# Lesson 12 Matthew 8:16-17, 9:18-37, 12:46-50 Work of the Church

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. A. To what audience was Matthew writing his Gospel? How would the fulfillment of prophecy make it easier for that audience to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah?

Matthew 8:16-17

16 When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons, and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick,

17 to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: “He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (A.D. 180)

Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church.

B The incident of the exorcism of the demons from the demoniacs in the territory of the Gadarenes shows that the demons recognized Jesus and feared Him. Why is it not sufficient to merely recognize Jesus? What more must be done? See James 2:19-20 and Matthew 25:44-46

Matthew 8:28-31

28 When he came to the other side, to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road.

29 They cried out, “What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?”

30 Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding.

31 The demons pleaded with him, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine.”

James 2:19-20

19 You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble.

20 Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?

Matthew 25:44-46

Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

45 He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’

46 And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

1. A Why is appropriate for the followers of Christ, the Church, to fast today?

Matthew 9:18-20

18 The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to him and objected, “Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

19 Jesus answered them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.

20 But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

Catechism 1438

1438 The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).

B In His answer, what claim does Our Lord make which we pass over without thinking, but would been astounding to the Jews of His time?

Isaiah 62:5

5 For as a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

1. A. Although, the woman, in her faith, touched the cloak of Jesus for healing and in a similar incident at Gennesaret, people did the same. Where did the real healing come from?

Matthew 9:20-21

20 A woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak.

21 She said to herself, “If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured.”

22 Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, “Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you.” And from that hour the woman was cured.

Matthew 14:35

35 People brought to him all those who were sick

36 and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.

B Note that the woman was cured of her illness, but, what else did she receive and how did she receive it?

Ephesians 2:1-2; 8-9

1 You were dead in your transgressions and sins

2 in which you once lived following the age of this world

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;

9 it is not from works, so no one may boast.

1. A. What tells you that the two blind men do not fully understand who Jesus is?

Matthew 9:27-31

27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed [him], crying out, “Son of David,\* have pity on us!”

28 When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I can do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they said to him.

29 Then he touched their eyes and said, “Let it be done for you according to your faith.”

30And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”

31 But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

B What was required of them before they could receive the healing Grace of Jesus?

C How comforting is it for you to know that our understanding of the full nature of Jesus does not have to be perfect to receive His Grace?

1. A. Who are the family of Jesus? Consider Romans 8:15.

Matthew 12:46-50

46 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him.

47 [Someone told him, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you.”]

48 But he said in reply to the one who told him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”

49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers.

50 For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

Romans 8:15

You received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!”

B Is Jesus being disrespectful of His mother and family?

C Is Jesus implying that Our Blessed Mother had other children after the birth of Jesus? Consider Catechism 500 and 501.

Catechism 500

500 Against this doctrine the objection is sometimes raised that the Bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, "brothers of Jesus", are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls "the other Mary". They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression.

Catechism 501

501 Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: "The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formation she co-operates with a mother's love."