Matthew 2 and Luke 1. He married ten times and had many children—the names of seven of the children are known in history.

Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great and Malthace, a Samaritan woman and one of his ten legal wives. At the death of his father, Herod Antipas was given the territory of Galilee and Perea to govern by the Romans and ruled from 4 B. C. to A. D. 39. Thus he was ruling at the time of Jesus' ministry and death. Herod Antipas divorced his first wife and married Herodias who was his niece as she was the daughter of one of his half-brothers. In addition Herodias had been married previously to another half-brother of Herod Antipas. John the Baptist condemned this unlawful and immoral marriage.

### A. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES AND JOHN'S TESTIMONY

1. Isaiah speaks of one who is to do what? (Isa. 40:3)
2. The prophet is speaking of whom? (Matt. 3:1-3; Mark 1:3-4; Luke 3:2-4)
3. Malachi speaks of a messenger who will do what? (Mal. 3:1)
4. Malachi wrote this about whom? (Matt. 11:7-11; Mark 1:2, 4; Luke 7:24-28)

5. According to Malachi in another scripture, the Lord would send whom? What would his mission be? (Mal. 4:5-6)
  6. To whom does the prophecy refer? (Matt. 11:12-14; Luke 1:13-17)
  7. "There was a man sent from God, whose name was \_\_\_\_\_. The same came ...to bear witness of the \_\_\_\_\_, that all men through him might believe." (John 1:6-7)
  8. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John who he was, John said he was not the \_\_\_\_\_. (John 1:19-20)
  9. When they asked him if he was \_\_\_\_\_, he said, no, and when they asked if he was the \_\_\_\_\_, he answered, no. (John 1:21)
- Note.* John came in the *spirit and power* of Elijah, not as the actual Elijah returned to life (Luke 1:13-17), nor was he the prophet spoken of by Moses (Deut. 18:15-18).
10. Who did John say he was? (John 1:22-23)

**B. HEROD IMPRISONS JOHN** (Mark 6:14-20)

1. When King Herod heard of him (Jesus), he thought He was \_\_\_\_\_ risen from the dead.
2. Others thought Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ or one of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. But Herod said, It is \_\_\_\_\_, whom I \_\_\_\_\_: he is risen from the dead.
4. Herod had put John in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Herod had married \_\_\_\_\_, his brother Philip's \_\_\_\_\_.



6. John had told Herod it was not \_\_\_\_\_ for him to have his brother's wife.
7. Herodias wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ John.
8. Herod feared John, knowing he was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When Herod heard John, he was perplexed by the things he said, and heard him \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. HEROD'S BIRTHDAY FEAST (Mark 6:21-29)**

1. On Herod's \_\_\_\_\_ he made a supper for his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The daughter of Herodias \_\_\_\_\_ for the guests.
3. Herod told his wife's daughter that he would give her whatever she asked unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Herodias told her daughter to ask for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The girl came with haste to the king and asked for the head of John the Baptist on a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When Herod heard the girl's request, he was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Herod would not reject the girl for his \_\_\_\_\_, and the sake of those which \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Herod's executioner \_\_\_\_\_ John in prison.
9. He then brought John's \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ and gave it to the \_\_\_\_\_ who gave it to her \_\_\_\_\_.
10. John's disciples took his \_\_\_\_\_ and laid it in a \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE HEROD FAMILY

**Herod the Great** (37–4 B. C.) was given the title of king by the Romans and appointed ruler of Judea in 37 B. C. His kingdom included Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Perea (east of the Jordan River), and Idumea. Herod was ambitious, a leader of men, and a great builder. His most magnificent achievement was the restoration and enlargement of the temple in Jerusalem which was begun in 20/19 B. C. The temple proper was completed in a few years, but other building work and additions continued until about A. D. 64 long after his death. Although he was a clever politician, Herod was unpredictable, merciless, and cruel. He is noted for his slaughter of the children of Bethlehem. He married ten times and had many children—the names of seven of the children are known in history. He murdered his second wife Mariamne, the Asmonean, in 28 B. C. as well as other members of her family. In 7 B. C. he murdered Aristobulus and Alexander, his own two sons by Mariamne. In 4 B. C., shortly before his death, he ordered the death of his son Antipater whose mother was Doris. After Herod's death in 4 B. C., his kingdom was divided among three of his sons: Archelaus, Herod Antipas, and Philip. (Matt. 2; Luke 1:5)

**Archelaus** (4 B. C.–A. D. 6), son of Herod the Great and Malthace (a Samaritan), became ethnarch (governor) of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea after the death of his father. Historians state he inherited his father's evil character. He was so hated by the Judeans and Samaritans he was deposed by the Romans in A. D. 6. (Matt. 2:22)

**Herod Antipas** (4 B. C.–A. D. 39), son of Herod the Great and Malthace (a Samaritan), became tetrarch (governor over the fourth part of a region) of Galilee and Perea after the death of his father. John the Baptist condemned Herod Antipas for his unlawful and immoral marriage to his niece Herodias. Herod first imprisoned John then had him beheaded. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod for judgment, but when Jesus refused to answer his questions, Herod sent him back to Pilate. After Caligula became emperor of Rome, he banished Herod Antipas to Gaul. (Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; 8:15; Luke 3:1, 19-20; 8:3; 9:7-9; 13:31-32; 23:7-15; Acts 4:27; 13:1)

**Herod Philip** (4 B. C.–A. D. 34), son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra, became tetrarch of Gaulanitis, Auranitis, Batanea, Trachonitis, Paneas, and Iturea (regions northeast of the Sea of Galilee) at the death of his father. History records he was just and governed well. During his peaceful rule he rebuilt the city of Panias naming it Caesarea Philippi, and he also rebuilt Bethsaida situated on the Sea of Galilee. He was married to Salome, the daughter of Herodias. (Luke 3:1)

**Herod Philip**, son of Herod the Great and Mariamne (the daughter of Simon the high priest), was the first husband of Herodias according to Josephus. He is not to be confused with Herod Philip, the tetrarch. (Matt. 14:3; Mark 6:17; Luke 3:19-20)

**Herod Agrippa I** (A. D. 37–44), grandson of Herod the Great, inherited the territory of his uncle Philip, the tetrarch. Later he was given the domain of Herod Antipas and eventually received from Claudius Caesar the region of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea. Herod Agrippa I thus reigned over the whole of his grandfather's kingdom. He killed James, the apostle, and died a horrible death. (Acts 12:1-23)

**Herodias** was the sister of Herod Agrippa I. They were both the grandchildren of Herod the Great and the children of Aristobulus who was murdered by his father Herod the Great in 7 B. C. According to Josephus, she was first married to Herod Philip, the son of Herod the Great and Mariamne, daughter of Simon. She was thus married to the half-brother of her father. She left Herod Philip for Herod Antipas, another half-brother of her father. Herodias instructed her daughter to ask Antipas for the head of John the Baptist. (Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 3:19-20)

**Herod Agrippa II** (A. D. 50–100) was the son of Herod Agrippa I. When his father died, he was only 17 and considered too young to govern his father's entire kingdom. He became king of Chalcis (in Lebanon) after the death of his uncle Herod of Chalcis. Eventually his dominion was extended, first by Claudius Caesar and then by Nero, to include northern and northwestern Palestine. He also had jurisdiction over the Temple in Jerusalem with the authority to name the high priest. He survived the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70 and retired to Rome. Paul as a prisoner appeared before Agrippa II to make his defense. (Acts 25:13-26:32)

**Bernice** was the oldest daughter of Herod Agrippa I and the sister of Agrippa II. She was extremely immoral and her companionship with her brother Agrippa II caused considerable scandal. She was with Agrippa II when the apostle Paul made his defense before him. (Acts 25:13-26:32)

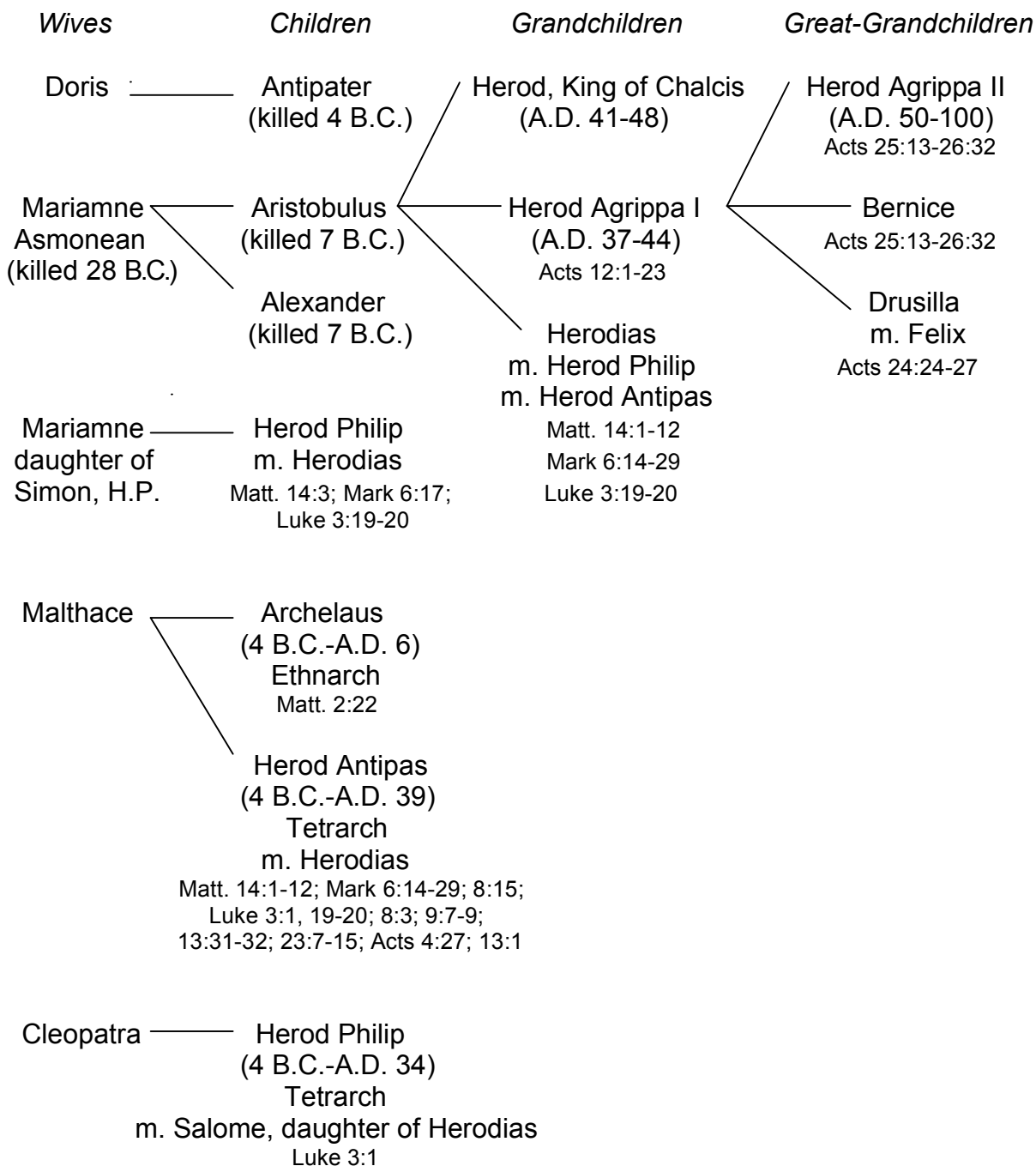
**Drusilla** was also the daughter of Agrippa I, sister of Agrippa II, and a younger sister of Bernice. She was married to Felix, the Roman procurator, before whom Paul as a prisoner reasoned of "righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come." (Acts 24:24-27)

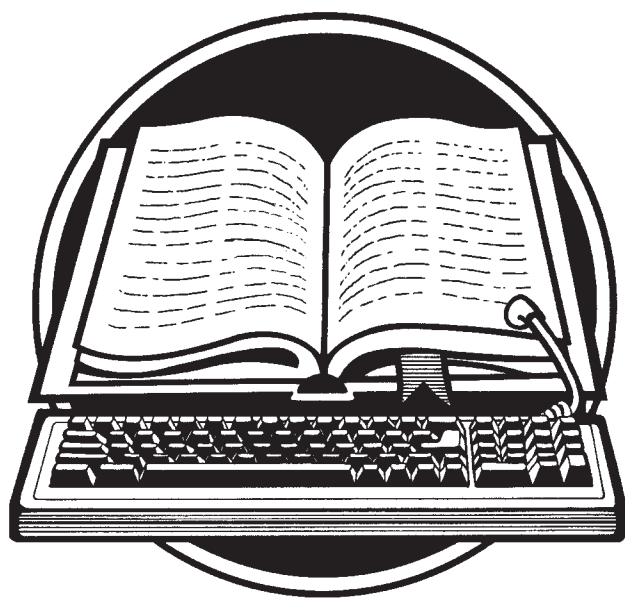
## THE HERODIAN FAMILY TREE

### Herod the Great

King of the Jews (37-4 B. C.)

Matt. 2; Luke 1:5





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