

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 12 ~ Exploring Chapter 9:35-10:42

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 9:35-10:42
- Read 9:35 to 10:42 at least two times and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - What is the function of 9:35-38 in the plan of Matthew's presentation? Not only does the overall passage have a function, but so does each verse. Briefly describe these functions.
 - What light do the marginal references shed on verse 36? Note especially the first half of the chapter in the Ezekiel reference. Also, use a concordance to find Matthew's understanding of Jesus as shepherd.
- Re-Read chapter 10 and then answer the following questions.
 - Outline the main steps in Jesus' presentation in chapter 10.
 - In Matthew's list of disciples, we find a "tax collector" ("publican in the KJV) and a Zealot. Look up both terms in a Bible dictionary. How do you think these disciples, coming from opposite political poles, got along with one another?
- Re-Read Chapter 10:5-25 and then answer the following questions.
 - List the parallels between the ministry of the disciples in 10:5-25 and that of Christ.
 - Supply reference for the parallels in Jesus' ministry when you can locate them.
 - In a paragraph, describe what you perceive to be the meaning of the parallelism.
- Re-Read Chapter 10:24-39 and then answer the following questions.
 - How do you harmonize 10:34 with the fact that Jesus is the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)?
 - Explain from the immediate context of 10:34 and the more general context of the Christian faith why the peaceful message of Jesus brings conflict.

Additional Application Questions:

- In what ways have you been close to Jesus?
 - Has your faith grasped Jesus' power and applied it to your daily life or have you been like the faithless crowd who touched Jesus with out receiving either faith or blessing?
 - How can you strengthen your faith in Jesus?
- Are you afraid to bear your testimony for Jesus in your community and/or your family?
 - What evidence can you provide for your answer?
 - What insights can you gain from Matthew 10 to strengthen your courage for witnessing?
- Are you kind to others in your church and community? What evidence do you have for your answer? In what specific ways can you improve?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).