## Gospels Study and Discussion Questions Lesson Four: <u>Training of the Disciples, Part 1</u> – Matthew 10-17, John 6

The events of Matthew 10-17 are presented more topically than chronologically. They probably occurred between the end of Jesus' second year of ministry and sometime near the end of His third and final year. This period of ministry and the contents of Matthew 10-17 are also covered in Lessons 5 and 6.

Read Matthew 10. Jesus trained His disciples in a variety of ways. According to Matthew 10, He gave them practical ministry experience.

- 1) Compare Luke 6:12-16 with Matthew 10:1-4 and John 6:60-71 (note: while many *disciples* followed Jesus in the beginning, it was only later that Jesus appointed twelve of these disciples as *apostles*).
  - a) What information is given about the Twelve?
  - b) What decision did many of Jesus' followers eventually make, according to John 6:60-71?
- 2) "Apostle" means *sent*. Give the following information regarding Jesus' "sending out" of the Twelve:a) The arrangement of the men (see Mark 6:7)
  - **b)** The people to whom they were sent on this particular occasion (see Matthew 10:5-6)
  - c) The tasks they were commissioned to accomplish (see Matthew 10:7-8)
  - d) A comparison of these tasks to Jesus' own ministry (compare Matthew 4:17 with 10:7 and Matthew 8-9 with 10:8)
  - e) Things that were to be *higher priorities* than serving under pleasant and comfortable circumstances (Matthew 10)
- 3) Where would those who know you best say that you place ease and comfort in your list of priorities?

## Read Matthew 14:13-36 and 15:32-39 with John 6:5-24. Jesus trained His disciples through miracles.

- 4) Regarding the feeding of the 5000:
  - a) What background information does Mark 6:31-33 give about this event?
  - b) What were Jesus' reasons for performing the miracle, according to Matthew 14:14 and John 6:5-10?

- 5) Why might Jesus have chosen to show the disciples that He could walk on water?
- 6) Reread Matthew 14:33.
  - a) Considering the context of the verse, try to define the word "worship."
  - **b)** Since the complete record of the Scriptures is God's self-revelation, we have the opportunity to know more about Jesus today than His disciples knew at the time of these miraculous events. Why do you think we are nevertheless slow, forgetful, or negligent in worshipping the Lord?

Read Matthew 16:5-12 and John 6:25-71. Jesus trained His disciples by challenging their thinking and beliefs.

- 7) Compare Jesus' negative comments to His disciples in Matthew 16:6 and 12 concerning yeast with His use of yeast as a positive illustration in Matthew 13:33. How is the effect (power) of yeast a suitable analogy for the power of both good and evil?
- 8) According to John's gospel, Jesus' feeding of 5000 and walking on water was immediately followed by His "Bread of Life" discourse (John 6:25-71). The response of the crowd and of Jesus' disciples shows that the discourse challenged their thinking and beliefs. Summarize the five questions the crowd asked Jesus in John 6:25-58 and Jesus' answer to each.

9) The crowd asked Jesus about the works God requires (6:28). Jesus' answer in 6:29 also explains the mystery of how one "feeds on" Him (6:57, see also 6:40, 47). Find Jesus' answer in these verses and give a *specific example* of how you must perform your most important work by "feeding on" Jesus today?

Read Matthew 16:13-28. Jesus trained His disciples by challenging their thinking and beliefs.

- **10)** Consider Matthew 16:17 with Matthew 11:25, 13:11, John 6:65, and 1 Corinthians 2:10, 14. How does a person ascertain spiritual truth?
- 11) Read John 1:41 and 6:14-15 with Matthew 16:15-16.
  - a) In what sense is Peter's confession (Matthew 16:16) the foundation upon which Christ's church rests?
  - **b)** According to John 6:15, what expectation did the Jews have of the Messiah (see also Isaiah 9:7)?
  - c) According to Matthew 16:21 and John 18:36, how did their expectation line up with God's plan for Jesus' first advent?
  - **d)** Compare Matthew 16:21 with 16:27. In what way was Jesus challenging the thinking and beliefs of His disciples (and Jewish religious thought) concerning the Messiah?
- 12) How has the Spirit of Christ been challenging your thinking about who He is?

Read Matthew 17. Jesus trained His disciples by challenging their thinking and beliefs.

- **13)** How did the Transfiguration, described in Matthew 17:1-8, fulfill the prediction Jesus made in Matthew 16:28?
- 14) How did the Transfiguration validate what Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew 16:21-27?
- **15)** Reread John 6:27b with Matthew 17:5.

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- a) From where does Christ's authority come?
- **b)** Considering Christ's authority and desire to transform *your* thinking as His disciple, what practical steps could you take to improve your ability to "listen to Him" (Matthew 17:5)?