

# BEGINNINGS MT. 9:14-17

LCBC believes the Church, the Church Age, and local churches began on the day of Pentecost. Salvation didn't start then but this distinct age did!

What do we find in Jesus' day?

## 1. There was a Jesus Movement!

Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; **For he hath visited and redeemed his people,** Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us In the house of his servant David; Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, Which have been since the world began: Luke 1:71 That we should be saved from our enemies, And from the hand of all that hate us; Luke 1:72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, And to remember his holy covenant; Luke 1:73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies Might serve him without fear, Luke 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before him, All the days of our life.

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel:** and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Luke 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, **and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**

There were disciples. How many? That is hard to know.

### A small, growing group:

- OT true believers → looking / waiting for the Messiah
- His own disciples
- Many others saved along the way
- About 120 gathered in Jerusalem → this would not have been all or even most of the believers

Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty.)

## 2. The Jesus Movement was **distinct from the other two main movements!**

Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Mark 2:18 And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, **Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?**

There were several well-known groups within Judaism in the first century:

<b>Pharisees:</b>	These were the conservatives  The scribes were usually connected to this group
<b>Sadducees:</b>	These were the liberals They denied the Resurrection In the Gospel of John these seem to be the chief priests  Specifically, the family of Annas & Caiaphas  These were certainly power people who worked with Rome

<b>Essene:</b>	These are not mentioned in the Bible <b>Pharisees + isolationists</b> Found in the Dead Sea Area & Kumran
<b>Zealots:</b>	Not yet fully formed In AD 66-70/73 they would cause the Fall of Masada <b>Pharisees + violence</b>
<b>Disciples of John:</b>	This group was actually supposed to be a terminal group
<b>Other groups...</b>	Certainly Palestinian <u>vs</u> the Diaspora
<b>Typical, unaligned Jewish individuals</b>	Most of the common people liked the Pharisees But were not part of any group

### 3. The Jesus Movement was **different than the other two main movements.**

**Matthew 9:14** Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, **Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?**  
**Matthew 9:15** And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber **mourn**, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, **and then shall they fast.**

Fasting holds a very **strange** place in Christian thought and history.

#### From the Didache:

Your fasting should not be like the hypocrites'. They fast on Monday and the Thursday: you should fast on the Wednesday and Friday.

You should not pray like the hypocrites either, but as the Lord commanded in his Gospel:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors; Do not lead us into trial, but deliver us from the evil one; for yours is the power and the glory for ever and ever. Say this prayer three times a day.

The Pharisees fasted 2x per week:

John's disciples fasted somewhat similarly

Jesus disciples didn't fast during Jesus' earthly ministry. Bridegroom and bride and bridal party was a time of celebration and not mourning

### 4. The Jesus movement would suffer the **violent loss of its leader!**

**Matthew 9:15** And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom **shall be taken from (ἀπαρθῆ ἀπ' αὐτῶν) them**, and then shall they fast.

**Mark 2:20** But the days will come, when the bridegroom **shall be taken away from (ἀπαρθῆ ἀπ' αὐτῶν) them**, and then shall they fast in those days.

**Luke 5:35** But the days will come, when the bridegroom **shall be taken away from (ἀπαρθῆ ἀπ' αὐτῶν) them**, and then shall they fast in those days.

**Matthew 16:21** **From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

**Matthew 17:22** And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, **The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:**

**Matthew 17:23** **And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.**

**Matthew 20:17** And Jesus going up to Jerusalem **took the twelve disciples apart** in the way, and said unto them, **Matthew 20:18** **Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, Matthew 20:19** **And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.**