

The Gospel Of Matthew



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, And Review Questions**

Student Edition

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To God Be The Glory!

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The Gospel Of Matthew

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This study guide was designed for adult Bible classes, though it might be suitable for junior and senior high classes as well. Some have used it for personal devotions, and others in small study groups. In whatever way it can be used to the glory of God, I am grateful.

- **Points to ponder** for each chapter are things I emphasize during the class.
- **Review questions** are intended to reinforce key thoughts in each chapter. There is a “teacher’s edition” available with answers included.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Introduction

The book of Matthew has always occupied a position of high esteem in the faith and life of the church:

"When we turn to Matthew, we turn to the book which may well be called the most important single document of the Christian faith, for in it we have the fullest and the most systematic account of the life and the teachings of Jesus." (William Barclay)

The writings of the early church fathers reveal that it was the most frequently quoted and perhaps the most widely read gospel during the first two centuries of the church's history.

Author

The apostolic origin and canonical rank of the gospel of Matthew were accepted without a doubt by the early church (ISBE). **Matthew**, surnamed Levi, had been a tax-collector, one of Jesus' earliest disciples (**Mt 9:9; Mk 2:14**). He was chosen to be one of the twelve apostles (**Mt 10:2-3**). A close associate of Jesus during His ministry, Matthew's gospel is a first hand account, unlike Luke who depended upon other eyewitnesses (**Lk 1:1-4**).

Date

Irenaeus says it was written when Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome (Against Heresies 3.1.1). Eusebius states that this was done when Matthew left Palestine and went to preach to others (Historia Ecclesiastica, III, 24). Clement of Alexandria said that the presbyters who succeeded each other from the beginning declared that "the gospels containing the genealogies (Matthew and Luke) were written first" (Eusebius, Historia Ecclesiastica, VI, 14). It is traditionally dated in **the late 50s or early 60s A.D.**

Theme

The gospel appears written to Jews, designed to prove that Jesus is the Messianic king of Old Testament (OT) prophecy. This is evidenced by Matthew's frequent appeal to OT Messianic prophecies. He quotes from almost every book in the OT, and twelve times he identifies OT prophecies as fulfilled in the life of Jesus (**Mt 1:22; 2:15,23; 4:14; 5:17; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14,35; 21:4; 27:9**). One could therefore say that the theme is:

"Jesus, the King of the Jews"

Special Characteristics

It is a Jewish gospel. We've noted its frequent appeal to OT prophecies. It's organization is mostly topical, as opposed to strictly chronological (a common style in Jewish literature). Thus it appears to have been written with a Jewish audience in mind.

It is an ecclesiastical gospel. It is the only gospel which mentions the word "church". It foretells its beginning (**Mt 16:18**), and describes some of the life in the church (**Mt 18:15-17**). It contains lengthy discourses especially beneficial to those in the church, such as the sermon on the mount (**Mt 5-7**), the many parables (**Mt 13**), and the Olivet discourse (**Mt**

24-25). It contains admonitions important to disciples of Christ, such as the importance of doing the Father's will (**Mt 7:21-23**) and observing all that Jesus commanded (**Mt 28:20**). In other words, this was a gospel designed for use by those in the early church.

It is an evangelistic gospel. It is a preaching gospel, especially when compared with the apostles' preaching found in Acts. It expands upon the basic elements and points made in their sermons. Consider these themes in apostolic preaching:

- God's promises in the OT have been fulfilled - **Ac 3:18,24**
- The long-awaited Messiah, born of David's line, has come - **Ac 13:23**
- He is Jesus of Nazareth - **Ac 13:23**
- He went about preaching and doing good through mighty works - **Ac 10:38**
- He was crucified according to the promise and will of God - **Ac 2:22,23**
- He was raised from the dead, and exalted at God's right hand - **Ac 2:24,32-33**
- He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead - **Ac 3:20-21; 17:30-31**
- Therefore, all should heed His message, repent, and be baptized - **Ac 2:36-38**

All of these points are expanded upon in the gospel of Matthew.

Outline

(adapted from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

1. The birth and childhood of Jesus - Mt 1:1-2:23

- a. Genealogy of Christ - Mt 1:1-17
- b. Birth of Christ - Mt 1:18-25
- c. Visit of the Magi - Mt 2:1-12
- d. Flight into Egypt and massacre of the infants - Mt 2:13-18
- e. Residence at Nazareth - Mt 2:19-23

2. The preparation for the ministry of Jesus - Mt 3:1-4:11

- a. The forerunner of Christ - Mt 3:1-12
- b. Baptism of Christ - Mt 3:13-17
- c. Temptation of Christ - Mt 4:1-11

3. The ministry of Jesus in Galilee - Mt 4:12-18:35

- a. Residence at Capernaum - Mt 4:12-17
- b. Call of four disciples - Mt 4:18-22
- c. General survey of the Galilean ministry - Mt 4:23-25
- d. Sermon on the mount - Mt 5:1-7:29
- e. Ten miracles and related events - Mt 8:1-9:38
- f. Mission of the twelve - Mt 10:1-42
- g. Christ's answer to John, and related discourse - Mt 11:1-30
- h. Opposition from the Pharisees - Mt 12:1-50
- i. A series of parables on the kingdom - Mt 13:1-58
- j. Withdrawal of Jesus following John's beheading - Mt 14:1-36
- k. Conflict with the Pharisees over tradition - Mt 15:1-20
- l. Withdrawal to Phoenecia and healing of a Canaanitish woman's daughter - Mt 15:21-28
- m. Return to the Sea of Galilee and performing of miracles - Mt 15:29-38
- n. Renewed conflict with the Pharisees and Sadducees - Mt 15:39-16:4
- o. Withdrawal to the region of Caesarea Philippi - Mt 16:5-17:23

p. Instruction of the twelve at Capernaum - Mt 17:24-18:35

4. The ministry of Jesus in Perea - Mt 19:1-20:16

- a. Teaching on divorce - Mt 19:1-12
- b. Blessing of the children - Mt 19:13-15
- c. Interview with the rich young man - Mt 19:16-30
- d. Parable of the laborers in the vineyard - Mt 20:1-16

5. The ministry of Jesus in Judea - Mt 20:17-34

- a. Another prediction of Christ's death and resurrection - Mt 20:17-19
- b. Ambitious request of Zebedee's sons - Mt 20:20-28
- c. Healing of two blind men - Mt 20:29-34

6. The ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem - Mt 21:1-25:46

- a. Triumphal entry - Mt 21:1-11
- b. Cleansing the Temple - Mt 21:12-17
- c. Cursing of the barren fig tree - Mt 21:18-22
- d. Questioning of Jesus' authority and his parabolic answer - Mt 21:23-22:14
- e. Questioning of Jesus by various groups - Mt 22:15-46
- f. Jesus' public denunciation of the Pharisees - Mt 23:1-39
- g. Olivet Discourse - Mt 24:1-25:46

7. The suffering of Jesus - Mt 26:1-27:66

- a. Plot against Jesus - Mt 26:1-16
- b. The final meal - Mt 26:17-30
- c. Prediction of Peter's denial - Mt 26:31-35
- d. Events in Gethsemane - Mt 26:36-56
- e. Events at the Jewish trials - Mt 26:57-27:2
- f. Remorse of Judas - Mt 27:3-10
- g. Events at the Roman trials - Mt 27:11-31
- h. The Crucifixion - Mt 27:32-56
- i. Burial - Mt 27:32-56

8. The resurrection of Jesus - Mt 28:1-20

- a. Discovery of the empty tomb - Mt 28:1-8
- b. Appearance of Jesus Christ - Mt 28:9,10
- c. Report of the soldiers - Mt 28:11-15
- d. The great commission - Mt 28:16-20

Review Questions

1) Who authored the book of Matthew?

2) Approximately when was the book written?

3) What has been suggested as the theme of Matthew's gospel?

4) What three characteristics of the gospel were noted in the introduction?

5) List the eight sections of the gospel as indicated in the outline

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter One

Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph. Thus he shows the royal lineage of Jesus from David, one of the first things required to convince a Jewish audience that Jesus qualified to be the Messiah (**1-17; cf. Mt 22:41-42**). The birth of Jesus is then described, with the announcement of the angel to Joseph, and the protection of her virginity until His birth (**18-25**).

Points To Ponder

- The genealogy, comparing it with the one in Luke's gospel
- The prophecies of Isaiah and the angel regarding the virgin birth
- The significance of the names given to the child born of Mary

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Whose genealogy is given by Matthew? (1)**
- 3) **What four women are included in this genealogy? (3,5,6)**
- 4) **What was the initial relationship between Joseph and Mary? (18)**
- 5) **When and how did Mary become pregnant? (18)**
- 6) **What two names would be given the child, and what do they mean? (21-23)**
- 7) **What scripture in the OT was fulfilled by the virgin birth of Christ? (22-23)**
- 8) **How long did Joseph wait until he knew Mary as his wife? (25)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Two

Unlike Luke, Matthew does not record events related to the day of Jesus' birth. But he does describe the visit of the wise men who followed the star to find the infant child and to worship Him (1-12). Warned by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt, escaping the massacre of infants by an enraged Herod (13-18). After the death of Herod, Joseph and his family return to settle in the village of Nazareth (19-23).

Points To Ponder

- The details of the visit of the wise men from the East
- Fact versus fiction related to the birth of Jesus
- Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by the events in this chapter

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Why had the wise men from the East come to Jerusalem? (1-2)**
- 3) **How did the priests and scribes determine the location of Christ's birth? (4-6)**
- 4) **How did the wise men find the young Child? Where did they find Him? (9-11)**
- 5) **Why did Joseph and his family flee? What prophecy would be fulfilled? (13-15)**
- 6) **What prophecy did the slaughter of the innocents fulfill? (16-18)**
- 7) **What prompted Joseph and his family to return? Why to Galilee? (19-22)**
- 8) **Where did the family settle? What prophecy did that fulfill? (23)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Three

Matthew skips ahead about thirty years to describe events that prepared Jesus for His public ministry. John the Baptist served as a forerunner with his own ministry of preaching in the wilderness of Judea and baptizing in the Jordan river (1-12). From Galilee Jesus came to be baptized by John “to fulfill all righteousness”. As Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended on Him like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (13-17).

Points To Ponder

- The message and ministry of John the Baptist
- The purpose and meaning of Jesus’ baptism

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What was the theme of John’s preaching? (1-2)
- 3) What was John’s mission as foretold by Isaiah? (3)
- 4) What unique clothing and diet did John have? (4)
- 5) What was John doing in the Jordan river? (5-6)
- 6) What did John say to the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized? (8)
- 7) What did John say One who followed him would do? (11-12)
- 8) Who came from Galilee to be baptized by John? Why? (13-15)
- 9) As Jesus came up from the water, what three things happened? (16-17)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Four

Following His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days and overcame temptation by the devil (1-11). Returning to Galilee and moving from Nazareth to Capernaum, Jesus began His Galilean ministry preaching the same message of the kingdom of heaven as that of John the Baptist. After selecting four disciples, Jesus went about Galilee teaching in the synagogues and healing all kinds of sickness and disease. Soon great multitudes from surrounding regions began to follow Him (12-25).

Points To Ponder

- How Jesus overcame His temptation by the devil
- The beginning of His ministry in Galilee, His message and methods
- The call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John to discipleship

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **With what three temptations did Satan challenge Jesus? (3,6,9)**
- 3) **How did Jesus respond to each of the three temptations? (4,7,10)**
- 4) **Where did Jesus begin His public ministry? Fulfilling what prophecy? (12-16)**
- 5) **What was the theme of Jesus' preaching? (17)**
- 6) **Who were the four fishermen called to follow Jesus? (18-22)**
- 7) **How did Jesus conduct His ministry in Galilee? (23-24)**
- 8) **Where did people come from to follow Jesus? (25)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Five

Beginning in this chapter, Matthew records the “Sermon On The Mount”. The theme of the sermon is “The kingdom of heaven” (cf. **Mt 4:17; 5:3,10,19-20; 6:10,33; 7:21**). Jesus began with “The Beatitudes,” describing the character and blessedness of those who would be citizens of the kingdom (**1-12**) and illustrating their relation to world as salt and light (**13-16**). Clarifying His own relationship with the Law, Jesus stressed how our righteousness must surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees (**17-20**) following with a series of contrasts between the oral interpretations of the Law and conduct expected of His disciples (**21-48**).

Points To Ponder

- The meaning of the phrase: “the kingdom of heaven”
- The blessedness of those in the kingdom, and their relationship to the world
- How our righteousness must surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What do the beatitudes describe? (3-12)**
- 3) **How are citizens of the kingdom to relate to the world? (13-16)**
- 4) **What was Jesus’ relation to the Law of Moses? (17-18)**
- 5) **What does Jesus expect of those who would be citizens of the kingdom? (20)**
- 6) **List the five subjects whose interpretations are contrasted in this chapter (21-48)**
- 7) **What phrases illustrate the contrast? (21-22,27-28,31-32,33-34,38-39,43-44)**
- 8) **Then what contrast is being made with these five subjects?**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Six

The “Sermon On The Mount” continues as Jesus teaches the righteousness of the kingdom expected in those who would be citizens of the kingdom. He discusses righteousness with respect to **man’s relation to God**, regarding charitable deeds (1-4), prayer (5-15), fasting (16-18), materialism (19-24), and anxiety (25-33).

Points To Ponder

- Performing acts of righteousness in ways that please God
- The danger of materialism and overcoming anxiety about such things
- Making the kingdom of God and His righteousness our number one priority

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **As we perform acts of righteousness, what should we avoid? (1-2,5,16)**
- 3) **How can we ensure that God will reward us for our righteous acts? (4,6,18)**
- 4) **How else does Jesus teach us to give, pray, and fast? (3,7,17)**
- 5) **What is the likely purpose of “The Lord’s Prayer”? (9-13)**
- 6) **Of things in “The Lord’s Prayer,” on what does Jesus elaborate? (14-15)**
- 7) **Where are we to lay up treasure? Why? How? (20,24; cf. Mt 19:21; 1Ti 6:17-19)**
- 8) **What is the key to overcoming anxiety? (25-32)**
- 9) **How can we ensure that God will provide what we need? (33)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Seven

The “Sermon On The Mount” continues with Jesus discussing the righteousness of the kingdom with respect to **man’s relation to man**, with a warning regarding judging (1-6), the importance of persistence (7-11), and keeping “the golden rule” (12). It concludes with exhortations to enter the kingdom: choose the narrow and difficult path (13-14), watch out for false prophets (15-20), do the Father’s will (21-23), being doers of the Word (24-29).

Points To Ponder

- The nature of judging condemned by Jesus
- How Jesus’ “golden rule” differs from that found in other religions
- The importance of doing the Father’s will to being saved

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What sort of judging is Jesus warning against? (1-6)**
- 3) **How does Jesus illustrate the need for persistence? (7-11)**
- 4) **How does Jesus’ “golden rule” differ from that found in other religions? (12)**
- 5) **Contrast the two “ways” described by Jesus (13-14)**
- 6) **How do false prophets operate? How can we identify them? (15-20)**
- 7) **Who will not enter the kingdom of heaven? Who will? (21-23)**
- 8) **What is the key difference between the wise and foolish listeners? (24-27)**
- 9) **Why were the people astonished at Jesus’ teaching? (28-29)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Eight

As Jesus' ministry in Galilee continues, Matthew describes several miracles and related events. Coming down from the mount, Jesus cleansed a leper (1-4). Entering Capernaum, He healed a centurion's servant (5-13). Arriving at Peter's house, He healed his mother-in-law and many demon-possessed and all who were sick (14-17). Before crossing the Sea of Galilee to escape large crowds, Jesus challenged two would-be disciples (18-22). After calming the winds and waves of a great tempest (23-27), He arrived on the other side of the sea where He healed two demon-possessed men (28-34).

Points To Ponder

- The nature and purpose of the miracles performed by Jesus
- The cost of discipleship

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) List the five miracles recorded in this chapter (1-4,5-13,14-17,23-27,28-34)
- 3) Before healing the centurion's servant, what impressed Jesus? (10)
- 4) Before healing the servant, what did Jesus foretell? (11-12)
- 5) In Peter's house, who did Jesus heal? What prophecy was fulfilled? (14-17)
- 6) What two lessons did Jesus teach about discipleship? (19-22)
- 7) What can we learn about fear and faith, before Jesus calmed the sea? (25-26)
- 8) Who did the demons acknowledge Jesus to be as He confronted them? (29)

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Chapter Nine

Back in Capernaum, Jesus' ministry in Galilee continued with both forgiving and healing a paralytic (1-8). Matthew the tax collector was called to be a disciple, who invited Jesus to his home where He was questioned by the Pharisees and disciples of John (9-17). Asked by a ruler to go and raise his dead daughter, Jesus did so, healing a woman with a flow along the way (18-26). Afterward Jesus healed two blind men and a man who was both mute and demon-possessed (27-34). He then went about the region, teaching and healing, moved with compassion for the multitudes that came to Him (35-38).

Points To Ponder

- Jesus' power to forgive sins
- His willingness to eat with sinners
- His compassion for the lost

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **List the five miracles recorded in this chapter (1-8,18-34)**
- 3) **How did Jesus demonstrate His power to forgive sins? (6)**
- 4) **Who was called to be a disciple and then gave a feast at his house? (9-10)**
- 5) **What two groups confronted Jesus regarding what two issues? (11-17)**
- 6) **What explanation did Pharisees give for Jesus' ability to exorcise demons? (34)**
- 7) **What moved Jesus to call for prayer for more laborers? (36-38)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Ten

Following His own call for prayer for more laborers (**Mt 9:37-38**), Jesus selected twelve disciples to be His apostles and gave them power to cast out demons and heal all kinds of disease (**1-4**). He then sent them to preach and heal throughout the cities of Israel with specific instructions in what has come to be called “The Limited Commission” (**5-42**).

Points To Ponder

- The twelve men selected to be Jesus’ apostles
- Evangelistic principles utilized by Jesus

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **List the names of the twelve apostles (2-4)**
- 3) **What was to be the range of their preaching? Their message? (5-7)**
- 4) **What miracles were they to perform as they preached? At what charge? (8)**
- 5) **How were they to be supported? (9-11)**
- 6) **What were they to do if they were not received by a house or city? (14-15)**
- 7) **What did Jesus prepare them to expect? (16-26)**
- 8) **What were they to fear more than persecution? (28,33)**
- 9) **What did Jesus acknowledge His teachings might do? (34-36)**
- 10) **What blessings would befall those who assisted the apostles? (41-42)**

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Chapter Eleven

While the apostles were fulfilling the limited commission, Jesus was approached by emissaries from John the Baptist who received confirmation that He was “The Coming One” (1-6). Jesus revealed that John was “The Messenger” foretold by Malachai and that many were inconsistent in their opposition to both Jesus and John (7-19). Jesus then rebuked cities which did not repent at His teaching (20-24), and at the same time extended a tender invitation to those who would accept His teaching (25-30).

Points To Ponder

- The relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist
- Why the day of judgment will be more tolerable for Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom than it will be for Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum
- The Savior’s tender invitation to those with troubled souls

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Why did John send two disciples to Jesus? (2-3)**
- 3) **What evidence did Jesus offer to John’s disciples? (4-5)**
- 4) **What two O.T. prophecies did Jesus say that John fulfilled? (10,14)**
- 5) **Who did Jesus say would be greater than John the Baptist? (11)**
- 6) **How did some people describe John and Jesus? (18-19)**
- 7) **Why did Jesus rebuke the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum? (20)**
- 8) **To whom did Jesus extend His invitation? What did He expect in return? (28-30)**

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Chapter Twelve

Opposition to Jesus and His ministry increased, spear-headed by Pharisees who objected to Jesus' conduct on the Sabbath (**1-14**). Jesus humbly sought privacy, which fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy concerning God's Chosen Servant (**15-21**), but Pharisees followed Him making blasphemous accusations against the Spirit and demanded a sign (**22-45**). When Jesus' physical family wanted to see Him, Jesus identified His disciples as His true family (**46-50**).

Points To Ponder

- Jesus and the Sabbath day
- The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
- The true family of God

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What were Jesus' disciples doing that angered the Pharisees? (1-2)**
- 3) **What was Jesus doing that angered the Pharisees? (9-14)**
- 4) **What prophecy did Jesus fulfill warning people not to make Him known? (17-21)**
- 5) **How did the Pharisees explain Jesus' ability to cast out demons? (24)**
- 6) **What was the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? (31-32)**
- 7) **For what will one give an account in the day of judgment? (36-37)**
- 8) **What sign did Jesus say He would give to the Pharisees? (38-40)**
- 9) **Who did Jesus identify as His true family? (49-50)**

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Chapter Thirteen

Jesus began teaching in parables regarding the kingdom, seven recorded in this chapter (**Mt 13:1-9,18-33,36-52**). His goal appeared to separate the truth seekers from the curiosity seekers, as He explained the parables privately to His disciples (**Mt 13:10-17,34-35**). At Nazareth, He taught in the synagogue where He found an unreceptive audience (**53-58**).

Points To Ponder

- The purpose of parables
- What the parables reveal about the kingdom of heaven

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **List the seven parables of Jesus found in this chapter (3,24,31,33,44,45,47)**
- 3) **What was Jesus two-fold purpose in teaching in parables? (10-17,34-35,51-52)**
- 4) **What does the parable of the sower illustrate? (3-9,18-23)**
- 5) **What does the parable of the wheat and tares illustrate? (24-30,36-43)**
- 6) **What do the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven illustrate? (31-34)**
- 7) **What about the parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price? (44-46)**
- 8) **What does the parable of the dragnet illustrate? (47-52)**
- 9) **Why was Jesus rejected by many at Nazareth? (53-58)**

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Chapter Fourteen

Word of Jesus' ministry came to Herod the tetrarch, and Matthew tells how Herod killed John the Baptist (1-12). Hearing of John's death, Jesus sought privacy but was followed by the multitudes and fed over 5000 with five loaves and two fish (13-21). Sending His disciples away by boat, Jesus dispersed the crowd and went to the mountain to pray. He later joined His disciples by walking on the sea (22-33). In the land of Gennesaret, Jesus healed all who came to Him by simply letting them touch the hem of His garment (34-36).

Points To Ponder

- The unlawful marriage of Herod that led to John's death
- Two miracles that demonstrate Jesus' power over nature
- The inverse relationship between fear and faith

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) Who did Herod think Jesus was when he heard about Him? (1-2)
- 3) What led to Herod's arrest of John the Baptist? (3-4)
- 4) How was Herod tricked to have John beheaded? (6-10)
- 5) When Jesus heard of John's death, what did He try to do? What happened? (13)
- 6) What prompted Jesus to heal the sick and feed the hungry? (14-15)
- 7) How many were fed, and with what? (16-21)
- 8) As Jesus walked on the sea, what led to Peter sinking? (25-31)
- 9) How were the sick in the land of Gennesaret healed? (34-36)

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Chapter Fifteen

Religious leaders from Jerusalem took issue with Jesus' disciples' failure to observe certain traditions, which led Jesus to warn against the danger of traditions and that which causes true moral defilement (1-20). After a quick trip to the region of Tyre and Sidon where He healed a Canaanite woman's daughter (21-28), Jesus made His way to a mountain near the Sea of Galilee where He healed many and fed 4000 with seven loaves and a few fish. He then sailed to the region of Magdala, located on the west coast of the Sea Of Galilee (29-39).

Points To Ponder

- The danger of traditions and vain worship
- That which causes true moral defilement

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What tradition of the elders had the disciples of Jesus transgressed? (1-2)
- 3) According to Jesus, when do traditions of men become wrong? (3-9)
- 4) When does worship become vain? (9)
- 5) What constitutes true moral defilement? (11,16-20)
- 6) What will happen to plants (religions, doctrines) not started by God? (13)
- 7) How did Jesus describe the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem? (14)
- 8) What moved Jesus to grant the Canaanite woman's request? (28)
- 9) With what did Jesus feed more than 4000 people? (34-38)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Sixteen

Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus for a sign. Exposing their hypocrisy, Jesus once again offered the sign of Jonah (cf. **Mt 12:38-40**). He then warned His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (**1-12**). At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples who people were saying that He was. When asked who they thought He was, Peter confessed Him to be the Christ. Jesus commended Peter and spoke of his role in His church, but then told the disciples to tell no one He was the Christ (**13-20**). Jesus then spoke of His death and resurrection, the cost of discipleship, and coming in His kingdom (**21-28**).

Points To Ponder

- The confession of Peter and Jesus' response
- The cost of discipleship

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **When asked for a sign, what sign did Jesus say would be given? (1-4)**
- 3) **When Jesus warned of leaven, what did He mean? (5-12)**
- 4) **Who did Peter confess Jesus to be? (16)**
- 5) **What did Jesus say He would build? Upon what would it be built? (18)**
- 6) **What did Jesus promise Peter? Was it limited to him? (19; cf. Mt 18:18)**
- 7) **What did Jesus begin to predict at that time? (21)**
- 8) **What did Jesus demand of His disciples? How valuable is one's soul? (24,26)**
- 9) **What promise did Jesus make regarding His kingdom? (28)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Seventeen

The events recorded in this chapter begin with Jesus transfigured on the mountain (1-13), referenced to later by Peter in his epistle (2Pe 1:16-18). Afterward Jesus healed a demon-possessed boy when His disciples were unable due to a lack of faith and prayer (14-21). Back in Galilee, Jesus once again predicted His death and resurrection (22-23). Upon arriving in Capernaum, Jesus expounded on the payment of the temple tax (24-27).

Points To Ponder

- The significance of the transfiguration
- The reason for the failure of a miracle

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) When was Jesus transfigured on the mount? (1)
- 3) Who appeared when Jesus was transfigured? What might they represent? (3)
- 4) What did the voice from the cloud say about Jesus? What might it indicate? (5)
- 5) When were the disciples to tell others what they had seen? (9)
- 6) Who did Jesus say had come? Who had fulfilled that prophecy? (10-13)
- 7) Why were the disciples unable to heal the demon-possessed boy? (19-21)
- 8) What did Jesus predict for the second time to His disciples? (22-23)
- 9) Did Jesus teach His disciples to pay taxes? How did He pay the tax? (24-27)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Eighteen

Answering a question by His disciples, Jesus taught the need for child-like humility and the danger of offenses to others and to self (1-9), followed with the parable of the lost sheep (10-14). Further instructions included how to deal with a sinning brother (15-20) and the need for a forgiving heart illustrated by the parable of the unforgiving servant (21-35).

Points To Ponder

- The need for humility, and concern for others in the kingdom
- Dealing with a sinning brother, and the importance of forgiveness

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Who will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (1-5)**
- 3) **How old was the little child that Jesus used as an example? (6)**
- 4) **What types of offenses does Jesus warn against? (6-9)**
- 5) **What parable illustrates the Father's concern for the lost? (12-14)**
- 6) **In dealing with a sinning brother, what steps should be taken? (15-18)**
- 7) **What increases the likelihood that God will answer prayer? (19-20)**
- 8) **How many times should we be willing to forgive a brother? (21-22)**
- 9) **What grave warning is in the parable of the unforgiving servant? (33)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Nineteen

In response to another test by the Pharisees, Jesus spoke on the issues of marriage, divorce and celibacy (1-12). Little children were brought to Him, whom He blessed (13-15). When a rich young ruler questioned Him concerning eternal life (16-22), Jesus used the occasion to teach His disciples about possessions in relation to the kingdom of God (23-30).

Points To Ponder

- Jesus' teachings related to marriage, divorce, and celibacy
- Possessions and rewards in reference to the kingdom of God

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Who is it that joins a man and woman in marriage? (6)**
- 3) **What exception does Jesus allow for divorce? Otherwise, what occurs? (9)**
- 4) **What price might be necessary for some to enter the kingdom of heaven? (12)**
- 5) **What did Jesus say about little children? (14)**
- 6) **What did Jesus counsel the rich young ruler? (17,21)**
- 7) **What did Jesus say about being rich and the kingdom of heaven? (23-24)**
- 8) **What did Jesus promise to His apostles who left all to follow Him? (27-28)**
- 9) **What did Jesus promise to all willing to leave much to follow Him (29-30)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty

Continuing His reply to Peter's question ("...what shall we have?"), Jesus told the parable of the laborers (1-16), then predicted His death and resurrection a third time as they headed toward Jerusalem (17-19). When the mother of James and John requested a special place for her sons in the kingdom, Jesus said it was not His to give. He used the occasion to teach all His apostles the principle of greatness through service (20-28). Leaving Jericho, Jesus gave sight to two blind men who would not let the crowds deter them (29-34).

Points To Ponder

- Should one delay in their obedience to the gospel?
- The danger of a mercenary spirit
- The importance of humble service

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) Whose question had prompted the telling of the parable of the laborers? (1)
- 3) What should not be deduced from this parable? Why? (1-10)
- 4) What is the main point of the parable of the laborers? (11-16)
- 6) List the three passages in which Jesus foretold His death and resurrection
- 7) Who asked Jesus for a privileged position in His kingdom? (20-21)
- 8) What quality is considered great in the kingdom? (25-28)
- 9) What commendable spirit did the two blind men manifest? (30-31)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-One

Jesus began His Last Week before His crucifixion with a triumphant entry into Jerusalem (**1-11**), followed with dramatic acts like driving the moneychangers from the temple (**12-17**) and cursing the barren fig tree (**18-22**). His authority was soon challenged (**23-27**), and in response Jesus told the parables of the two sons (**28-32**) and the wicked vinedressers (**33-46**), understood by the religious leaders to be directed toward them.

Points To Ponder

- The significance of the triumphal entry, cleansing the temple, cursing the fig tree
- The conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem? (4-5)**
- 3) **Why was Jesus angry at the merchandising going on in the temple? (13)**
- 4) **Why were the religious leaders angry with Jesus? (15)**
- 5) **What might the cursing of the barren fig tree signify? (19)**
- 6) **Where does authority in religion come from? (25)**
- 7) **Who did the two sons in the parable represent? (28-32)**
- 8) **What prophecy foretold that religious leaders would reject Jesus? (42)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Two

Jesus told a third parable directed toward the religious leaders: the parable of the wedding feast (1-14). The leaders responded as various factions tried to trip Jesus with questions. Pharisees and Herodians asked Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar (15-22), Sadducees presented an argument against the resurrection of the dead (23-33), and a lawyer asked what was the greatest commandment of the Law (34-40). Jesus answered easily, and then silenced them with a question of His own regarding the Christ as David's son (41-46).

Points To Ponder

- Many are called, but few are chosen
- Paying taxes, the resurrection, and the greatest commandment
- How Christ is both David's son and David's Lord

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What two groups are depicted in the parable of the wedding feast? (3,11)**
- 3) **How did Pharisees and Herodians try to entangle Jesus in His talk? (15-17)**
- 4) **What did Jesus reply that prompted them to marvel? (21-22)**
- 5) **How did Sadducees try to trip Jesus? (23-28)**
- 6) **What two-fold answer did Jesus give the Sadducees? (29-32)**
- 7) **What were the two greatest commandments in the Law? (37-38)**
- 8) **How can Christ be both David's son and David's Lord? (45)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Three

With the religious leaders silenced by their inability to entangle Jesus with their questions, Jesus proceeded to decry the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees in a series of scorching rebukes (1-36). Despite His strong condemnation, His love for them was manifested by His lament for the people of Jerusalem (37-39).

Points To Ponder

- The hypocrisy of the scribes and the Pharisees
- Jesus' grief over the apostasy and fall of Jerusalem

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **What does Jesus tell people to do in regards to the scribes and Pharisees? (3)**
- 3) **List some things for which Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees (3-7)**
- 4) **What did Jesus tell His disciples not to do? Why? (8-11)**
- 5) **List the reasons for the eight woes expressed by Jesus (13,14,15,16,23,25,27,29)**
- 6) **What did Jesus say was the condition of Jerusalem? (38)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Four

This chapter records the beginning of the Olivet discourse, prompted by questions following Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple (1-3). It involves the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D., though many also see intertwining references to the Second Coming of Christ (4-51).

Points To Ponder

- The fulfillment of events foretold by Jesus in this chapter
- The importance of being prepared and productive

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What questions were prompted by Jesus' prediction? (3)
- 3) What did Jesus say would not be the sign? (4-13)
- 4) What would happen before the "end" would come? (14)
- 5) What would be the sign for those in Judea to flee? (15-16; cf. Lk 21:20-21)
- 6) What would happen immediately after the tribulation of those days? (29-31)
- 7) Where else is language like this used to describe judgment upon a nation?
- 8) What would not pass away before these things would be fulfilled? (34)
- 9) Why did Jesus stress the importance of preparation and productivity? (36-51)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Five

Jesus continued His discourse on the Mount of Olives with two parables illustrating the need to be prepared and productive: 1) the wise and foolish virgins (1-13), and 2) the talents (14-30). He concluded the discourse by predicting His judgment of the nations on how they treated His brethren (31-46).

Points To Ponder

- The importance of being prepared and productive
- The basis upon which nations are to be judged

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What parable illustrates the importance of being prepared? (1-13)
- 3) Why is it imperative that one always be prepared? (13)
- 4) Which “coming” is Jesus talking about? (13)
- 5) What parable illustrates the importance of being productive? (14-30)
- 6) Based on this parable, what does Jesus expect of His disciples? (15,21,26-27)
- 7) In the judgment depicted, who is being judged? On what basis? (32,40,45)
- 8) Where is there a similar judgment portrayed in the Old Testament?
- 9) Even if such “judgments” are limited to the nations, what do they foreshadow?
- 10) How are punishment and reward described in this chapter? (34,41,46)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Six

This lengthy chapter describes the flurry of events leading to Jesus' arrest and trial, with the plot to kill Jesus (**1-5,14-16**), Jesus' anointment by Mary (**6-13**), the last Passover supper and institution of the Lord's Supper (**17-35**), Jesus' prayers in the garden (**36-46**), the betrayal by Judas and accompanying arrest (**47-56**), the appearance before Caiaphas and the council (**57-68**), and Peter's denial as foretold by Jesus (**69-75**).

Points To Ponder

- The events leading to the arrest of Jesus
- The institution of the Lord's Supper
- Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **Who plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him? (3-4)**
- 3) **What did Jesus say would be done for Mary who anointed Him? (13)**
- 4) **For how much did Judas agree with the chief priests to betray Jesus? (14-15)**
- 5) **What did Jesus institute while eating the Passover? (26-28; cf. 1Co 11:17-34)**
- 6) **What did Jesus predict would happen that night? (31-35)**
- 7) **What did Jesus pray for three times in the garden of Gethsemane (39,42,44)**
- 8) **What claim was Jesus willing to accept at His trial? (63-64)**
- 9) **After Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, what did he do? (75)**

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Prevented by law from carrying out execution, the religious leaders sent Jesus to Pilate who condemned Him to be crucified (1-2,10-31). Meanwhile, Judas returned the betrayal money and hanged himself (3-9). Crucified along with two thieves, Jesus expired after six hours (32-56). His body was buried in Joseph's tomb, secured by Roman guards (57-66).

Points To Ponder

- The events leading to the crucifixion
- The abuse Jesus suffered prior to His actual death

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) What did Judas do when he realized Jesus was condemned? (3-5)
- 3) What did Jesus confess to Pilate? (11)
- 4) Who was released instead of Jesus? (15-26)
- 5) What abuse did the Roman soldiers inflict on Jesus? (26,28-31)
- 6) Who helped bear Jesus' cross? Where was Jesus crucified? (32-33)
- 7) Who blasphemed and mocked Jesus as He hung on the cross? (39)
- 8) What did the guards confess after seeing the events following Jesus' death? (54)
- 9) Where was Jesus buried? Who saw where He was buried? (57-61)
- 10) Why was a Roman guard placed at the tomb of Jesus? (62-66)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Chapter Twenty-Eight

On the first day of the week following His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week and appeared first to the two Marys, giving them instructions for the disciples to meet Him in Galilee (1-10). Meanwhile the chief priests and elders bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body (11-15). When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee, He charged them to go and make disciples of all the nations (16-20).

Points To Ponder

- The circumstances of Jesus' resurrection
- The details of the Great Commission

Review Questions

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- 2) Who came to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week? (1)
- 3) What had happened by the time they got there? (2)
- 4) What were the two women instructed by the angel to do? (7)
- 5) Who appeared to the two women on their way to the disciples? (9-10)
- 6) What makes the soldiers' lie about the body of Jesus fatally flawed? (13)
- 7) When the disciples saw Jesus in Galilee, what was their reaction? (16-17)
- 8) What did Jesus claim had been given to Him? (18)
- 9) What did Jesus charge His disciples to do? What did that involve? (19-20)
- 10) What did Jesus promise His disciples? (20)