

Lesson 1C

Matthew, the Author

Today I'm going to introduce you to two of Jesus' future apostles. Mind you, it won't be easy because one is a Zealot and the other a tax collector.



1. There are four books in the Bible that tell us about Jesus' life. They are called Gospels. The author of the first Gospel was Matthew. Jesus chose and prepared twelve men to be his special messengers in extending his kingdom on earth. They were called his apostles (sent ones).

Read the list of Jesus' apostles in Matthew 10:2-4.

Is the writer of the first Gospel listed here as an apostle? _____

Note: Keep your Bible open at this place.

2. Before following Christ, which one of the apostles was:
a) a tax collector? _____

Note: Some Bibles have the word "Publican", which means tax collector.

- b) a Zealot? Look for the answer in Matthew 10:2-4, and keep your Bible open at this place. _____

3. Who were the Zealots in Palestine? _____

Answers

1. Yes
2. a) Matthew
b) Simon
3. Jewish revolutionaries

8. The first Gospel was written by a)_____. Before following Christ he worked as a b)_____.
9. Simon the Zealot and Matthew were both of a)_____ nationality, and they lived in the same country, which was called b)_____, within the c)_____ Empire. Both became Christ's d)_____.
10. In many countries today, as in Palestine then, there are revolutionary movements made up of nationalists who hope to free their country from another power. Before following Christ, which of the twelve apostles:
 a) supported and worked for the Romans? _____
 b) was a nationalist? _____
11. Before following Christ, what would have been the relationship between Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot?
 One of friendship or one of hatred? _____
12. In the list below, mark each of the phrases in the following way. Those that apply to: Matthew only, with "M"; Matthew and Simon, with "MS"; Simon only, with "S"; neither of the two, with "X".
 a) ___ Zealot. g) ___ Author of the first Gospel.
 b) ___ Worked for the Romans. h) ___ Revolutionary.
 c) ___ Hated the Romans. i) ___ Christ's apostle.
 d) ___ Native of Palestine. j) ___ Tax collector.
 e) ___ Roman. k) ___ Jewish.
 f) ___ Traitor to his country. l) ___ Native of a country with a Mediterranean coastline.
13. Isn't it strange that Simon and Matthew should find themselves together as Christ's apostles, even though they had been so bitterly opposed politically. Read Matthew 10:7. In which kingdom were they reconciled and united? _____
14. What is the main theme of the Gospel according to Matthew? You will find it mentioned in Matthew 4:17.
 a. The Kingdom of Heaven.
 b. The Roman Empire.
 c. The Revolutionary Movement.

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 8. a) Matthew | 11. One of hatred | 13. Kingdom of heaven |
| b) tax collector | 12. a) "S" g) "M" | 14. a. |
| 9. a) Jewish | b) "M" h) "S" | |
| b) Palestine | c) "S" i) "MS" | |
| c) Roman | d) "MS" j) "M" | |
| d) apostles | e) "X" k) "MS" | |
| 10. a) Matthew | f) "M" l) "MS" | |
| b) Simon the Zealot | | |

15. Exercise:

The word “kingdom” occurs more than 50 times in Matthew’s Gospel. Indeed, it is the key word in this Gospel. For this reason you will be underlining it each time it is found there. Make a start now by underlining in red the word “kingdom” in each of the following verses:

Matthew 4:17; 4:23 and 10:7.

16. The kingdom of heaven that Christ preached was a kingdom of love. It was as far removed from the political ideas of the revolutionaries as it was from those of the Roman Empire.

a) Do you remember the drawing showing the execution of the 2000 captured Zealots, in Lesson 1 B.9?

Did the Roman Empire remain in power by love or by military force? _____

b) The Zealots had great nationalistic ideals; they wanted to free their country from pagan Roman oppression.

Did they want to achieve this by love or by violent revolution? _____

17. Which of the following used violence instead of love in order to achieve their aims?

Check them both.

- a. The Roman Empire.
 b. The Revolutionary Movement.
 c. The Kingdom of Heaven.

18. What is the main theme of the Gospel according to Matthew?

The _____

19. Read Luke 4:18

a) Was Christ concerned about the condition of the oppressed? _____

b) What will Christ do about those who are oppressed? _____

Answers

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 16. a) By military force | 17. a. b. | 19. a) Yes |
| b) By a violent revolution | 18. kingdom of heaven | b) Set them free |

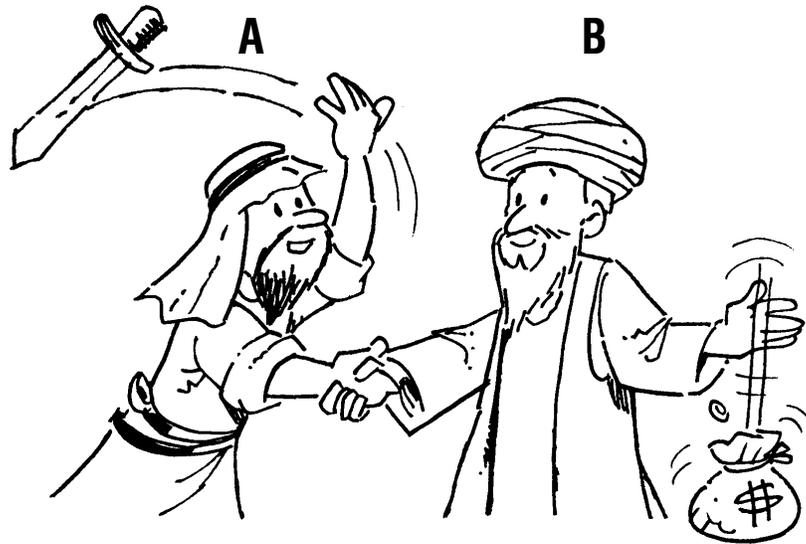
20. The drawing below shows two of Christ's apostles.
- Identify them by writing the name of each here.
 - _____
 - _____
 - Does this drawing show them as they were before or after they had entered the kingdom of heaven? _____
 - Choose the most appropriate title from the list below, and then write it in the space above the drawing.

The Kingdom of Heaven

The Revolutionary Movement

Imperialism

Title: _____



21. Read John 18:36. Christ promised that in his kingdom he would set the oppressed free. But would he do this by violence? _____

22. Read John 6:15. Jesus was a Jew. When the people came to him in order to make him King of Palestine by force, what did Jesus do?
- a. He accepted the offer of leading a violent revolution.
 - b. He refused the offer and withdrew.
 - c. He approved of their plans but hadn't the courage to join them.

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 20. a) A. Simon | 21. No |
| B. Matthew | 22. b. |
| b) After | |
| c) The Kingdom of Heaven | |

23. Read Matthew 5:44. Was the kingdom of heaven established by violence or by love? _____
24. The kingdom of heaven differed from the ideas both of the Roman Empire and of the Revolutionary Movement in that it was motivated by a) _____ instead of by b) _____.
25. Simon the Zealot and Matthew were united in love as a result of:
- a. Imperialism
 - b. The Revolutionary Movement
 - c. The Kingdom of Heaven
26. What is the main theme of the Gospel according to Matthew? _____
27. God wants our strongest loyalty to be to:
- a. Our political party
 - b. Our homeland
 - c. The kingdom of heaven
 - d. Our family
 - e. Our church or denomination
28. Now do Test 1C.
29. Don't forget to go to the Group Meeting. It is an essential part of the course.

Answers

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|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 23. By love | 25. c. | 27. It should be c. |
| 24. a) love | 26. The kingdom of heaven | |
| b) violence/hatred | | |