

The Gospel of Matthew #82

Overview of Matthew 8-9: authority & compassion in action

8:1-17

3 healings 8:18-22 cost of following Jesus

8:18- 9:8

3 miracles 9:9-17 Matt called; a New Day

9:18-34

3 healings 9:35-38 summary of authority & compassion

BURSTING YOUR CATEGORIES**Matthew 9:14-17**

Now another Q that reflects that what Jesus is doing does not seem right.
To understand this difficult passage we will ask 6 Qs:

Q1: What is their Q and where does it come from?

Mt: John's disciples asked him; Mk: John's disciples *and* the Pharisees...
After John's imprisonment (4:12), likely John's disciples were hanging out
with the Pharisees again. They all fasted regularly, and were this day
(Mk 2:18).

Hence the Q: why don't you, a religious leader, teach your disciples to fast
like we do?

Q2: How does Jesus' reference to the Bridegroom answer their Q?

1. You don't fast at your friend's wedding!
2. OT often referred to the LORD as Israel's Husband
Egs: Hosea 2:16, 19-20; Isa 54:5-6; 62:4-5
3. I am that Bridegroom! Cf. John 3:27-30

Note: Matthew threw a feast for Jesus because He made him want to
celebrate. Do you celebrate because Jesus is in your life?

Q3: When does v15b refer to? His death? Now?

Isa 53:8 "taken away" refers to His death.

But Mt 25:1-5 refers to His absence as now, between first and second
coming. Our yearning for Him (II Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21-23)

So: BOTH. We fast now because of our griefs and longings. But with the
Joy of His finished work, and the Hope of His Return.

Q4: What should be the place of fasting in the life of the Christian today?

Note: He does not command it. Rather He predicts it.
The NT Church did occasionally fast (eg Acts 13:3); not prominent
No superstitious merit to fasting to twist God's arm.
Rather we fast a) in grief, b) to arrest our attention, c) to fix our concentration

Q5: What is the meaning of the incompatibility of the new & old cloths and wineskins?

The rigid old religious forms cannot accommodate the radical New Thing Jesus brings. He changes my heart, which transforms my habits.
What habits ("helpful disciplines") do you have that can actually hinder your heart's rejoicing in your Bridegroom?
Do you ever give Him a spontaneous offering of delight that bursts beyond your habits?

Q6: How is this the climax to the 3 objections to what Jesus was doing?

#1: _____ sins: because He _____

#2: Eats with _____ : because He the _____

#3: _____ , not fast: because He the _____

Who is my Delight

- So come to Him for **forgiveness**
- Reflect His **compassion** for sinners
- Burst out of your rigid habits because Joy requires spontaneous expressions of adoration and **delight**

Yes, we still fast, because our hearts yearn.

But always with the Hope of the Bridegroom's Return, which brings us to the Everlasting Feast!