

Lesson 6 - Matthew & Thomas

DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE

A. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT MATTHEW? READ MARK 2:1, 13-14 AND LUKE 5:27-28 AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW..

1. Another name by which Matthew is known?

2. The city where he lived?

3. Matthew's father?

4. His occupation?

B. HOW DID MATTHEW RESPOND TO JESUS' CALL TO FOLLOW HIM? LUKE 5:28

"So _____ left _____, _____ up, and _____ Him." *Luke 5:28 NKJV*

"There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him that he was to be with Jesus, that he might listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work."

Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, 273

C. HOW DID THE PHARISEES FEEL ABOUT THE PUBLICANS? HOW DID JESUS ADDRESS THIS PREJUDICE? MARK 2:15-17

Now it happened, as He was _____ in Levi's _____, that many tax collectors and sinners also _____ together with _____ and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. And when the _____ and Pharisees _____ Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "_____ is it that He _____ and _____ with tax collectors and _____?" When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are _____ have no need of a _____, but those who are _____. I did not come to call the _____, but _____, to repentance." *Mark 2:15-17 NKJV*

“The calling of Matthew to be one of Christ’s disciples excited great indignation. For a religious teacher to choose a publican as one of his immediate attendants was an offence against the religious, social, and national customs. By appealing to the prejudices of the people the Pharisees hoped to turn the current of popular feeling against Jesus. ... The Pharisees had judged Matthew according to his employment, but Jesus saw in this man a heart open for the reception of truth.”

Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, 273, 272

D. THESE VERSES DESCRIBE THOMAS AS A COURAGEOUS AND DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF JESUS – THEY ALSO HOWEVER PRESENT THOMAS AS A MELANCHOLY PESSIMIST. MATCH THE VERSES WITH THE REFERENCES AND TRY TO SEE THOMAS’ CHARACTER IN EACH OF THESE SITUATIONS.

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| (a) John 11:16 | () Skepticism of Thomas |
| (b) John 14:5-6 | () The Death of Lazarus |
| (c) John 20:24 | () Jesus the Way to the Father |
| (d) John 20:26-27 | () Thomas’ Declaration |
| (e) John 20:28 | () Jesus Appears to Thomas |

E. HOW DID THOMAS EXPRESS HIS LOYALTY TO JESUS AND HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHO JESUS REALLY WAS? JOHN 20:28

“And _____ answered and said to _____, ‘My _____ and my _____!’” *John 20:28 NKJV*

“Thomas – yes he was melancholy, he was moody, pessimistic, comfortless, shattered – but when he saw the Lord Jesus Christ, he gave the greatest testimony ever given. And you know what? In that one little statement Thomas gave the speech that literally destroys every lie that has been told about Jesus not being God.” **Bill Santos**

MAKING IT PERSONAL

A. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE TAKE FOR OUR LIFE FROM THE QUOTATION THAT MAKES REFERENCE TO OUR COMPLETE SURRENDER AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS?

“Principle is always exacting. No man can succeed in the service of God unless his whole heart is in the work and he counts all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. No man who makes any reserve can be the disciple of Christ, much less can he be His co-labourer. When men appreciate the great salvation, the self-sacrifice seen in Christ’s life will be seen in theirs. Wherever He leads the way, they will rejoice to follow.”

Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, 273

B. WHENEVER JESUS FACED A WALL OF PREJUDICE HE WOULD TEAR IT DOWN – HOWEVER THAT LESSON WAS NOT ONE THAT WAS EASILY GRASPED BY THE DISCIPLES. AS YOU STUDY THE FIRST STEPS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF ACTS, PREJUDICE APPEARS AS ONE OF THE FACTORS LIMITING THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH. JESUS PROVIDED PETER WITH A LIFE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE LESSON OF THE EVILS OF PREJUDICE IN THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS (ACTS 10 AND 11). THIS SERVED AS A “WAKE UP CALL” FOR THE CHURCH TO CORRECT THE ERROR OF PREJUDICE THAT PLAGUED THE CHURCH. IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT THE CHURCH TODAY MIGHT BE SUFFERING WITH THE SAME PROBLEM BY DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THOSE THAT DO NOT MEET OUR STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS? HOW CAN PREJUDICE AFFECT OUR EFFORTS TO EVANGELIZE OUR COMMUNITIES? WHAT STEPS MUST WE TAKE TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM?

“When the Holy Spirit moves upon human minds, all petty complaints and accusations between man and his fellow man will be put away. The bright beams of the Sun of righteousness will shine into the chambers of the mind and heart. In our worship of God there will be no distinction between rich and poor, white and black. All prejudice will be melted away. When we approach God, it will be as one brotherhood. We are pilgrims and strangers, bound for a better country, even a heavenly. There all pride, all accusation, all self-deception, will forever have an end. Every mask will be laid aside, and we shall “see him as He is” (1 John 3:2). There our songs will catch the inspiring theme, and praise and thanksgiving will go up to God”.

Review and Herald, Oct. 24, 1899. - Ellen White, Ye Shall Receive Power, 84

C. WHAT LESSONS CAN YOU TAKE FOR YOUR LIFE FROM THE LIVES OF MATTHEW AND THOMAS?

***Tearing Down the Walls** – Are their people living in your community that your church has not approached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What is preventing that from happening? Pray that God will motivate and enable you and your church to reach out to those that need Jesus.*

My Commitment

I commit to _____



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