

## That The World May Know – The Life and Ministry of the Messiah – Session 5: The Rabbi

### Lifestyle of a First-Century Rabbi

Jesus' role as a first-century Jewish rabbi provided the perfect setting in which to proclaim His message. Let's look at the lifestyle and teaching practices of typical rabbis who lived during Jesus' time.

1. What did many of the people who encountered Jesus consider Him to be?  
Luke 7:40  
Luke 12:13,  
Luke 19:39
2. How did the rabbis of the first century teach and minister?  
Luke 8:1 – 3  
Matthew 26:55  
Mark 6:6  
Luke 4:14  
Luke 7:3 – 47  
Matthew 13:1 – 3  
Matthew 11:29 – 30  
Matthew 10:1 – 4  
Matthew 17:24  
Matthew 20:29  
Luke 5:27 – 28  
Luke 19:37  
Luke 23:49
3. Each rabbi taught his disciples how the Torah should be obeyed. The system of obedience to the Torah was called the "yoke of Torah." What was unique about Jesus' yoke?  
Matthew 11:28 – 30

Why was it meaningful for Jesus to describe His message in this way?

How did Jesus' audience—the common people, religious leaders, rabbis—react to this teaching?

### The Message of Jesus, the Rabbi

1. What was the basic theme of Jesus' message?  
Matthew 4:17
2. Capernaum, a small village in which Jesus conducted some of his ministry, was located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee by the Mia Maris, the crossroads of ancient civilization. Why did Jesus choose Capernaum to be the hub of his ministry—His "hometown"?  
Isaiah 9:1 – 2  
Matthew 4:12 – 17
3. For what did Jesus strongly condemn teachers of the Law and Pharisees?  
Matthew 23:1 – 7
4. In contrast to the way a true disciple of Jesus would respond to His teaching, how did the inhabitants of Korazin and Bethsaida respond?  
Matthew 11:20 – 22  
  
In what way is this message important for people today?
5. What event occurred one Sabbath in Nazareth when it was time for Jesus, the next scheduled reader, to read His assigned portion from the prophets?  
Luke 4:14 – 21
6. Why did rabbis of Jesus' day wear the Jewish prayer shawl with tassels on it?  
Numbers 15:37 – 41
7. According to Jewish tradition, what was unique about the prayer shawl of the Messiah?  
Zechariah 8:23  
Malachi 4:2: Mark 5:24 - 34

### The Zealots: No One But God

Jesus knew Zealots, addressed issues in which they were passionately interest, and shared their total commitment to serving God. Yet, His message about God's kingdom stood in stark contrast to their message, which advocated a violent overthrow of Roman oppression.

1. What did the devil tempt Jesus to do regarding God's kingdom? What was Jesus' commitment?  
Matthew 4:8 – 10
2. How would a Zealot have received these teachings of Jesus?  
Matthew 5:5  
Matthew 5:7  
Matthew 5:9  
Matthew 5:38 – 42  
Matthew 5:43 – 48
3. Why was paying taxes to Caesar an issue for the pro-Roman Herodians and the Jewish Zealots? How did Jesus answer the loaded question He was asked? How did it satisfy, or not satisfy, both groups?  
Matthew 22:15 – 22  
  
As Jesus demonstrated His miraculous power, what unusual instruction did He give? What was He trying to avoid?  
Matthew 8:3 – 4  
Matthew 9:29 – 30  
Mark 1:40 – 44  
Luke 8:51 – 56  
John 6:14 – 15
4. The word used to describe Barabbas in Luke 23: 13 – 25 is the same word used to mean *Zealot*. What was the irony in Pilate's decision regarding Jesus?

## Misunderstandings about Jesus' Kingdom

1. What do these verses reveal about how people misunderstood Jesus and His Kingdom?

The disciples  
Matthew 26:47 – 51  
Mark 10:35 – 45

The Romans  
John 18:33 – 37

The crowd in the Garden of Gethsemane  
Matthew 26:55 – 56

2. The Romans apparently feared that Jesus was a Zealot. Why would these verses show evidence to prove their suspicions?  
Mark 3:13 – 18  
Matthew 2:1 – 9  
Mark 11:15 – 18  
John 12:12 – 15
3. To clarify what His kingdom was about, what did Jesus say to Pilate, who no doubt wondered if Jesus was the political-military king that the Zealots awaited?  
John 18:36
4. When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, what did He ask them that reflected the ideology of the Zealots?  
Acts 1:6

## Jesus Taught in Synagogues

The New Testament records more than ten occasions when Jesus ministered in synagogues, which provided a ready platform for His teaching. Imagine Jesus sitting on a stone bench or on the floor of a synagogue and listening, or on the *bema* (speaker's platform) holding the Torah scrolls. As we understand the role of the synagogues in Jewish life, we can better appreciate the actions and words of Jesus that took place there.

1. How important was the synagogue to His ministry? In what towns and regions did Jesus visit synagogues?  
Matthew 4:23  
Mark 1:21  
Luke 4:14 – 22
2. What do the following Scriptures describe about Jesus' ministry in the synagogues?  
Matthew 12:9 – 13  
Luke 4:31 – 37  
Luke 4:16 – 22  
John 6:28 – 59
3. After the Babylonians destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, the Jews could no longer worship God as they had for centuries. So they focused on studying God's law and making a different kind of sacrifice. What was that "new" sacrifice?  
Psalm 51:16 – 17  
Isaiah 1:11 – 17
4. What did the apostle Paul express concerning the way in which Christians sacrifice to God?  
Romans 12:1 – 2

## References

Exodus 20	Mark 1
Numbers 5	Mark 3
Numbers 6	Mark 5
Numbers 15	Mark 6
Numbers 25	Mark 10
Deuteronomy 22	Mark 11
Psalms 51	Mark 12
Isaiah 1	Luke 4
Isaiah 9	Luke 5
Zachariah 8	Luke 7
Malachi 4	Luke 8
Matthew 2	Luke 12
Matthew 4	Luke 13
Matthew 5	Luke 19
Matthew 8	Luke 20
Matthew 9	Luke 23
Matthew 10	John 6
Matthew 11	John 8
Matthew 12	John 13
Matthew 13	John 18
Matthew 17	Acts 1
Matthew 19	Acts 2
Matthew 20	Acts 13
Matthew 22	Romans 12
Matthew 23	1 Corinthians 12
Matthew 26	

Jesus did not come to improve your life, a little tweak here and a little tweak there. Jesus came to transplant a new way of thinking into your mind, a new way of living into your soul. Once we join Jesus and pursue God's vision for this world, everything changes. You will go places you never thought you would go.. You will ask God for what you need and trust God to provide. And you may find there is not as much need to worry.