

LESSON PLAN

JESUS CALLS MATTHEW AND HEALS A MAN

Luke 5:27-32; 6:1-11

(Mt 9:9-13; 12:1-15; Mk 2:13-17; 2 23-3:6)

Lesson Memory Verse: Heb 5:8 - "Though He were a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: We need to obey our heavenly Father, like Jesus did, even though we suffer for doing it.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): It was an unusually hot Saturday late in September when Tom and Mark were hiking in the country near their homes. It was so hot that Tom decided to go swimming in the creek which was not far away. He urged Mark to join him, but Mark said he couldn't. He had promised his mother that he wouldn't go swimming anymore that year because the water was getting too cold. Mother was worried that the cold water might give him a cramp and cause him to drown.

Tom heard Mark's answer and then he mocked him, "You're nothing but a mama's boy. You're just a big sissy! Those words deeply hurt Mark because Tom was his best friend. He began to think. "Maybe I should go swimming. Mother didn't know that it was going to get so warm when she told me not to go swimming anymore this year. Anyway, she would never find out." But as he thought about it, he also remembered that he had promised his mother that he would not go swimming, so he decided to keep his word and obey his mother. He wanted to be a good Christian.

As soon as they got to the creek Tom took off his clothes and went in swimming, but Mark sat down on the bank to wait for him. While he was thinking about the fun he was missing, he heard a yell from Tom. "Help! Help!" he cried. Mark could see Tom was not fooling; he was really in trouble. He had gotten a cramp in his leg from the cold water and could not swim.

Quickly Mark got a long fishing pole that leaned up against one of the trees along the creek. Then he ran to the bank closest to Tom and swung the pole out to him. Tom grabbed the pole and Mark pulled him into shore. When Tom was safe, he thanked Mark and said, "You saved my life. Please forgive me for what I said. I'm never going to call you a sissy again."

Mark suffered a little from his friend for being obedient to his mother, but it didn't take long before he was glad that he had obeyed. Jesus suffered a lot from His enemies for being obedient to His Father in Heaven. That is what our memory verse says.

HE (for Authority): When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed for the cup of suffering and death to pass from Him. His prayer was answered when He arose from the dead and His suffering was over. It was not His Father's will to remove Him from suffering and death, but to have Him go through it once and for all. Our memory verse says that even "though He were a Son (He was God's eternal Son) He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." He did not learn to obey; He had always obeyed His Father, but now He learned the cost of obedience. It cost Jesus great suffering during his life and finally death on the cross. Only God knows what obedience will cost you. If you are a Christian it will cost you some suffering to obey Him (cf. Phil 1:29; 1 Tim 3:12).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible lesson today we will see some ways that Jesus suffered from men when He obeyed His heavenly Father.

I. Jesus Suffered as a Friend of SINNERS - Luke 5:27-32

Jesus called Matthew to be His disciple and he followed Him. Then he made a great feast for all of his sinner friends so that they could meet Jesus and be saved. It was a very good thing for Matthew to do, but it caused Jesus to suffer. The scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus for being with sinners. They did not think He should be eating with sinners, but Jesus told them that He had to. Just as sick people need a doctor, so sinners need Him. This was the reason why He came to this world. His Father had sent Him to call sinners to repentance (5:32; cf. John 20:21).

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WE: Are we willing to suffer for obeying God by being friendly to sinners? God wants them to hear the Gospel. Some people will speak against us for witnessing to sinners. They will tell us it is none of our business what others believe about God. How will you respond? Will you obey God anyway?

II. Jesus Suffered as the Lord of the SABBATH - Luke 6:1-5

One day Jesus and His disciples walked by a grain field on a Sabbath day and picked some grain found in the field and ate it. The Sabbath day was a holy day in which no work was to be done. Some religious leaders used this incident to accuse Jesus and His disciples of working on the Sabbath, when they picked the grain, rubbed off the husk and ate it. These leaders hated Jesus and wanted to prove that He was a sinner and was not the Son of God. They were being hypocritical when they accused Jesus of sin for letting His disciples do such a thing. Jesus defended His disciples and reminded these leaders that David and his men ate the holy bread from the house of God, when they were hungry. This was the bread that only the priests were to eat, but it was all right for them to eat it in a time of need. But there was another reason, even more important, for letting His disciples eat this grain on the Sabbath; He was the Lord of the Sabbath. He was God and He had the right to judge whether or not His disciples had broken His law of the Sabbath by picking some grain and eating it on that holy day. These religious leaders did not have the right to judge Lord of the Sabbath and tell Him that He was wrong by allowing His disciples pick and eat this grain. They were the ones that were wrong, not the disciples. They needed to repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But they refused to do that, even though Jesus proved again and again that He was their Messiah-King. So they attacked Jesus Christ with their words, when He had done nothing wrong, and made Him suffer. It must have broken His heart to hear these people that He created and loved to speak so cruelly against Him.

WE: If we stand up for Jesus Christ, the people that hate Him will also hate us. Are you willing to suffer for Jesus Christ? When we stand with Jesus, we will be different than the unsaved people in the world. We will go to Sunday school and church on Sunday to learn about God and worship Him. We read our Bibles and pray every day. We will give our tithes and most of our offerings to our church instead of charities. We will be good witnesses to unsaved people and help them come to the Lord to be saved. When we do these things some people will think that we are crazy. They will mock us and torment us in various ways. They may even hurt us, and say all kinds of evil things against us. But Jesus said that we will be blessed when they do this to us, so we should be glad and rejoice for great is our reward in Heaven (Mt 5:11-12).

III. He Suffered as the Healer of the SICK - Luke 6:6-11

On another Sabbath day Jesus met a man in the synagogue whose right hand was withered. Now the religious leaders said it was wrong to heal on the Sabbath day because they thought that healing was working on the Sabbath. However, it was never wrong to do good things to others on the Sabbath. That was a rule that these religious leaders made, Therefore, Jesus healed the man by making his right hand as good as the other hand. This good deed that Jesus did for the man filled the religious leaders with madness against Him. They wanted to kill Him for healing this man on the Sabbath day. They were more interested in keeping their law regarding the Sabbath than to learn what God wanted them to do on the Sabbath. He wanted them to love and worship Him on the Sabbath and to love and help others. This would fulfill the spirit of the Law. These religious leaders were blind to the real purpose of Sabbath. They replaced love for God and others with hatred.

WE: If we bring boys or girls with us to Sunday school and they get saved, some parents will be angry and not let them continue to come. They would rather have their children play around their home and even get into trouble than to go to church, be saved by Jesus and have a changed life. This is hard to believe, but it does happen. They do not want their children talking about Jesus in the home. Are you willing to obey God and bring boys and girls to Sunday school and church, even if some parents do get angry with you and not let you play with their children anymore?

BE (for Action): Jesus always did what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do even though He suffered much and finally died for doing it. Are you willing to obey God, even though you have to suffer for doing it? This is a serious question. Jesus gave His life to obey His Father. How much are you willing to suffer in order to obey Him?