

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 8

Introduction

As Jesus traveled throughout the cities and villages of the region, the Good News of the Kingdom continued to be preached: the long-awaited promised Messiah had come! Matthew tells us that Jesus went about healing *every sickness and every disease among the people*. And when He saw the multitudes, He felt great pity—great mercy—for them, for they were *weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd* (9:35–36). Everywhere Jesus went He proclaimed the hope of heaven; healing miracles were the evidence that His teaching was true. It was love in action—divinity on display. There was the dead child raised to life and the woman with a bleeding disorder who would dare to touch the hem of His garment. There were two blind men who came together, crying out for mercy and there was the mute, demon-possessed man who, when healed by Jesus, made the multitudes marvel. As lives were touched, lessons were deepened; not fully to be perceived and appreciated yet, but certainly indelibly etched on the hearts and minds of the disciples who were about to inherit the ministry to which Jesus had called them.

We not only see love in action, we see divinity on display, as Jesus demonstrates His power and authority over the natural elements of this world. We read the remarkable details of Jesus calming a storm that left all the eyewitnesses struggling to understand who He was, and that affords today's reader the realization that He can calm the storms of our lives just as easily. Both Matthew and Mark explain to us the reason Jesus spoke in parables—not to confuse people but to challenge those sincerely seeking to discover the true meaning of His words. The gospel accounts tell us He used stories to address the crowds, but when He was alone with His disciples, He explained the meaning to them.

As you do your study this week, consider yourself challenged to discover the true meaning of His words and, while you're alone with Him, lean in to hear Him reveal to you the wonderful mystery that is yours to understand and His to unfold!

Did you know

We do not find the healing of the blind recorded in the Old Testament prior to Jesus. Because the two blind men believed in Him (Matthew 9:29–31), He touched their eyes and suddenly they could see. The words *according to your faith* do not mean “in proportion to,” but rather “in response to.” Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone about their healing because He did not want people to know Him simply as a worker of miracles, but as one whose words would bring healing to their shattered spiritual lives.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
A Girl Restored; A Woman Healed	Matthew 9:18–26	Mark 5:22–43; Luke 8:40–56
Two Blind Men & a Mute are Healed	Matthew 9:27–38	
Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4:35–41	Matthew 8:23–27; Luke 8:22–25
The Purpose of Parables; Parables Illustrated	Matthew 13:1–58	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Mark 5:36 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

. . . Do not be afraid; only believe.

Matthew 9:18–26

A Girl Restored and a Woman Healed

18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, 'My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.'

19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

21 For she said to herself, 'If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.'

22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, 'Be of good cheer, daughter; n your faith has made you well.' And the woman was made well from that hour.

23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,

24 He said to them, 'Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.' And they ridiculed Him.

25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

Mark 4:35–41

Jesus Calms the Storms of Life

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side.'

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was.

And other little boats also were with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him,

'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'

Matthew 13:10–17

The Purpose of Parables

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?'

11 He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Matthew 9:18–26 A Girl Restored and a Woman Healed

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Mark 4:35–41 Jesus Calms the Storms of Life

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Matthew 13:10–17 The Purpose of Parables

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. **Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.**

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Matthew 9:18–26

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Mark 4:35–41

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 13:10–17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
