

JESUS' METHODS OF MINISTERING

An inductive study from the Gospels of how Jesus related to people

#1

Matthew 4:18-22 - The calling of the first disciples

A. What were Peter, Andrew, James and John doing when Jesus called them to become His disciples?

Was it coincidence or Jesus' intention to encounter them in this setting?

Why?

B. Do you think these future disciples likely attended synagogue every week?

Why did Jesus approach them at work instead of a "spiritual" setting like synagogue to engage them in the spiritual decision of whether or not to become his disciples?

C. Why did Jesus use the phrase "I will make you fishers of men" with the future disciples?

Was Jesus using a principle that could be applied to other professions in the way he appealed to the fishermen? If so, how would you describe that principle?

If Jesus were calling disciples in person today, what do you think he might say to call individuals in the following professions?

Marketing:

Fast food restaurant employee:

Mechanic:

Medical Doctor:

D. Will this study alter the way you communicate spiritual invitations to other people? How?

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#2

Matthew 8:1-4 - The encounter with a leprous man

A. In Jesus' day, what were the interactions and attitudes like between those who were leprous and those who were not?

B. Given the social expectation of complete quarantine, what could possibly have given the leprous man confidence to actually get within touching distance of Jesus?

C. How do you think the man felt when Jesus touched him?

D. Could Jesus have healed the man without touching him? Why did Jesus touch him?

E. Who are the "untouchables" in our society?

F. What lessons does Jesus' interaction with the "untouchable" of his day have for us in relating to the "untouchables" of our day?

G. What does verse 4 imply about Jesus' motivations in this healing?

H. What kinds of motivations do we and should we have in sharing spiritual information with others?

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#3

Matthew 8:18-22 - The cost of following Jesus

A. What kind of people were “teachers of the Law” (i.e. what kind of people were they associated with? What was their place in society? What was their role in Jewish culture? How did they typically relate to Jesus?) c.f. Mt. 2:4, 9:3; 12:8; 20:18, Mt. 23.

B. How would you characterize the attitude towards Jesus by the man in vs. 19?

C. Was it a compliment to Jesus that a teacher of the law would want to become His follower?

Was Jesus being rude in the way he responded to the man?

Why do you think Jesus answered the man the way He did?

D. Was it reasonable for Jesus to not allow the man in vs. 21 to go and bury his Father? Why do you think Jesus gave the instruction he did in vs. 22?

E. In these two examples, was Jesus making it easier or harder for people to follow him? Why?

F. What lessons are we to learn from the way Jesus responded to the two men wishing to follow him?

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#4

Matthew 8:28-9:1 - Dealing with Demoniacs

see also Mark 5:1-20 ; Luke 8:26-39

A. When you encounter someone whose life has been totally ruined (financially, spiritually, emotionally, physically) by their own bad choices, how sympathetic do you feel towards them? Are you inclined to do much to help someone like that?

B. Do you think it is possible for demons to take complete control of individuals without receiving the person's explicit or implicit consent (see 1 John 5:18)?

What kinds of choices might these two men have made that caused them to be susceptible to demon possession?

How sympathetic do you think you would have felt towards the demon possessed men?

C. Why did Jesus have sympathy on the demon possessed men?

D. According to Luke 8:31, the demons begged Jesus not to send them to the Abyss (NIV) but to be allowed to enter the pigs, instead. Why in the world did Jesus honor the request of those demons?

E. Do you know anyone whose life has been ruined by their own choices? How do you sense the Holy Spirit telling you to relate to them?

F. What principles of ministry can we learn from Jesus' example in how He related to the demon-possessed men and the demons themselves?

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#5

Matthew 9:9-13 - Sitting with sinners

A. What kind of people occupy the “worst” list of sinners in the minds of religious people today?

Are these the kind of people with whom you would want to be associated?

B. In Jesus' day, tax collectors (KJV:“publicans”) were wealthy and universally despised by almost all Jews as traitors (collaborators with the occupying enemy) and among the worst of sinners. Why would Jesus call one of these people to be his disciple?

C. It is clear from the Pharisees' response to Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners (verse 11) that they would never choose to associate with such people. Why do you suppose this was?

Why would Jesus choose to associate with tax collectors and “sinners” in spite of the potential for his reputation to be tarnished?

D. What does Jesus' saying, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,” mean? (c.f. Hosea 6:6)

Seeing as how we don't use the sacrificial system today, how would you rephrase that saying in modern language with contemporary reference points?

E. According to Jesus' analogy in verse 12, with whom He spend more time—the healthy or the sick? healthy sick With whom do we spend more of our time? healthy sick

F. Verse 10 implies that the sinful crowd *wanted* to be around Jesus. Why do you suppose this was?

Would “sinners” want to be around us or the other people in our church family?

G. How could we better reach out and minister to the people listed in answer “**A**”?

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#6

Matthew 9:18-26 - Dealing with ingratitude

A. Can you remember a time in your life when you did something nice for someone and they were clearly unappreciative? How did that make you feel? Would you be less likely to do something nice for them in the future?

B. How do you think Jesus felt when the people laughed at Him (vs. 24)?

C. Why did Jesus raise the dead girl anyway, even though they laughed at what he said?

D. What should we do if the ministry that we do for others is not appreciated or, worse, mocked?

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#7

*Matthew 11:20-24; 12:22-25, 34; 12:38-42, 15:1-3, 7-9, 12-14; 23:1-7, 13-15, 25
- Dealing with the hard hearted*

A. When you encounter someone who is rude, obstinate and contrary, how does your personality tend to react--fight? flight? ignore?

B. What do all the scripture examples above have in common?

C. How were the people to which Jesus ministered in *these* examples similar to or different from the others we have studied in the *past*?

D. In previous examples of Jesus ministering we've observed in his method qualities such as a non-judgmental attitude, patience, compassion, empathy, a willingness to risk personal health and reputation. Why, in these examples of interacting with people, did Jesus use such harsh words?

E. Is there anything for us to learn and apply to our own ministering from these extreme examples of Jesus relating to people? If so, what is it?