

COMMENTARY

Chapter 9

vs. 1-9 The twelve were able to perform miracles because Jesus had given them the power. This was to further verify their message. They were to take no supplies for their journey but to depend on their host to provide for their needs. Shaking the dust was a Jewish method for showing utter contempt for a place and its people.

Herod had arrested John back in chapter 3:19,20. Matt. 14:1 picks up the events there and show the events that led to the beheading of John.

vs. 10-17 Bethsaida is in the northern part of Galilee on the shore of the lake. Jesus and His disciples had traveled there by boat (for privacy) and the followers upon seeing the destination travelled by foot. The 5,000 were just men, not including women and children. The bread were barley loaves and would have been smaller in size than a 9 in. cake. The fish would have been similar to sardines.

vs. 18-27 Jesus in asking His disciples who people thought He was, was opening the door for teaching. Upon Peter's confession that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus went on to inform them of the hardships He would face. This would have been different then their opinion of the Messiah.

vs. 28-36 The transfiguration probably took place on Mt. Hermon. Here, Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the prophets) appeared with Jesus in the presence of 3 of His disciples. This showed that the Law and the Prophets all agreed on the Messiah's mission and purpose. God's testimony concerning His Son shows the superiority of Jesus' teachings over the Old Testament.

vs. 37-45 Jesus again shows His power but quickly reminds His disciples that there are hard times ahead.

vs. 46-50 In all systems that the disciples were familiar with (including their religion) there were levels of greatness. Jesus dispels that notion by His clear statement on being a servant.

vs. 51-55 The enmity that the Jews showed toward the Samaritans was returned. The Samaritans make things hard on Jesus and His disciples by failing to show the customary hospitality. Jesus teaches to forgive.

vs. 56-62 Jesus proclaims the need for absolute service to the King of Kings.

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Chapter 10

vs. 1-24 From the ancient manuscripts there are two different readings concerning the number sent out. One reads that there were 70 and the other 72. vs. 4 shows the urgency of their journey and they were to do nothing that would slow them down. Korazin and Bethsaida which refused to accept Jesus no longer exist and their past location is in doubt to this day. Tyre and Sidon were Old Testament cities which were prophesied against because of their wickedness and later destroyed. In verse 21 Jesus gives thanks that the common man was made to understand the Good News.

vs. 25-37 Jesus continues to be tested by the religious leaders. This was done in an effort to disgrace Him in the eyes of His followers or to trap Him. The man finding himself appearing as a fool tries to cover up his embarrassment with further questioning. The lawyer would not have regarded anybody as his neighbor. Only those who were of the same nationality and belief would qualify. Jesus shows the fallacy of such thought. He uses a Samritan (one who would be looked down upon) to teach the Jews a lesson.

vs. 38-42 Martha and her sister lived in Bethany with their brother Lazarus (this is before the raising of Lazarus). They appear to be wealthy and much would have been expected of them in regards to entertaining their guest. Martha shows her respect for Jesus by waiting on Him hand and foot and going to great lengths to please Him. How frustrating it must have been in her running around to constantly be seeing her sister just sitting, listening to Jesus instead of helping. Finally, she confronts Jesus about it and asks Him to speak to Mary about the matter. Jesus straightway explains that Mary has done that which is pleasing. She has chosen the spiritual over the physical realm. This is what God desires our attitude to be.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 9

1. What did Jesus give the twelve and what was their mission?
2. How much food were the disciples able to come up with and how many people were there?
3. What did Jesus do upon taking the food; and after everyone ate, how much was left over?
4. Upon Peter's confession of who Jesus was, what did Jesus say that the Son of Man must suffer?
5. What must the followers of Jesus do to be considered worthy?
6. What happened to Jesus on the mountain, who met Him, and what did they talk about?
7. What did Peter offer to do and what was God's response?
8. Summarize the event that took place upon Jesus' descending the mountain.
9. How do we know that there was envy and jealousy among the disciples and what was Jesus' response to it?
10. Why did the Samaritans oppose Jesus and what did James and John want to do about it?
11. Who is not fit for the Kingdom of God?

BONUS:

1. What lessons does Jesus teach Christians in this chapter?
2. How does Jesus have His authority verified in this chapter?

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 10

1. As the Chapter begins what does Jesus do?
2. What did Jesus tell these men about the harvest and that which they should ask for?
3. If these men came to a house of peace what were they to do?
4. What were they to do in a town that welcomed them?
5. What were they to do in a town that did not welcome them?
6. When they returned what did Jesus say He had given them and in what were they to rejoice?
7. How does one inherit eternal life according to the Law?
8. Summarize the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
9. What lesson are we to learn from this parable?
10. Why was Martha upset when Jesus came to visit and what comment did Jesus make concerning the issue?

BONUS:

1. Why do you think Jesus sent men ahead into the towns He was about to visit?
2. How do verses 19 and 20 apply to Christians today?
3. What are ways that Christians today can be Good Samaritans?
4. How do verses 38-42 apply to us?