

BIBLE READING DAY 10, TUESDAY: MARCH 8

Jesus Chooses, Sends Out Apostles

Matthew 10:40–11:1; Mark 6:6b–14; Luke 6:12–26, 39-40

Now it came to pass at that time that Jesus retired to a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he named apostles: Simon (whom he also named Peter) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon (called the Zealot), Thaddaeus, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

And he came down the mountain with them to where there was a level piece of ground. And a great crowd of his disciples and throngs of people from Judea and Jerusalem and the coastlands of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were possessed of evil spirits were delivered, and everyone sought to touch Jesus, for power was going forth from him and healing them all.

And he lifted his eyes toward his disciples, and said, "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you, revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! Your reward is great in heaven indeed, because in the same way their fathers did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

Then he spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

Then Jesus went about among the villages teaching. And he called to him the twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them power over evil spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no provision bag, no money in their purses; and to wear sandals, but no extra coat. And he said to them, "In whatever house you receive lodging, stay there until you leave that place. And whatever place will not welcome you or listen to you, when you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

"He who welcomes you welcomes me, and he who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. He who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and he who welcomes a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of the least of these because he is my disciple, I tell you truly, he shall not lose his reward."

12 Disciples:
(sing to *Jesus Loves Me* tune)

Jesus called them one by one
Peter, Andrew, James and John
Next came Phillip, Thomas too
Matthew and Bartholomew
James, son of Alphaeus
Simon also Thaddeus
The last apostle Jesus made:
Judas, by whom he was betrayed

Yes, Jesus called them
Yes, Jesus called them
Yes, Jesus called them
And they all followed Him

And when Jesus had finished instructing the twelve, he sent them out and they preached that all should repent. They cast out many demons and many who were sick, they anointed with oil and healed them. Then the apostles returned to Jesus and told him all the things they had done and taught.

Eating Grain and Healing On the Sabbath

Matthew 12:5–14; Mark 2:23–28; Mark 3:7–12; Luke 6:17–19

Now it came to pass that, on a Sabbath, Jesus was passing through some grainfields; and as they walked along, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look at that! Why are they doing what is forbidden on the Sabbath by the law?”

But Jesus replied, “Have you never read what David did when he was hungry and had need, he and his companions—how he went into the house of God when Abiathar was High Priest and ate the showbread, which it is unlawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him? Or have you not read in the law how, on the Sabbath, the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, but are guiltless? But I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had understood what this means, ‘I desire mercy rather than sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is lord also of the Sabbath.”

Then Jesus went on from there and entered their synagogue. Now there was a man there who had a withered hand. And the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” (They were seeking some charge to bring against him.)

“What man among you,” said Jesus, “if he has a sheep which falls into a pit on the Sabbath will not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more is a man worth than a sheep! So, then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

Then Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.”

And the man stretched out his hand, and it was restored and made whole like the other one.

Then the Pharisees went out and took counsel together against Jesus, how they might destroy him.

Then Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea. And there followed him a great crowd of people from Galilee, and from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea, and from beyond the Jordan, and from the region of Tyre and Sidon—a multitude of people came to him, for they had heard what great things he was doing. And he told his disciples to keep a boat ready for him, in case the people should crowd about him too closely. For he had healed many, and all who had diseases thronged about him to touch him.

And evil spirits, when they saw him, fell before him shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he charged them not to tell who he was.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 st Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	2 nd Feast of BOOTHES	WINTER	2 nd Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	3 rd Feast of BOOTHES	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 10 (TUESDAY MARCH 8)

So, What IS the Point?

Based on Matthew 12:5-14, Mark 3:5-12

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Can’t see the forest through the trees”?

This phrase is used when someone is so wrapped up in the details of something that they miss the actual point or purpose. Re-read Matthew 12:5-14 & Mark 3:5-12.

Once again, the Pharisees show that all though they have read the scripture and have gone to school to better understand it, they never fully grasped its true intent. They were blinded by the details. As they read the scripture, they came up with their own definition and understanding of it to suit their own interests and needs. And in today’s passages, we see them redefine what makes keeping the Sabbath holy.

Are we guilty of this? Do you bend scripture to meet your own personal agenda?

Notice how far their hypocrisy and spiritual blindness had led them astray. In Mark 3, Christ is disturbed by their hardened hearts. The Pharisees showed how little they knew about God by believing and discussing how displeased He would be if Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath. It’s interesting that after Christ shows them the truth and then heals the man with the withered hand that instead of repentance, the Pharisees turn further away.

Questions to consider:

1.) Why did Christ heal the man with the withered hand?

2.) Can you think of any examples of how people place more value on something else other than people? What about you?

3.) How often do you go out of your way to show God’s mercy and compassion to people on the fringe?

God, help me to not stray from Your truth. Allow me opportunities to show how much You mean to me. Help me to show Your love and mercy to those I encounter today.

--By Matt Cornelius

You Are Who You Are For A Reason

You are who you are for a reason.
You’re part of an intricate plan.
You’re a precious and perfect unique design,
Called “God’s special woman or man”

You look like you look for a reason.
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the womb,
You’re just what He wanted to make!

The parents you had were the ones He chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom-designed with God’s plan in mind,
And they bear the Master’s seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy;
And God wept that it hurt you so.
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into His likeness you’d grow.

You are who you are for a reason.
You’ve been formed by the Master’s rod.
You are who you are, Beloved,
Because there is a GOD.”

Russell Kelfer

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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