

## Lesson #9: Jesus, Storyteller

### Welcome Prayer & Review of previous week: Jesus, Burden Bearer (15 minutes)

- After Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, he went to Capernaum, his headquarters. There, he healed a Centurion soldier's slave by His word alone. The Centurion recognized Jesus' authority and had faith that Jesus could heal with just a word, and without having to be present. Jesus praised the man's faith.
- Everywhere Jesus went, people came to him and He lifted their burdens. The widow's dead son at the funeral procession was brought back to life. This was the first time Jesus raised someone from the dead. The prostitute woman at Simon's party anointed Jesus' feet with perfume and her tears. He felt compassion for them, not condemnation.
- John the Baptist in prison was having doubts. Jesus reported back to him in a way John would understand as a prophet: "The blind can see, the lame walk, diseases are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them." Jesus gave John the Baptist high praise.
- Next, Jesus begins going around from one city to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. His disciples went with Him, along with some of the women who had been healed of evil spirits and sickness, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward and many others, rich and poor.
- Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for claiming he was of an evil spirit, and gives warning to three cities who did not repent when they saw His signs and miracles. Jesus warns, "He who is not with Me is against Me. Any sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."  
*(Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is a deliberate rejection from those who know Jesus' claims are true and reject Him anyway. For example, the Pharisees couldn't deny Jesus' claims to be true so they said He was from an evil spirit. It was a hardening of their hearts. They rejected Him in the fullest possible revelation.  
Rejection in ignorance or unbelief that later gives way to repentance is not blasphemy. For example, Saul of Tarsus' conversion.  
It is considered blasphemy against the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit testifies of Christ and makes His truth known.)*
- Jesus as Burden Bearer says: "Rest in Me. Just come to Me, and you will receive rest, peace and grace." The Pharisees said "You must do more". Jesus replaced self-righteousness with grace and self-sufficiency with rest.

### **Homework Discussion – In small groups (30 minutes)**

Choose a few questions ahead of time from each of the five daily studies to discuss in small groups, or you can use the sample questions below.

Study 1: Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

- Page 124 - Questions 5, 9, 12

Study 2: A Deputation from John

- Page 128 - Questions 1, 2

Study 3: Come to Me

- Page 129 – Questions 1, 2, 6

Study 4: Jesus Relates to Women

- Page 132 – Questions 5, 8
- Page 133 – Question 3

Study 5: The Pharisees Rebuked

- Page 134 – Questions 3, 4, 7
- Page 137 – Questions 2, 4, 5

### **Lesson Intro for video: Jesus, Storyteller (5 minutes)**

- Jesus was a great Storyteller. He taught in parables, which is a simple story with a profound meaning. Parables used symbolism that would resonate with the people and create timeless stories.
- The central theme in Jesus' parables is the Kingdom of Heaven – the greatest treasure. Jesus was revealing a hope for the future.

### **Video Lesson (45 minutes)**

### **Discussion & Table Prayer Requests (20 minutes)**

- What significant things did you learn about Jesus' parable teaching?
- Share prayer requests with your group.

### **Ending Prayer (5 minutes)**