

September 5, 2017—Thoughts, Schedule

I have been reading Matthew and Mark, with occasional visits to the other gospels for additional details. There is always something new to see and learn!

The first disciples mentioned in Matthew make an interesting group. There was the Brothers Fishing Company (Peter and Andrew) that partnered with Zebedee & Sons (James and John). And there was that tax collector by Lake Galilee named Matthew. These men probably knew each other, although relations with Matthew might not have been cordial due to his tax demands. Some of these men had been disciples of John the Baptist before he directed them to Jesus (John 1: 35, 36, 40). Had Matthew heard John and repented (Luke 3:12-13)? It is interesting to see how the Lord Jesus took these men of various abilities, personalities and backgrounds, and made them into a team.

There were several replies offered to Jesus' question about who people thought He was (Matthew 16:13-14). Some of these men had known John the Baptist, so that was clearly not the right answer. A few days later, Peter, James and John saw Elijah and Moses and immediately recognized them, so Jesus clearly was not Elijah. There is our Lord's intriguing statement in Matthew 17-11-12, saying that Elijah shall surely come, but has come. The "has come" referred to John the Baptist. We will see how the other part of the statement is fulfilled. I can see the three disciples smiling at each other (Matthew 22:32) when Jesus talked about God being the God of the living. After all, they had seen for themselves that Moses and Elijah were definitely alive and communicating.

Jesus taught in the temple several times during the last week of His life (Matthew 26:55). It would be interesting to know if there were any of the older teachers who remembered from twenty years earlier a very bright twelve-year-old from Nazareth who spent some days with them (Luke 2: 46-48). If so, did they wonder if there was any connection with this teacher who taught with authority?

The disciples were challenged by our Lord before a group of 5000 men plus women and children to feed them (Matthew 14:16). The disciples' doubtful reply about what they have in hand is recorded, but so is the rest of Andrew's reply, seemingly under his breath, "...but what are they among so many?" (John 6:9) At the end of Matthew, there are only eleven disciples being sent to all nations. What are they among so many? Our Lord had already given the answer in Matthew 9:38. The Lord Who multiplied bread for the multitudes will multiply the living bread and His bread-bearers, and they will go forth in His power.

Matthew 26:38 is on my mind tonight as we face the coming of Hurricane Irma into this region. Today was a lovely day, bright and breezy, which helped keep the heat down a bit. I did my laundry, made bread, worked on reports (and blessed our Father for the technology that made that possible), and taught a piano lesson to Pastor Méhu. He was talking of going for his family in Cap Haitien on Thursday and taking them to St. Michel. I suggested that tomorrow, Wednesday, would be a better idea because of the severe hurricane that will probably be here on Thursday. Hurricane? —What hurricane?! He did not realize anything serious was out there. It reminded me that so many people I know think life will continue on without problems, and there is no trouble ahead. They are going about their daily affairs like the people in Noah's day, not knowing, or not willing to face, that there is judgement ahead and they are totally unprepared. Please pray that God will use this difficult time to show people their need of Jesus Christ and the solid foundation He offers for their lives.

I have been working on my fall schedule. The presence of a category 5 hurricane in the region is a vivid reminder that we make plans, but should be careful to remember those are always as the Lord wills (James 4:14-15). Please find the current scheduled attached to this letter.

Thanks for praying!

In our Lord's service,

*Dr. Anne*

P.S. The moon is lovely tonight. No hint of the storm to the east.