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**THE MINISTRY OF JESUS**

**CALLOF THE DISCIPLES MATTHEW’S ACCOUNT (Mat. 4:18-22; Mk 1:14-20; LK 5:1-11)**

The call of the disciples marked the beginning of the ministry of Christ on earth. He was not to carry out his assignment alone; he needed people to bear witness to his ministry and to continue from where he stopped. ***A disciple*** therefore is a person who believes in and follows the teachings of a religious leader. Christ’s disciples were twelve in number and he first called four who were so dear to him before calling the rest. .

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their net into the sea to catch fish, since they were fishermen. Jesus said to them;

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”

They left their net and followed Jesus. And when he had gone further he saw James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee, with their father in a boat, mending their nets. He also called them and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Jesus.

**Luke’s account on the call of disciples (Luke 5:1-11)**

According to the gospel of Luke, as Jesus was preaching, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret and saw two ships by the lake. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Jesus then entered the one belonging to Simon and taught the people in it. Afterwards he told Simon Peter to throw the net into the river for a catch of fish. Peter complained that they had toiled all night without catching any fish. He later decided to cast the net into the sea at Jesus’ word. The net caught a great multitude of fish that the net broke. They called their partners in other boats to come and help them pull out the net and boat ships were filled so that they began to sink.

However, when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ feet and said;

“Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord”

He said this because he was astonished at the catch of fish. With him were James and John, the sons of Zebedee. And Jesus said to him;

“Fear not; from now on you shall catch men”.

When the ships came to land, they all followed Jesus.

**The call of Matthew (Levi)(Mat 9:9-13; Mk 2:13-17; Lk 5:27-31)**

As Jesus went further from there, he saw Matthew called Levi; the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the receipt of custom; for he was a tax collector. Jesus called him and he arose and followed him. Matthew made a feast and when Jesus sat in his house, the publicans and sinners sat with him and his disciples. As the scribes and the Pharisees saw them, they murmured against him that he had gone to eat with publicans and sinners. When Jesus heard this, he said to them;

“They that are well have no need for physician, but they that are sick; I came not to call the righteous but sinners to

repentance”

**Significance of the Study and Moral Lessons**

1. We learnt that we should learn to be a disciple of Christ.
2. We learnt that we should have a master in our profession.
3. We learnt that Christ have interest in ordinary common people.
4. We should be ready for Christ’s call anytime.

**Jesus calls the twelve disciples (Mat 10:2-4; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:12-16)**

Jesus went into a mountain and prayed all-night to God in order to select his twelve disciples (apostles). When it was day he selected them and called them apostles. **An apostle** is anyone who strongly believes in policy or an idea and tries

to make others believe in it. Christ’s apostles were; **Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James** the son of Alphaeus, and **Simon** called Zelotes, **Judas** the brother of James and **Judas Iscariot**. Jesus ordained them so that they can be with him and then he might send them out to preach. He baptized them

and gave them power to heal sicknesses and to cast out dev

**The Demands for Discipleship (Mat 8:18-22; Lk 9;57-62; 14: 25-33)**

Demands for discipleship refer to the requirements a disciple must possess in order to follow Jesus.

**Call of the three would – be disciples (Mat.8:18-22; Lk.9:57-62; 14:25-33)**

When Jesus saw a great crowd of people around him, he commanded them to go to the other side. A certain scribe came to Jesus and

said;

“Master, I will follow to wherever you go”.

Jesus said to him;

“The foxes have their holes and the birds of air have their nest, but the son of man have nowhere to lay his head”.

And he said to another, “follow me”.

But he said,

”Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father”.

Jesus said to him,

“Let the dead bury their dead; But go and preach the kingdom of God”.

And another said,

“Lord, I will follow you; but let me first go and bid them farewell, which are at my house”.

Jesus said to him,

“No man, having put his hand on the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”.

**Demands or costs of discipleship (Lk 14:25-33)**

The following are the demands of discipleship;

1. Sacrifice.
2. Burden bearing.
3. Determination.
4. Focus.
5. Self-denial.
6. Humility.
7. Total obedience.
8. Faithfulness and loyalty.
9. Absolute commitment and dedication.
10. Contentment.

**Significance of study and moral lessons**

1. We learnt that we should pray to God for direction whenever we want to take major decision in our life.
2. We should learn to request for power to cast out devils and to heal the sick.
3. We must learn to sacrifice all in order to follow Jesus and be his disciple.
4. We must learn to do away with whatever does not allow us to follow Jesus.

**Mission of the disciples**

1. **Mission of the twelve disciples and its outcome (Mat. 10:5-15; Mk. 7-13; Lk. 9:1-9)**

Jesus called his twelve disciples and sent them out two by two. He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out and heal all manner of sickness and diseases. He told them not to go to the cities of Gentiles nor enter into the cities of Samaritans; but to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel or the Jews. And as the go, they should preach saying, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand’.

He told them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils and said freely did they receive and freely shall they give. He told them not to carry a bag nor money neither should they take two coats, two shoes nor staves’ for the workman is worthy of his food.

He also said that whichever city, town or house they enter, they should inquire of who is worthy in it, they should let their peace abide in it: but if the house is not worthy they should let their peace return to them. He said whosoever did not receive them nor hear their words, when they depart out of such city or house, they should shake off the dust of their feet. He said it shall be tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city.

**The outcome of the mission of the twelve disciples (Mk 6:12-13)**

The twelve disciples succeeded in their mission. They went out and preach that men should repent. They cast out many devils and anointed those who were sick with oil and healed them. Jesus then took them privately into a desert place of the city of Bethsaida for a retreat.

1. **The mission of the seventy disciples (Lk 10:1-20)**

Jesus also appointed seventy disciples and sent them out two by two to the Gentile cities where he would go. He told them that the harvest is great but the labourers are few. He asked them to pray to the lord of harvest to send them more labourers into the harvest. He said he was sending them out as lamb among wolves. They should not carry purse, scrip or shoe and they should not salute anyone on their way. He also told them that any house they enter; they should say,

‘Peace be to the house’, and if the son of peace is in the house, the peace shall rest upon it and if not, their peace shall return to them. He told them to remain in such house, eating and drinking whatever they are served; for the labourer is worthy of his hire.

Besides, he asked them to heal the sick and say, ‘the kingdom of God is been within you’. He said if any city receives them not, they should shake the dust of the city that cleaves to them against them. He said it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the Day of Judgment than for that city. He cursed the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum that if the mighty works done in them had been done in Tyre and Sidon; they would have repented long ago. He said Capernaum shall be cast down into hell.

**The outcome of the mission of the seventy (Lk 10:19-24)**

The seventy returned with joy to Jesus saying, “Lord, even the devils are subject to us through your name”. Jesus said he saw Satan as lightening fall from heaven. Jesus said he had given them the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt them. He told them not to rejoice because the spirits were subject to them but to rejoice that their names were written in heaven.

**Significance of the study and moral lessons**

1. We learnt that Christ has given us power over demons and sickness and diseases.
2. We should try and pray for the sick and heal them.
3. We should have faith in God’s provision.
4. We should engage in evangelism.

**Sermon on the Mount: Demands of the kingdom**

**The beatitudes (Mat 5:1-12)**

**Beatitude** is from the Latin word Beatus which means blessings, success, happiness and

prosperity. Through the beatitudes, Jesus revealed the true Christian characters that will actually make the Christians fruitful on the earth. They also revealed the divine nature in Christians that make them true candidates of heaven. In this case, Jesus saw them as key demands for the kingdom of God.

**The Eight Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are that are meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

However, Jesus also encouraged those who are reviled and falsely accused to rejoice as their reward is great in heaven. He said they also did the same to the prophets who were before them.

**Christians as ‘salt’ and ‘light’ of the world.**

1. **Christian as salt of earth (Mat. 5:13)**

In Christ’s teaching on Christians as salt of the earth, he said,

“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is therefore good for nothing, but to be cast out and be trodden under the foot of men”.

By this statement, Jesus was telling his disciple to make life better for people in the society. They are to make maximum use of opportunities available to them to improve the spiritual, moral and material life of the people in the society so as to make life sweet for them. They are also to help to improve the standard of life of the society they are. If they refuse to do that, then they have lost their taste as salt. He said they shall become of no value and be looked down upon by

**(b) Christians as light of the world (Mat. 5:14-16)**

He described Christians as light of the world and said as a city that is set on a hill, Christians cannot be hid. He said men cannot light candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick where it will give light to all that are in the house. He told the disciples to let their lights shine to all men so that they may see their good works and glorify their father who is in heaven.

**Significance of study and moral lessons**

1. We learnt that those who mourn shall be comforted.
2. We learnt that when we are meek, we will inherit the earth.
3. We are children of God when we are peacemakers.
4. We should learn to rejoice when we are persecuted as heaven is ours.

**Christ teaching on forgiveness, revenge, prayer and fasting, love for money, worrying and love for enemies**,

**Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness (Mat. 6:14-15)**

In Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness, he said,

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive men their

trespasses, neither will your heavenly father forgive your trespasses”.

From this statement of Jesus, we are made to understand that the basis for our forgiveness by God is when we have forgiven who trespass against us, if we don’t forgive those who offend us, our father (God) will not forgive us our sins.

**Jesus’ teaching on revenge (Mat. 5:38-42)**

On revenge, Jesus told his disciples that the law of Moses said, ”An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth”. He said they should not resist evil that if anyone should strike them in the right cheek, they should turn to him the other also. And if anyone should sue them to court and take away their coat, they should let him have their cloak also. He also told them that if anyone should compel them to go with him one mile, they should go with him two miles. They should give to anyone that asks them, and they should not refuse anyone that would borrow from them.

**Jesus’ teaching on prayer and fasting (Mat. 6:5-13,16-18)**

**On Prayer**, Jesus told his disciples not to be like hypocrites who love to stand in the synagogue or in the corners of the street to be seen by men as fasting. He said they already have their reward. He said when they pray, they shall go into their room and shut the door and pray to their father in secret, and their father, who is in secret shall reward them openly. He also said that they should not use vain repetitions because their father already know what they want before they ask him. He said they should pray as follows;

‘Our father, which is in heaven,

Hallowed be your name. Your

kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and glory, forever’. Amen.

**On fasting**, he said when they fast, they should not be like hypocrite who carry sad countenance and disfigure their faces, so that men may know that they are fasting. He said they already have their reward. He said when they fast; they should anoint their head and wash their face, so that men will not know that they fast and God who sees in secret shall reward them openly.

**Jesus’ teaching on love of money (Mat. 6:19-24)**

Jesus told his disciples not to lay their treasures on earth where thieves and rust will affect them. He said they should lay their treasures in heaven where there are neither thieves nor rust. He said where their treasures are, there will their hearts be also. He said no man can serve two masters. For either he will hate one and love the other. He said they cannot serve God and mammon (riches).

**Jesus’ teaching on worry (Mat. 6:25-34)**

On worry, Jesus told his disciples not to be anxious of their life, what they shall eat, or drink and what they shall wear: for the life is more than food and the body than clothing. He used the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field as example, which God care for and said they are of little faith. He said after all these things Gentiles seek: but our heavenly father knows that we are in need of them. He said his disciples should first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to them.

**Jesus’ teaching on love for enemies (Mat. 5:43-48)**

Jesus said it has been said, ‘that you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemies’. Jesus told his disciples to love their enemies, bless them that curse them, do good to those that hate them and pray for those that despitefully use them and persecute them. He said, this will make them to be the children of their father in heaven, who makes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send the rain on the just and on the unjust. He said what rewards have they when they love those who love them and salute those who salute them. He told them to be perfect as their father in heaven is perfect.

**Significance of The Study And Moral Lessons**

1. We learnt that we should forgive men their trespasses so that God can forgive us.
2. We should not revenge on any bad thing done to us.
3. We should fast and pray in secret.
4. We learnt that we should love God more than riches.

**JESUS TEACHING IN PARABLES**

**A parable** is an earthly story that has heavenly meaning.

**THREE REASONS WHY JESUS USED PARABLES**

The followings are the three major reasons why Jesus used parables.

1. Jesus used parables because they follow the main rules of teaching i.e. from the known to the unknown. There wouldn’t have been any way Jesus would explain things about heaven without using parables because they have not be there before.
2. Jesus used parables because they catch peoples’ attention. He used parable to win the attention of the disciples before passing the knowledge of what he wanted to say to them.
3. Jesus used parables because they provoke thoughts. Jesus used them to awake the thoughts of the disciples in order to make them understand what he was saying to them.

**PARABLE ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Parables on the kingdom are those parables Jesus used to teach his disciples about God’s kingdom on the earth. They are parable of **The Sower** and parable of **The Wheat and Tares**.

1. **THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (Mat. 13:1-9, 18-23)**

Jesus left his house and went to the seaside and sat on a ship. A crowd of people came to him and he taught them many things in parables and said that a Sower went to sow seeds. As he sowed the seeds, some of the seeds fell by the roadside, and the fowls came and ate them up. Some fell on stony ground and grew up, because there was no depth of earth, the sun scorched them since they had no root. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. He said some fell on good ground and brought forth fruits, some a hundred folds, some sixty folds, and some thirty folds. Who have ears to hear, let him hear.

**INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE (Mat. 13:18-23)**

In the interpretation, Jesus told his disciples that the seeds that fell on the roadside are those who receive the word from the preacher (Sower) and understand it not and the devil comes and takes away the word from his heart. The seeds that fell on the stony places are those who hear the word and received it with joy, but it has no root in them but remains for some times: for when tribulations or persecution arise because of the word, they are easily offended. He said those that fell among thorns are those who hear the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it becomes unfruitful. He said the seeds that fell on good ground are those who hear the word, and understand it and allow it to bear fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

1. **THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES (Mat. 13:24-30; 36-40)**

Jesus told his disciples another parable and said there was a man that sowed good seeds in his farm, but while men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. When both of them grew up, the servant went to the farm and met them growing up together. They went to their master and asked why the tares were growing up with the wheat and their master told them that the enemy had planted them. The servants insisted that they should be allowed to go and remove the tares but the master told them not to, lest they remove the wheat along with them. He told them to allow the two to grow up together until harvest: where the reapers shall first gather the tares and burn them and the wheat will be gathered into barns.

**INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES (Mat. 13:36-40)**

In the interpretation, Jesus told disciples that the Sower of the seed is the Son of Man ;the field is the world; the good seeds are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are children of the wicked ones; the enemy that planted them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. Therefore, as the tares are gathered and burn in fire; so shall it be in the end of the world.

**THE PARABLE ILLUSTRATING GOD’S LOVE**

Parables illustrating God’s love refer to those parables that show that God loves a sinner and he is always wishing that a sinner repents and come to him. They also show the attitude of the heaven over a backslider that repents. God in his infinite love and mercy always seek for them whenever they go astray. They include the parable of the **Lost Sheep**, the **Lost Coin** and the **Prodigal Son**.

**(a) PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP (Luke 15:1-7)**

The publicans and sinners came closer to Jesus to hear him. When the Pharisees and scribes saw them, they murmured that Jesus receives and eats with sinners. Jesus then asked them a question that how many of them would have a hundred sheep and one of them is lost that will not leave the rest ninety-nine in the wilderness and go in search of the lost one until he finds it. And when he had found it, he rejoices and calls his friends and neighbours to come and rejoice with him for he had found his sheep which was lost. He said likewise , there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons which need no repentance.

**(b) PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN (Luke 15:8-10)**

Jesus also asked the people a question by saying that which woman would have ten pieces of silver and lose one that will not light a candle and sweep the house till she find it? And when she found it, she will gather her neighbour saying; rejoice with me; for I Have found the money which I lost. He said likewise there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.

**(c) PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Luke 15:11-32)**

In this parable, Jesus told his disciples about a man that had two sons. The younger one came to his father and requested for his own share of his property. The father gave him his own share, and as soon as he had received it, he went into a far country and wasted the wealth on riotous living.

After he had spent all, a famine arose in that land that he began to be in want. He then went to join himself with those who feed swine; and felt like eating the swine meal. In that condition, he decided to come back to his father, perhaps, his father will consider him as one of his servants; since he was no longer worthy to be his son. As the father saw him afar off, he had compassion on him, ran and embraced him and kissed him. He apologized to his father and the father forgave him, wore him his best robe, put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. He asked his servants to kill the fatted calf to make merry because his son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

As the merriment was on, his elder brother heard the sound of music and dancing in the house, he asked his servants what it was all about; and when he was told that his brother had returned and his father is celebrating, he was very angry and refused to enter the house. Having complained of his father’s refusal to give him a kid to kill and celebrate with his friends, his father pleaded with him and brought him into the house.

**Significance of Study and Moral Lessons**

1. We learnt that we should receive the word of God, understand it and allow it to produce fruits in us.
2. We learnt that we should be good children.
3. We learnt that there is a judgment day, where good people will go to heaven while the bad people will go to hell.
4. We learnt that God loves a sinner who repents.

**Parables About Our Attitudes Towards Earthly Possessions**

There are parables that Jesus used to teach his disciples about the proper attitude towards the use of wealth on the earth. This is based on the fact that we humans like to have riches for only ourselves and our families. They include the parable of the **Rich Fool** and that of the **Rich Man and Lazarus.**

**(a) PARABLE OF RICH FOOL (Luke 12:13-21)**

In this parable, one of the member of the groups of people that were with Jesus asked him to speak to his brother to share his property with him. Jesus said to the man,

“Man, who made me a judge or a diviner over you”?

Jesus then told the people to beware of covetousness and said that a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he has. He then said there was a certain rich man that had a plentiful harvest. He then thought of what to do since he had no room to accommodate his fruits. He then decided to pull down the barns to build bigger ones where he stored his fruits.

Then the man said to his soul,

“Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years, take your ease, eat, drink and be merry”.

But God said to him,

“You fool, this night your soul shall be required of you; then whose shall these things be, which you have provided”.

He said so his he that lay up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God.

1. **PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**

In this parable, Jesus told his disciples about a rich man who wore purple and fine linen and well fed. At his gate was a man named Lazarus who was laid there and his body was full of sores which, dogs came to lick. He said Lazarus desired to feed from the crumbs that fell from rich man’s table. At a time, both of them died; while Lazarus was carried by angels into Abraham’s bosom; the rich man went to hell. As he was in torment in hell, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham and Lazarus beside him in heaven.

He then asked Abraham to have mercy on him by allowing Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue, due to the torment of fire he was. Abraham told him to remember how he enjoyed the good things in his life time and Lazarus, evil things. And now Lazarus is to enjoy why he is to be in torment. Abraham also told him that there is a wide gulf between them, that those in heaven cannot go to them in hell neither can those in hell go to them in heaven. He also begged Abraham ton send Lazarus to warn his five brothers so that they will not also die and go to hell. Abraham told him that they have Moses and other prophets to listen to, but the man said they will only repent if they hear anyone from the dead. Abraham said if they cannot listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they listen to anyone from the dead.

**PARABLES ON MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

These parables illustrate the need for social responsibility and adequate preparation for any assignment. They include the parable of the **Ten Virgins**, the **Talent** and the **Unforgiving Steward.**

1. **THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS (Mat. 25:1-13)**

In this parable, Jesus said the kingdom of God can be compared to ten virgins, which took their lamps to meet a bridegroom on invitation to a wedding feast. Five were wise while five were foolish. The wise ones took additional oil with their lamps. While they were waiting for the bride to come, they slept off. At the midnight there was a shout that the bridegroom has come that the people should all go out to meet him. The virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. The five foolish virgins begged the five wise virgins for oil but they refuse since they did not know how long the wedding will last. They told them to go and buy oil for themselves.

When the bridegroom arrived, they that were ready went into the marriage feast with him and the door was shut. The five foolish virgin later arrived and begged the Lord saying,” Lord, Lord open to us”. He told them that he did not know them. Jesus told his disciples to watch since they don’t know the time or day the son of man will come.

1. **THE PARABLE OF THE TALENT (Mat. 25:14-30)**

Jesus also compared the kingdom of God to a man travelling to a far country and called his servants and delivered his goods to them. He gave five talents to the first one, two talents to the second and one talent to the third servant. He gave to them according to their ability and told them to trade with it while he is away. The servant that received five talents went and trade with it and made another five more, the one that collect two talents also went and trade with it and made two talents more; but the one that received one talent went and dig the ground and bury his Lord’s money.

After a long time, their master returned and called them to come and give account of their stewardship. The servant that received five talents told him hat he had traded with it and made five talents more. The master said to him,

“Well done, you good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things and I will make you a ruler over many things;

enter into the joy of the Lord”.

The one that received two talents also told his master that he had made two talents more. The master also said the same thing to him. But the one that received one talent was called and he said,

“I know that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not strawed

and I was afraid and went to hide your talent in the ground”.

The master became angry and called him a wicked and slothful servant. He said they should collect the talent from him and give it to the one with ten talents. He said he that has shall more be given and he that has not even what he has shall be taken away from him. He cast the servant into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. **THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT (Mat. 18:21-35)**

Peter came to Jesus and asked him and said, “How often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times”? Jesus said to him, “I say to you, until seven times; but, until seventy times seven”. Jesus then said that the kingdom of heaven can be likened to a certain king which was to take account on his servant. One was brought that owed him ten thousand talents. Since the servant could not pay back the money, he asked them to sell him, his wife and his children and all that they had and use it to pay the money. The servant fell down and begged the master to be patient to him to pay the money back. The master had compassion on him and forgave him the debt.

The servant went away and met one of his fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii and held his throat and said he must pay back his money. When the master heard this, he commanded him to be brought and said he ought to have forgiven his debtor since he had forgiven him. He described him as wicked and unmerciful and commanded him to be put in jail and torment till he pays his money. Jesus told his disciples that likewise shall his heavenly father do to everyone who refused to forgive his brother his trespasses.

**Significance of Study and Moral Lessons**

1. We learnt that God has power over soul.
2. We learnt that wealth cannot save us.
3. We learnt that there is no repentance at death.
4. We learnt we should prepare adequately for any journey we are engaged in.

**THE MIRACLES OF JESUS**

**Miracles** can be defined as God’s divine intervention in human affairs. Miracles refer to the ability of God to do what human being cannot do. They are different from magic in the sense that they originate from God and magic has its own source from Satan. More so, tends towards evil while a miracle tends towards good. There are two types of miracles Jesus performed they are the **nature miracles** and **healing miracles**.

1. **NATURE OF MIRACLES**

These are the types of miracles that Jesus used natural phenomenon to manifest the divinity of God. They include **turning water to wine, calming the storm, feeding of five thousand, feeding of four thousand** and **walking on the sea.**

**(i) TURNING OF WATER TO WINE (Jn 2:1-11)**

There was a wedding feast at Cana in Galilee where Jesus, mary and his disciples were invited. At a time, they needed wine and when Mary was aware of it, she told Jesus that the people needed wine. Jesus asked Mary what she wanted him to do with her since the time have not yet come. Mary asked the servant to do whatever Jesus asked them to do. Meanwhile there were six water jars, each containing 20 to 30 gallons of water. Jesus told the servants to fill them with water afterwards he asked them to go back and draw from the water, and behold it has turned to wine. Jesus told them to give the wine to the governor of the feast who tasted it and accused the bridegroom of having kept the good wine till the end of the feast; for he did not know the source of the new wine. This was the first miracle of Jesus and manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him.

**(ii) CALMING THE STORM (Mat. 8:23-27; Mk 4:35-41)**

When the evening had come, Jesus told his disciples to let them pass over to the other side. When he had sent away the multitude, he went into a ship with his disciples and there arose a great storm of wind that the ship was almost sinking. Jesus was asleep in part of the ship on a pillow. And they awake him and said, “Master, do you not care that we perish”? Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,

“Peace, be still”.

The wind ceased and there was a great calm. Jesus accused his disciples of being fearful and of lack of faith. The people feared greatly and said,

“What manner of man is this? that even the wind and sea obey him”.

**(iii) THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND {MAT 14:13-21;MK 6:30-44; LK 9:10-17}**

When Jesus heard of the death of John, he went into a boat to a desert place. When the people heard of it, they followed him on foot out of the cities. When Jesus saw them, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples came to him and told him to send the people away since there is no way to feed them in the desert. Jesus told them not to send the people away but to give them food. They said they only have five loaves of bread and two fishes.

Jesus commanded them to bring the bread and fishes and commanded the people to sit on the field. He took the two fishes and five loaves of bread and looked up to heaven, he blessed, and broke, and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. They all ate and were filled. The broken fragments filled twelve baskets. The people that ate were about five thousand beside women and children.

**(iv) THE FEEDING OF FOUR THOUSAND (Mat. 15:32-39; Mk 8:1-10)**

Jesus called his disciples and told them that he had compassion on the multitude because they had been with him for three days without food. He said he did not want to send them away hungry since some of them may faint on the way. The disciples asked him where they could get enough bread to feed such a multitude. Jesus then asked them the number of loaves they had and they said only seven loaves and few little fishes. Jesus then commanded the people to sit on the ground. He collected the loaves and fishes, gave thanks to God, broke them, gave them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the multitude. They all ate and were filled: and they took up the broken pieces and it filled seven baskets. The people that ate were four thousand beside women and children. He sent the people away and took a ship and went to the Coasts of Magdala.

**(v) WALKING ON THE SEA (WATER) (Mat. 14:22-33; Mk 6:45-52)**

Jesus told his disciples to go into a ship and go and wait for him on the other side, while he waited behind to send the people away after feeding of five thousand people. He later went to the mountain to pray afterwards where he was alone. The ship was tossed with waves in the sea and at the fourth watch of night; Jesus went to them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea coming towards them, they were afraid saying, “It is a spirit”. But Jesus said to them, “Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid”.

Peter then told Jesus that if he is the one, he should allow him to come to him on the water. Jesus said to him, “come”, peter entered the sea and began to walk towards Jesus; but when he saw the wind very harsh, he became afraid and began to sink. He then cried out and said, ”Lord, save me”. And immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why do you doubt”? When they had entered the ship, the wind ceased. The people in the ship came and worshipped him saying, “of a truth you are the son of God”.

**(b) THE HEALING MIRACLES OF JESUS**

**Healing miracles** refer to the miracles where Jesus demonstrated his power over sickness and diseases and over evil spirit to heal and cast them out. These miracles include the healing of the centurion servant, the paralytic, the Gadarene demoniac, they also portray Christ’s power over death, such as **raising the widow’s son at Nain** and the **raising of Lazarus from death.**

**(i) THE HEALING OF THE CENTURION SERVANT (Mat 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)**

When Jesus came to Capernaum, a centurion came to him and begged him to come and heal his servant who was sick of palsy. Jesus told him that he was coming to heal him: but the centurion said;

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; but speak the word only and my servant will be healed”.

The centurion claimed that he was a man that under which command his soldiers and his servants and they obey. When Jesus heard this, he was marveled and said he had not found so great faith in Israel. Jesus then said that many shall come from the East and West, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. He said to the centurion, “Go your way and as you have believed, so it has been done to you”. And his servant was healed at that time.

**(ii) HE HEALING THE PARALYTIC (Mat 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-12)**

Jesus came to Capernaum again and as the people learnt of it, they came and filled the room he was preaching. Four men brought a man that was sick of palsy (paralyzed) in a pallet. When they could not enter because of the crowd, they went to the back of the house and opened part of the roof to let the man down. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to them, “Son, your sins are forgiven you”.

Some of the scribes that were there began to think in their hearts that Jesus has blasphemed since he is the only God that can forgive sins. Jesus then asked them why they were reasoning that in their hearts. He said which is easier to say to the sick man, “Your sins are forgiven you or to say arise, take up your bed and walk”. He said for them to know that the son of man has power over earth to forgive sins, he told the man to arise, take his pallet and o home. Immediately the man took his pallet and went home. The people were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw it on this fashion”.

**(iii) THE HEALING OF THE GADARENE DEMONIAC (Mk 5:1-20)**

Jesus went to the other side of the sea into the Gadarenes and a demoniac met him out of he tomb. He could not be bound with chains as he would break them into pieces. He was always in a tomb, night and day crying and cutting himself with stones when Jesus saw this, he said,

“What have I to do with you, Jesus, you son of the most high God? I adjure you by God, that you torment me not”.

This statement came as Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Jesus then asked him his name and he said, “I am legion: for we are many”. The evil spirit begged Jesus not to send them out of the country; but to allow them to enter into a herd of swine which were feeding by the sea. Jesus allowed them, and they entered into the swine. And the swine ran into the sea and they were about two thousand.

The people feeding the swine ran into the city and told the people what they had seen and they all came to Jesus. When they saw the man that was possessed with demons sitting, and clothed and in his right mind, they became afraid, having informed them about the loss of pigs, they begged Jesus to depart from their coasts. When Jesus came to the ship, the man demanded that he should follow Jesus but Jesus said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them the great things the Lord has done for you, and has had mercy on you”. The man left and testified to the goodness of God in his life and the people marveled.

**(C) JESUS POWER OVER DEATH**

**(i) RAISING OF THE WIDOW’S SON AT NAIN (Luke 7:11-17)**

Jesus came to the city called Nain with his disciples. As he drew near the gate of the city, they were carrying out a dead man out of the city. He was the only son of his mother who was a widow. She was crying with people around her. When Jesus saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Weep not”. Jesus then went and touched the pallet and the people that carried the man stood still. Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, arises”. The man sat up and began to speak and he was delivered to his mother. And fear came upon all that heard it, they glorified God saying, “A great prophet has risen among us, God has visited his people”. His fame went about throughout the all Judea and other regions round about Nain.

**(ii) THE RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM DEATH (John 11:1-45)**

Lazarus was a brother to Mary and her sister Martha. They all lived at Bethany and they all loved Jesus. At a time, Lazarus fell sick and his two sisters sent a message to inform Jesus that Lazarus was sick. When Jesus heard this, he told them that the sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God, so that the son of God might be glorified through it. Jesus waited where he was for two days after which he told his disciples that they should go to Judea again. But his disciples reminded him about how the Jews had wanted to stone him. He told them that if a man walks in daylight, he doesn’t stumble because he sees the light of the world.

Afterwards, he told them that their friend Lazarus was sleeping and that he was going to awake him from sleep. The disciples told Jesus that if he is asleep, he shall do well. Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus was dead. He said for their sake he was not there so that they might believe. Jesus told them to go with him and Thomas called Didymus said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him”. When Jesus came, he met that Lazarus had died and had been laid in the tomb for four days. Martha told Jesus that if he had been there, his brother wouldn’t have died; but she had the believe that whatever Jesus would ask God, God would give it to him.

However, Jesus said to her, “Your brother shall rise again”. Martha said she knew that her brother shall rise again at the resurrection on the last day. Then Jesus said to her,

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes him me, though he is dead, yet shall he live:

and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this”?

Martha said she believed that Jesus is Christ, the son of God, which should come into the world. Martha then went to call Mary to meet Jesus and when she saw Jesus, she fell down at his feet and said, “If you had been here, my brother would have not died”. As Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews also weeping with her, he groaned in spirit and was troubled. He requested for where Lazarus was laid, as they took him there, Jesus wept. The people said that he loved him so much that he wouldn’t have allowed him to die.

Jesus then came to the tomb and commanded the tomb to be rolled away. Martha told Jesus that Lazarus stinks that time, but Jesus reminded her that if she would believe, she should see the glory of God. They took away the stone and Jesus lifted up his eyes and said,

“Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you hear me always;

and because of the people which are standing by, I said it that they may believe that you have sent me”

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out”.

Lazarus came out bound hand and feet with grave clothes; and his face was covered with napkin. Jesus said to them,

“Loose him and let him go”.

The Jews that came to Mary to console her saw the things Jesus did and they believed in him.

**Significance of Study and Moral Lessons**

1. We learnt that Christ has power over death.
2. We learnt that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
3. WE learnt that we should believe in Jesus to save us from every of our challenges.
4. We learnt to show concern for the sorrowful.