

STUDY GUIDE

# MATTHEW

*Coming of the King*

CHAPTERS 1-13



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**THEREFORE, AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, SO WALK IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING.**

**– COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Morning Bible Study at Richland Creek Community Church!

Our mission is to reach and teach women, encouraging them to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through Bible study and fellowship.

The Bible is an intelligently designed, one-of-a-kind book. It is the Word of God written in the words of men. Within its pages we find God's witness to himself - composed and recorded without error. This is amazing; God graciously reveals himself that we might truly know him!

Getting to know Jesus Christ through the study of God's Word is the greatest privilege of my life.

That may seem like a strong statement, especially considering the many "hats" I get to wear: Wife, mother, daughter, sister, coach, student and teacher. Yet, knowing Christ has profoundly impacted the way I live out every one of those roles. My identity, my motivation, my strength, my joy, my wisdom, and my capacity for love all find their origin in him. He is continually working in and through me in ways I could never have imagined before.

J. I. Packer said, "As [Christ] is the subject of our study, and our helper in it, so he himself must be the end of it."

The Apostle Paul wrote: *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...."* (Philippians 3:7-8)

I couldn't agree more.

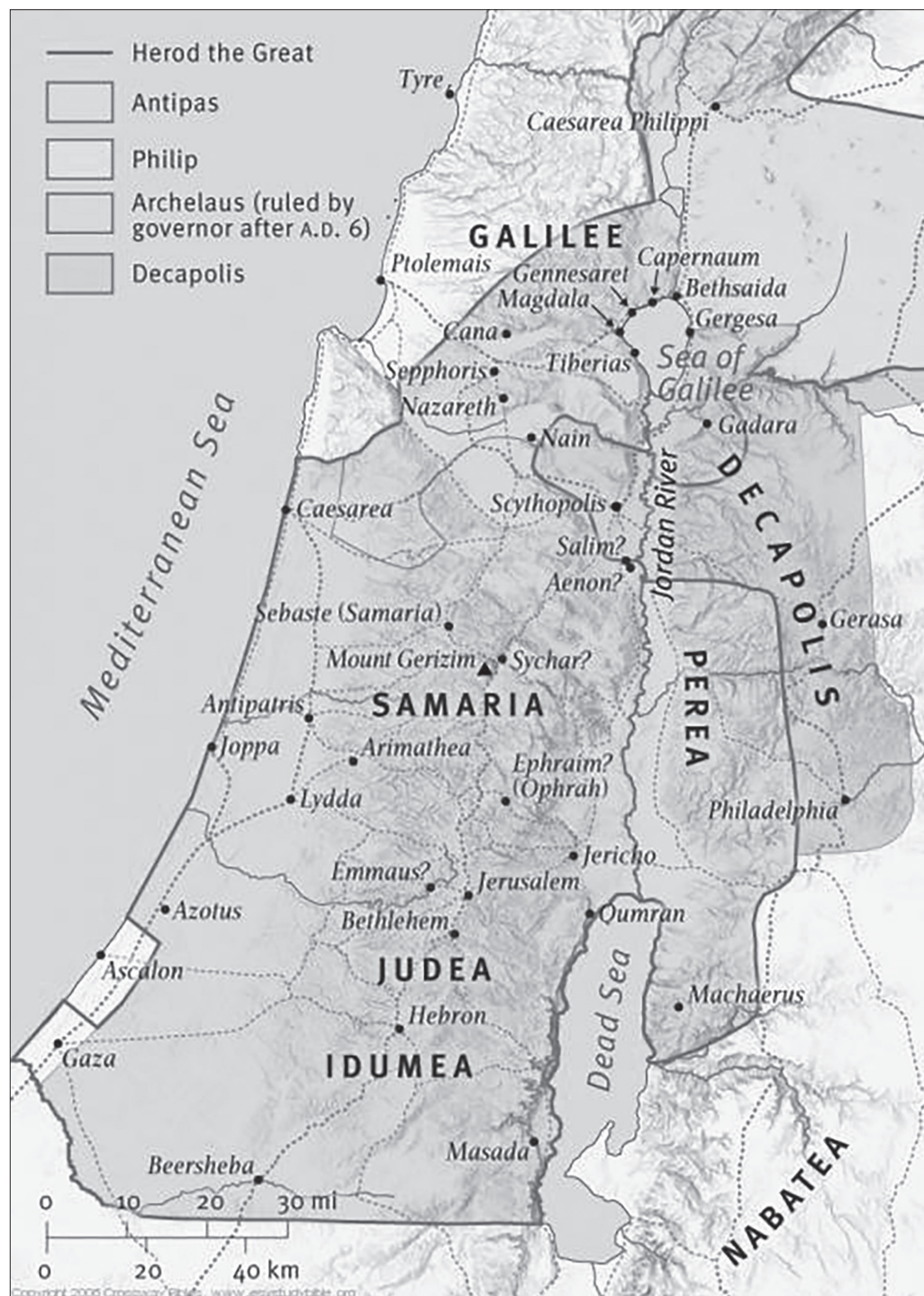
As you spend time reading, listening to, and studying the Bible this semester, I pray that what you learn about the Lord Jesus Christ will profoundly impact the way you live, too.

May God graciously teach us much about himself in the weeks to come. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear the truths of Scripture. May we seek him with all of our hearts and treasure the Christ of the Word deeply.

Love in Christ,

*Elizabeth Rodriguez*

Lead Teacher, Morning Bible Study



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# *How to Study the Bible*

AND

## *How to Use This Study Guide*

### **THE PURPOSE**

The purpose of Bible study is to know God and to be transformed into His image.

*"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18*

The purpose of this study guide is to lead you through the following Bible study process as you study in relationship with other believers at Richland Creek.

### **THE PROCESS**

#### ***Pray Continually - Read Repeatedly***

Pray throughout your study time. Approach God in humility, realizing that the Bible is a spiritual book and cannot be understood apart from the Spirit of God.

*"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name." Psalm 86:11*

The study guide will prompt you to read through our chosen text repeatedly. At the beginning of each week, we will zoom out, reading or listening to (on a Bible app or audio book) the whole chapter or a large section in one sitting, in order to understand the main points and context. Then we will zoom in to focus on details. At the end of the week, we will have the opportunity to zoom back out and reflect on the passage as a whole.

#### ***Observation – What does the text say?***

The first step to understanding a passage is basic observation. At this point the main goal is comprehension of the passage. What is the author communicating? After listening to or reading the week's passage as a whole, we will encourage you to write a brief list of the main points or events (you can use your Bible's section titles for help). To get at what the text specifically says, we will then look at many of the details and how each detail contributes to the whole of the passage. As you continue to pray and read, the study guide will lead you to answer basic questions. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? As you do this, continue to pay attention to the context. How does this verse relate to the ones before it, to the ones after it, to the book as a whole, and to other passages in the Bible? There will be opportunities to note things that are repeated, compared, or contrasted. Feel free to jot down additional things that you notice as you go. The majority of

the study guide is devoted to this stage of the process.

### ***Interpretation – What does the text mean?***

After you have made observations and have a basic comprehension of the passage, the next goal in Bible study is interpretation – to understand the author’s message. Jesus would often say after he taught,

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Matthew 11:15*

Clearly, the crowd had heard his words, but did they understand his message? Similarly, we must dig further to make sure that we understand the author’s intended purpose for the passage. How does the author tell his story or build his argument? How does this story or teaching fit into the overarching story of God’s work of salvation? What was the significance to the original audience? This is a good time to check cross-references (these found in the margin or at the bottom of Bibles that have cross-references). They will help you find other passages in the Bible that utilize the same words or themes. If you are looking at an unclear passage, often a more clear passage on the same topic will help you gain understanding. This study guide will include some of these cross-references, but look at others from your Bible as well. Pray for spiritual ears to hear God’s message.

While there are some questions focused on this stage in the study guide, understanding the meaning of the message will be the primary focus of the teaching time each Wednesday. One quick note of encouragement: We strongly recommend that you focus your study time at home on the study of the Bible passage without the aid of commentaries or study Bible notes. While these tools are helpful, they are not God’s infallible Word. And they often prevent you from the joy of growing in personal Bible study skills. If you do want to consult these helps, the best time to do that is after your personal study time and the group time.

### ***Application – What do I do with what I’ve learned?***

All Scripture is useful and beneficial for daily life and doctrine, according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

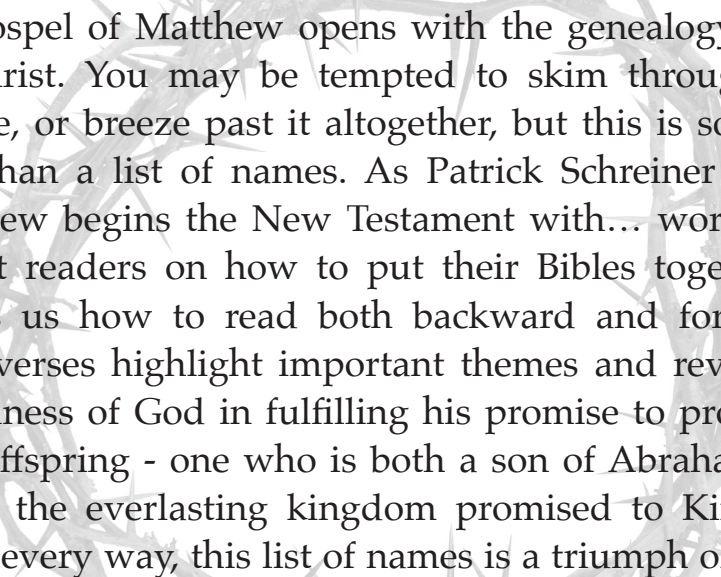
*“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” 2 Peter 1:3*

It is through the knowledge of God and His words that we will be equipped for life. But study alone is not enough. We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22). Scripture is not truly understood until it is obeyed. Every passage requires that we apply what we have learned by responding to God and His message. We should ask ourselves, “What have I learned about God? How, then, should I change the way I think or speak or act?” We should consider what specific steps are needed to trust, worship, and obey God more faithfully.

There are some application and response type questions sprinkled throughout the study guide, as you reflect and pray personally at home. Also, the group discussion time will not only review what you have learned throughout the week, but also focus on what our response to the message should be. Obedience is more attainable when we can encourage each other in godliness.

# LESSON ONE

*Matthew 1:1-17*



The Gospel of Matthew opens with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. You may be tempted to skim through this passage, or breeze past it altogether, but this is so much more than a list of names. As Patrick Schreiner put it, “Matthew begins the New Testament with... words that instruct readers on how to put their Bibles together. It teaches us how to read both backward and forward.” These verses highlight important themes and reveal the faithfulness of God in fulfilling his promise to provide a royal offspring - one who is both a son of Abraham and heir to the everlasting kingdom promised to King David. In every way, this list of names is a triumph of grace.



Lecture Notes

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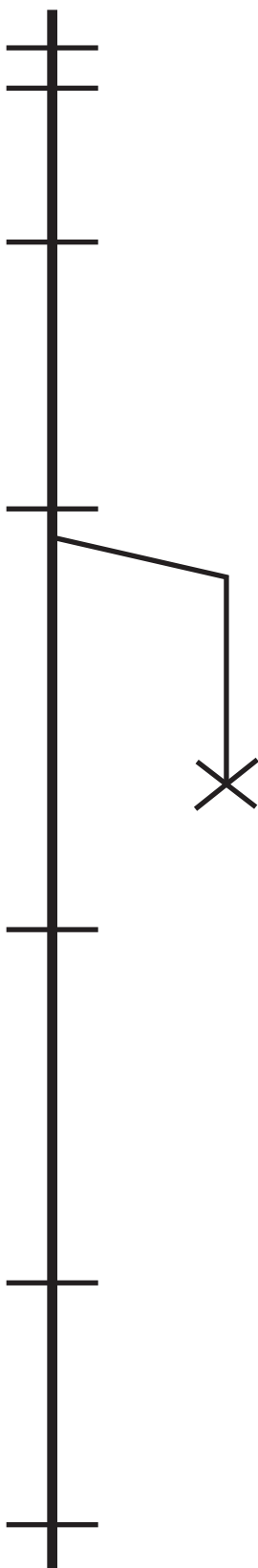
## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

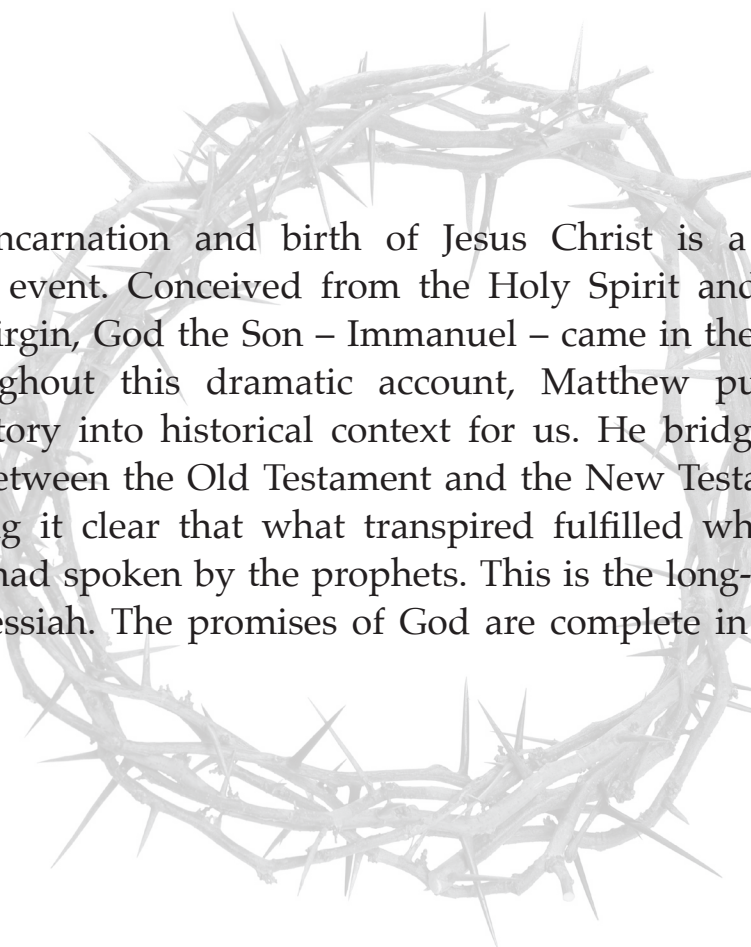
Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.





# LESSON TWO

*Matthew 1:18-2:23*



The incarnation and birth of Jesus Christ is a wondrous event. Conceived from the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, God the Son – Immanuel – came in the flesh. Throughout this dramatic account, Matthew puts Jesus' story into historical context for us. He bridges the gap between the Old Testament and the New Testament, making it clear that what transpired fulfilled what the Lord had spoken by the prophets. This is the long-awaited Messiah. The promises of God are complete in Jesus.

## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW

The Bible is one story. What four words summarize the grand narrative?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was the original audience for the Gospel of Matthew?

Read Matthew 1:1-17. Why is the genealogy of Jesus Christ so significant? (List as many reasons as you can from the reading and/or from the lecture)

**LISTEN TO OR READ CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 OF MATTHEW. THEN LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THESE TWO CHAPTERS (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**

What names or titles does Matthew attribute to Jesus in the first chapter of his gospel?

Verse 1 and 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 1:       the son of \_\_\_\_\_

                  the son of \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17:       the \_\_\_\_\_



Verse 21: \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 23: \_\_\_\_\_

Match these names and titles to their meaning (see the verses listed for clues):

Jesus (Matthew 1:21)

God with us

Christ (John 1:41)

Yahweh saves

Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)

Messiah

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL):

What name is repeated in verses 1, 6, 17, and 20 of Matthew 1? What promise was made to this man that has significance for Jesus' life and identity (see 2 Sam. 7:12, 16 and Luke 1:32-33)?

## Day Two

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### READ MATTHEW 1:17-25 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

While Luke's gospel focuses on Jesus' mother, Mary, Matthew gives us the perspective of Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. List below things you learn about Joseph.

His character traits:

His actions:

Mary and Joseph were betrothed, which in their culture meant they were legally pledged to be married. Unfaithfulness during betrothal was considered adultery.

What could Joseph have done to Mary when he discovered she was pregnant (verse 19)?

What did he plan to do (verse 19)?

What did the angel tell him to do (verse 20)?

What did he do (verse 24)?

In what ways was Jesus' conception unique (see also Luke 1:34-35)?

According to the angel, what particular kind of Savior would Jesus be (verse 21)?

What is sin (see 1 John 5:17, Romans 3:23, Psalm 51:1-4) and why do people need saving from it (Romans 5:12, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2)?

What was prophesied according to Matthew 1:23? How was this fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Matthew 1:23 and 28:20. What character trait of Jesus does Matthew use to begin and end his gospel?

### APPLICATION

Have you come to understand that you need to be saved from your own sins against God?

## Day Three

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**READ MATTHEW 2:1-12 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Where was Jesus born? Find this town on the map and draw a manger next to the name. What city is it near?

When was Jesus born (during the days of what ruler)? *\*See more about this person in the list in appendix 2.*

The wise men (the Greek word here is “magi”), could have been people who practiced astrology, magic, or dream interpretation, or those who studied sacred writings or pursued wisdom (ESV Study Bible). How many magi were there, according to the passage?

Where did the magi come from? What city did they go to first?

What were they looking for? Why (verse 2)?

What supernatural phenomenon did the magi observe? Note what you learn about this phenomenon in verses 2, 7, 9-10.

Read Numbers 24:17 and Isaiah 60:1-6. Some of these prophecies were likely known by those in the east from the many Jews who were scattered during the exile. How do these verses relate to what happened?

What was Herod's first reaction to the news (vs. 3-4)? What did he tell the wise men to do (vs. 7-8)?

Were the chief priests and scribes knowledgeable of the prophecies of the Christ? Did they know where to find him?

What does verse 6 (quoted from Micah 5:2 and Ezekiel 34:23) prophesy about the Messiah? How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

Where did the magi find the child? What did the magi do when they found him?

## APPLICATION

What worship do we bring to the Lord (see Romans 12:1-2)?

## *Day Four*

---

**READ MATTHEW 2:13-18 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Why did the angel tell Joseph to flee with Mary and the child to Egypt?

Find Egypt on the map. How long were they in Egypt (verse 15)?

What other people in the Bible went to Egypt during difficult times (see Genesis 12:10, 46:1-4)?

What did Herod do when he found out that the wise men had tricked him?

How would you contrast Herod (the king of Judea) and his reaction to the news about the birth of Jesus with the reaction of the magi (the kings of the East)?

HEROD	MAGI



What Old Testament event does this tragedy mirror? Read Exodus 1:8-22.

What deliverer was saved from this great tragedy (see Exodus 2)?

The grief of the Jewish women over their murdered children is personified by what Jewish matriarch (the “voice” that is heard in the prophecy in verse 18)?

- A. Mary
- B. Sarah
- C. Rachel
- D. Rebekah

### APPLICATION

We just looked at the differences in the ways that Herod and the Magi reacted to Jesus’ coming. What about the scribes? They knew that Jesus came but there is no record of them going to worship him. Is remaining ambivalent a viable option when it comes to Jesus? How can we avoid the example of the scribes?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

The prophecy in Matthew 2:18 (from Jeremiah 31:15) was originally written to the people of Israel when they were in exile, an exile caused by their idolatry. It was a time of weeping and lamentation. This prophecy expresses the pain of that time, as well as looking back to the grief before the Exodus, and looking forward to the grief of the time that we read about in Jesus’ day. But read the verses right before this one, Jeremiah 31:10-14. What does God promise to do for His people? What will happen to their mourning?

## Day Five

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**READ MATTHEW 2:19-23 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

What did the angel tell Joseph to do? Why?

What did Joseph do (verse 21)?

What did Joseph discover when they arrived in Israel?

Where did the family decide to settle after being warned in a dream? Find this location (the district and the city) on the map at the front of the book. Draw a house next to the city.

Jesus has lived in several places thus far in his short life. Match the following locations to the correct identification (see verses 2:1, 2:14-15, 2:22-23).

Bethlehem

Where Jesus lived upon their return to Israel

Nazareth

Where Jesus was born

Egypt

Where Joseph took the family when in danger

**FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Look back at Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 19, and 22. How did God communicate with Joseph?

How does God communicate with us today? See Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:14-17.



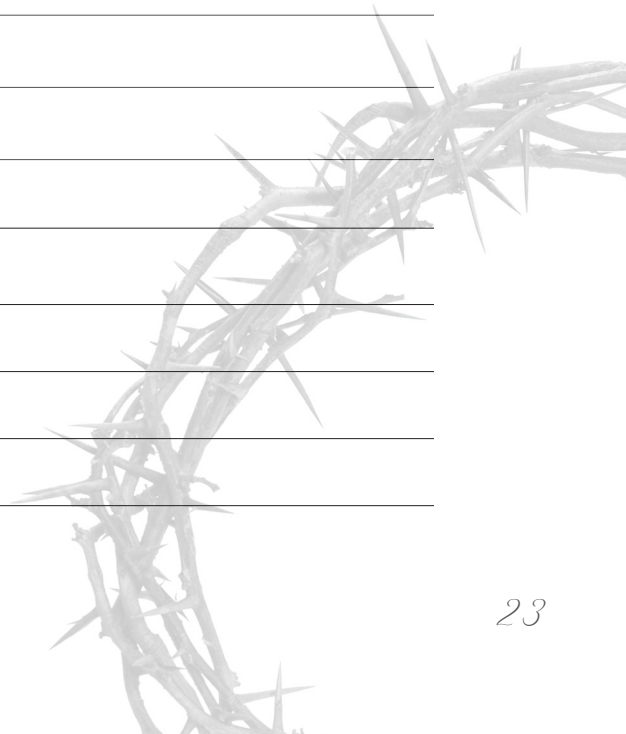
## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.

Lecture Notes

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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

Where were you born? Who in the group was born the farthest away from here?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

What did you learn about Joseph this week? Tell me about his character traits and actions.

The Bible calls Joseph a just man, yet he was willing to show grace to Mary rather than subject her to the law's demands. Read Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:8, and James 2:12-13. How do we rightly show both justice and mercy?

We learned that Jesus would come to "save his people from their sins." What is sin and why do people need saving from it?

How do these truths differ from worldly wisdom? Do people usually think they are sinners? Do they think they need to be saved?

When people see the problems in the world, who or what do they think will solve those problems? What kind of savior are they looking for?

In the prophecy in Matthew 1:23, we saw that Jesus would be called "Immanuel" which means God with us. In the OT this image was a picture of judgment more than comfort (see Isaiah 8:5-10). But in Matthew, God with us brings the image of comfort and salvation. How is Jesus the fulfillment of both - judgment and salvation?

Why is it important to remember that God is a God of both wrath and salvation?

How fitting that God chose to guide people to Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12), by the light of a star. How did Jesus bring light to the world (see John 1:9-14)? How are we to bring light (see Matt. 5:14-16)?

What contrasts did you see between Herod, the Magi, and the scribes in their reaction to Jesus' birth?

How can we avoid the example of the scribes? How can we follow the example of the Magi? What worship are we to bring (Romans 12:1-2)?

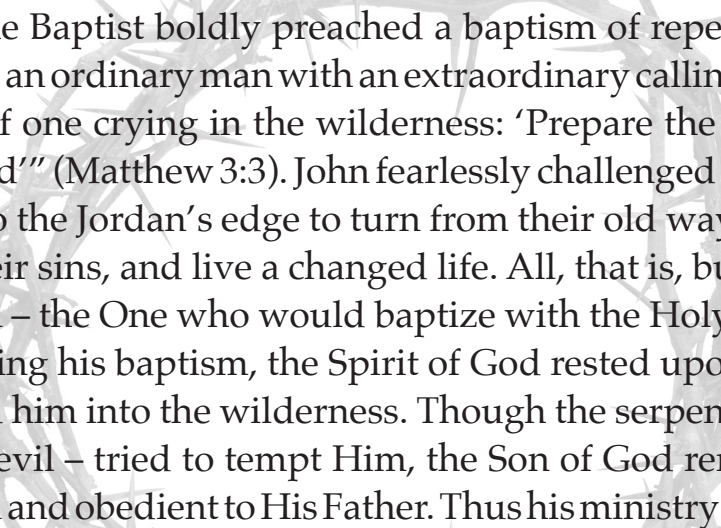
The good news of Jesus' coming brought division in Jerusalem. Today, too, the gospel divides. There are those who worship and those who want to destroy. What are some ways that Satan tries to destroy the spread of the gospel and of worship? How does he try to destroy the faith of believers in America today? How are we called to stand firm (see for example Ephesians 6:10-20)?

What else did you learn about Jesus this week?



# LESSON THREE

*Matthew 3-4*



John the Baptist boldly preached a baptism of repentance. He was an ordinary man with an extraordinary calling; “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’” (Matthew 3:3). John fearlessly challenged all who came to the Jordan’s edge to turn from their old ways, confess their sins, and live a changed life. All, that is, but Jesus the Son – the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Following his baptism, the Spirit of God rested upon Jesus and led him into the wilderness. Though the serpent of old – the devil – tried to tempt Him, the Son of God remained faithful and obedient to His Father. Thus his ministry begins.

## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 1:18-2:23)

List the three “lenses” through which we’ll study the Gospel of Matthew. (Hint: Telescope) How will studying Scripture in context impact our view of God?

How did God use dreams in this passage to teach us something about Himself? What does Hebrews 1:1-2 tell us about the way in which God speaks to us today?

What is the significance of the “flight to Egypt” and subsequent “exodus” in Matthew 2?

**LISTEN TO OR READ CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 OF MATTHEW. THEN LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THESE TWO CHAPTERS (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**

Who was John the Baptist? Read Luke 1:5-17 and 26-38 for some background information on him. Write below what you learn.

Based on the Luke passage and Matthew 3:3, what was the purpose of John's ministry?

## *Day Two*

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**READ MATTHEW 3:1-12 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Where was John preaching? What did he wear?

What did John eat? (Choose one)

- A. Lamb and hummus
- B. Locusts and honey
- C. Milk and honey
- D. Fish and bread

What was John's message?

R\_\_\_\_\_! For the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand.

How does John's message relate to his purpose (which we studied yesterday)?

The people from Jerusalem and Judea and the area around the Jordan came to John for what purpose? Specifically, what two things did they do (verse 6)?



*"To confess your sin is to agree with God that what you did was wrong. To repent of sin is to turn away from sin and toward God. It requires a change of heart and a change of action."*

What was John's reaction to the Pharisees and Sadducees? Based on what he says to them, what do you think was really going on in their hearts (see also Matthew 11:18-19)?

What do you learn about repentance from verse 8?

What does John say about Jesus ("he who is coming after me") in verses 11-12?

What Jesus would be like:

What Jesus would do:

Read over John's words from this passage again. What one word would you use to summarize or describe his message?

What two metaphors or images does John use to describe the wrath that is coming? What object in this metaphor will be thrown into the fire?

Image

Object

Verse 10

Verse 12

What was John trying to warn the people about by using these images?

### **APPLICATION**

If it were you going out to see John, what sins would you need to confess and repent of? What changes or fruit would you need to show?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

What does it mean that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (verse 11)? Read Acts 1:4-5, 8 and 2:1-21 and note what you learn below.

## *Day Three*

---

### **READ MATTHEW 3:13-17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Find the location of Jesus' baptism, the Jordan River, on your map. Draw some waves there.

Why did John attempt to prevent Jesus from being baptized? How does John's treatment of Jesus contrast with his attitude toward the Pharisees and Sadducees earlier in the chapter?

Why did Jesus say he came to be baptized by John?

- A. For repentance of sins
- B. For salvation from wrath
- C. To fulfill all righteousness
- D. To anger the Pharisees

Look up the word “righteousness” in an English dictionary and write below the best definition for the context of our passage.

What did Jesus see when he came up from the water (verse 16)?

What did the voice from heaven say? Who was speaking?

Who else heard and saw these heavenly things? Read John 1:32-34.

What is meant by the Spirit resting on Jesus (see Isaiah 61:1-2)?

Read Isaiah 42:1 and Acts 10:37-38. What more do you learn about the significance of this event?

## APPLICATION

What do you learn about God from this passage? In what ways are the Father, Son and Spirit distinct in this passage? And in what ways are they unified?

## Day Four

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### READ MATTHEW 4:1-11 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Where did the Spirit lead Jesus? Why?

Why was Jesus hungry (verse 2)?

What phrase do you see repeated by Satan in verses 3 and 6? How does this contrast with what we saw in Matthew 3:17?

### FILL IN THE BOXES ABOUT JESUS' TEMPTATION

Verses 1-4

Location of the temptation
What Satan tempted Jesus to do
Jesus' response ("It is written...")

*Verses 5-7*

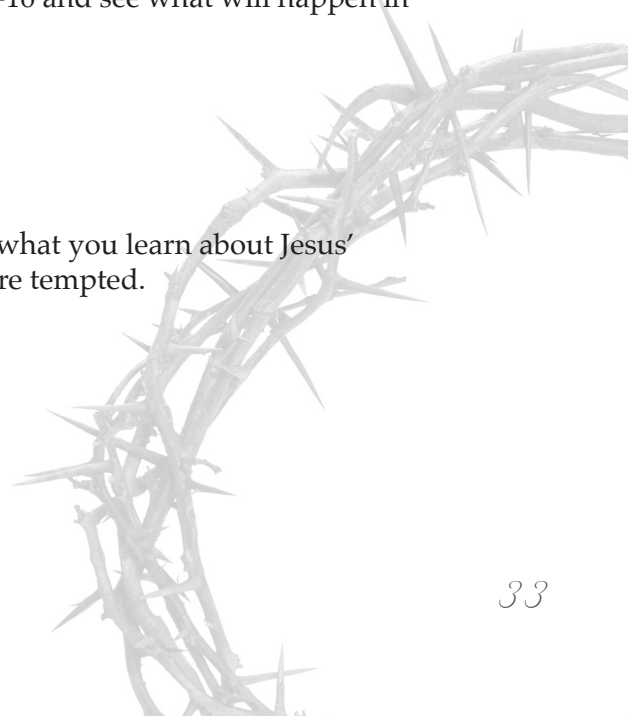
Location of the temptation
What Satan tempted Jesus to do
Jesus' response ("It is written...")

*Verses 8-10*

Location of the temptation
What Satan tempted Jesus to do
Jesus' response ("It is written...")

Notice what Satan promises to give Jesus in his last temptation (verses 8-9)...if Jesus will worship Satan. Read Revelation 11:15-16 and see what will happen in the end. Note what you learn below.

Read Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16. Note below what you learn about Jesus' temptation and his ability to help us when we are tempted.



Was this the only time Satan tempted Jesus? See Luke 4:13.

### APPLICATION

How do we follow Jesus in fighting against Satan's temptation? See Ephesians 6:12-18 and Mark 14:38.

## *Day Five*

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**READ MATTHEW 4:12-25 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

When John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus went to live in Capernaum, near the Sea of Galilee. Find this city on your map and put a star there. This will be Jesus' ministry base.

What did the prophet Isaiah prophesy about this area (verses 15-16)? How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

What was the message that Jesus preached? How does his message compare with that of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2)?

What more do you learn about the kingdom of heaven from Daniel 2:44 and Luke 1:31-33?

In verses 18-22, Jesus calls two sets of brothers to follow him. Who were these brothers and what was their profession?

What did these brothers leave behind (verses 20 and 22)? What did Jesus call them to do instead (verse 19)?

Left behind:

New calling:

Jesus' ministry begins in earnest in verses 23-25. Complete the following sentence.

Jesus went throughout Galilee...

teaching \_\_\_\_\_

proclaiming \_\_\_\_\_

healing \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the map to find all of the places mentioned in verse 25. How would you describe Jesus' following at this point?

- A. Localized
- B. Non-existent
- C. Widespread
- D. Worldwide

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Look up the following passages to see how the first several chapters of Matthew clearly show the parallels between Jesus' life and the history of Israel. However, where Israel failed to obey God, Jesus obeyed, fulfilling all righteousness.

#### Jesus

Time in Egypt (1:13-15)  
Male babies killed (1:16-18)  
Passes through the waters (baptism, 3:16)  
Tested in the wilderness for 40 days (4:1-11)  
Giving of the law (chapter 5-7)

#### Israel

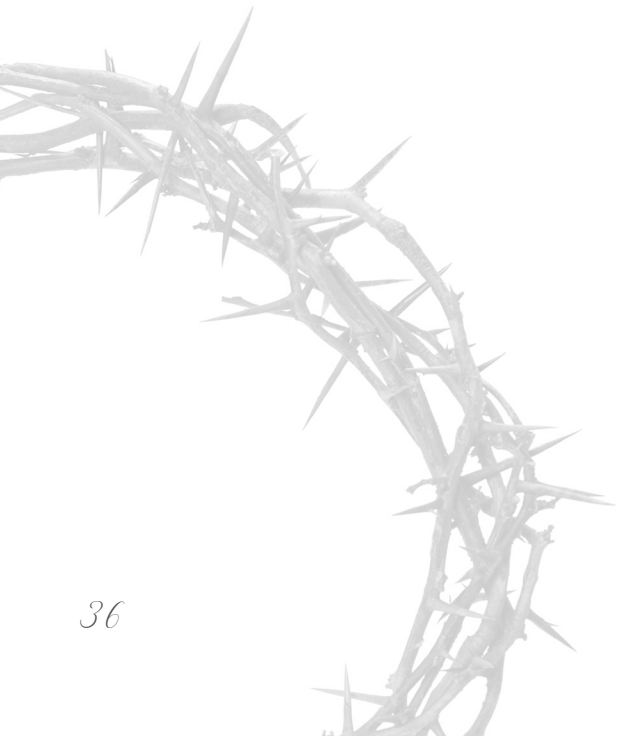
Genesis 46 - Exodus 14  
Exodus 1:22  
Exodus 14  
Deuteronomy 8:1-4 (40 years)  
Exodus 20

## *For Personal Reflection*

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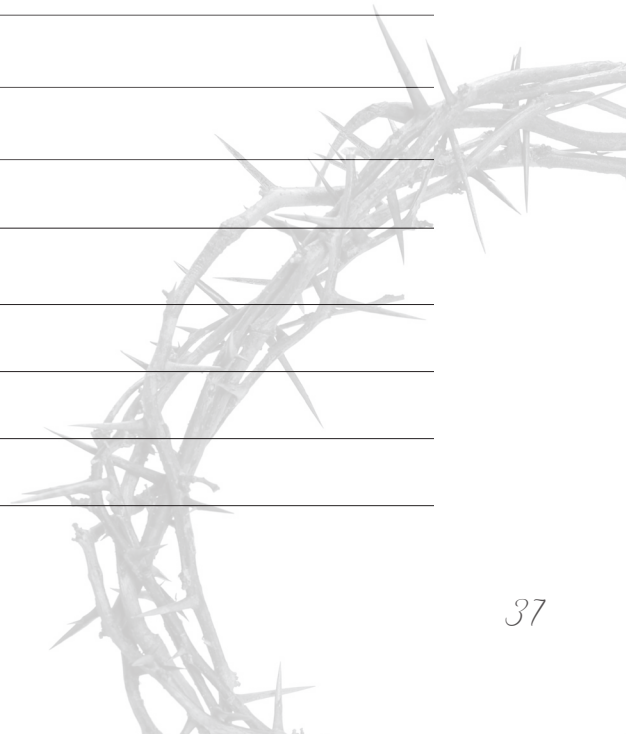
What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.





Lecture Notes

[illegible]

## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

We meet the first disciples in this passage, who were fishermen. What was your first job?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

What did you learn about repentance this week? What is repentance and what does it mean to bear fruit in keeping with repentance?

What do you think is harder - to admit that you have sinned or to change your behavior to do what is right?

What is the difference between a worldly grief (feeling guilt and shame) and a godly grief? Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-10.

Are we able in our own strength to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance”? How is it possible to bear fruit?

What things did you learn about Jesus this week? How can you see his humanness? How can you see his divine nature? What things did he do or not do to fulfill righteousness?

We see Satan question what God has already declared to be true (that Jesus is the Son of God) during Jesus’ temptation. This is similar to how Satan made Eve question God’s words before the first sin. What can we learn from these examples about temptation?

How can we follow Jesus’ example in fighting against Satan’s temptation? See Ephesians 6:12-18 and Mark 14:38.

Read Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16. What did you note about Jesus’ ability to help us when we are tempted?

What did you learn about God as triune (Father, Son, and Spirit) this week? What other attributes of God did you see in this passage?

What did you learn about the kingdom of heaven this week? Why would the nearness of the kingdom require repentance from the people?

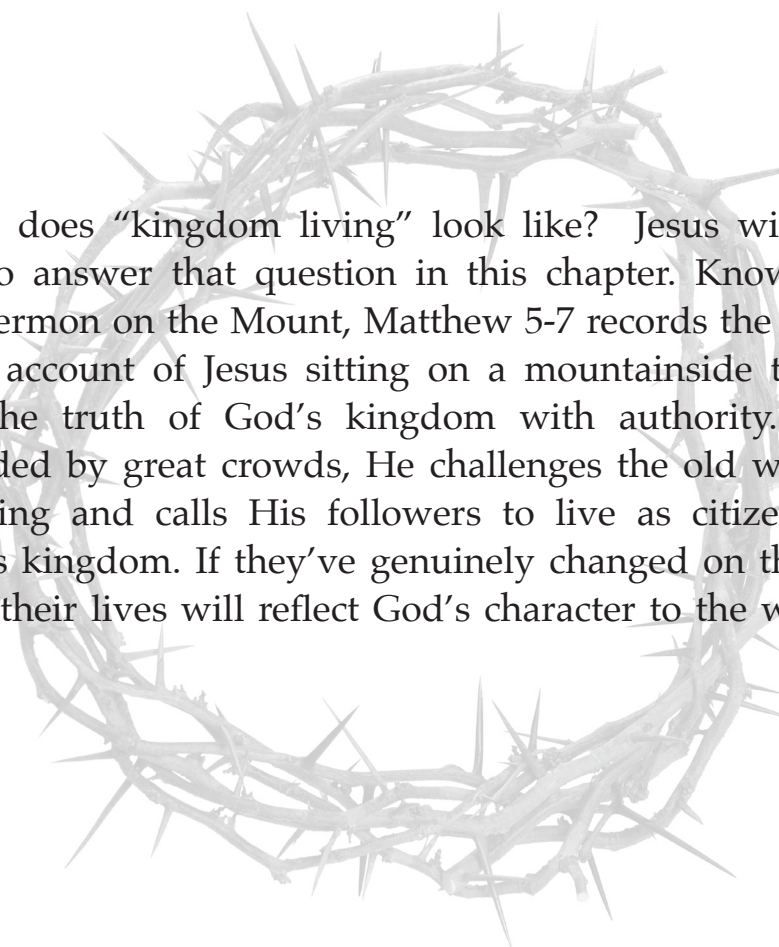
What can we learn from the disciples’ example?

Why do you think Jesus was so famous (verse 23-35)? Why should he be famous? How can we spread his fame today?



# LESSON FOUR

*Matthew 5*



What does “kingdom living” look like? Jesus will begin to answer that question in this chapter. Known as the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7 records the powerful account of Jesus sitting on a mountainside teaching the truth of God’s kingdom with authority. Surrounded by great crowds, He challenges the old way of thinking and calls His followers to live as citizens of God’s kingdom. If they’ve genuinely changed on the inside, their lives will reflect God’s character to the world.

## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 3-4)

What is the difference between John's baptism of repentance and Jesus' baptism of the Spirit?

Why was Jesus baptized by John?

Who was tempted by the devil in Genesis 3? Knowing the result of that encounter, what is the significance of Jesus overcoming the devil's temptation?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 5. THEN LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR TOPICS THAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**

Where was Jesus when he gave this sermon?



Why might this location be significant? See Exodus 19:18-20, 20:1-3 and Isaiah 2:2-5.

Who was with him? List the two groups of people mentioned in verse 1.

## *Day Two*

---

**READ MATTHEW 5:1-12 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Look up the word “blessed” in an English dictionary. What meaning do you think fits this context?

Note also the beginning of verse 12. What is one’s attitude toward this blessedness to be? What type of reward is in view in these verses?

Fill in the chart based on verses 3-10 (the first one is done for you).

	WHO is blessed ("Blessed are...")	HOW are they blessed ("For...")
Verses 3-6	<i>poor in spirit</i>	<i>theirs is the kingdom of heaven</i>
Verses 7-10		

**GO BACK AND READ HOW MATTHEW SUMMARIZES JESUS' MAIN MESSAGE IN MATTHEW 4:17. KEEP THIS IN MIND FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? See Proverbs 16:19 and Isaiah 66:2.

In light of Jesus' main message (Matt. 4:17), what type of mourning might be in view in verse 4? Also read 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and James 4:7-10.

Look up the word "meek" in an English dictionary. Write the definition below.

Those who are “Blessed” hunger and thirst for what? What do Psalm 42:2 and John 7:37 teach us about how our thirst for this quality can be satisfied?

Look at all of the rewards (HOW those in view are “blessed”) in your chart above. Note which reward is repeated. How does this relate to Jesus’ main message (Matt. 4:17)?

In other passages of Scripture, we see that people are forbidden to see God (Ex. 33:20, John 1:18). Based on Matthew 5:8, why do you think this is so? What do we need so that we can see God (see also Hebrews 12:14 and 1 John 3:2-3)?

Which beatitude did Jesus talk about the most (vs. 10-12)? Why might this be significant?



### **APPLICATION**

In what ways do you fall short of these qualities? Which virtue in particular would you say is least present in your life? Confess this to the Lord.



In what ways can the Spirit enable you to live out these qualities? Pray for Him to change your heart and actions. What practical steps can you take this week to walk in obedience to Jesus' message?

In what ways did Jesus fulfill the qualities in the beatitudes? Note any specific passages that come to mind.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Isaiah 61:1-11. In what ways does Jesus fulfill this passage or refer to this passage in Matthew 5:1-13?

## *Day Three*

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### READ MATTHEW 5:13-16 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

To whom is Jesus speaking when he says "You are the salt of the earth..." and "You are the light of the world..."?

Salt is useful for a variety of things (seasoning, preservative, medicinal, etc). What particular characteristic of salt does Jesus focus on in verse 13?

What does Jesus say will happen to salt if it loses this quality (verse 14)?

What is true of a city that is set on top of a hill?

What does Jesus say that people do not do to a lamp that is lit? And what does he say that people will do with a lit lamp?

Don't do:

Do:

What do these things have in common - salt that is truly salty, a city on a hill, and a lamp that is on a stand? How does this relate to good works (verse 16)?

Why does Jesus want his disciples' light to shine before others? So that others will...

- A. Give glory to God the Father
- B. Give the disciples money
- C. See their good works
- D. Give the disciples praise
- E. Both A. and C.

Notice the far-reaching affects of Jesus' followers' good works...

You are the salt of the \_\_\_\_\_

You are the light of the \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPLICATION**

How did Jesus live out these verses (see for example John 8:12)?

In what ways are Christ's followers to be distinct, unique, set apart (see for example Ephesians 5:3-21 or Philippians 2:14-15)?

What are some ways that you currently stand out as belonging to Christ? In what ways do you still look too much like the world?

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Read these verses from the Old Testament about the significance of salt: Leviticus 2:11-13, Numbers 18:19-20, 2 Chronicles 13:4-5. What do you think the phrase "covenant of salt" means in these three very different contexts? How does that relate to Jesus' teaching about being the salt of the earth?



## Day Four

---

### READ MATTHEW 5:17-20 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What does Jesus say is his relationship to the Law and Prophets (the Old Testament)?

He has not come to \_\_\_\_\_ them but to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Based on verse 18, how much of the Law will pass away? How much of the Law will be accomplished? And who did we see in verse 17 that will fulfill the Law?

Read verse 19 and restate it in your own words below.

Jesus says that “whoever does them (the commandments) and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Can you think of anyone who has perfectly kept and taught the commands of God? (see also verse 17)

Can you think of anyone whose righteousness exceeded the righteousness of the law-obsessed scribes and Pharisees (verse 20)? See Matthew 23:23 and Hebrews 4:14-15.

What is the result of not having a righteousness that meets God's standards (verse 20)?

| *Righteousness means rightness before God or obedience to God's eternally perfect law and standard of what is right.*

### APPLICATION

If we do not have a righteousness that meets God's perfect standard, then how can we have access to that kind of righteousness? Read Philippians 3:8-9 and Romans 10:3-4 to answer below.

## Day Five

---

### READ MATTHEW 5:21-48 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What two phrases are repeated in Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, and 43-44?

\_\_\_\_\_...

But \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 21, what had the people heard or been taught? Read Exodus 20:13. Had the people been taught correctly from God's Law?

Read verses 21-26 again. Jesus teaches the people that sin goes beyond the outward act of murder. Match below the other sins that Jesus wants the people to understand:

Verse 22 (first half)

Words spoken in anger  
against a brother/sister

Verse 22 (second half)

Anger against a brother/sister

Verses 23-26

Unreconciled relationship with a  
brother/sister that you have  
wronged

The people know that the consequence of murder is judgment (verse 21). But what, does Jesus explain, are the consequences of the above sins? List them below.

Look up the word “reconciled” in an English dictionary and write the definition below. In verses 23-25, when should we seek reconciliation with a brother or sister?

In verse 27, what had the people heard or been taught? Read Exodus 20:14. Had the people been taught correctly from God’s Law?

In addition to the physical act of adultery, what else does Jesus say is the same as committing adultery?

What does Jesus instruct the people to do if an eye or hand causes them to sin? Do you think he means this literally? Why or why not?

In verse 31, what had the people heard or been taught? Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Had the people been taught correctly from God's Law?

*A certificate of divorce in the ancient world gave a woman the right to remarry. From the Jewish Mishnah, "Lo, thou art free to marry any man." Because divorce was widespread, God instituted this regulation to uphold the sacredness of marriage and to protect women from being sent away for no reason. - ESV study Bible*

According to Jesus, what happens if a man divorces his wife for any reason other than sexual immorality? What difficult situation would that cause for his ex-wife?

In verse 43, what had the people heard or been taught? Read Leviticus 19:18. Had the people been taught correctly from God's Law (careful this time!)? See also Exodus 23:4-5.

According to verses 44 and 45, how should we treat our enemies? Why (what reason does Jesus give)?

For whom does God provide both sun and rain? By contrast, the tax collectors and Gentiles (“sinners”) only show love to whom? Put a star next to the one what we should imitate.

God provides for:

Sinners show love to:

Jesus concludes this section in verse 48 by expecting his followers to be...

- A. Good
- B. Loving
- C. Perfect
- D. Kind

### APPLICATION

Read Colossians 3:5-10. How might these verses relate to Matthew 5:29-30?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Matthew 5 is the first time that the word “hell” (Greek: *Gehenna*) is used in the Bible. In the Old Testament, there are references to an afterlife and *Sheol* – the abode of the dead. But Jesus sharpens our understanding of both heaven and hell in his teaching. The word that Jesus uses in this chapter for hell, *Gehenna*, refers to a physical valley south of Jerusalem where refuse, dead animals, and executed criminals were dumped and burned. Teachers in the time between the Old and New Testament had already begun comparing the final judgment to the ongoing fires of *Gehenna* (Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary). Note how Jesus uses this term in the following verses:

Matthew 5:22

Matthew 5:29-30

Matthew 10:28

Matthew 18:8-9

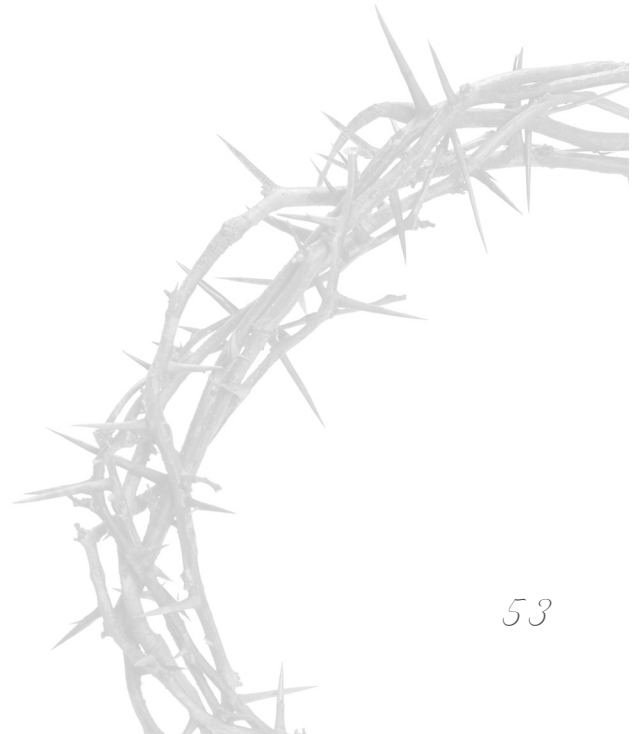


## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL):**

What was a saying or advice that you always heard growing up? Has that saying been helpful to you?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL):**

How do the virtues listed in the Beatitudes contrast with the world's "list" of virtues to be praised?

Read Revelation 3:17-21. What does it look like to NOT be poor in spirit? Note any other parallels you see between this passage and Jesus' teaching in Matthew.

What does the world think about the virtue of meekness? Read verse 5 again. What is the reward for those who choose to live counter-culturally in this way? How is that a fitting reward?

Do you find it surprising that people who choose to live in a merciful, pure and peaceful way would also encounter persecution (verses 7-12)? Why do you think this is true?

Which virtue did you pray specifically about this week, that you want to see more of in your life? Are there any practical steps that you want to take this week in regard to that?

Which of the rewards listed in the beatitudes is the most meaningful to you? Why?

In what ways are we to stand out as salt and light in the world - distinct, unique, set apart (see for example Ephesians 5:3-21 or Philippians 2:14-15)?

When we see the Sermon on the Mount, there are several things that are clear. First, Jesus wants his followers to live in this way. Second, we have not lived in this way perfectly. Third, Jesus did live in this way and fulfilled all righteousness. Two questions related to that:

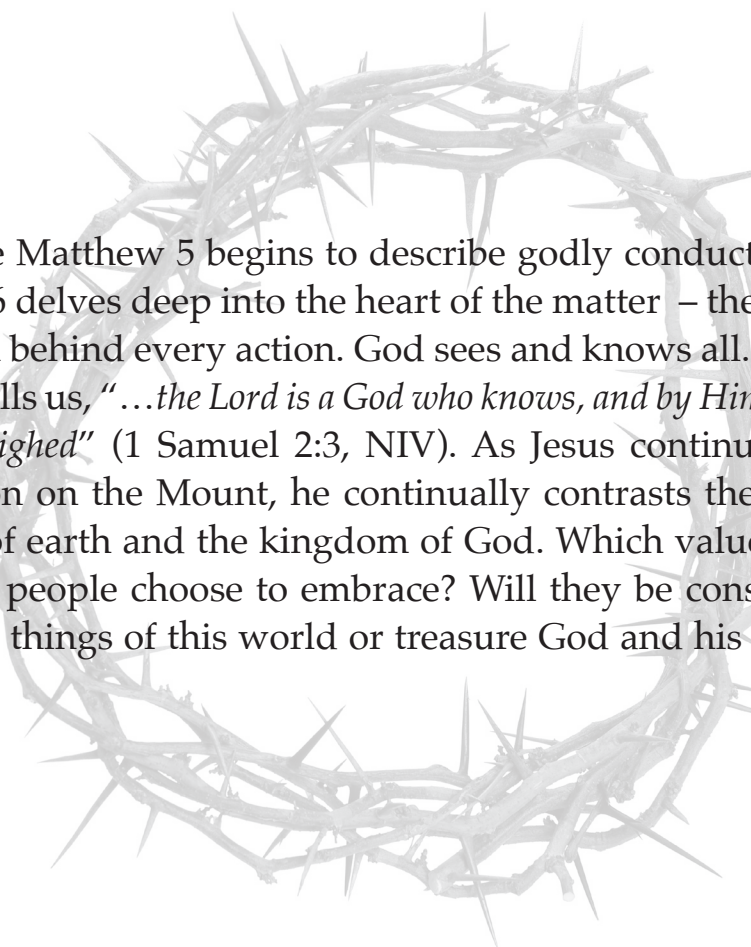
If we do not have a righteousness that meets God's perfect standard, then how can we have access to that kind of righteousness? Read Philippians 3:8-9 and Romans 10:3-4 and discuss what you learned.

For those who have trusted in Christ's righteousness, what now? Does that mean we can ignore these commands? Why or why not? (see Matthew 28:18-20)

How do these commands show us more about the character of God?

# LESSON FIVE

*Matthew 6*



Where Matthew 5 begins to describe godly conduct, Matthew 6 delves deep into the heart of the matter – the motivation behind every action. God sees and knows all. Scripture tells us, “...*the Lord is a God who knows, and by Him deeds are weighed*” (1 Samuel 2:3, NIV). As Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount, he continually contrasts the kingdom of earth and the kingdom of God. Which values will God’s people choose to embrace? Will they be consumed by the things of this world or treasure God and his ways?

## *Day One*

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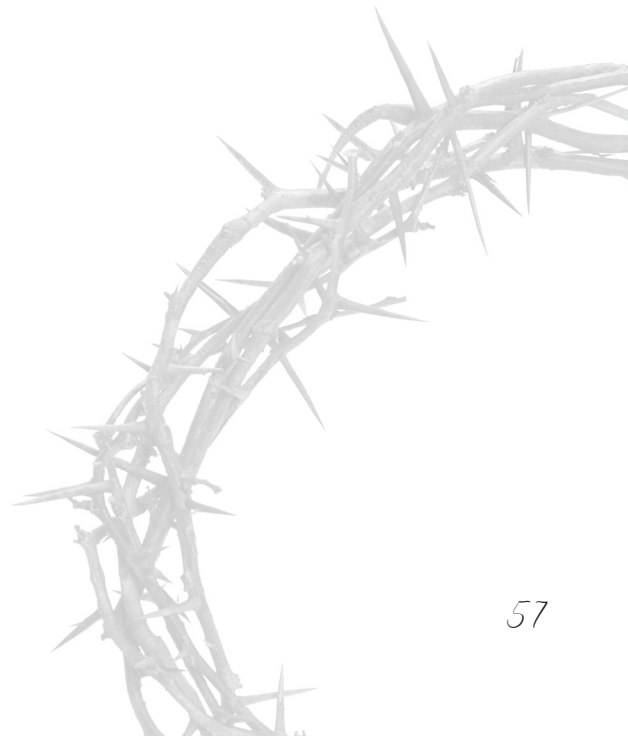
### **FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 5)**

In what way(s) has Jesus come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets?

How does what Jesus says to the crowds challenge what they've heard in the past?

What happens when God's people trust Him and obediently follow His ways?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 6. THEN LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR TOPICS THAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



Reread Matthew 6:1, which summarizes Jesus' teaching for verses 1-18. Rewrite the verse in your own words below.

We are warned not to be like the hypocrites in verses 2, 5, and 16. Look up the word "hypocrite" in an English dictionary and write the definition below.

What is the result of practicing your righteousness to be seen by others (see verse 1)?

No R \_ \_ \_ \_ from your heavenly Father

## Day Two

**READ MATTHEW 6:1-6 AND 16-18 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (WE WILL COME BACK TO VERSES 7-15 TOMORROW).**

Fill in the chart below based on what you observe in these verses:

	Hypocrites...	Reward	You Should...	Reward
<i>Give</i>				
<i>Pray</i>				
<i>Fast</i>				

What do you think it means to “not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”?

Jesus teaches that our giving, praying, and fasting should be done in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Secret
- B. Love
- C. Humility
- D. Public

Do you think he means this literally? Why or why not?

How do these verses relate to what Jesus already taught in Matthew 5:16?

### **APPLICATION**

In what ways did Jesus fulfill these verses? When did he give to the needy, pray, or fast?

In what ways have you forsaken these commands? Pray for the Spirit to guide and empower you for obedience in these areas.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

To learn more about fasting and how to fast in a way that pleases the Lord, read Isaiah 58 and note what you learn below.

## Day Three

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**READ MATTHEW 6:7-15 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Jesus' followers were told to avoid praying like the "Gentiles" in what way?

Why are they instructed not to pray in this way (verse 8)?

Label each part of the prayer that Jesus taught his followers, according to the type of prayer being prayed (You may use words from the word bank below, or choose your own words):

Word Bank: *Confession, Provision, Praise, Submission, Protection*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

---

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

---



Give us this day our daily bread,

---

And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

---

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

---

What does the word “hallowed” mean (look it up in a dictionary or check another Bible translation)? How does this verse (verse 9) relate to the third commandment (Exodus 20:7)?

When did Jesus fulfill verse 10 by praying this prayer himself (see Matthew 26:42)? What would be the result of Jesus’ submission?

Look at verse 11 and then read John 6:5-13 and 25-35. In what ways does God provide both physical and spiritual bread? How do these truths affect the meaning of this prayer?

Reread verse 12. Write below the word that Jesus uses for sins when he refers to our need of forgiveness. Then write beside the word what that word can teach us about sin.

D \_\_\_\_\_ –

What condition does Jesus put on God's forgiveness of sins (verses 14-15)?

If...

### APPLICATION

What should submission to God's will look like in our lives (see for example Romans 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:18)?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

To learn more about the importance of forgiveness, read Matthew 18:23-35 and note below what you learn from the unforgiving servant. Is there someone that you need to forgive today?

## *Day Four*

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**READ MATTHEW 6:19-24 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Contrast below the consequences of storing up treasure / wealth on earth versus in heaven, according to verses 19-20:

On Earth

In Heaven

Jesus teaches us in verse 21 the relationship between our wealth and our hearts. Write verse 21 in your own words below.

The eye (similar to the “heart” in Jewish literature) is called here the “lamp of the body.” Jesus says that if your eye is healthy, your whole body or life will be full of \_\_\_\_\_, but if your eye is bad, your whole body or life will be full of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Life, Death
- B. Joy, Depression
- C. Hope, Anxiety
- D. Light, Darkness

Read Genesis 3:6. How was the “eye” a key part of the first sin?

According to verse 24, what happens if you try to serve two masters?

What two masters does Jesus specifically say that you cannot serve at the same time?

### APPLICATION

How do we store up treasure in heaven (see for example the rewards that Jesus mentions in the Sermon on the Mount and other passages such as: Luke 12:32-34, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, Philippians 4:15-17)?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus refers to “our Father in heaven”, or “your Father in secret”, or “your heavenly Father” (see for example 5:16, 5:45, 6:1, 6:4, 6:6, 6:8-9, 6:14, 6:18, 6:32, 7:11, and 7:21). The Greek word here *pater* would have been *abba* in Aramaic, the everyday language spoken by Jesus. This was the word used by Jewish children for their earthly fathers, but also used by adults to refer to their fathers. The idea that Jesus invites us to pray to God as “Father” communicates the authority, warmth, and intimacy of a loving Father’s care (ESV Study Bible).

Look up these other references to God as Father and note what you learn below:

Deuteronomy 32:6 -

Psalms 103:13 -

Jeremiah 31:9 -

Hosea 11:1 -

Romans 8:14-17 -

Galatians 4:4-7 -

1 John 3:1-2 -

*Day Five*

---

**READ MATTHEW 6:25-34 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

How many times in this passage does Jesus say, “Do not be anxious...”?

In verse 25, what three things does Jesus specifically say not to be anxious about? Would you consider these three things needs or wants?

What can we learn from the birds of the air (vs. 26)? How does God provide for them?

What can we learn from the lilies of the field (vs. 28-30)? How does God clothe them?

How would God compare our value to that of the birds or the lilies? What should that tell us about God's ability or desire to feed / clothe us (vs. 26, 30)?

When we are anxious, Jesus would say that we are lacking in what, according to verse 30?

- A. Strength
- B. Faith
- C. Resources
- D. Positive Energy

What two reasons does Jesus give in verse 32 as to why we should not be anxious?

Rather than seeking “after all these things” (verse 32), what are we to seek as our first priority (verse 33)? THEN what will happen to “all these things”?

Look at today’s verses again, then at verses 8-13. How would you summarize what our top priorities should be? How would you summarize what we can trust God to know and do?

My priorities:

God’s responsibilities:

Fill out the chart below as you note the connections between Jesus’ teaching throughout Matthew 6:19-34:

	Kingdom of God	Earthly Kingdom
Master (vs. 24)	God	Mammon (money)
Eye (vs. 22-23)	Healthy / Light	_____
Treasure (vs. 19-20)	In heaven / Eternal	_____
Seek (vs. 31-33)	_____	“All these things”
Attitude (vs. 30-33)	Faith in your Father	_____

### APPLICATION

Look at the above chart. Based on your thoughts and actions, which kingdom are you pursuing?

## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

[illegible]



## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

What is something for which you remember saving up money to buy when you were a kid or teenager? Or what is something that your child or grandchild is saving for?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

What does it look like to give, pray, and fast in “secret”? Is it wrong for others to see you give, pray, or fast?

When giving, praying, and fasting, what should our motivation be (see verses 1, 4, 6, and 18)?

What is the purpose of fasting? Should we fast?

How should the fact that our Father knows what we need before we ask Him change the way we pray?

When did Jesus fulfill verse 10 by praying this prayer himself (see Matthew 26:42)? What would be the result of Jesus’ submission?

What should submission to God’s will look like in our lives (see for example Romans 12:2, 1 Thess. 4:3, 5:18)?

In what ways does God provide both physical and spiritual bread (see verse 11 and John 6:5-13 and 25-35)? How do these truths affect the way we pray?

Having studied the way that Jesus instructed us to pray, how do your prayers need to change?

How can we tell if we are serving God or our possessions, if we are storing up treasures in heaven or treasures on earth?

What situations tend to make you anxious? How has Jesus’ teaching convicted you to change your thinking?

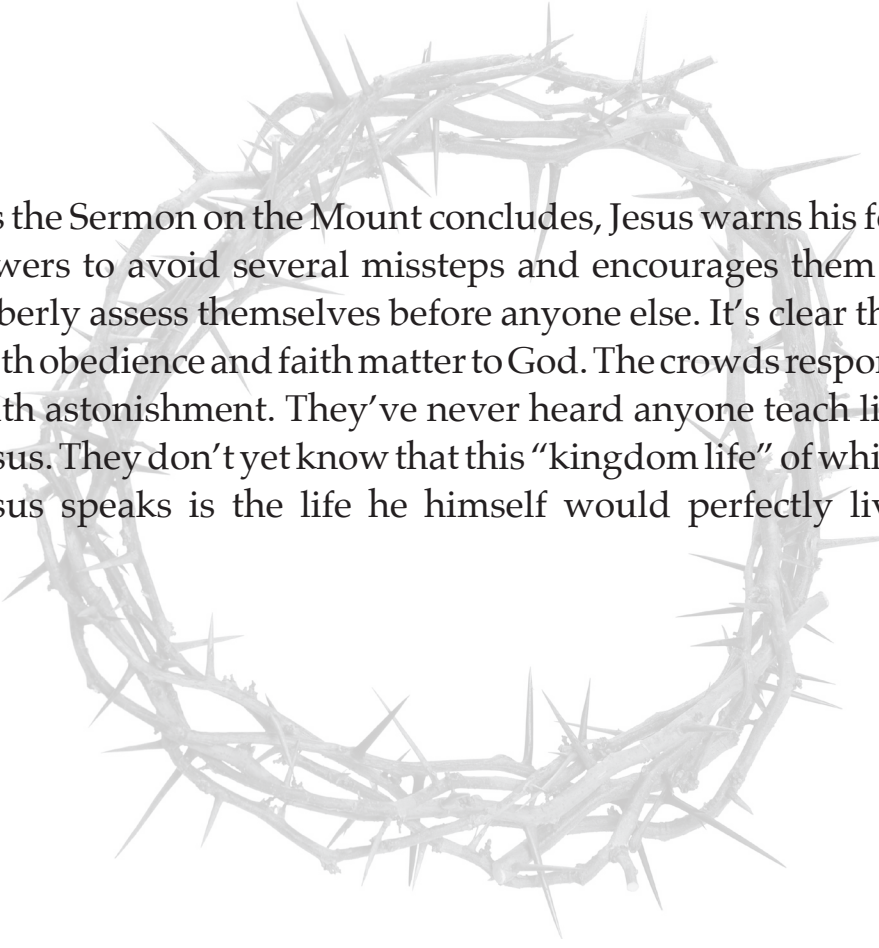
How does the teaching in Matthew 6 differ from the world’s way of thinking, especially in regards to priorities (what we “seek”)?

What have you learned about people (and yourself) this week?

What have you learned about your “Father in heaven” this week?

# LESSON SIX

*Matthew 7*



As the Sermon on the Mount concludes, Jesus warns his followers to avoid several missteps and encourages them to soberly assess themselves before anyone else. It's clear that both obedience and faith matter to God. The crowds respond with astonishment. They've never heard anyone teach like Jesus. They don't yet know that this "kingdom life" of which Jesus speaks is the life he himself would perfectly live.

## Day One

---

### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 6)

Jesus repeats the phrase “your Father” throughout Matthew 6. Why is this significant? What is he communicating to the crowd and to us?

Describe the attitude of those who follow the way of the world vs. those who choose to follow God’s way? What motivates them?

According to Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:33, what should be the first priority for those who follow him?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 5-7. NOTE BELOW THE MAJOR THEMES THAT YOU SEE REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE SERMON.**



**LOOK AGAIN AT CHAPTER 7 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR TOPICS THAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**

## *Day Two*

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**READ MATTHEW 7:1-6 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Look at verses 1 and 2. What does Jesus warn his followers not to do? Why?

According to these verses, how will we be judged? According to what measure or standard?

Look back to the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). Which beatitude best illustrates this same truth?

In Jesus' illustration in Matthew 7:3-5, what was in the "brother's" eye? What was in the "hypocrite's" eye? Why is that a problem?

What should the hypocrite have done first?

As we look at verse 6, read the following verses to understand how this Jewish audience would have thought about dogs and pigs (note what you learn):

Dogs - Philippians 3:2, Revelation 22:15

Pigs - Leviticus 11:7, Isaiah 65:2-4

In the metaphor in verse 6, what was not to be given/thrown to the dogs and pigs? Why?

What do you think this means? Can you think of an example of when you felt like you were throwing pearls before pigs?

How do we balance this truth with the teaching in Matthew 5:44?

### **APPLICATION**

According to verses 1-5, how should we live in relationship to other people, with the knowledge that we are sinners and so are they?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

To better understand what is in view with the warning to “Judge not...”, read the following passages and note what you learn.

Luke 6:37-42 -

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 -

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 -

James 4:11-12 -

## *Day Three*

---

**READ MATTHEW 7:7-14 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Fill in the space below based on verses 7-8. What is promised to those who...

Ask -

Seek -

Knock -

Who is it that will give to those who ask, based on verse 11 (see also James 1:17)?

What is it that God gives to his children (see verse 11, James 1:17, and Luke 11:13)?

Jesus uses the illustration of a parent and child to express God's ability to give good gifts. Complete the statements below.

If your son asks for bread would you give him a \_\_\_\_\_?

If he asks for fish would you give him a \_\_\_\_\_?

If you who are \_\_\_\_\_ know how to give good gifts, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ will your Father in heaven give good things to  
those who ask.

Read the following passages to see if there are any conditions on our asking, when we pray to God. Note what you learn from each passage.

Matthew 21:22 -

Mark 11:24 -

John 14:13-14 -

John 15:7 -

1 John 5:14-15 -

In verse 12 is Jesus' famous "Golden Rule". Restate it below in your own words.

In what way does this verse summarize the "Law and the Prophets" (see also Matthew 22:34-40)?

Draw an illustration of the wide and narrow gates from verses 13-14 in the space provided below. Include in each drawing the gate, the way, the amount of people headed that way, and their destination (“leads to...”). Make your illustration match the description from the verses.

Narrow Gate	Wide Gate

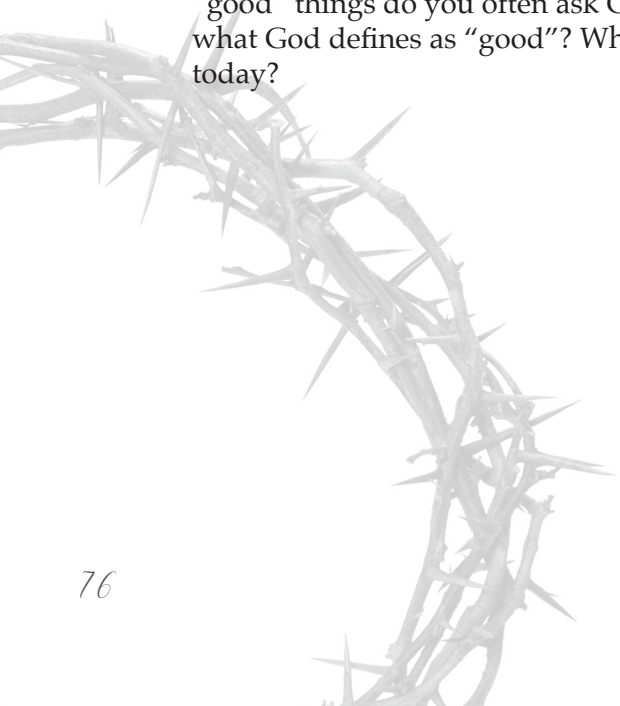
What do you learn from the following verses about the narrow gate/way?

John 14:6 –

John 10:7-10 –

### APPLICATION

We learned today that God gives good things to those who ask him in faith. What “good” things do you often ask God for? Do you think these things line up with what God defines as “good”? What good things would God have you pray for today?





## Day Four

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### **READ MATTHEW 7:15-23 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

According to verse 15, of whom should Jesus' followers beware? What do they look like on the outside? What are they really like on the inside?

Despite their disguise, how can we recognize them?

List below what you learn about healthy trees and diseased trees:

Healthy Trees

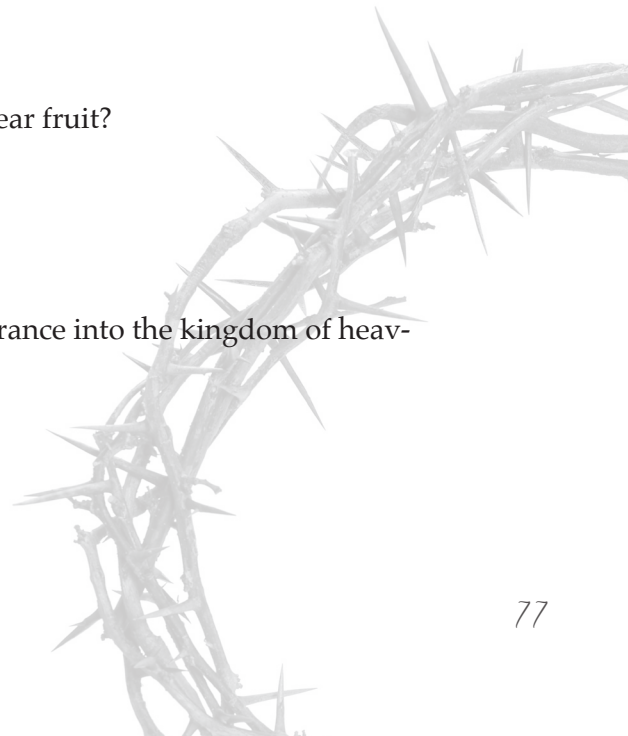
Diseased Trees

### **READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES AND NOTE WHAT YOU LEARN ABOUT TREES AND FRUIT. WHAT SPIRITUAL TRUTH IS JESUS TEACHING USING THIS METAPHOR?**

Matthew 12:33-37, Luke 6:43-45

According to John 15:4-5, how is it possible to bear fruit?

According to verse 21, what is necessary for entrance into the kingdom of heaven?



How would you summarize Jesus' teaching in this verse? Complete the following statement:

You may say Jesus is Lord, but...

What are some spiritual-looking activities that Jesus lists in verse 22 that do not necessarily prove a person is a true disciple of Christ?

Can you think of some examples from the Bible of people who showed powers such as these even though they were not God-followers (check your cross-references for help)?

Look at these other passages and note what they say about the connection between what we believe and our actions:

Luke 6:46 –

James 1:22-25 –

James 2:14-26 –

What will be the outcome for these imposters, according to Matthew 7:23?

### APPLICATION

Do your actions match what you say you believe about Jesus? If not, should you be concerned? What should you do?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read John 15:1-17 and note below what else you learn about fruit-bearing.

## *Day Five*

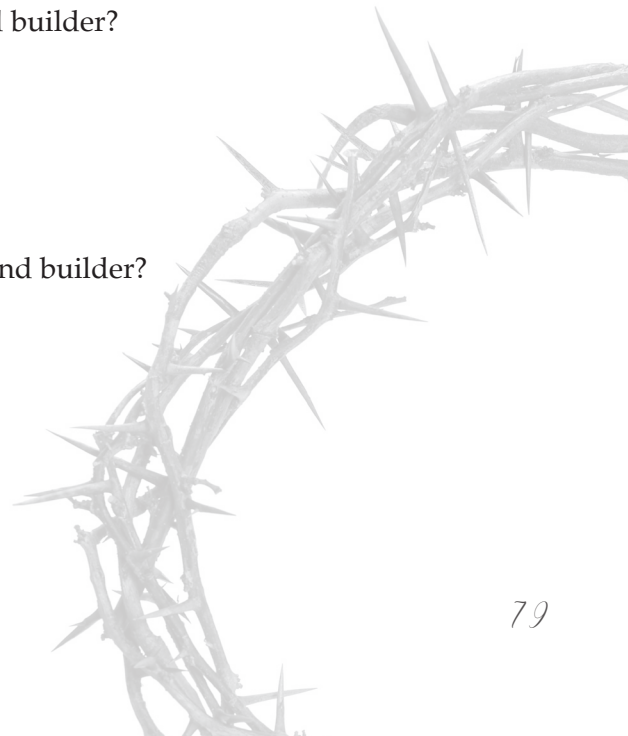
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### READ MATTHEW 7:24-29 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What theme is repeated in these verses that you also read about yesterday (see especially verses 24 and 21)?

Who is it that Jesus compares to a wise man and builder?

Who is it that Jesus compares to a foolish man and builder?



Fill in the chart below based on what you learn about the wise man's house and the foolish man's house:

	Wise Man's House	Foolish Man's House
Foundation		
Weather		
Result		

Put a check mark next to the category (foundation, weather, or result) that is the same in both columns. What do you think this represents?

Why did one house fall and the other house survive? What do you think Jesus' point is?

What was the crowd's reaction to Jesus' teaching? Why?

### APPLICATION

Read Matthew 28:19-20, focusing on verse 20. Are we commanded to make disciples by teaching others to know Jesus' commands or by teaching others to do what Jesus commands. How does that change our mission as a church?

Since Jesus ends his sermon with a focus on doing what he commanded, go back and look at the sermon as a whole, noting the things that Jesus wants us to not only hear (or read), but also do:

We all have a long way to go! But thankfully, as you “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”, you can be confident that “it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” As you look at the above list, what do you think God wants to work on in your life next? What specific ways would he have you change this week in this area?



## *For Personal Reflection*

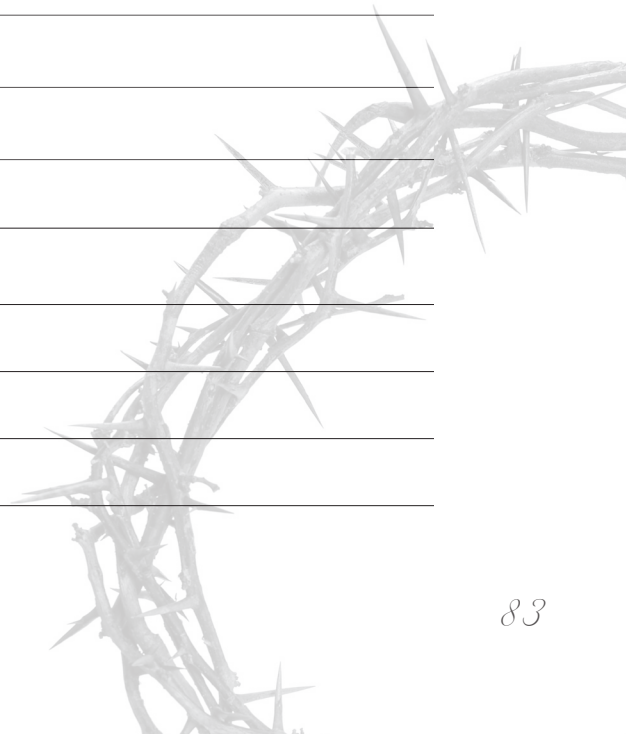
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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

If someone offered to build you your dream house, where would you want it? At the beach, in the mountains, or somewhere else?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

According to verses 1-5, how should we live in relationship to other people, with the knowledge that we are sinners and so are they?

Have you ever noticed our tendency to see the same sin in others that we struggle with ourselves? How do we typically respond to that sin in others? How should we respond?

In verse 6 we saw the warning about throwing our pearls (what is holy and valuable) before pigs? How do we balance this truth with the teaching in Matthew 5:44?

Based on what you've learned this week about asking and receiving, why do you think our prayers are often unanswered?

How do we know if we are praying according to God's will - for the things that God would define as "good"?

Read verse 12 again. How is it that you would want others to treat you? How do you not want to be treated?

What did you learn this week about the narrow gate/way? If salvation is a gift of grace, then why do you think the way is "hard" and that few will choose that path?

How can we recognize a false prophet, even though they may be disguised to look like one of the sheep?

What advice would you give someone who declares their faith in Jesus with their mouth, but years pass and no fruit is evident?

What fruit should we expect to see in one another?

How do we balance the admonition to not judge (vs. 1) with the need to help others remove sin (vs. 5), as well as the need to judge or discern who are dogs (vs. 6) and who are false prophets (vs. 15)?

It is so important to know God's word! But we learned this week the importance



of moving from just knowing to doing. How is it possible to become more faithful in obeying Jesus' words?

How would worldly wisdom differ from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7?

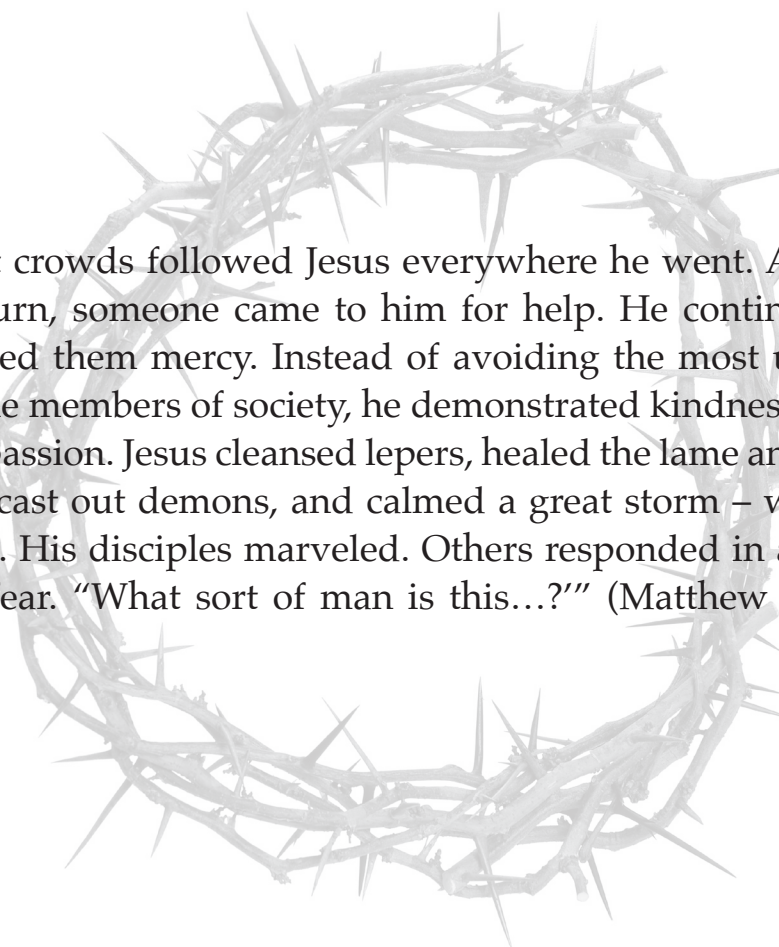
How can we follow the example of the wise man who built his house on the rock?

As you looked at the sermon as a whole, what are some repeated themes that stood out to you? What have you learned about kingdom living?



# LESSON SEVEN

*Matthew 8*



Great crowds followed Jesus everywhere he went. At every turn, someone came to him for help. He continually showed them mercy. Instead of avoiding the most undesirable members of society, he demonstrated kindness and compassion. Jesus cleansed lepers, healed the lame and the sick, cast out demons, and calmed a great storm – with a word. His disciples marveled. Others responded in anger and fear. “What sort of man is this...?” (Matthew 8:27).

## *Day One*

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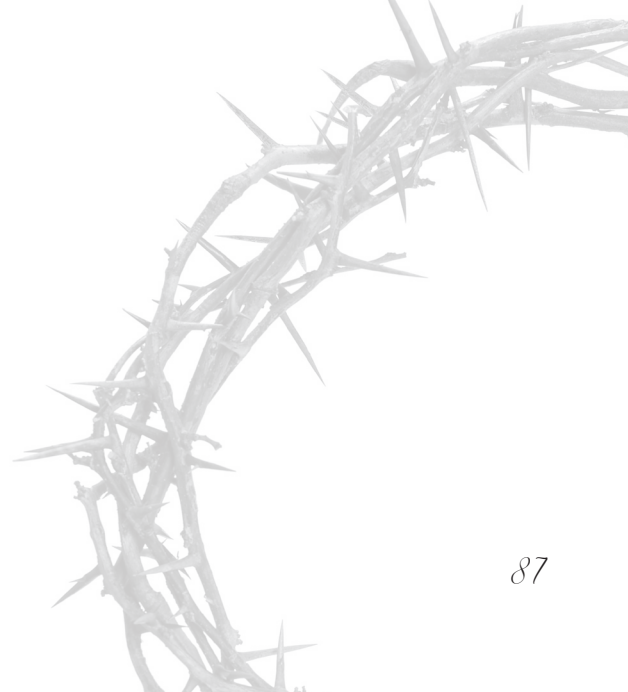
### **FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 7)**

Jesus not only instructs, but also warns the crowds. What warnings does he give?

Why must followers of Christ be both hearers and doers of the Word? How might James 1:22-25 help us understand Matthew 7:24-27?

What does “kingdom living” look like? What themes did you note from the Sermon on the Mount?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 8 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THIS CHAPTER (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



**LOOK BACK AT MATTHEW 8:1-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

What happened when Jesus came down from the mountain (after teaching the Sermon on the Mount)?

Who came and knelt before Jesus?

*Leprosy was a general term applied to various skin diseases including anything from psoriasis to Hansen's disease, with symptoms ranging from patches on the skin to sores or loss of one's fingers or toes.*

Read Leviticus 13:45-46 and note below what you learn about a leper's position in Jewish society.

What did the leper say to Jesus? What does this tell you about what the leper believed about Jesus?

How did Jesus heal the leper? Why is this action significant?

What instructions did Jesus give the leper?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Leviticus 13:1-14:32 to learn more about the Jewish laws concerning lepers and the healing of leprosy. Note what you learn below.

## *Day Two*

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### READ MATTHEW 8:5-13 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

The next person to come up to Jesus to request help is a Roman centurion. Look up “centurion” in an English dictionary and write the definition below.

What is the centurion’s concern?

When Jesus offers to come to his house, what does the centurion say that amazes Jesus?

Read back over the centurion’s words. What do they teach us about Jesus?

How does Jesus compare the (Roman) centurion’s faith with that of the people of Israel?

What prophecy does Jesus then make about the following groups of people?

Those who come from east and west (see also Psalm 107:2-3, Malachi 1:1):

The sons of the kingdom (see also Matthew 21:42-45):

Who are these two groups of people (see also Romans 11:7-12)?

Believing \_\_\_\_\_

Unbelieving \_\_\_\_\_

What is the result of the centurion's encounter with Jesus? What happens to his servant?

### APPLICATION

According to verse 13, Jesus acts in accordance with the centurion's faith, "as you have believed". What areas of your life have you entrusted to Jesus? In what areas do you still lack faith?



## Day Three

---

**READ MATTHEW 8:14-22 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Where do we find Jesus in verse 14? Who is sick?

In what way does Jesus heal her?

What did she do after being healed?

- A. Went to tell all of her friends
- B. Fell on her face in worship
- C. Posted it on social media
- D. Rose and began to serve him

What kinds of people were brought to Jesus that evening? What happened to them?

According to Matthew 8:17, (quoted from Isaiah 53:4) what was prophesied that the Messiah would do? How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy, according to Matthew?

As the crowd grows, Jesus moves to the other side of the lake. Two people come up to Jesus with requests. Note below the person's request and Jesus' response.

	Request	Response
Scribe		
Another disciple		

What do we learn about the challenges of discipleship (following Jesus) from these two examples?

### APPLICATION

In what ways has obedience to Christ challenged you to make choices that lead to inconvenience or sacrifice?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

We see in this passage the first time that Jesus refers to himself as the “Son of Man”, a title that he will use many times. Read more about the Son of Man in Daniel 7:13-14 and note below what you learn.

## *Day Four*

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### READ MATTHEW 8:23-27 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Find the sea that is near Capernaum on your map. This is the sea that Jesus and his disciples are crossing. Draw a boat in the sea. What is its name?

What happened to the sea while they were in the boat? What happened to the boat?

Where was Jesus (see also Mark 4:38)?

What did the disciples do and say when they found him?



What was Jesus' response to their plea (verse 26)?

Why are you \_\_\_\_\_?

You of \_\_\_\_\_.

When was the last time Jesus used this phrase in Matthew (see 6:30)? What was he teaching about then?

Verse 26 says that Jesus "rebuked" the winds and sea. Look up the word "rebuked" in an English dictionary. Write below the definition that fits the context.

What was the result of Jesus' rebuke?

Read Psalm 104:1-7. Who rebuked the flood waters in this passage?

Why did the disciples marvel, according to verse 27?

### APPLICATION

How would you answer the disciples' question from verse 27? Spend time reflecting on what you have learned thus far this week about Jesus' power and authority.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Psalm 107. Here you will find several different groups of people (some wandering in desert wastes (vs. 4-9), some sitting in darkness (vs. 10-16), some fools suffering because of sin (vs. 17-22), and some at sea in fear of the mighty waves (vs. 23-32)) who cry out to the Lord in their distress. Note below how the Lord delivers them and how they are to respond to the Lord's deliverance. How does this Psalm point forward to Jesus?

## *Day Five*

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### READ MATTHEW 8:28-34 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Jesus and his disciples reach the other side of the sea. Find their destination on your map (the Gadarenes area includes Gadara and the region around it). Mark the location with a sketch of a pig.

Who met Jesus upon his arrival? Describe all that you learn about them below.

What title for Jesus do the demons use when they address him? What does this tell you about their knowledge of Jesus (see also James 2:19)?

Based on their second question, what do the demons know about their future (see also Revelation 20:10)?

What request do the demons beg of Jesus? What does their pleading with Jesus show us about Jesus' power and authority?

What happened when Jesus cast the demons out (see also Mark 5:11-13)?

When the herdsmen fled into the city, what did they tell people?

How did those from the city react to this miracle? Why do you think they reacted in this way (see also Mark 5:15 and Luke 8:35-37)?

### **APPLICATION**

Read the rest of the story in Luke 8:38-39. What can we learn from the demon-possessed man's response, especially in contrast to the response of the rest of the people?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

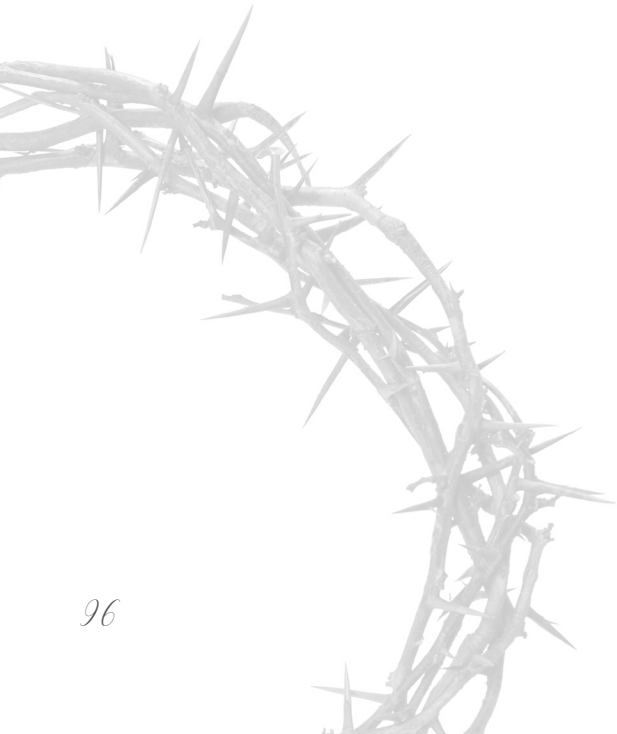
Although we see here glimpses of Jesus' authority over demons, his ultimate defeat of Satan and his demons came at the cross. See for instance Colossians 2:13-15 and Hebrews 2:14-15.

## *For Personal Reflection*

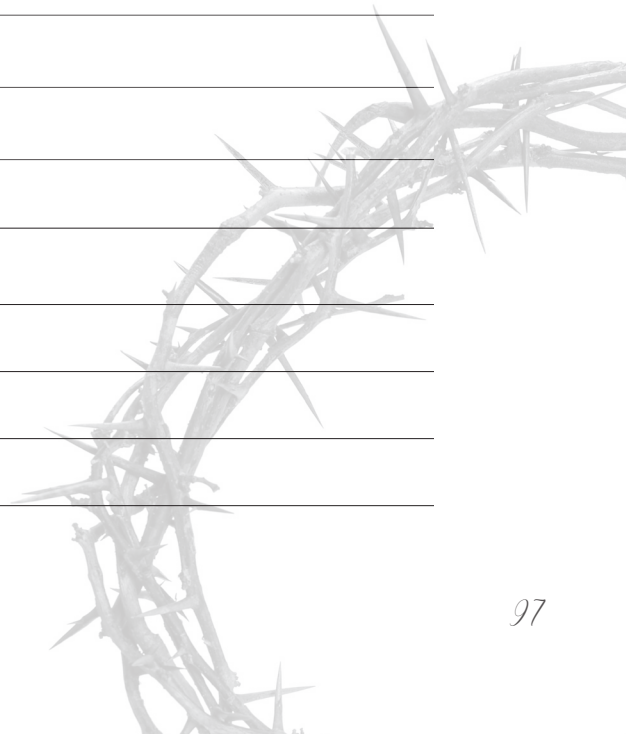
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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## Group Time

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### WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Have you ever had to ride out a bad storm (hurricane, tornado, snowstorm, or other)? Tell us briefly about the storm and your emotions through it.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

What have you learned this week about Jesus and his power and authority? What things did we see him have power over?

Jesus showed this power in a variety of ways. Sometimes he touched a person, sometimes he spoke. Sometimes he was near and sometimes he was at a distance. What do these truths teach us about Jesus?

What varieties of responses have we seen this week in reaction to Jesus' ability to do miracles (see for instance Matt. 8:8-10, 15, 27, 34, and Luke 8:35-39)? What can we learn from these good and bad examples?

Scripture is clear that nothing is impossible for God. But as the leper notes, although God is able, he may not be willing to heal (see for instance 2 Cor. 12:7-9). How should this affect our prayers? What can we learn from both the leper's and Paul's examples?

According to verse 13, Jesus acts in accordance with the centurion's faith, "as you have believed". In what specific ways does your faith still need to grow?

In what ways have you seen Jesus' compassion this week? Give specific examples.

What did you learn this week about the sacrifices of discipleship (following Jesus) that are required? See for example verses 18-25.

In what ways has obedience to Christ challenged you to make choices that lead to inconvenience or sacrifice?

We've now seen Jesus use the phrase "O you of little faith" twice in regard to fear or anxiety. What does this tell us about the nature and possible cure of anxiety?

We see in verse 26 the Prince of Peace bring calm to the storm. In what are of your life do you need Jesus to bring peace?

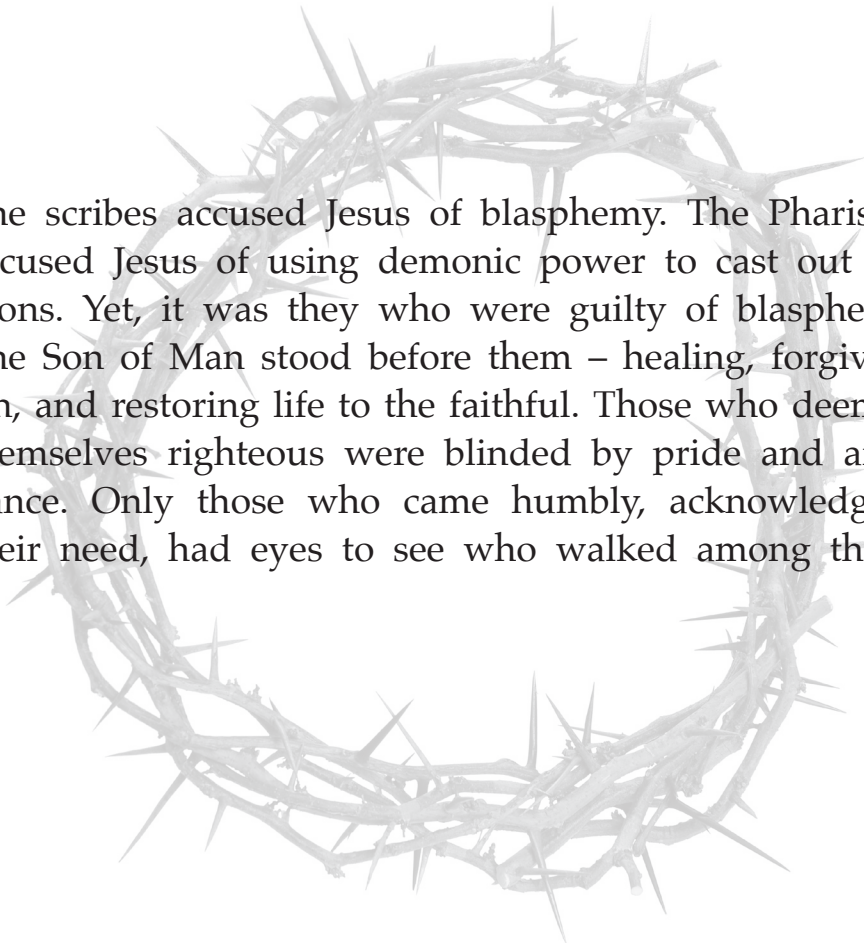
Verse 34 is one of the saddest verses in Matthew. What are some reasons today that people are tempted to push Jesus away?



# LESSON EIGHT

*Matthew 9:1-34*

The scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy. The Pharisees accused Jesus of using demonic power to cast out demons. Yet, it was they who were guilty of blasphemy. The Son of Man stood before them – healing, forgiving sin, and restoring life to the faithful. Those who deemed themselves righteous were blinded by pride and arrogance. Only those who came humbly, acknowledging their need, had eyes to see who walked among them.





## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 8)

Of all those Jesus encountered in this chapter, which one(s) displayed a faith pleasing to Him? Which one(s) did not? Why is this significant?

What did you learn from Matthew 8:18-22 about the cost of following Jesus?

The Son of God heals all who are sick, commands the winds and the sea, and casts out demons. The disciples marvel while others respond in fear. How would you answer the question, "What sort of man is this...?"

**LISTEN TO OR READ MATTHEW 9:1-34 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THIS CHAPTER (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



**READ MATTHEW 9:1-8 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Jesus has come back to his home city. This was the city you marked on your map with a star. Write the name of the city below.

Who brought the paralytic man to Jesus (see also Mark 2:1-4) and by what means?

What did Jesus see in these men (Matt. 9:2)?

What surprising statement did Jesus say to the paralytic? What do you think the people expected to hear Jesus say?

How did the scribes respond? Why would they respond this way (see Mark 2:7 and Luke 5:21)?

Read John 10:33 to understand what the Jews defined as “blasphemy”. Note what you learn below.

What point was Jesus making in verses 5? Which of the following statements did Jesus have the power and authority to say? Mark the blanks that apply.

\_\_\_\_\_ “Your sins are forgiven.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Rise and walk.”

Why did Jesus heal the paralytic (verse 6)?

What was the crowd's reaction?

What was the paralytic's greatest need? Check one.

\_\_\_\_\_ His paralysis to be healed

\_\_\_\_\_ His debt of sin to be forgiven

## *Day Two*

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**READ MATTHEW 9:9-13 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Jesus' next encounter is with Matthew, the author of this gospel. What do you learn about Matthew from this passage?

When Matthew held a feast in honor of Jesus (Luke 5:29), who came to eat with Jesus and his disciples (verse 10)? Did the Pharisees approve?

Jesus explains why he is spending time with this group of people. In his illustration in verse 12-13, who do the following people represent? Match them to the right answer:

Those who are well

Those who are sick

The physician

Jesus

Righteous

Sinners

Jesus states that he has come to call sinners, not the righteous. According to Romans 3:9-12 and 5:12, who is in the category of “sinners” and who is in the category of “righteous”?

Sinners:

Righteous:

Based on this week’s passage in Matthew (also Luke 18:11-13), which category did the Pharisees think they were in? Which category were they really in (see Matthew 23:23-28)?

Finish the following statement:

As long as people think they are well, they won’t see their need for a \_\_\_\_\_, and as long as they think they are \_\_\_\_\_ they won’t see their need for a Savior.

What did Jesus say that the Pharisees should go and learn (verse 13)?

What do you think this statement from verse 13 means (see also Hosea 6:6, Mark 12:29-33, and Matthew 23:23)?

### APPLICATION

Based on what you’ve learned, apart from Christ, what category are you in?

\_\_\_\_\_ Well/Righteous      \_\_\_\_\_ Sick/Sinner

Why is this actually good news (Hint: see verses 12-13 again)?

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Paul’s testimony of God’s mercy toward him) and praise God for his mercy and perfect patience toward you.

## Day Three

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### READ MATTHEW 9:14-17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

According to verse 14, who made a practice of fasting and who did not?

Yes	No	
___	___	John's disciples
___	___	Pharisees
___	___	Jesus' disciples

What was Jesus' reason for why his disciples did not fast?

In Jesus' first metaphor (verse 15), who is the bridegroom? Who are the wedding guests?

Bridegroom:

Wedding Guests:

Fill in the following statement, based on the point that Jesus is making:

It would not be appropriate to mourn during a \_\_\_\_\_, when the groom is still present. So too, it is not appropriate for the disciples to fast while \_\_\_\_\_ is still among them.

According to verse 15, when will the disciples fast?

The next illustration refers to not using a new (un-shrunk) piece of cloth to patch an old (pre-shrunk) piece of clothing. If you were to make this mistake, what would happen to the piece of clothing (see verse 16)?

According to the final illustration, what would happen if you were to put new wine in an old wineskin?

Both of these last two illustrations involve putting something new onto or into something old with a negative result. How does this relate to the question of fasting in verse 14-15? What might be new and what might be old?

### APPLICATION

Today, Jesus the bridegroom is no longer with us. As we await his return, we have reason to mourn and fast, but we do so as those with hope. Reflect on Romans 8:22-25.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

In the Old Testament we see the metaphor of God as our bridegroom (Isaiah 62:5), but here, Jesus compares himself to a bridegroom. This image of Christ the bridegroom can also be found in these verses: Matthew 25:1-13, John 3:28-30, 2 Corinthians 11:2, and Ephesians 5:25-32. Note what you learn about Jesus below.



## Day Four

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**READ MATTHEW 9:18-26 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Who came to Jesus in verse 18 (see also Luke 8:41)?

Although a “ruler”, what posture did he take before Jesus (verse 18)? Based on what he says to Jesus, what did he believe about Jesus?

What two people needed healing in this passage? List them below along with what was wrong with them.

How old was the girl (see Luke 8:40-42)? How long had the woman been sick (verse 20)?

Read a parallel account of the woman in Luke 8:43. Choose one word to describe her situation.

To be healed, what did the woman do? What did the woman believe that led her to that action (verses 20-21)?

What did Jesus say to her? And to what person from our study earlier this week (Matt. 9:2) did Jesus give similar encouragement?

When did the woman get better (verse 22)?

- A. The next day
- B. Instantly
- C. Never
- D. After the disease ran its course

What did Jesus say to the mourners at the girl's house? What was their response?

In what manner did Jesus heal the little girl (verse 25)?

### **APPLICATION**

When you are in a desperate situation, who do you typically turn to for help?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

We have seen thus far in Matthew Jesus' preoccupation with people's faith. Look back at Matthew 6:30, 8:10, 8:26, 9:2, and 9:22. Note those who were commended for their faith. Who was their faith in? Read the following verses to learn more about faith – What is it? What should be the object of our faith? What is the result of faith?

Hebrews 11:1, 6 –

John 14:1 –

John 3:14-18 –

John 20:27-29 –

Genesis 15:6 –

Romans 1:16-17 –

Ephesians 2:8-9 –



## Day Five

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### READ MATTHEW 9:27-34 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Who needed healing in verse 27? How did they express this need to Jesus (what did they do and what did they say)?

Look at the question that Jesus asks them in verse 28 and what Jesus says as he heals them in verse 29. What is Jesus most focused on?

In what manner does Jesus heal them (verses 29-30)?

What did Jesus “sternly warn” the men? Did they obey?

Who came to Jesus for help next (verse 32)? What is the result (verse 33)?

Contrast below the reaction of the crowds (or multitudes) to Jesus with the reaction of the scribes and Pharisees in chapter 9 (see verses 3, 8, 11, 26, 31, 33-34):

Crowds

Scribes and Pharisees

Look closely at these reactions. Do both groups acknowledge that something special, even supernatural, is taking place? What conclusions are they starting to make about the nature of Jesus' power?

Read John 9:24-41. This is the account of the Pharisees questioning another blind man whom Jesus healed. What did the Pharisees believe about Jesus? What did the blind man believe? In what way does Jesus condemn the Pharisees as blind?

Look back at Matthew 8 and 9 and note the different areas over which Jesus shows his power and authority. The list is started for you.

Leprosy (8:2-3)		
Paralysis (8:6-13)		
Space/Distance (8:7-14)		
Fever (8:15)		
Demon oppression (8:16)		

### APPLICATION

Pray that God would open your eyes to see Jesus in his fullness. Pray for family and friends whose eyes are still blind to Jesus, that God may open their eyes.

### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read and meditate on Isaiah 42:1-9, a prophecy about Jesus, God's chosen One, "a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind..."

## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL):**

How many of you, even when you are sick and probably need to go to the doctor, refuse to admit it? Or is there someone that you know that avoids the doctor?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL):**

Jesus starts to make some waves in chapter 9. In addition to healing people and casting out demons, he is now spending time with “sinners” and declaring people’s sins forgiven. How do the scribes and Pharisees react?

What was the paralytic’s greatest need? What is our greatest need?

What does the world think are the greatest needs of people and society?

In what ways is Jesus proving that he is the divine Son of God?

Jesus told the Pharisees that he came not to call the righteous, but sinners. What does that mean for those who would say that they are a “good” person?

Why, according to verse 15, did Jesus’ disciples not fast? But then, why do we have reason to fast? What does this teach us about the purpose of fasting?

Look at Romans 8:22-25 together. As we await the return of our Savior, how do we “groan” or mourn as those with hope?

When we are in a desperate situation, to whom should we turn for help? What are some other options that we sometimes turn to instead?

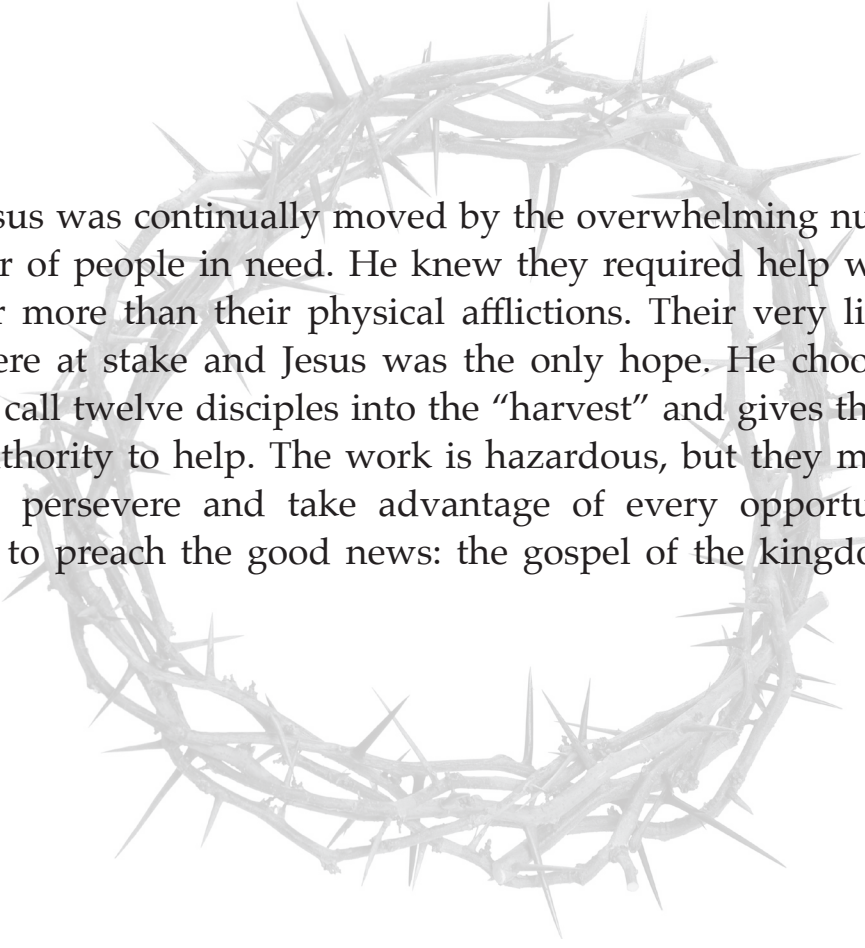
What are some things you have learned about faith over the past few weeks? What is faith? What was Jesus’ response to people’s faith? What is Jesus’ response to our faith?

Look at verses 30-31. Do you think it matters that the blind men did not obey Jesus (see also Mark 1:44-45)? Have we also been commanded to keep quiet?

There are a number of times in the gospels where we see Jesus heal blind people. But the greater problem in Israel, and in the world, was spiritual blindness, something that Jesus discusses in John 9. What are some symptoms of spiritual blindness? What is the cure?

# LESSON NINE

*Matthew 9:35-10:42*



Jesus was continually moved by the overwhelming number of people in need. He knew they required help with far more than their physical afflictions. Their very lives were at stake and Jesus was the only hope. He chooses to call twelve disciples into the “harvest” and gives them authority to help. The work is hazardous, but they must all persevere and take advantage of every opportunity to preach the good news: the gospel of the kingdom!

## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 9:1-34)

Why did Jesus heal the paralytic and forgive his sins?

What did Jesus mean when He said, “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” in verse 13?

Faith plays an important role throughout this passage. Why does faith matter to God?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 9:35-10:42 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TOPICS OF THIS PASSAGE (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



**READ MATTHEW 9:35-38 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

As Jesus continued his ministry among the towns, what was his reaction to the crowds (or multitudes)? How did he feel and why?

Look up the word “compassion” in an English dictionary and write the definition below.

Why were the people (the sheep) in this condition (see for example Ezekiel 34:1-4)?

Out of this concern for the people, what does Jesus tell the disciples to do in Matthew 9:38?

According to Jesus’ metaphor in verses 37 and 38, what is plentiful? And what is lacking?

What do you think each of these stand for in the metaphor (Hint: look at the context of what comes before these verses in Matthew and what comes after them):

Harvest:

Laborers:



## APPLICATION

What do you learn about God in verse 38?

What do you learn about prayer in verse 38?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

We see in the Old Testament that God is our Shepherd (Psalm 23). However, there are also prophecies pointing forward to the Messiah who will be the Shepherd. You can see this clearly as you read all of Ezekiel 34 and Micah 5:4. Read these passages, then see how Jesus fulfills this role by reading John 10:11-16. Note what you learn below.

## *Day Two*

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### READ MATTHEW 10:1-15 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

How many disciples were there? What stands out to you as you read through the list of names (verses 2-4)? Do you see any foreshadowing of things to come?

Look back at your chart from last week (day five) that shows the areas over which Jesus has shown his power and authority. Now look at Matthew 10, verses 1 and 8. What power and authority is Jesus passing on to his disciples?

Notice that Matthew uses two words for the disciples in Matthew 10:1-2: disciples and apostles. The word “disciple” means a learner or follower of a teacher, while the word “apostle” means someone who is sent, a representative or messenger. How are both words important in understanding the disciples’ roles?

Read verses 5-14 and note below where the disciples are to go, what they are to do, and where they are to stay. Contrast this with where they are not to go, what they are not to do, and where they are not to stay:

Go

Don’t Go

Do

Don’t Do

Stay

Don’t Stay

Read Matthew 10:6 and 9:36-37. Note the connection between these verses below.

Why did Jesus not want the disciples to go to the Gentiles (see Acts 3:25-26)?  
Would the gospel ever go to the Gentiles (see Acts 13:46 and Romans 1:16)?

How do the disciples' message compare to that of Jesus and John the Baptist (see also Mark 6:12, Matt. 3:2 and 4:17)?

Were the disciples to... ? (Write yes or no in the blank)

\_\_\_\_\_ receive payment for their ministry / miracles among the people (verse 8)

\_\_\_\_\_ obtain any extra supplies for their mission (verse 9)

\_\_\_\_\_ receive housing and food from those among whom they minister (verses 9-10)

Read Matthew 10:11-14 and Luke 10:5-11. Summarize below what the disciples were instructed to do if a house or town received them and their message, versus what they were to do if the house or town did not receive them.

Received them:

Did not Receive them:

What would be the consequence for the town that did not receive the disciples' (and by extension, Jesus') message (Matt. 10:15)?

*Note: For more on Sodom and Gomorrah, see Genesis 18-19.*

### **APPLICATION**

In what ways are our mission and methods different from the disciples in this passage? In what ways are they the same? (see for example Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Pick one of the disciples and search for more information about him. Use your cross references, or do a search on a Bible search engine like the ESV app on your phone or the website: [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) Note what you learn below.

## Day Three

---

### READ MATTHEW 10:16-23 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

In verse 16, Jesus uses the illustration of sheep and wolves again. This time who do the sheep represent and who do the wolves represent (read verses 16-17)?

Sheep:

Wolves:

Because of the dangers that they will face, Jesus tells the disciples to be:

\_\_\_\_\_ as serpents and \_\_\_\_\_ as doves.

Write below in your own words what you think this means (see also Romans 16:19).

In verses 17-18, what does Jesus prophesy that men will do to his disciples? Why will they do it?

What, in verse 19, does Jesus tell them not to be anxious about? Why do they not need to be anxious?

Jesus then promises that who will give them the words to say when they are handed over to the authorities (verses 19-20, see also John 14:26 and 15:26-27)?

Surprisingly, who will sometimes be the ones to deliver Jesus' followers over to the authorities (verse 21), and what will the punishment sometimes be for these Jesus-followers?

In verse 22, how does Jesus summarize the treatment that the disciples can expect to receive?

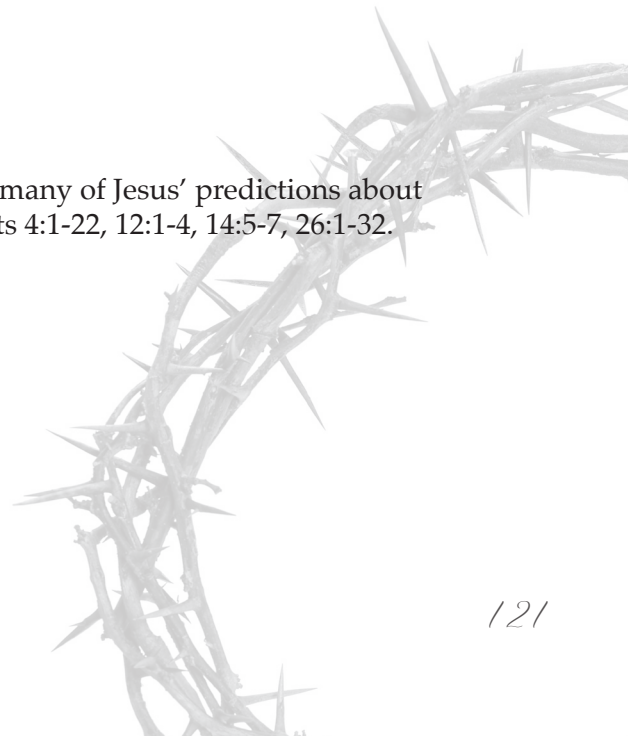
At the end of verse 22, Jesus says that the one who endures will be saved. What kind of endurance does he mean? Read Hebrews 6:11-12 and Revelation 14:12 to answer below.

### **APPLICATION**

Read Hebrews 10:23-25 to see how we can encourage one another to hold fast.

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Read the following passages in Acts to see how many of Jesus' predictions about his followers' persecution were fulfilled. See Acts 4:1-22, 12:1-4, 14:5-7, 26:1-32.



## Day Four

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### READ MATTHEW 10:24-33 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What is the relationship between a disciple / slave and his teacher / master (verses 24-25)?

- A. The disciple will rise above his teacher
- B. The master will fall to his slave's level
- C. There is no relationship between a slave and his master
- D. The disciple can be like his teacher, but never above his teacher

Who is "Beelzebul" according to Matthew 12:24?

If Jesus was called "Beelzebul" by his enemies (Matthew 9:34), then what should his disciples expect, according to 10:25?

In verses 26-27, Jesus speaks of something that has been covered or hidden that will soon be revealed or known. What has Jesus been telling others to keep quiet at this point in his ministry (8:4, 9:30, 12:16, 16:20)?

When it is time for this truth to be revealed, there will be persecution. During these times of persecution, should Jesus' followers keep their message quiet (verse 27)? How does this teaching go against our natural instincts?

How do verses 26-27 relate to Matthew 5:14-16?

According to verses 26-28, who should Jesus' disciples not fear? And who should they fear?

Don't fear:

Fear:

According to verses 29-30, what does your Father know about the following?

Sparrows:

The hairs on your head:

Why should the fact that God knows and cares about these minute details encourage us not to fear (verse 31)?

What is the reward for those who live and speak out their faith in Jesus publicly? What is the consequence for those who don't (verses 32-33)?

## APPLICATION

Pray that God would give you the boldness to proclaim on the housetops that Jesus is Lord!

Meditate on these verses:

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isaiah 52:7-10*

## Day Five

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**READ MATTHEW 10:34-42 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is called the Prince of \_\_\_\_\_. (fill in the blank)

Yet, in Matthew 10:34, what does Jesus say that seems to contradict this?

Read Matthew 10:35-36 and also 10:21. In what way will Jesus bring a “sword” or division?

What is the cause of this division and hatred toward Christ and his followers?  
Read John 15:18-25 and note what you learn below.

Now read John 14:27, 16:33 and Romans 5:1. In what way did Jesus bring peace?

Look at Matthew 10:37. What kind of love is required to be a disciple of Christ?

In Matthew 10:38, we see the first reference to a “cross” in the gospels. Jesus has not died on a cross yet, nor has he predicted this kind of death for himself yet. All that his disciples know at this point is that crucifixion is a means of death used by the Romans. With that in mind, read verses 38-39 and restate them in your own words below.



Why do we need to lose our life in order to find life?

Now look back over Matthew 10:16-39 and note below some of the costs of following Jesus.

As the disciples are sent out, there will be rejection and persecution, but there will also be some who “receive” them. What will be given to those who receive a prophet, righteous person or disciple (verses 40-42)?

What does it look like to “receive” Jesus? Read John 1:11-13 and note what you learn.

### **APPLICATION**

Have you received Jesus, believed in his name, and chosen to love him above all others?



## *For Personal Reflection*

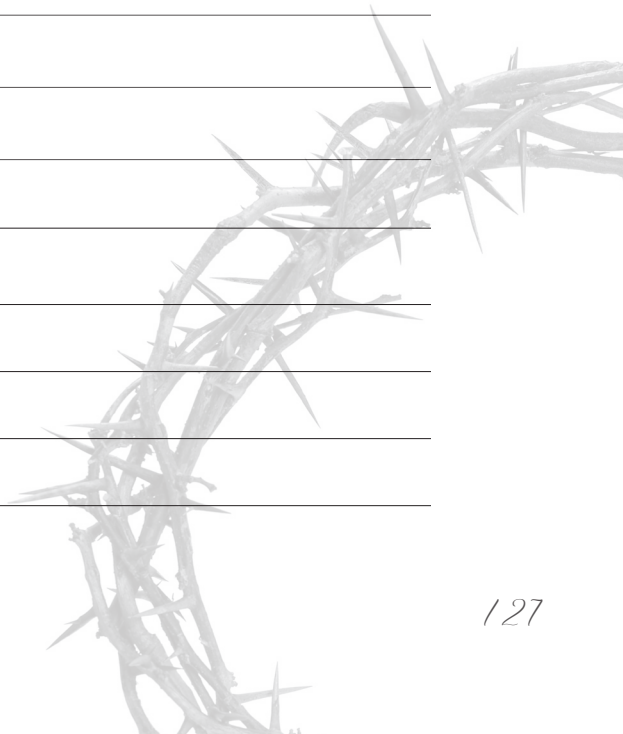
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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## Group Time

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### WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Was there a time when you lost something important, or is there something that you lose consistently? How do you feel when you find something important that was lost?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)

When we look around at the “lostness” of the world, compassion is probably not always our first response. What other thoughts or feelings might we have?

How can we cultivate a heart of compassion?

Read Matthew 9:37-38. Whenever we see that the work to be done is bigger than the people willing to do the work, what should we do? Have you ever felt that way?

What did you learn about God in Matthew 9:38? What did you learn about prayer?

In what ways are our mission and methods different from the disciples in Matthew 10:1-15? In what ways are they the same? (see for example Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

What does it mean to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves”? How do we live this out in the midst of danger and persecution?

How have Jesus’ predictions of persecution in verses 16-23 come true? What are some examples of people who were given the words to say when they were arrested and came before rulers and kings?

At the end of verse 22, Jesus says that the one who endures will be saved. What kind of endurance does he mean? (Hebrews 6:11-12 and Revelation 14:12)

Read Hebrews 10:23-25 to see how we can encourage one another to hold fast.

If they maligned and crucified Jesus, how can we, his followers, expect to be treated by the world?

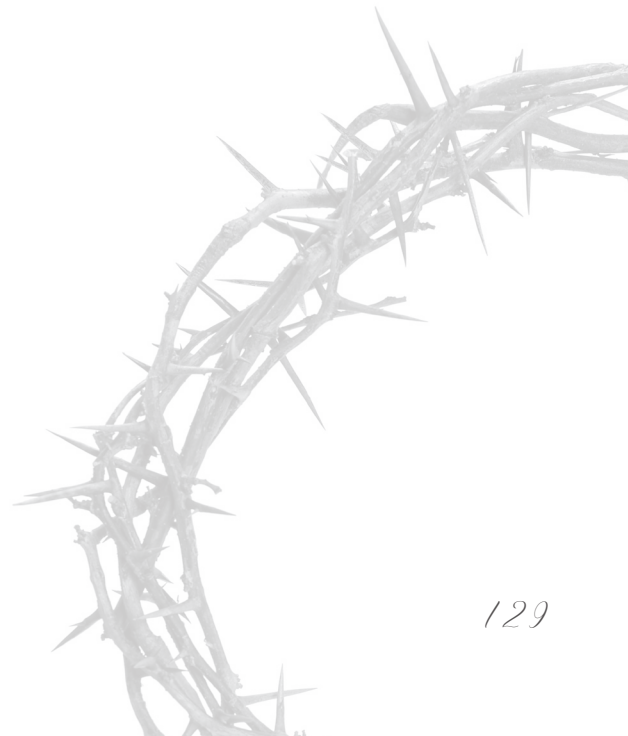
During times of persecution, should Jesus’ followers keep their message quiet (verse 27)? How does this teaching go against our natural instincts?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. What do we learn from these verses and Matt. 10:28 about who to fear or not fear? How can fear of people affect our life decisions and priorities?

What do we learn about God from verses 29-30? How should this affect how we live?

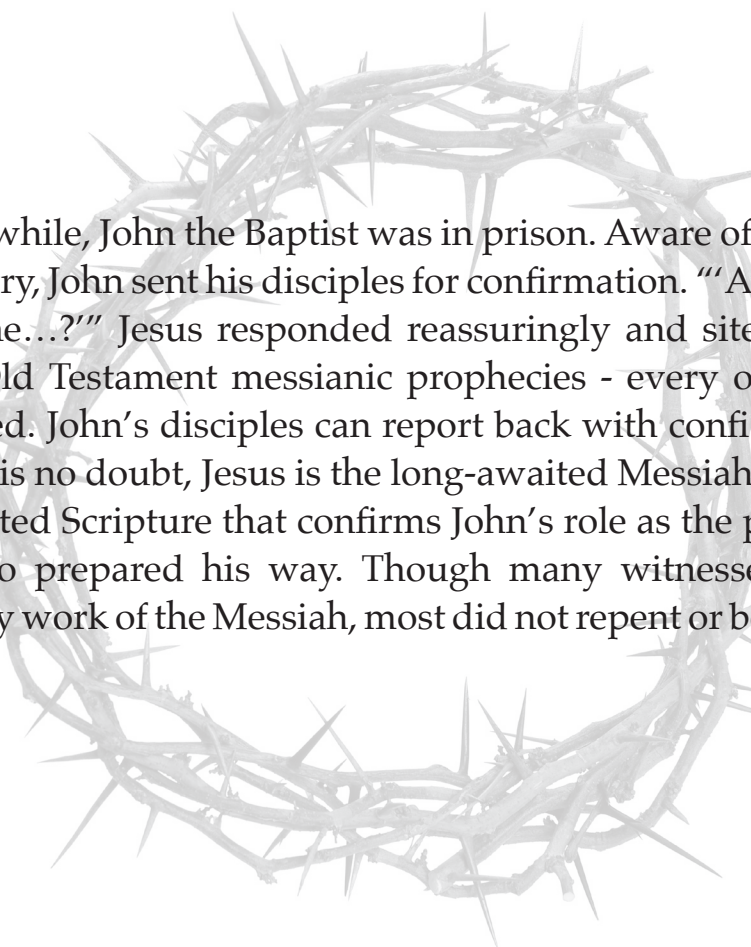
What do we learn about the cost of discipleship from this chapter? Is it worth it? What would the world say to that?

What does it look like to “receive” Jesus? What did you learn from John 1:11-13?



# LESSON TEN

*Matthew 11:1-24*



Meanwhile, John the Baptist was in prison. Aware of Jesus' ministry, John sent his disciples for confirmation. "'Are you the one...?'" Jesus responded reassuringly and sites several Old Testament messianic prophecies - every one He fulfilled. John's disciples can report back with confidence. There is no doubt, Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus also cited Scripture that confirms John's role as the prophet who prepared his way. Though many witnessed the mighty work of the Messiah, most did not repent or believe.

## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 9:35-10:42)

Why did Jesus have compassion for the crowds? What did he know that they didn't?

What is the message Jesus calls his twelve to proclaim?

Jesus warns his disciples to be "'wise as serpents and innocent as doves'". Why?

**LISTEN TO OR READ ALL OF MATTHEW 11 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TOPICS OF THIS PASSAGE (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



**GO BACK AND READ MATTHEW 11:1-3 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

After Jesus instructed and sent out the disciples, he continued his ministry in the Jewish towns and cities. Who sent word by his disciples to ask Jesus a question in these verses?

Where was this person when he sent this message (we'll learn more about this when we get to Matthew 14)?

What question did he ask Jesus (verse 3)?

Did John seem to know the answer to this question earlier in his life (see Matthew 3:13-17 and John 1:29-34)?

Why do you think John is questioning this truth now?



## Day Two

---

### READ MATTHEW 11:1-6 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

In response to John's question, Jesus instructs the disciples to...

Go and \_\_\_\_\_ John what you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The disciples are to report Jesus' activities. According to verse 5, what has Jesus been doing? List them all below.

Look back over what you have studied in Matthew thus far. Is this report of Jesus accurate? List below any examples of these miracles from earlier in Matthew.

Does this report of Jesus' miracles match what was prophesied that the Messiah would do? Read Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:5-6, 26:19, and 61:1.

But had Jesus accomplished all that was prophesied that the Messiah would do at this point? Read Isaiah 35:1-10 to see a fuller picture of the prophecies.

What was Jesus' final words of exhortation to John (Matt. 11:6)? Restate them below in your own words.

Isaiah also prophesied that there would be some who would be offended by the Messiah. Note below what he says in Isaiah 8:14-15.

Why was it that many in Israel would take offense to Jesus' ministry and message? Read Romans 9:30-33. According to Paul in these verses, Israel "stumbled over the stumbling stone" – Jesus – because they pursued a right relationship with God (righteousness), by trying to obey the law rather than by what?

- A. Love
- B. Faith
- C. Truth
- D. Money

### APPLICATION

The disciples were told to "go and tell" what they had seen and heard. They were to be witnesses of Jesus' works and ministry. This command is repeated in Acts 1:8, but on a larger scale. How are we also witnesses of Jesus?

## Day Three

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### READ MATTHEW 11:7-15 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

When Jesus talks to the crowds about John the Baptist, he first discusses why the people went out into the wilderness to see him (as we read about in Matthew 3). Write below the following headings the two things that Jesus assumes the people did NOT go out to the wilderness to see, and then what it was that they DID go to see:

Did NOT Go to See (verses 7-8)

DID go to see (verse 9)

What was “soft clothing” associated with (verse 8), life in what type of place?

What type of clothing was John known for (Matthew 3:4)?

What type of person do you think would be like a “reed shaken by the wind” (see also Ephesians 4:14 and James 1:6)? Look back at Matthew 3 - was John like that?

In verse 10, Jesus reminds the people of the prophecy regarding John and of John’s purpose. Then Jesus praises John by saying that no one was greater than John among what type of people (verse 11)?

*Note: This is a reference to a normal physical birth.*

Who does Jesus say is greater than John (verse 11)?

This truth causes us to wonder: Who is part of the kingdom of heaven? In order to be part of the kingdom of heaven, one must undergo something in addition to a normal physical birth. Read John 3:3-8. What must happen to a person?

Verse 3: One must be B O R N    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Verse 8: One must be B O R N   O F   T H E    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What did Jesus mean that John the Baptist is “Elijah who is to come”? Read Malachi 4:5-6 and note what you learn (Note: This prophecy in Malachi was written hundreds of years after the prophet Elijah of the Old Testament lived, and hundreds of years before John the Baptist was born).

If John the Baptist had indeed fulfilled these prophecies, and his purpose was to “prepare the way” for the Messiah, and Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, then what should the people’s response be (see verses 13-15)?

### **APPLICATION**

We noted earlier that John was not known as a man who was like a “reed shaken by the wind.” Are you easily shaken in your beliefs, or do you stand firm in your convictions as did John the Baptist?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

To see more regarding the connection between John the Baptist and Elijah, read the following verses:

Matthew 3:4, 2 Kings 1:8: What similarities do you see between the two men?

Matthew 11:14: Is John the Baptist the one who was predicted in Malachi 4?

John 1:21: Was John actually Elijah come back in the flesh?

Luke 1:17: In what way would John be like Elijah?

## Day Four

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**READ MATTHEW 11:16-19 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

In verse 16, Jesus compares this generation of Israelites to whom?

In this illustration, do the children's playmates behave as the children expect them to (verse 17)? What did they do or not do?

According to this passage, does Jesus think that he and John the Baptist met this generation's expectations? Why or why not?

Match the following statements to the appropriate person, according to verses 18-19:

Came eating and drinking

Came neither eating nor drinking

This generation said of him, "He has a demon!"

This generation said, "Look! A glutton and drunkard!"

Jesus (Son of Man)

John the Baptist

What do we already know about John's "eating and drinking" (or lack thereof)?  
Hint: go back to Matt. 3:4 and 9:14.

What do we already know about Jesus' "eating and drinking" habits? Hint: go back to Matt. 9:10-11 (see also Luke 19:5-7).

Jesus and John lived very different lives. Do you think either of them were wrong? Why or why not?

What does Jesus mean when he says that “Wisdom is justified (or vindicated) by her deeds”? How does this statement relate to Jesus’ and John’s ministries?

### APPLICATION

Have you ever felt like God did not meet your expectations? What should we do if we feel that way?

## *Day Five*

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**READ MATTHEW 11:20-24 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Find on your map Capernaum (which you marked with a star) and Bethsaida. Chorazim, also in the Galilee area, was not far from Capernaum. Now find Tyre on your map. Notice that Tyre (and Sidon) were not in Israel, but in Phoenician territory. Mark Tyre with an X.

According to verse 20, why did Jesus denounce these Galilean cities? What had Jesus done in them? What had the people not done?

What message had been proclaimed in these cities? (Hint: look back at Matt. 4:17 and Mark 6:12)

Look up the word “woe” in an English dictionary and write the definition that fits the context below.

Read Joel 3:4-8 to understand a little bit about the history of Tyre and Sidon. What had they taken from Judah?

According to Jesus, in verse 21, what would have happened if Jesus had performed mighty works in Tyre and Sidon instead of in Chorazin and Bethsaida? What would have happened if they had been performed in Sodom, according to verse 23?

Look again at today’s passage from Matthew. What was the purpose of Jesus’ mighty works?

What warning does Jesus give to Chorazin and Bethsaida about the day of judgment for them? What warning does he give to Capernaum?

Chorazin and Bethsaida:

Capernaum:

## **APPLICATION**

What do we learn from this passage about the importance of repentance? Having now read about Jesus' mighty works, what expectation does God have of us? Read Romans 2:1-5.

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

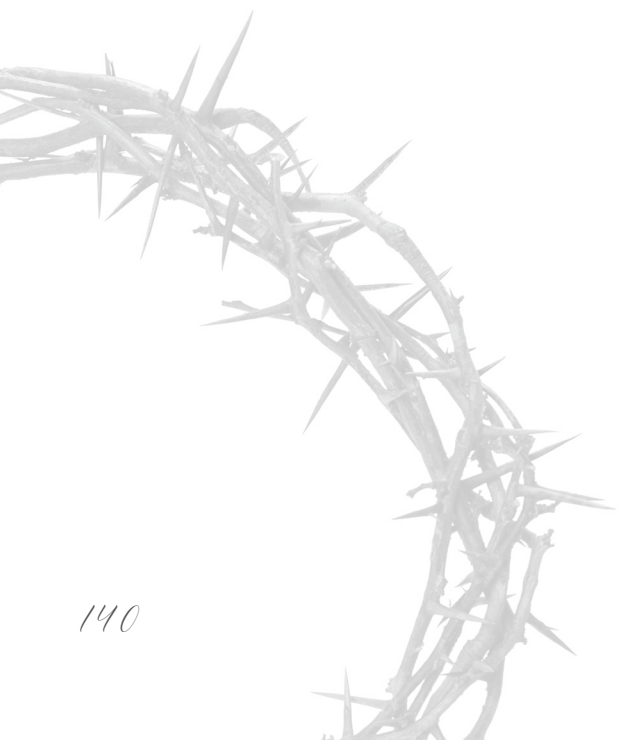
Jesus talks about repenting "in sackcloth and ashes." Learn more about the ancient practice involving sackcloth and ashes by reading the following passages. Note what actions and heart attitudes you see in each instance:

Esther 4:1-3

Jeremiah 6:24-26

Daniel 9:3-19

Jonah 3:6-10





## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

Have you ever experienced a case of mistaken identity (either you were mistaken for someone else or you mistook someone else)? Tell us briefly what happened.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

The disciples were told to “go and tell” what they had seen and heard. They were to be witnesses of Jesus’ works and ministry. This command is repeated in Acts 1:8, but on a larger scale. How are we also witnesses of Jesus today?

Jesus encourages John that “blessed is the one who is not offended by me” in verse 6. In what ways are people offended by Jesus and his message today?

What type of person do you think would be like a “reed shaken by the wind” (see also Ephesians 4:14 and James 1:6)? How do we avoid being easily shaken?

Although Jesus praises John the Baptist and confirms his ministry, he also says that a person who is “least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than” John. What did you learn this week about how a person enters the kingdom of heaven (from John 3:3-8)? How does this make a person “great”?

According to our passage this week, the Jewish people largely rejected Jesus and his ministry because he did not meet their expectations. What things did Jesus say and do? What things do you think they expected him to say and do?

What should we do when God does not meet our expectations in some way?

What is meant by Jesus’ words: “Wisdom is justified by her deeds.” (verse 19)? How does this apply to us?

What was the purpose of Jesus’ mighty works? What is the purpose of us studying and teaching about his mighty works?

What do we learn from this passage about the importance of repentance? Having now read about Jesus’ mighty works, what expectation does God have of us? Read Romans 2:1-5.

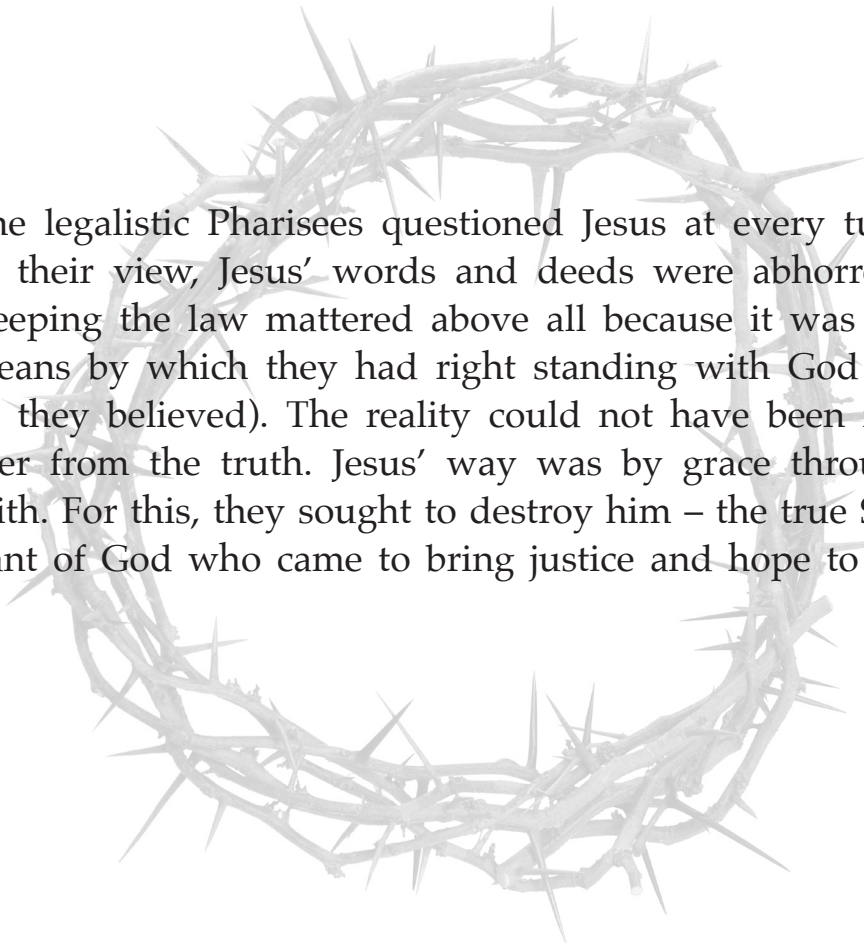
What other things do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

Where in this passage do you see God’s grace?

# LESSON ELEVEN

*Matthew 11:25-12:21*

The legalistic Pharisees questioned Jesus at every turn. In their view, Jesus' words and deeds were abhorrent. Keeping the law mattered above all because it was the means by which they had right standing with God (or so they believed). The reality could not have been further from the truth. Jesus' way was by grace through faith. For this, they sought to destroy him – the true Servant of God who came to bring justice and hope to all.



## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 11:1-24)

John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he is “the One.” How did Jesus respond?

According to Jesus, who is John the Baptist?

What is “the day of judgment”?

**LISTEN TO OR READ MATTHEW 11:1-12:21 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TOPICS OF MATTHEW 11:25-12:21 (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



Now go back to the beginning of your study guide and read through all of the major events and topics that you have listed from the beginning of Matthew up until today. Note below any big-picture themes or thoughts that come to mind. Alternatively, you could flip through the pages of Matthew in your Bible for this exercise.

If a person with no knowledge of the Bible asked you about Jesus, based on what you have studied in Matthew thus far, how would you summarize what you know about Jesus? Who is Jesus? Why did he come? What did he do? What did he teach? How was he received? Write your summary below.

## *Day Two*

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**READ MATTHEW 11:25-30 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Verse 25 says, “At that time Jesus declared...” At what time? Look back in Matthew 11 to see what has been happening. Note what you find below.

How does Jesus address God the Father in this prayer?

“I thank you, Father, \_\_\_\_\_.”

What specifically does Jesus thank his Father for?

Based on what we have learned in Matthew so far, who do you think Jesus is talking about when he mentions the following groups (verse 25)?

Wise and understanding –

Little children (look back at Matt. 10:42) –

What more do you learn about this topic in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31?

According to Matthew 11:27, who can know the Father?

Is it possible to know the Father apart from the Son? Why or why not (see verse 27 and John 14:6)?

Who does the Son invite to come to him (Matthew 11:28)?

Why were the people weary and “heavy laden?” Read Matthew 23:2-4.

Jesus offers to give those who come to him rest. What kind of rest (verse 29, see also Jeremiah 6:16 and Psalm 23:1-3)?

How does Jesus' "yoke" contrast to the heavy load that the people had been carrying (verse 30)?

### **APPLICATION**

How does Jesus describe himself in verse 29? What else do you learn about Jesus from today's passage?

What burdens are you (or were you) carrying? How can Jesus give you rest from those burdens?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Look up the word "yoke" in a dictionary. Write the definition below and/or sketch a picture of a yoke.



A yoke was used as a symbol in several ways in the Old Testament. Note what you learn about each usage below. How does this compare to Jesus' use of the word?

Leviticus 26:13

1 Kings 12:3-4

Isaiah 9:4

Numbers 25:1-3

Hosea 10:11-12

Hosea 11:3-4

## *Day Three*

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**READ MATTHEW 12:1-8 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Read verse 1 again and describe below the setting of this story. Where were Jesus and his disciples? What day was it? What were the disciples feeling? What were they doing?

Where:

When/What day:

Feeling:

Doing:

What charge did the Pharisees make against Jesus' disciples?

Read Exodus 20:8-11. Which day was the Sabbath? What had God commanded regarding the Sabbath? Why?

Look back at Matthew 12. In Jesus' response to the Pharisees, what phrase do you see repeated in verses 3 and 5?

To explain his point, Jesus uses two illustrations. Note what you learn about the first illustration: David and his men (verses 3-4).

Their Need

Their Solution

How it Was Unlawful

*Note: For more background, you can read more about this story in 1 Samuel 20:1-6 and the laws regarding the bread in Leviticus 24:5-9.*

To understand the second illustration - the priests on the Sabbath (verse 5) – read Numbers 28:9-10 and 1 Chronicles 9:32. What were the priests required to do on the Sabbath?

According to Jesus, in verse 5, this action by the priests profaned the Sabbath day. To “profane” means to treat something that is holy in an unholy way. And yet Jesus concluded that the priests were: (mark one)

☐ Guilty

☐ Not Guilty

What do these two illustrations have in common?

Jesus again quotes Hosea 6:6 in verse 7 (which he also quoted to the Pharisees in Matthew 9:13). In what ways are the Pharisees not showing mercy?

How does Jesus judge the disciples regarding their Sabbath “offense” (verse 7)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Guilty

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Guilty

### APPLICATION

What does Jesus call himself in verse 8? What else do you learn about Jesus in today’s passage?

## *Day Four*

---

**READ MATTHEW 12:9-14 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

After leaving the grain fields, where did Jesus go next? What day was it?

What need was Jesus confronted with there?

Based on the Pharisees’ question to Jesus (verse 10), what did they expect that Jesus planned to do? What was their purpose in asking this question (also verse 10)?

How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees? What illustration does Jesus use (verses 11-12)?

What is Jesus' point (verse 12)?

How much more valuable is a \_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus concludes that it is lawful for a person to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath:

- A. Do work
- B. Do penance
- C. Eat out
- D. Do good

How does the story end? What happened to the man? What happened to the Pharisees?

Man:

Pharisees:

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invited all who were weary and heavy laden to come to him to find rest, because his yoke was easy and his burden light. Look back at the last two stories. Contrast the Pharisees and Jesus, especially their attitude toward the people, and the load they expected them to carry.

Pharisees

Jesus

### APPLICATION

How might keeping the Sabbath have become wearisome to the Jewish people rather than restful? Has doing "all the things" become wearisome to you? What is the solution?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read the following passages from the Law to understand why the Pharisees were very particular about Sabbath regulation:

Exodus 31:13-17:

Exodus 35:2-3:

Numbers 15:32-36:

Yet the Jewish rabbis, in their Mishnah writings, had added dozens of Sabbath laws on top of God's commands. What warning did God give about this in Deuteronomy 4:1-2?

## *Day Five*

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**READ MATTHEW 12:15-21 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

After the encounter with the Pharisees, what did Jesus do?

Read again the prophecies about Jesus that Matthew records in verses 18-21. The speaker in this passage is God the Father, who is speaking about the Messiah, his Servant, Jesus. List below the words that he uses to describe Jesus.

Read 1 Peter 2:4 and note the contrast between man's approval of Jesus and God's approval of him.

Now list below what the Servant will and will not do (Matt. 12:18-21):

Will Do

Will Not Do

We saw in Matthew 10:5-6 where Jesus sent the disciples only to the Jews, not the Gentiles (non-Jews). What hope do we see in this passage for the Gentiles?

Look more closely at verse 20. What type of people might be represented by a “bruised reed” and a “smoldering wick”? How would Jesus treat them, according to this verse?

Who it Represents

How Jesus Would Treat Them

Bruised Reed

Smoldering Wick

In what ways did Jesus identify with the bruised reeds? How has he taken on our pain? Read Isaiah 53:1-7 and note what you learn.

### APPLICATION

Jesus tells us in 11:29 that he is gentle, and we see his gentleness predicted in this prophecy. Look back at Matthew 9:36 and 11:28, also John 7:37-38 as you continue to meditate on Jesus’ gentleness and compassion.

What else do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

In what ways are we to imitate Jesus? Read Romans 15:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

[illegible]



## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

Tell us about any fur babies that you may have, or any favorite pet that you've had.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

As much as we love our animals, Jesus several times has said that we are more valuable than they (see for example 6:26 and 12:12). Why do you think that we are more valuable to God than the animals?

Jesus offers to give those who come to him rest. What kind of rest (verse 29, see also Jeremiah 6:16 and Psalm 23:1-3)?

How does the rest that Jesus offers contrast to the rest that the world offers? What are some things that we may turn to when we are soul-tired that won't actually refresh us?

How did you contrast the way that the Pharisees treated people to the way that Jesus treated them in these passages? Who was truly keeping the law?

What was the purpose of the Sabbath law (see Deuteronomy 5:13-15 and Mark 2:27)?

If you lived in Israel at this time, do you think the Sabbath laws would have been more wearisome or restful for you? Why?

Has doing "all the things" become wearisome to you? What is the solution?

Two times Jesus has quoted Hosea 6:6, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." What does this verse mean? How can we obey it?

In what ways did Jesus show his lordship over the Sabbath?

What type of people might be represented by a "bruised reed" and a "smoldering wick"? How would Jesus treat them, according to verse 20?

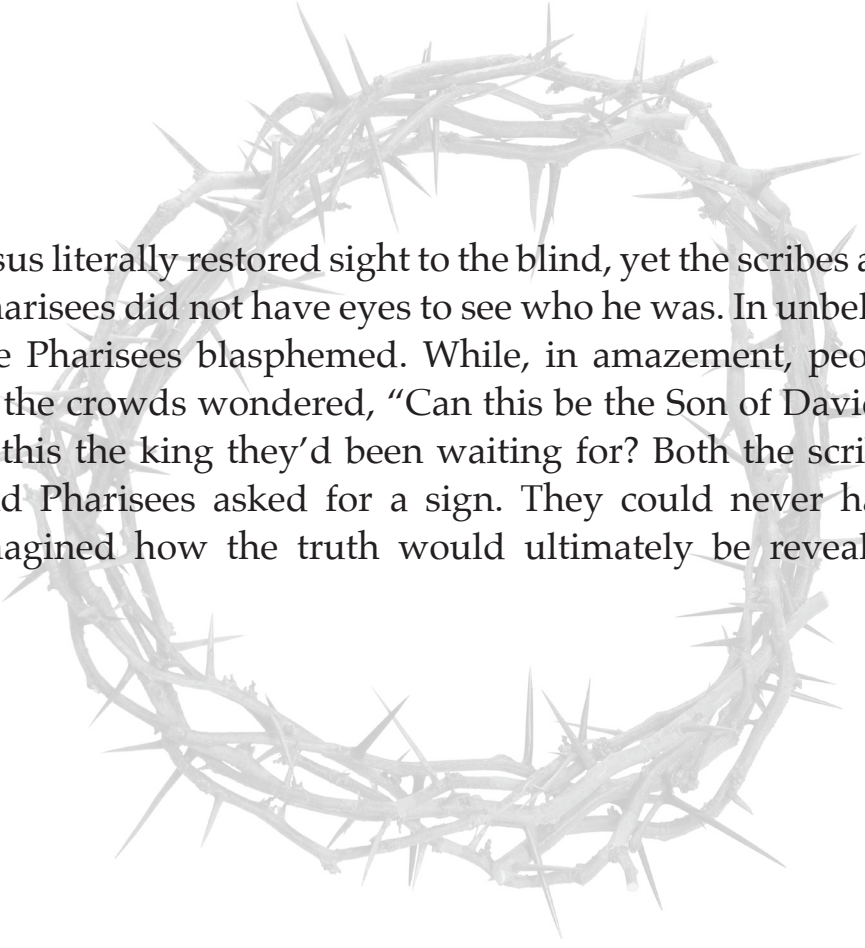
In what ways did Jesus identify with the bruised reeds? How has he taken on our pain? (from Isaiah 53:1-7)

What else did you learn about Jesus this week?

In what ways should we imitate Jesus? Read Romans 15:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

# LESSON TWELVE

*Matthew 12:22-50*



Jesus literally restored sight to the blind, yet the scribes and Pharisees did not have eyes to see who he was. In unbelief, the Pharisees blasphemed. While, in amazement, people in the crowds wondered, “Can this be the Son of David?” Is this the king they’d been waiting for? Both the scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign. They could never have imagined how the truth would ultimately be revealed.

## Day One

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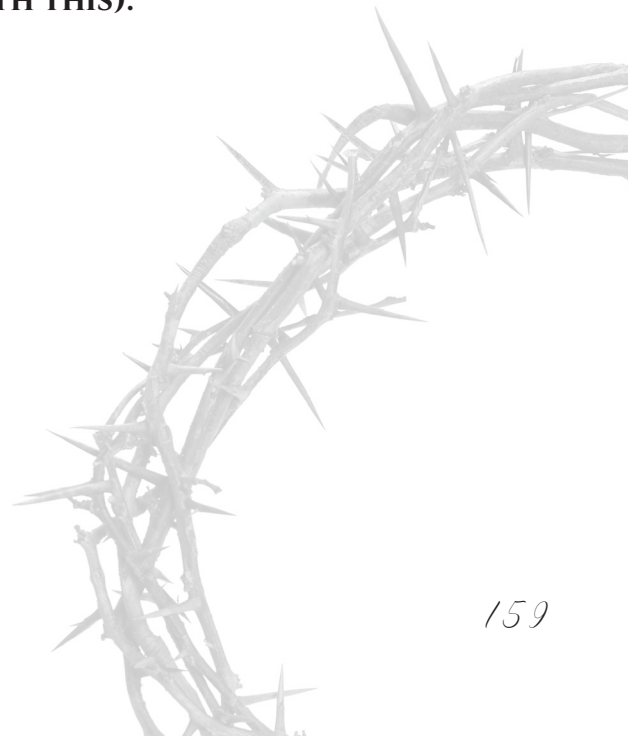
### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 11:25-12:21)

Again, we read of Jesus saying to the Pharisees, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." Why?

Why do the Pharisees conspire to destroy Jesus?

Throughout his years of ministry, Jesus often warned the healed not to reveal Him. For what reason(s)?

**LISTEN TO OR READ MATTHEW 12:22-50 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TOPICS OF THIS PASSAGE (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



**READ MATTHEW 12:22-24 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Who did Jesus heal in verse 22?

Contrast how the people reacted to this miracle versus the reaction of the Pharisees:

People

Pharisees

## *Day Two*

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**READ MATTHEW 12:22-30 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

We saw yesterday the reactions of the people and Pharisees to Jesus' miracle. The people wondered whether Jesus could be the Son of David. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13, the promise given to David about his offspring. What do you learn about the kingdom of the Son of David?

Also read Daniel 2:44. What do you see about the power of this kingdom? What will it do to all other kingdoms?

By contrast, the Pharisees reasoned that Jesus' power came from a different kingdom. In claiming that Jesus cast out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, they are asserting that Jesus was using the power of Satan.

Jesus responds to the Pharisees' false accusation with several arguments. In the first argument (verses 25-26), Jesus uses the example of the divided kingdom, city or house. If a kingdom is divided rather than united, what will be the outcome?

The logic: If Jesus is actually Satan, or using Satan's power, why would he cast out his own demons? His kingdom would not stand.

Is the Pharisees' logic valid, then?    ☐ Yes        ☐ No

Look at the second argument (verse 27). Was Jesus the only person to cast out demons (see 10:1 and Acts 8:6-8, 19:11-13)?

The logic (fill in what point Jesus is making):

Will the Pharisees be judged for their accusation?    ☐ Yes        ☐ No

Next, read the third argument (verse 29). Satan is the "strong man" in this illustration. Who has the ability to enter a strong man's house to take his goods (or cast out his demons)?

The logic:

Were the Pharisees "with," or on the side of, Jesus and God's kingdom (verse 30)?

☐ Yes        ☐ No

Jesus gives credit to whom for his ability to cast out demons (see verse 28)?

What kingdom, then, was at work right in front of their eyes (verse 28)?

## APPLICATION

Read Colossians 1:12-14. Have you been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the Beloved? If so, give thanks! If not, trust him today to forgive you and redeem you from your sins.

## Day Three

---

### READ MATTHEW 12:30-37 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

What do you learn in verses 31-32 about what will be forgiven and what will not be forgiven?

Fill in the chart based on verses 33-35.

Good Tree	—produces—>	Good _____
Bad Tree	—produces—>	Bad _____
Good Person	—speaks—>	Good _____
Evil Person	—speaks—>	Evil _____

According to verse 34, were the Pharisees good or evil? Why did they speak evil words?

Remind yourself from yesterday - what evil thing did they say about Jesus (verse 24)?

What is the relationship between a person's heart and their words (verse 34)?

What do we need that will produce a good heart in us (see Acts 15:9)?

What good words would come from the mouth of a person with a believing heart? Read Romans 10:8-10 and note what you learn below.

Look at Matthew 12:36-37. At the time of judgment, what will be used to vindicate or condemn you?

### **APPLICATION**

Read verse 36. With this in mind, how do your words need to change? For your words to change, what needs to change first?



### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

What is blasphemy against the Spirit and what does Jesus mean that it will not be forgiven? With all difficult passages, the best approach is to read other passages on the same subject to see if Scripture can help interpret Scripture. Try looking at the following passages, to gain more understanding:

Mark 3:28-30

Luke 12:8-10

Acts 7:51

1 John 5:16-21

## *Day Four*

---

**READ MATTHEW 12:38-42 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

What did the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for?

What evidence of Jesus' identity had the scribes and Pharisees already seen and heard (Matthew 11:5-6)?

Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5. In asking for a sign from Jesus, what might the Pharisees be trying to prove (remember that they are actively trying to destroy him - Matt. 12:14)? What was the penalty for a false prophet?

How does Jesus describe this generation of Israelites (verse 39, also verse 45)?



Jesus says he will give this generation only one sign:

The sign of the prophet \_\_\_\_ \_

Contrast below the location of Jonah's three days and three nights with Jesus' three days and three nights (verse 40):

Jonah

Jesus

Read Jonah 1:2. What were the people of Ninevah like? And yet, how did they respond to Jonah's message (Jonah 3:4-6)?

Read 1 Kings 10:1-7. Why did the queen come to visit Solomon? What was her reaction to him?

According to Matthew 12, something greater than Jonah and Solomon had come. How was Jesus greater than Jonah? How was he greater than Solomon?

Why would this generation be condemned by the people of Ninevah and the queen of the South at the time of judgment (verses 41-42)?

### APPLICATION

Our generation today loves the term “GOAT” (“Greatest Of All Time”). Why is there only one who is the greatest? Meditate on Colossians 1:15-20 and / or Ephesians 1:15-23.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Read Jonah’s prayer in Jonah 2:2-9. In what ways does it point forward to Christ and his work?

## *Day Five*

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### READ MATTHEW 12:43-50 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

According to Jesus, what happens to an unclean spirit when it first leaves a person?

Where does it eventually reside? Who does it bring with it (verses 44-45)?

When the spirit comes back to this “house”, is there anyone else living there? Or is the house empty?

Read Galatians 4:3-7. Before we come to Christ, we are like children, enslaved to the elementary spirits of this world. But who comes to live in our hearts when we put our faith in Christ (verse 6)?

According to Romans 6:16-19, we will all be slaves of something - either slaves of...?

sin which leads to death

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ which leads to \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Peter 2:19-20, a passage about false prophets. Notice the same use of words in this passage as in Matthew 12:45. In both cases, people encountered Jesus, but did not genuinely trust in him for salvation and receive the Holy Spirit. In both cases, the last state of the person is described as what?

Read Matthew 12:46-49, and also Mark 3:20-21, 31-35. Why did Jesus' mother and brothers come to speak to him?

What point did Jesus make about his true family (verses 49-50)?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

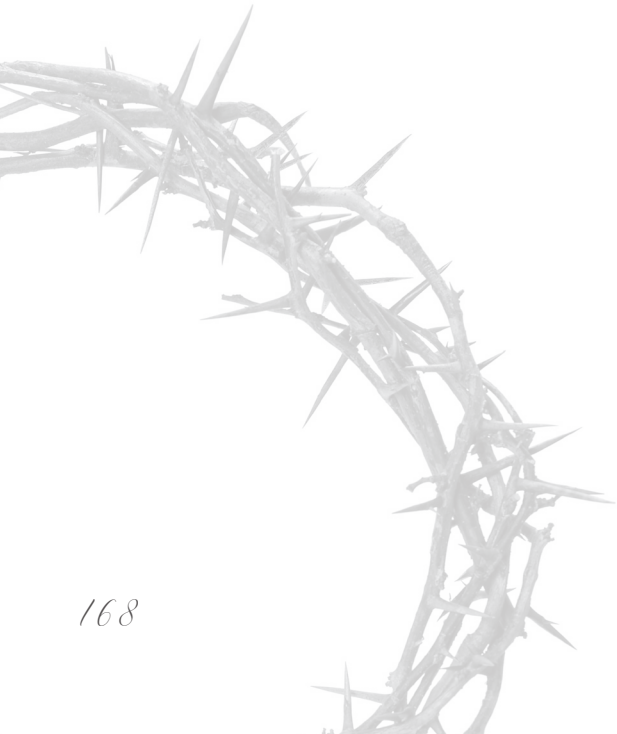
Although at this point in Jesus' life, it appears that his ministry puts him at odds with his family, he did care for them and later, they would turn to the faith. See John 19:26-27 and Acts 1:14.

## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

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## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

Were you an only child, first born, middle child, or the baby? If you had been given the choice, would you have changed that?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

We've seen this week that there is no middle ground when it comes to Jesus. Either you are for him or against him. How does this truth affect the way we share the gospel with others? How does it make it easier and/or harder?

Read Colossians 1:12-14. What does it mean to be transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the Beloved? How has God delivered you?

What is the relationship between a person's heart and their words (verse 34)?

What good words will come from the mouth of a person with a believing heart? Read Romans 10:8-10. What else do we learn from this passage?

What do you learn about appropriate speech from Ephesians 4:25-32?

How does the truth that we will be held accountable for our words differ from worldly thinking?

How is Jesus greater than Jonah? How is he greater than Solomon? Choose either Colossians 1:15-20 or Ephesians 1:15-23 to read together. How is Jesus the greatest of all time? What else do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

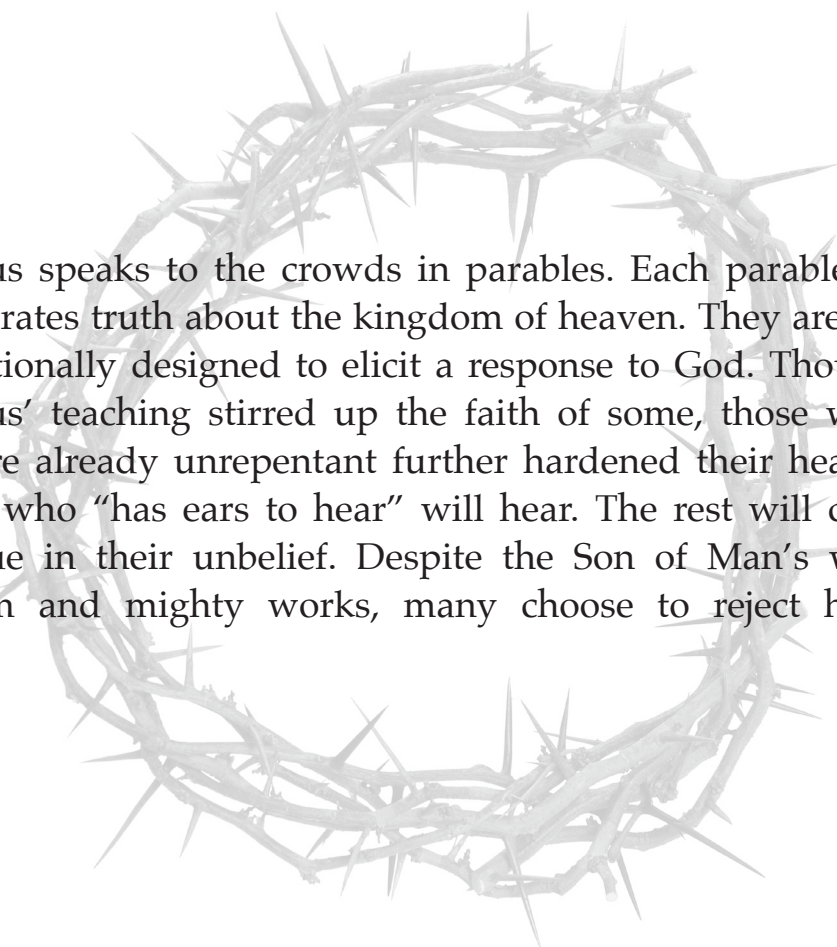
When we choose to follow Christ, what relationships might we lose? But what relationships will we gain (12:48-50)?

What can we learn from the closeness of the first church family? Read Acts 2:42-47.



# LESSON THIRTEEN

*Matthew 13*



Jesus speaks to the crowds in parables. Each parable illustrates truth about the kingdom of heaven. They are intentionally designed to elicit a response to God. Though Jesus' teaching stirred up the faith of some, those who were already unrepentant further hardened their hearts. He who "has ears to hear" will hear. The rest will continue in their unbelief. Despite the Son of Man's wisdom and mighty works, many choose to reject him.



## Day One

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### FOR REVIEW (MATTHEW 12:22-50)

What is “blasphemy against the Spirit?” Why is it unforgivable?

What is the “sign of Jonah”? What is the significance of Jesus’ statement in verse 40?

Jesus said, “...whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” Why does obedience matter to God?

**LISTEN TO OR READ MATTHEW 13 AND LIST BELOW, IN ORDER, THE MAJOR EVENTS AND TOPICS OF THIS PASSAGE (HINT: THE BOLD HEADINGS IN YOUR BIBLE WILL HELP WITH THIS).**



The subject of chapter 13 is parables. A parable was a symbolic fictional story using common things to teach a spiritual or moral truth. Jesus was not the first to use parables. Read Ezekiel 17:2, 24:3, and Hosea 12:10. Who else spoke in parables? And to what type of audience were they typically spoken (see Ez. 24:3)?

**READ MATTHEW 13:10-17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES.**

According to verse 13, was the purpose of the parables to make Jesus' message more or less clear to the crowds?

Even though the people could physically hear Jesus' words, they would not be able to understand them (verse 14). Why not (verse 15)? What was wrong with their heart?

By contrast, why were the disciples blessed (verse 16-17)?

**APPLICATION**

When Jesus told parables, there was a distinction between those who would be able to understand them and those who would not. Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14. Why are Jesus' followers able to understand spiritual truths? Why are those who don't follow Christ (the "natural person") not able to understand?

## Day Two

### READ MATTHEW 13:1-9 AND 18-23 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Describe the setting of the first parables of this chapter (verses 1-2). Where was Jesus and who was he speaking to?

Jesus' first parable involves a sower who is sowing seed, and the seed falls on various types of soil/ground. Use verses 4-9 to fill in the chart below:

Type of Soil

What Happens to the Seed

Jesus later explains the parable to the disciples in verses 18-23. Use these verses to fill out the next chart (the first one is done for you):

Type of Soil	Who it Represents	Result
Path	Someone who hears the Word but does not understand	Evil one snatches what was sown

Put a star by the type of soil in the chart above that produces fruit.

What does the seed represent in the parable (notice the repeated phrases in verses 19-23)?

Based on this parable, what are some hindrances to the word of the kingdom thriving and producing fruit?

### **APPLICATION**

Which of the hindrances, listed above, is the biggest challenge for you?

Pray that God would allow you to do what is necessary to “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). Pray this for your loved ones as well.

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

What does it mean to have a hard heart? Read Psalm 95:7-10, Zechariah 7:8-12, and Romans 2:3-5

How can we have hearts that are soft? Ezekiel 36:25-28 and Hebrews 3:12-19

## Day Three

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**READ MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43 AND 47-50 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

First, notice the repeated phrase at the beginning of most of the parables: Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, and 47. What are the parables teaching us about?

Read over the parable of the weeds, verses 24-30 and summarize the story below.

Now read Jesus' explanation of the parable in verses 36-43 and identify what each of the following parts of the parable represents:

Sower:

Field:

Good Seed:

Weeds:

Enemy:

Harvest:

Reapers:

Now go back and read the parable (verses 24-30) with this in mind. What did the Sower decide to do about the problem of the good plants and weeds growing together? When would they be separated?

When will the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the evil one be separated (verses 39-40)?

How does the story end for the sons of the evil one (verse 41-42)?

How does the story end for the sons of the kingdom (verse 43)?

Now read the parable of the net in verses 47-50. What is the kingdom of heaven compared to?

What kind(s) of fish were gathered? How did the men sort them?

How does this sorting relate to the close of the age (verses 49-50)?



### **APPLICATION**

What do you learn about the kingdom of heaven from these two parables? How does this change the way we see those around us? How should this change our actions and words toward others?

Is it possible to change from being a “son of the evil one” to a “son of the kingdom”? Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and write your answer below.

## Day Four

---

**READ MATTHEW 13:31-35 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Reread verses 31-32 and summarize the parable below.

| *Have you ever seen how small a mustard seed is? If not, Google it. A mustard bush can reach an average height of between 6 and 20 feet with a 20-foot spread.*

What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of heaven? What is it like in the beginning? How will it be in the end?

Beginning:

End:

Read the next parable in verse 33. What was the kingdom compared to?

Describe what happened to the leaven:

What the woman did with it:

What happened in the end:

What does this teach us about the kingdom of heaven?

Read Revelation 5:9-10, a heavenly perspective of the praise given to Jesus for his work in salvation. Here we see a glimpse of what that future, completed kingdom looks like. Describe below what you learn about the people who make up that kingdom.

Look back at Matthew 13:34-35. What did the prophet prophesy about Jesus? How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

## *Day Five*

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**READ MATTHEW 13:44-46 AND 51-58 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

What is the kingdom of heaven compared to in verse 44?

What happened when the man first found the treasure?

What did the man do in order to gain the treasure?

What is the kingdom of heaven compared to in verse 45?



What kind of pearl did the man find?

What did the man do in order to gain the pearl?

What do these two parables teach us about the kingdom of heaven?

How do these truths relate to what Jesus already taught in Matthew 10:37-39?

Read Philippians 3:7-11. What did Paul give up in order to know Christ? What did he gain? How does he describe the value/worth of knowing Christ?

Gave up:

Gained:

Christ's worth:

Look back at Matthew 13:51-52. Did the disciples understand Jesus' parables?

What does Jesus call the disciples in verse 52? And to what does he compare them?

What old and new things do you think they have in their treasure?

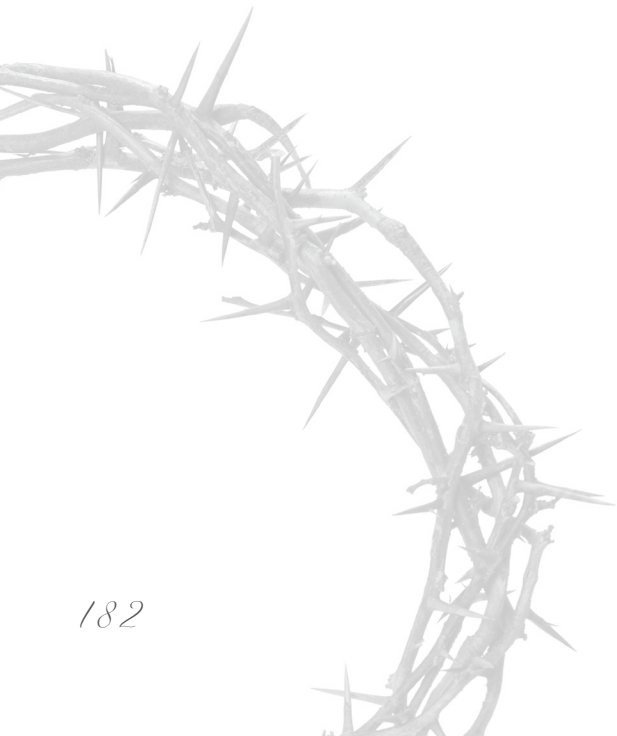
Finally, read verses 53-58. Jesus goes back to his hometown of Nazareth. How is he received?

Why did he not do many mighty works there?

### **APPLICATION**

Based on your study this semester, what stands out to you as something that needs to change – in your thinking, habits, actions, or words? What specific steps can you take to implement that change?

Who needs to hear the truths that you have learned?



## *For Personal Reflection*

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What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



Lecture Notes

[illegible]

## *Group Time*

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### **WARM UP QUESTION (OPTIONAL)**

Name something that you have treasured about this study. Something that you have learned about God, or a friendship that was formed...

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CHOOSE SEVERAL)**

Based on what you've learned this week and 1 Corinthians 2:12-14: Why are Jesus' followers able to understand spiritual truths? Why are those who don't follow Christ (the "natural person") not able to understand?

When you studied the parable of the sower, what were some hindrances that you saw to the word of the kingdom thriving and producing fruit?

Do you think there are ways that we can help remove these hindrances to the word taking root and producing fruit - either in our own lives or in the lives of others?

What do we learn about the kingdom of heaven from the parable of the weeds and the parable of the nets?

Is it possible to change from being a "son of the evil one" to a "son of the kingdom"? (from Ephesians 2:1-10)

In the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl, we learn about the amazing worth of the kingdom of heaven. What did you learn from Philipians 3:7-11? What did Paul give up in order to know Christ? What did he gain? How does he describe the value/worth of knowing Christ?

What else did you learn about the kingdom of heaven?

What other things have you learned this week (or this semester) about God (Father, Son, and/or Spirit)?

Based on your study this semester, what stands out to you as something that needs to change - in your thinking, habits, actions, or words?

# APPENDIX 1



Navigator  
Discipleship  
Tool

God is...

## 30 DAYS OF PRAYING the Names and Attributes of God

Though God is infinitely far above our ability to fully understand, through the Scriptures He tells us truths about Himself so that we can know Him, and be drawn to worship Him. Take a description of God and meditate on it for a day.

### ① JEHOVAH

The name of the independent, self-complete being—"I AM WHO I AM"—only belongs to Jehovah God. Our proper response to Him is to fall down in fear and awe of the One who possesses all authority. *Exodus 3:13-15*

### ② JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH

This name means "the God who sanctifies." A God separate from all that is evil requires that the people who follow Him be cleansed from all evil. *Leviticus 20:7,8*

### ③ INFINITE

God is beyond measurement—we cannot define Him by size or amount. He has no beginning, no end, and no limits. *Romans 11:33*

### ④ OMNIPOTENT

God is all-powerful. He spoke all things into being, and all things—every cell, every breath, every thought—are sustained by Him. Nothing is too difficult for Him. *Jeremiah 32:17,18, 26,27*

### ⑤ GOOD

God is the embodiment of perfect goodness, and is kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all creation. *Psalms 119:65-72*

### ⑥ LOVE

God's love is so great that He gave His only Son to bring us into fellowship with Him. His love encompasses the world, and embraces each of us personally and intimately. *1 John 4:7-10*

### ⑦ JEHOVAH-JIREH

"The God who provides." Just as He provided yesterday, He will provide today and tomorrow. He grants deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship in His Kingdom for all those adopted into His household. *Genesis 22:9-14*

### ⑧ JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"The God of peace." We are meant to know the fullness of God's perfect peace, His "shalom." God's peace surpasses understanding and sustains us through difficult times. It's the product of fully being what we were created to be. *Judges 6:16-24*

### ⑨ IMMUTABLE

All that God is, He has always been. All that He has been and is, He will ever be. He is ever perfect and unchanging. *Psalms 102:25-28*

### ⑩ TRANSCENDENT

God is not simply the highest in an order of beings (this would be to grant Him eminence). He is transcendent—existing beyond and above the created universe. *Psalms 113:4,5*

### ⑪ JUST

God is righteous and holy, fair and equitable in all things. We can trust Him to always do what is right. *Psalms 75:1-7*

### ⑫ HOLY

God's holiness is not a better version of the best we know. God is utterly and supremely untainted. His holiness stands apart—unique and incomprehensible. *Revelation 4:8-11*



**THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.** To download a copy visit [navlink.org/names-of-God](http://navlink.org/names-of-God)  
Sources: *The Knowledge of the Holy*, by A.W. Tozer; *Names of God*, by Nathan Stone; and *God of Glory*, by Kenneth Landon.



## Navigator Discipleship Tool

# God is...

### 19 JEHOVAH-ROPHE

"Jehovah heals." God alone provides the remedy for mankind's brokenness through His son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people. *Exodus 15:22-26*

### 20 SELF-SUFFICIENT

All things are God's to give, and all that is given is given by Him. He can receive nothing that He has not already given us. *Acts 17:24-28*

### 21 OMNISCIENT

God is all-knowing. God's knowledge encompasses every possible thing that exists, has ever existed, or will ever exist. Nothing is a mystery to Him. *Psalms 139:1-6*

### 22 OMNIPRESENT

God is everywhere, in and around everything, close to everyone. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord." *Psalms 139:7-12*

### 23 MERCIFUL

God's merciful compassion is infinite and inexhaustible. Through Christ, He took the judgment that was rightfully ours and placed it on His own shoulders. He waits and works now for all people to turn to Him and to live under His justification. *Deuteronomy 4:29-31*

### 24 SOVEREIGN

God presides over every event, great or small, and He is in control of our lives. To be sovereign, He must be all-knowing and all-powerful, and by His sovereignty He rules His entire creation. *1 Chronicles 29:11-13*

### 25 JEHOVAH-NISSI

"God our banner." Under His banner we go from triumph to triumph and say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). *Exodus 17:8-15*

### 26 WISE

All God's acts are accomplished through His infinite wisdom. He always acts for our good, which is to conform us to Christ. Our good and His glory are inextricably bound together. *Proverbs 3:19,20*

### 27 FAITHFUL

Out of His faithfulness God honors His covenants and fulfills His promises. Our hope for the future rests upon God's faithfulness. *Psalms 89:1-8*

### 28 WRATHFUL

Unlike human anger, God's wrath is never capricious, self-indulgent, or irritable. It is the right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. *Nahum 1:2-8*

### 29 FULL OF GRACE

Grace is God's good pleasure that moves Him to grant merit where it is undeserved and to forgive debt that cannot be repaid. *Ephesians 1:5-8*

### 30 OUR COMFORTER

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Comforter," and the apostle Paul writes that the Lord is "the God of all comfort." *2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

### 31 EL-SHADDAI

"God Almighty," the God who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessings. *Genesis 49:22-26*

### 32 FATHER

Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), and the Spirit of God taught us to cry, "Abba, Father," an intimate Aramaic term similar to "Daddy." The Creator of the universe cares for each one of us. *Romans 8:15-17*

### 33 THE CHURCH'S HEAD

God the Son, Jesus, is the head of the Church. As the head, the part of the body that sees, hears, thinks, and decides, He gives the orders that the rest of the body lives by. *Ephesians 1:22,23*

### 34 OUR INTERCESSOR

Knowing our temptations, God the Son intercedes for us. He opens the doors for us to boldly ask God the Father for mercy. Thus, God is both the initiation and conclusion of true prayer. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

### 35 ADONAI

"Master" or "Lord." All God's people ought to acknowledge themselves as His servants, with His right to reign as Lord of our lives. *2 Samuel 7:18-20*

### 36 ELOHIM

"Strength" or "Power": He is transcendent, mighty and strong. This name displays His supreme power, sovereignty, and faithfulness in His covenant relationship with us. *Genesis 17:7,8*



# APPENDIX 2

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## *Names You Should Know*

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### **PHARISEES**

Little is known of the origin of the Pharisees, but they seem to have arisen early in the Maccabean period, which happened between the Old and New Testaments, and become especially influential during the reign of Salome Alexandra. The term “Pharisee” means “separated ones.” They saw the way to God as being through obedience to the law, and developed an extensive oral tradition that they saw as authoritative. They were political enemies of the Sadducees and had more in common with the people.

### **SADUCEES**

The Sadducees likewise arise during the Hasmonean dynasty (also during the intertestamental period), being comprised of aristocratic priestly families who claimed to trace their heritage to Zadok, the high priest under Solomon. They were socially conservative, opposing any oral law in favor of only the Pentateuch. They were highly materialistic. They tended to be in charge of the temple and its surroundings.

### **THE HERODS**

This is the name given to the family ruling Palestine immediately before and during the early New Testament period. Herod the Great was the founder of the line, the son of Antipater, a man who had been a governor during the Maccabean period. He was known as a cruel but effective leader.

### **SAMARITANS**

At the time of the New Testament, Samaritans were despised by Jews, on account of their intermarriage with Gentiles after the fall of the northern kingdom in 721 BC. However, the New Testament presents them as generally responding favorably to the gospel.

### **GENTILES**

A word used in the New Testament to refer to people who aren't Jews.



# APPENDIX 3

## *Memory Verses*

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**“SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.” (JOHN 17:17)**

*Hide God’s Word in your heart. Let’s memorize the following passage this semester:*

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’”  
(Matthew 5:1-12)

