

# A Harmony of the Gospels

# Second call of the four Luke 5:1-11

- Lake of Gennesaret=Sea of Galilee
- The boat would make a perfect platform from which to teach and not be pressed in upon by the crowd
- Peter was the expert at fishing yet there was something about the authority with which Jesus spoke that Peter followed His instructions.
- The great catch of fish assures them of His faithful provision for His followers.
- Peter realized at that moment that the Messiah was not just a special man but God in the flesh.
- These disciples now were all in. Before they had left their nets. Now they left everything.

# Forgiving and healing of the paralytic

Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:10-12; Luke 5:17-26

- After some time away from populated areas Jesus returns to Capernaum only to be sought out by many again.
- These four men demonstrated great faith in bringing the man to Jesus.
- Jesus, powerfully reveals that He is God in the flesh by first addressing the man's spiritual condition.
- When challenged Jesus provided proof through the miraculous healing.
- Only God could do either of the things, forgive the man's sin or make him walk.

# Call of Matthew

Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:13-14; Luke 5:27-28

- Matthew also known as Levi the son of Alphaeus
- The tax booth was to gather taxes from commercial traders traveling through the area.

# Banquet at Matthew's house

Matthew 9:10-13; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:29-32

- Matthew's friends would naturally be other tax collectors and "sinners"
  - "Sinners" could range from those who were living in such a way that is contrary to God's revealed will through His Word to those who had offended the exclusivism of the Pharisees' purity laws and /or their rigorous observance of the Law. (Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, p758)
- The Pharisees and other religious leaders were very careful about becoming ceremonially unclean through association with "sinners".
- This would begin a constant theme of Jesus being a friend to sinners.

Jesus defends his disciples for feasting instead of fasting with three parables. Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39

- Pharisees fasted twice per week Luke 18:12
- The only prescribed fast was the Day of Atonement
- Jesus revealed that in this day of the kingdom of God being fulfilled in their midst by His presence was a time of rejoicing not mourning.
- Jesus alludes to the time between His death and resurrection in a time of mourning that will come.
- Jesus was not here to patch up or reform Judaism but to bring it to fulfillment. There is nothing wrong with what came before but its purpose had run its course.

# Sabbath Controversies and Withdrawals

# Jesus heals an invalid on the Sabbath

## John 5:1-9

- This story punctuates the truth that the miracles of Jesus provided the foundation for God's revelation of who He is and what He is doing.
- Note the fact that Jesus approached one man out of a multitude.
  - The length of the man's illness would make no mistake that a great miracle had happened.
  - The man's response to Jesus' question shows his hopelessness in his situation.
  - Jesus not only healed him but told him to take up his bed and walk knowing it would bring a reaction from the Jews.

Effort to kill Jesus for breaking the Sabbath and saying he was equal with God. John 5:10-18

- By Jesus' day the Sabbath had become a legalistic minefield
- The Mosaic law established the Sabbath for a distinctive practice for the nation of Israel.
- Regular work was to be set aside on that day.
- Note how easy it is to be so caught up in legalism you can completely miss the working of God around you.

# The Thirty-Nine Categories of Sabbath Work

- 1. Carrying
- 2. Burning
- 3. Extinguishing
- 4. Finishing
- 5. Writing
- 6. Erasing
- 7. Cooking
- 8. Washing
- 9. Sewing
- 10. Tearing
- 11. Knotting
- 12. Untying
- 13. Shaping
- 14. Plowing
- 15. Planting
- 16. Reaping
- 17. Harvesting
- 18. Threshing
- 19. Winnowing
- 20. Selecting
- 21. Sifting
- 22. Grinding
- 23. Kneading
- 24. Combing
- 25. Spinning
- 26. Dying
- 27. Chainstitching
- 28. Warping
- 29. Weaving
- 30. Unraveling
- 31. Building
- 32. Demolishing
- 33. Trapping
- 34. Shearing
- 35. Slaughtering
- 36. Skinning
- 37. Tanning
- 38. Smoothing
- 39. Marking

Effort to kill Jesus for breaking the Sabbath and saying he was equal with God. John 5:10-18

- Jesus' words to the man some time later reveal that his sickness may have been the direct result of sinful behavior. This is not always the case but sometimes it is.
- When challenged Jesus explained that He was joining His Father at work.
  - See Isaiah 58:13
- The Jews understood Jesus to be claiming equality with God.
- Blatantly breaking the Sabbath according to Old Testament law was a capital crime. Numbers 15:32-36