

Matthew Lesson 7 – Study Notes

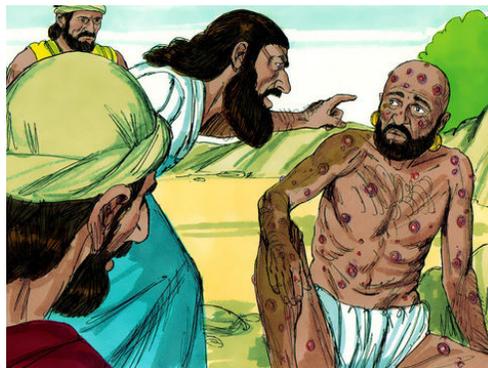
Matthew 3:16,17 Then he permitted him. And after Yeshua was immersed He immediately rose from the water; and behold the heavens opened up to Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him: and there was a voice from the heavens saying, This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

So what would you think would be the first thing Yeshua would do in His public ministry? Or let's look at this another way. What would you do if you had just launched a ministry? What would be the first thing you would want to do?

Matthew 3:1 Then Yeshua was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tested by the devil.

First, we should say that the devil or Satan is very real. He is not an invention of Christianity. Satan is mentioned throughout Hebrew Scriptures. The Hebrew name Satan means adversary or the one who opposes.

Job 1:7,8,10 And the LORD said to Satan, From where have you come? Then Satan answered the LORD and said, From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it. ... And the LORD said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is no one like him on the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one who revere God and turns away from bad? (Satan answers) Have you not made a hedge about him and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands and his substance is increased in the land, but put out Your hand now and touch all that he has and he will curse You to Your face.



Job 1:20-22 Then Job rose and tore his cloak and shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshipped, and said, Naked I came out of my mother's womb and naked will I return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed by the name of the LORD With all this Job did not sin or lay folly to God.

2. What do we learn from Job from his response to all the devastation?

3. If you could have spoken to Job, not knowing what we know today, what might you have said? What do you say to someone who is hurting beyond that which we can imagine?

Why is it important to speak the words of G-d to a hurting friend? Listen to what G-d told Job's friends:

Job 42:7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Elifaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against you and against your
Job 42:7-8 And so it was, that after the LORD HAD SPOKEN THESE WORDS TO Job, the LORD said to Elifaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as my servant Job has. Therefore now take for your selves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering, and My servant Job will pray for you: for his prayer I shall accept, lest I deal with you after your folly, in that you have not spoken of Me the thing which is right, like My servant Job.

We all get the picture - Satan has power, but G-d has to give him permission! So Satan is a tool of G-d's - he is not all powerful. He is not all knowing. He is not everywhere at once. Only G-d is all of those things. What is Satan's greatest power? TO GIVE US CHOICES. And what is our greatest power? TO CHOOSE G-D'S WAY.

In the end, G-d has put His trust in us to Choose Him!

Matthew 4:2-4a And after He fasted forty days and forty nights, He was then hungry. And when the one who was testing, the devil, came, he said to Him, If you are the Son of God, You must now say that these stones would become bread.

Matthew's readers would have connected the fast of 40 days with Moses and Elijah!

Exodus 34:28 Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant -

And here was Yeshua fasting the exact number of days as Moses. A number Matthew's audience would have been familiar with. Notice the following words:

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him.

Do you think all these words are ringing in their memories. Are they putting all these clues together?

Elijah was also a great prophet in Israel. People knew of his works among one of the most evil of kings and the prophets of Baal.

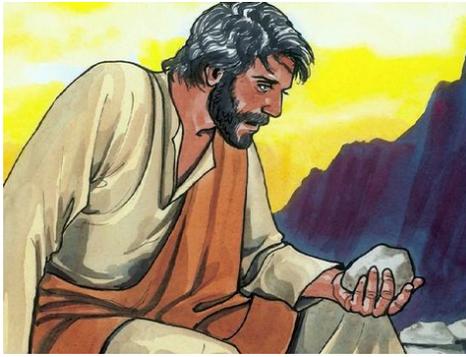
I Kings 19:8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty day and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

4. How do the above 2 verses show us that Matthew knew his audience and was trying to draw them in to see that this is the Messiah?

Mt. Horeb is Mt. Sinai. This is in the wilderness. And where is Yeshua? In the wilderness, though He is likely in the wilderness of Judea, as He was in the Land.

Yeshua was both G-d and man. Matthew tells us that He was hungry. At His hungriest, weakest time, Satan comes with his first test, saying,

If you are the Son of God,..... the 'if' is not a good translation a better translation would be "since". Can we imagine the hunger pangs and the weakness that Yeshua was experiencing? Now add to this the understanding that Yeshua could have commanded bread to be made, but He did not succumb to such testing!



How did Yeshua overcome this test? He spoke the words of the Torah:

Deuteronomy 8:3....man does not live by bread alone, but upon every word going out through the mouth of God.

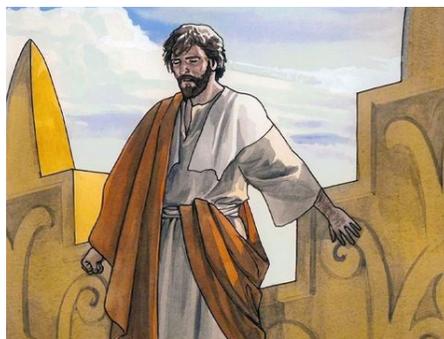
He was in the wilderness, alone, starving, with Satan whispering in his ear to perform a miracle He could easily have done, yet He was totally dependent on His heavenly Father.

5. How is this a lesson for us?

Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil took Him to the holy city and placed Him often the pinnacle of the Temple and said to Him, If you are the Son of God, You must throw Yourself down at once for it has been written that,

He will give orders to His angels concerning you and they will take you up in the Palms of their hands, so that you would not strike your foot against a stone.

Psalm 91;11,12



And where did Yeshua's courage come from? Again, it came from the Torah!

Matthew 4:10,11 Then Yeshua said to him, You must immediately go back where you came from Satan: for it has been written, You will worship the Lord you God and you will serve only Him. (Deuteronomy 6:13) Then the devil left Him, and behold angels came and were ministering to Him.

6. What are we being taught by Yeshua about how to deal with Satan? How much power is there in the words of Torah?

7. Yeshua endured all of this during the first 40 days of His ministry. What do you think He wanted us to know?

And the day is coming.....

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, the one who had accused them before our God day and night.

Now after all of this John, His cousin had been put in prison by Herod. Herod was tired of hearing John tell of his bad behavior within his family, and wanted to silence his voice. At this time, Yeshua heads toward Galilee, stopping in Nazaeth.

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

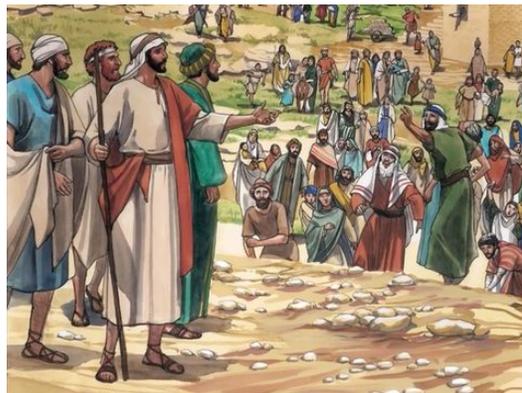
8. What has Yeshua just done in this synagogue?

9. How does this incident show G-d's hand in the details of our lives?

Yeshua did not stay in Nazareth, but went on to Capernaum bordering Zebulon and Naphthalim. Do we know why He went there?

Matthew 4:13-17 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum which is upon the sea coast, I the borders of Zebulon and Naphtalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, the land of Zebulon and Naphelalim by the way of the seas, beyond the Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles**; the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

After Joshua conquered the area around the Galilee and the land was divided between the tribes of Zebulon and Naphtali, this area eventually became a hotbed of paganism and idolatry. Around 722 BC, the Assyrians came in, conquering the land, sending the Northern tribes into exile. Now, mixed marriages were common and, Gentiles repopulated the area! Eventually, these people started a new religion and culture - that of the Samaritans! Therefore, this area is known as a land of darkness where Gentiles lived! It was these people Isaiah said would see a great light! And it is here, in this area of darkness and Gentiles, where Yeshua, the great light, would come. It is estimated that 85% of Yeshua's ministry was spent in this area, but at a minimum, at least the majority of Jesus ministry was spent in and



around the Galilee!

11. What do you find amazing about Galilee of the Gentiles?

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

12. How is Yeshua's message like one we have heard before?

Repentance is key to following G-d. Repentance is more than just a change of heart or a change of attitude toward something. Repentance is **turning your life in the pursuit of G-d.**

Every kingdom has a king, and Yeshua is proclaiming that He is the king of the heaven! His very presence had brought the kingdom near to these people! Even the demonic realm, the realm of health and healing and even life and death came under His authority. Nothing could challenge His Kingship!

13. How is the life of King Messiah an example to us as to how we bring the kingdom of G-d to this world?



The Disciples

As we have mentioned before, the word "disciple" in Hebrew is "talmid." A talmid is a student. The teacher is the rabbi. The relationship between a student and a rabbi is described beautifully in a book called Pirke Avot which means Ethics of the Fathers. A quote from this book describes the reverence a rabbi should hold:

"Let your house be a meeting place for the rabbis, and cover yourself in the dust of their feet, and drink in their words thirstily." (Pirke Avot 1:4)

It is said that the talmid of a rabbi would literally memorize the words they were taught!

Matthew 4:18-22 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will send you out to fish for people. At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

12. What is striking about the way these disciples responded to Yeshua's call?

13. Are there ways in our lives that without speaking about it, people can see that we quickly obey Yeshua?