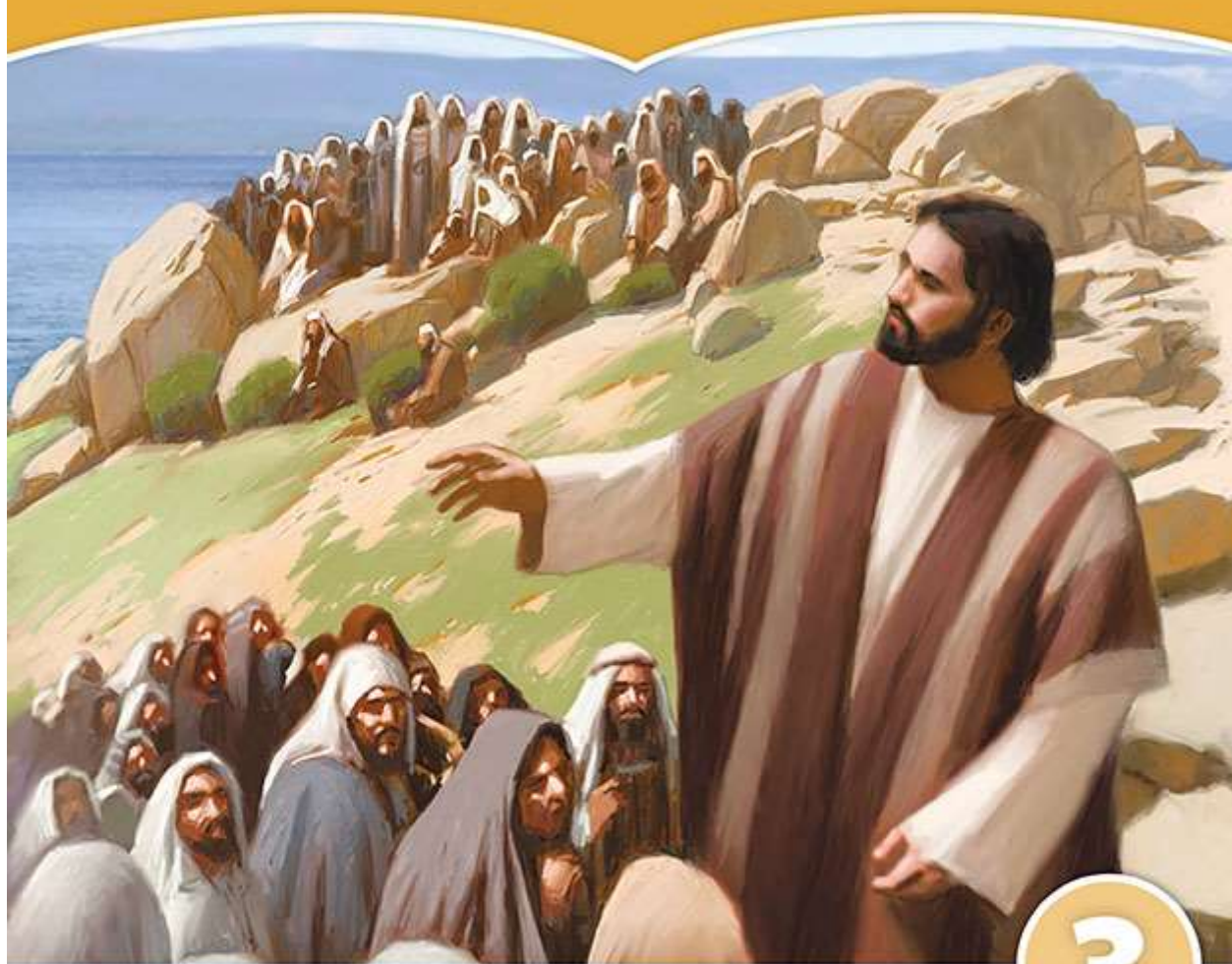


CONFLICT INCREASED

The seed of the serpent began to resist Jesus' ministry.



3

In Chapter 2, we saw the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He began His ministry baptized by John the Baptist and tempted by Satan. He demonstrated His power through His miracles. He began to teach about the arrival of the kingdom of God. In this chapter, we will see that Jesus called His followers to more mature discipleship. He made several bold statements about His Father and Himself. His preaching included a sermon about what a king-

dom citizen looks like. His words and actions revealed more about Himself and His ministry.

Jesus' enemies became more resistant to Him. They contended with Him about His lordship over the Sabbath. They questioned His ministry among sinners and His power to forgive sins. As His reputation grew, His enemies resisted Him even more.

H

Have a daily time set aside for Bible study and prayer.

A

Ask God to teach you to love and serve Him.

B

Be still and listen as God speaks to you through His Word.

I

Investigate the Scripture by asking *who, what, when, where, how, and why* questions.

T

Take time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

<p>What did Peter say to Jesus after the miracle?</p> <p>Luke 5:4–9</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 46	<p>What did the scribes think about Jesus' claim to be able to forgive sins?</p> <p>Mark 2:4–11</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 47	<p>Who came to eat with Jesus and His disciples?</p> <p>Matthew 9:9–13</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 48	<p>What did the Jews tell the healed man he should not have done?</p> <p>John 5:5–15</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 49	<p>Who did Jesus say gives everlasting life?</p> <p>John 5:16–24</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 50
<p>What did Jesus' disciples do on the Sabbath?</p> <p>Matthew 12:1–8</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 51	<p>What did Jesus do before He called His disciples?</p> <p>Luke 6:12–16</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 52	<p>What does the blessed man delight in?</p> <p>Psalms 1</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons 53–54	<p>What is the description of the man who finds wisdom?</p> <p>Proverbs 3:13–20</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 55	<p>What word is used to describe the person in every verse?</p> <p>Matthew 5:3–11</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 56
<p>How do the actions of the blessed differ from the actions of the tax collectors?</p> <p>Matthew 5:44–48</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons 57–58	<p>What kind of giving and praying does God reward?</p> <p>Matthew 6:1–6</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 59	<p>What three things did Jesus use to illustrate working for rewards?</p> <p>Matthew 6:19–24</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 60	<p>How did Jesus say you could recognize a false prophet?</p> <p>Matthew 7:15–20</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 61	<p>How did Jesus describe the wise man?</p> <p>Matthew 7:24–25</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 62
<p>What actions demonstrate the centurion's humble spirit?</p> <p>Matthew 8:5–8</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 63	<p>Who did Jesus say was greater than John the Baptist?</p> <p>Luke 7:18–28</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 64	<p>What did the woman do that showed her exalted view of Jesus?</p> <p>Luke 7:36–39</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 65	<p>How should people forgive one another?</p> <p>Ephesians 4:31–32</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 66	<p>What type of rewards does the blessed person receive?</p> <p>Matthew 5:1–12</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson 67

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Character: The Maker of Fishers of Men

Luke 5:1-11

Memory: John 5:24



Why did Peter see himself as sinful and ask Jesus to leave him?

The Righteous One

The disciples had been with Jesus for some time. They had already seen His power to do miracles. This miracle of the great catch of fish, however, had a great impact on Peter's understanding of Jesus. He would be convinced of an aspect of Jesus' identity by the time this event was over. His response would show his understanding.

Jesus had asked Peter to take Him out on the lake in the boat a little ways in order to preach to the crowd of people on the shore. The Bible doesn't tell us what Jesus taught that day. It could have been similar to the other sermons He taught throughout His ministry. Since Peter was in the boat with Jesus, he could hear everything Jesus said very well. Maybe something Jesus said in that message sowed seeds of the truth Peter would demonstrate that he believed after the miracle.

When Jesus asked Peter to launch out into deeper water and let down his nets, Peter did not simply agree without comment. He pointed out that they had already fished all night and had caught nothing. He didn't expect Jesus, a teacher who was trained as a carpenter, to know a lot about fishing. However, Peter said that he would do what Jesus had told him to do. He let down his nets.

Peter was shocked by what happened next. As he began to pull in the nets, he realized there were so many fish that they would break the nets. He had to call the men in the other boat to come and help him gather in the nets with all the fish. But there were so many fish that both boats began to sink!

When Peter realized what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus. He asked Jesus to leave him because he was a sinful man. He called Jesus "Lord."

Peter had just seen a teacher trained as a carpenter miraculously provide more fish than his nets and two boats could safely carry. He saw Jesus' power over creation and worshiped Jesus. He confessed himself a sinner and feared Jesus' presence because of his sin. Who did Peter recognize Jesus to be?



Mark the best answer.

1. What did the miracle of the great catch of fish teach the disciples, and what does it teach us about Jesus?
- He was tempted as we are. He is a righteous Judge.
 He was human just like us. He has authority over creation.

Write the missing words to complete the comparison of the two sentences.

2. The disciples knew how to catch _____ with their _____
and bring them into the _____ as their job.
3. Jesus would teach the disciples how to catch _____ with their
_____ and bring them to _____ as their ministry.

Answer the following.

4. According to the sentences above, when Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid and that they would catch people, He was calling them to what? _____

5. What was Peter's attitude to Jesus' command before the miracle? _____

6. What was Peter's response to Jesus after the miracle? _____

7. Why did Peter ask Jesus to leave him? _____

8. What was the disciples' response to Jesus after the miracle? _____

9. What caused the disciples to change their thinking about Jesus? _____

Character: The Forgiver of Sins

Mark 2:1–12

Memory: John 5:24



What did Jesus' authority to forgive the paralyzed man's sins teach about Jesus?

God Only!

"Who can forgive sins but God only?" This was the thought of the scribes in the passage when Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man. Were they right? If they were right, what did this mean about Jesus? Could He really forgive sins?

Notice in the passage that the scribes did not say out loud, "Who can forgive sins but God only?" The Bible says they were "reasoning in their hearts." But Jesus immediately knew what they were thinking. He didn't answer their spoken question. He answered their unspoken thoughts! They should have realized at that point that Jesus could not be an ordinary man.

In answer to their thoughts, Jesus asked them a question. He asked whether it was easier to say that the man's sins were forgiven or to command him to get up and walk. He said He would demonstrate that He has the authority and power to forgive sins. He then told the man to get up and go home. His ability to heal the paralysis of the man showed that He has the authority to forgive sins.

Back to the original question then. Can anyone forgive sins but God? Since sin is an offense against the Creator of the law and the Judge of the law, sin is against God. The only one who can forgive an offense is the one offended. God, as the holy Creator, is offended by our sin and condemns it. Ultimately, He is the only one who can forgive sin because sin is at its root against Him.

How does God's unique authority to forgive sins relate to this passage? Can Jesus really forgive sins? He knew the thoughts of the scribes without their speaking them. He proved His power to forgive sins by doing a miracle of creation. If this miracle proved Him to be the Creator, it also proved His ability to forgive sins as the Creator. Jesus demonstrated that He is God.

The scribes were thinking correctly when they believed that no one can forgive sins except God. But they were not thinking correctly when they refused to believe that Jesus is the forgiver of sins. They would not believe who He truly is—God come in the flesh.



paralyzed: unable to move parts of the body

Mark the best answer.

1. What was the scribes' view of Jesus? blasphemer healer
2. What was the four friends' view of Jesus? blasphemer healer

Complete the sentences.

3. Jesus said that the paralyzed man's sins were _____.
4. The scribes correctly thought that only _____ can forgive sins.
5. Jesus asked which was easier: to tell the paralyzed man his sins were _____ or to _____ him to get up and walk? Only _____ can do either one.
6. Jesus said that He would demonstrate His _____ to forgive sins by commanding the _____ man to walk.
7. The formerly paralyzed man did as Jesus commanded him because Jesus had _____ him.
8. Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man proved that Jesus has authority to _____ sins.

Answer the questions.

9. Who is the one offended by our sins? _____
10. Can someone forgive an offense if he was not the one offended? _____
11. Who, then, is the only one able to forgive sins? _____
12. If only God is able to forgive sins and Jesus proved His ability to forgive sins, what can you conclude about Jesus? _____
13. What does this teach about Jesus' ability to forgive your sins? _____

Write in your journal about your confidence in Jesus' ability to forgive your sins, based on this account.

Character: The Spiritual Physician

Matthew 9:9-13

Memory: John 5:24



What was wrong with the response of the religious leaders to Jesus' ministry?

Mercy and Not Sacrifice

"Who did Jesus call to be His disciple?! He was eating with *those* people?!" The Pharisees were shocked to see that Jesus had called one of those Jewish tax collectors who helped the Romans to be one of His disciples. Even worse, He was eating with that tax collector, all his other tax-collector friends, and other sinful people!

Were the Pharisees right to question what Jesus was doing? How could Jesus eat with sinners?

The Pharisees were very careful about the outward keeping of the law. But they did not have hearts that loved God and loved people. Their hearts were evil. They forgot that the law was originally designed for the benefit of man, not man for the law. God's law helps people flourish in God's creation. All people are sinners, however, and cannot keep God's law to live well in God's creation.

Jesus came to restore sinners to God, His law, and the blessed life God's law gives. But the Pharisees did not care about sinners and asked Jesus' disciples why He was eating with such sinful people. Jesus heard them and responded. He said that well people don't need a doctor, but the sick do. Jesus was not sinning by eating with them; He was seeking to help them. He then rebuked the Pharisees by quoting from Hosea 6:6: "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice." Jesus was demonstrating from the law the way the Pharisees should have treated sinners. Jesus pointed out that sinners need a Savior. The Pharisees cared about keeping the ceremonial law but lacked mercy for people who most needed to be called to repent.

Jesus dealt with sinners because they knew they were sinners. He did not sin by being with them. He did not practice their sin. The Pharisees needed mercy themselves. But they were self-righteous and didn't see their own need for repentance. They did not show mercy in love to sinners. They demonstrated their wrong view of the law in their condemnation of Jesus.

Pharisees: religious leaders of the Jews who kept the law as strictly as possible, even by adding their own extra-biblical traditions



Answer the questions.

1. What did Jesus do that the Pharisees objected to? _____

2. Why did the Pharisees object to what Jesus was doing? _____

3. What Old Testament standard from Hosea 6:6 did Jesus quote? _____

4. How did the Pharisees fail to meet this standard? _____

Complete the chart to show how believers follow Jesus' ministry example.

The One Ministering	Ministry Audience	Activity	Message
5. Jesus			
6. Christians			
7. me			

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Character: God the Son

John 5:1–24

Memory: John 5:24



What were Jesus' claims of equality with the Father?

Equal with God

The Jews started persecuting and even wanted to kill Jesus! He not only healed on the Sabbath Day, He even said He is always working as His Father always works, a claim to be God. They understood that in saying God is His Father, He was saying He is equal with God. Jesus answered them with several powerful claims of deity.

One claim Jesus made about His equality with God is found in John 5:21. There Jesus said that the Father raises up the dead and gives them life. Jesus then said that He also has this life-giving power. God had raised up people from the dead in the Old Testament time through some of His prophets. Those prophets did not, however, have this power within themselves. Jesus said here that He is able to raise up anyone by His power. Since God is the source of life, this power is something that only God has. Jesus has this life within Himself as well and can give life. Jesus is equal with the Father because Jesus has life-giving power.

John 5:22 says that the Father has also given to the Son the power to judge. The Father has not only given this authority to the Son, but has even given “all judgment” to the Son. The Judge of the universe is Jesus Christ. This truth builds on what Jesus said in our recent lesson when Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man. Jesus was able to forgive the man’s sins because He is the Judge. Jesus is equal with the Father because He has the power to judge.

Isaiah 42:8 helps us understand the next claim of Jesus. There God says He will not give His glory to another. But in John 5:22–23, Jesus said that the Father gave Him the judgment of the world that all people should honor the Son as they honor the Father. In light of what God said in Isaiah 42:8, who must Jesus be? He must be God, or the Father would not share His glory with Him.

Jesus took this truth one step further when He said that anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father. Jesus is equal with the Father because He deserves the same honor as the Father.



On a separate sheet of paper draw a strip of four to six panels showing the account of John 5:1–18. Write the dialog and label the characters and elements of the setting (as suggested below).



the temple



street



pool of Bethesda



Jesus



the man Jesus healed



Jews

Answer the following.

1. What did the Jews conclude when Jesus indicated that God is His Father?

Read John 5:17–23 and write the answers.

Reference	Father	Jesus
2. from John 5:17	The Father is always _____	and Jesus is also _____
3. from John 5:21	The Father is able to _____	and Jesus is able to _____
4. from John 5:22	The Father is able to _____ but _____	has given all _____ to Jesus.
5. from John 5:23	The Father should receive _____	Jesus should receive _____

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6. List Jesus' claims of equality with God the Father from John 5:17–23.

Review 9

Memory: John 5:24

Mark all the correct answers.

1. Why did Peter ask Jesus to leave him after they caught all the fish?
 Peter knew he was sinful. Peter had fallen in the water and was wet.
 Peter had just lied. Peter recognized Jesus as God.
2. What changed about Peter when he saw Jesus bring in more fish than their boats could carry?
 his attitude about Jesus his attitude about fishing
 his attitude about the disciples his attitude about himself
3. How did the friends of the paralyzed man view Jesus?
 as a teacher as a selfish man as a blasphemer as a healer
4. How did the scribes view Jesus after He said the paralyzed man's sins were forgiven?
 as a teacher as a selfish man as a blasphemer as a healer
5. What did Jesus do to prove His authority and ability to forgive sins?
 healed the paralyzed man filled a net with fish
 healed on the Sabbath preached from a boat
6. What did Jesus do that the Pharisees questioned?
 preached from a boat ate with tax collectors and sinners
 helped Peter catch a net full of fish spoke to a man at the temple
7. What did the Pharisees misunderstand about the law when they asked about Jesus eating with sinners?
 The law was for man's success. The law was not for oppressing others.
 The law was not to be kept all the time The law was only for their religious group.
8. What did Jesus imply by His statement that He always works as His Father always works?
 Jesus was claiming to be equal with God the Father.
 Jesus was claiming to be excused from the Sabbath.
 Jesus was claiming kingship.
 Jesus was claiming to do righteous work.