

Purpose

- Learn subjects that Jesus teaches to the Disciples
- Learn about The Lord's Prayer
- The beheading of John the Baptist
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Materials

- Bibles

Background Information**FOLLOWING THE BEATITUDES**

After Jesus gave the beatitudes to the Disciples he also gave them a list of subjects that he needed to instruct them about. These are listed in Matthew 5. Here are some of the subjects: fulfilling the law, murder, adultery, divorce, keeping your word, love your enemies, give to the needy, worrying excessively, judging others, and how to pray. As I read these it became very clear to me why God gives us grace. Some of these are easy to follow, others not so easy. As Christians we have to just keep working and strive to be what God wants us to be.

LORD'S PRAYER

Before Jesus gave the Disciples an example of how to pray, he gave them some tips on how NOT to pray. Don't pray as if you're bragging, pray in private. Speak to God as thou you were talking to him, you don't need flowery words or long prayers. God already knows what you are going to say. He just needs to hear from you so that you can have a relationship with Him. Matthew 6:5 and Luke 11:2 are the actual words that Jesus recommends that we use.

“OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BY YOUR NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,

BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

I could not find in either reference where it adds the kingdom, power and glory that we add to the end of the prayer.

The Gospels make clear that Jesus prayed. There is no hint that Jesus prayed three times a day, or that he prayed for an 'hour every day, or he prayed before making an important decision. Actually Jesus said very little about prayer. Above is the example He gave us to pray. It is significant that there are two sections to the prayer. This gives us insight into the nature and meaning of prayer. First; Jesus invites people to address prayer to "our Father". The first part of the prayer is praise of God and seeking the will of God. Second, Jesus invites people to bring to God their own needs, their need for forgiveness for their sins, their own need for strength when they face the trials and temptations of life. And in the prayer there is concern for others who need forgiveness for their sins.

We need to talk to God as in conversation. However there is a time for rote prayers such as The Lord's Prayer, Serenity Prayer or the Prayer of Jabez. At times in our lives it's good to recall something we have learned earlier so that it will come to mind instantly. It would be great to follow these prayers with your own thoughts and concerns. We need to pray for others, but there is also a time that you need to pray for yourself. I used to feel that I was being selfish when I prayer for me. God needs us to tell him all of the thoughts in our heart. In Matthew 7:7 we are told to ask, seek and knock.

After Jesus had given the disciples all of these instructions, he commanded that they go out two by two to all ends of the world to preach so that people could repent. He instructed them to take nothing (bread, bag, money) with them except a staff. They were to wear sandals but take no extra clothing. The disciples did as Jesus commanded; they preached, drove out demons, anointed, and healed many.

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS BEHEADED

Herod, the tetrarch, is Herod, the great, son. Tetrarch means that he ruled $\frac{1}{4}$ of the land and could be identified more as a prince.

Herod had heard about the teachings of John the Baptist and gave orders to have him arrested and put in prison. Herod did not like what John said about being with your brother's wife. Herod had married his brother, Herodias, wife. Herod really wanted to kill John but he was afraid of John and the power he had over the people. Finally the opportunity came when Herod gave a banquet for the leading people of Galilee. Herodias's daughter danced for the entertainment. Herod was so pleased that he said he would grant her any wish. She asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. He did as she asked because he had publicly asked her what she wanted. John's head was presented to Herod and he gave it to Herodias's daughter. As soon as John's disciples heard the news they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

When Herod heard of Jesus and his teachings, he believed that it was really John the Baptist comes back to life or even Elijah comes back to life. He must have been fearful for what would happen to him.

JESUS MINISTRIES

Various places in three of the gospels Jesus began predicting his death in order to prepare his disciples for what was ahead. Check out these in Matthew 16:21-28, Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 8:31-9:1, and Luke 9:22-27. Each time Jesus relayed that he would have to go to Jerusalem and endure many hardships (no details were given). When Peter remarked that they would not allow such a thing to happen Jesus, Jesus scolded Peter and told him to forget the things of man but remember they were now to serve God. Jesus again told them to follow him and do as God commanded.

Also in Matthew 16 Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. When Peter was seeking to please Jesus by confirming that he (Peter) believed that he was God's son. Jesus told Peter that he would be the rock upon which he would build his church. Jesus also promised Peter the keys to the kingdom. This was one of the times that Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

When questioned by the Pharisees about the laws that God had sent down as the Ten Commandments, Jesus was quick to tell them the greatest commandment. It is most important that you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. That's your whole being. The second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus reminded them that all of the other commandments were dependent upon those two (Matt.22: 34-40).

Jesus many times showed his compassion for all people, especially children. The disciples tried to discourage the children from chasing after Jesus or even coming up to him. Jesus, each time, would tell the disciples to let the children come to him. He talked to them, taught them, and even more important he loved them and was quick to show them that love. You can find examples of these in Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, and Luke 18:15-17.

Jesus was not always mild mannered and easy to get along with. In Matthew 21:15-19, Mark 11:15-18, and Luke 19:45-47 the story is related about the time that Jesus entered the temple and lost his temper. As Jesus entered the temple area he became enraged at all who were buying and selling in the temple. It was the law that a sacrifice should be brought into the temple. Vendors had set up tables in the temple selling what could be used for a sacrifice (doves). There also were tables set up where money could be changed from one currency to another. Jesus overturned tables, threw objects all around, yelled at the vendors and forced the selling to stop. He preached to the people that the temple was to be a place of prayer. This angered the chief priests and teachers of law because they feared the power Jesus had and his control over the masses.

Procedure

- Check out 20-1 and bring to class. .
- Do 20-2, 20-3, and 20-4 for fun.