

SPECIAL FEATURES OF
The Great News as reported by
MATTHEW

THE LAST DAYS BIBLE

- 1. The Last Days Bible** is a new easy to read, easy to understand translation that will motivate your faith to act.
- 2. Using the Textus Receptus Greek text** (used by the King James translators), you will find the overwhelming majority of approximately 5,000 complete and partial ancient Greek manuscripts agree with this text.
- 3. Extra large print** gives easy to read enjoyment.
- 4. Headings that contain parallel passages** give other scriptures that tell the same story.
- 5. References** show other scriptures that relate to a topic or verse.
- 6. Quotation marks with a Scripture reference let you know when an Old Testament scripture is quoted.**
- 7. Italics** inform the reader when words that do not have an equivalent in Greek are added in the English.
- 8. Discipleship Questions for each chapter.** In a small group read a chapter or section of a chapter aloud then discuss the content. The leader of the group should then ask the questions at the end of this book that relate to the chapter you are discussing.

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THE LAST DAYS BIBLE
A TRANSLATION THAT SPEAKS

THE GREAT NEWS
as reported by
MATTHEW

Matthew 1

The Ancestors of Jesus (Luke 3:23-38)

1 These are the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, who came through the families of King David and Abraham: Acts 2:30

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac, the father of Jacob, Jacob, of Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah, of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron, the father of Ram, Ruth 4:18

⁴ Ram, of Amminadad, Amminadad, of Nahshon; and Nahshon, of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse; and

⁶ Jesse was the father of David, who became king. King David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, 1 Samuel 16:1

⁷ Solomon, the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam, of Abijah, Abijah, of Asa, 1 Ki. 11:43

Matthew 1

⁸ Asa, of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat, of Joram; and Joram, of Uzziah.

⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham, the father of Ahaz, Ahaz, of Hezekiah,

¹⁰ Hezekiah, of Manasseh, Manasseh, of Amon; and Amon, of Josiah.

¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried into Babylon.

Jeremiah 27:20

¹² After they had been exiled into Babylon, Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel, of Zerubbabel,

¹³ Zerubbabel, of Abiud, Abiud, of Eliakim, Eliakim, of Azor,

¹⁴ Azor, of Zadok, Zadok, of Achim, Achim, of Elihud,

¹⁵ Elihud, of Eleazar, Eleazar, of Matthan; and Matthan, of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.*

¹⁷ So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 from David to the captivity in Babylon, and 14 from the captivity in Babylon to the coming of the Messiah.

***Matt. 1:16** – “Who is called the Messiah” (the Christ) is present tense in Greek and indicates what people continued to call Him.

Matthew 1

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, took place in a most miraculous way. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before they were married and had lived together, she was told by an angel of the Lord that she would soon have a baby by means of God's Holy Spirit.* Galatians 4:4

¹⁹ But Joseph, her fiancé, thought she had sinned.* He was a man who wanted to do the right thing, but he didn't want to disgrace her publicly,* so he decided to quietly break off the engagement. Deuteronomy 24:1-4

²⁰ But as he was seriously getting ready to do this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be reluctant about taking Mary as your wife, because the baby she will have has been conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35

²¹ "She will give birth to a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus,* because He will save His people from their sins."

***Matt. 1:18** – Read the story in Luke 1:26-38. ***Matt. 1:19** – "**Thought she had sinned,**"* that is, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. It was by the Holy Spirit but he did not know that. "**He didn't want to disgrace her publicly**"* ... by having her stoned to death ... Leviticus 20:10, or publicly divorcing her, Deut. 24:1. ***Matt. 1:21** – "**Jesus**"* means "Jehovah is Salvation," that is "the Savior."

Matthew 1, 2

²² Now all this happened so that what the Lord had announced many centuries earlier, through the prophet Isaiah, would come true, when He said:

²³ “Listen! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a Son. And they will call Him Immanuel!” (*Isaiah 7:14*) which means “God is now with us.”

²⁴ So when Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do, and he and Mary were married.

²⁵ But he had no sexual union with her until she gave birth to her firstborn Son. And he named Him Jesus.

Visitors from the East

2 Shortly after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, while Herod was king, some wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem.

² “Where is the Child who has been born to be King of the Jews?” they inquired. “We saw His star in our homeland in the East, and have come to pay Him homage.” Numbers 24:17

³ When King Herod heard this, he, like everyone else in Jerusalem, was deeply shaken by the news.

Matthew 2

⁴ He called a meeting of the entire Jewish Council, and asked them, “Where is the Messiah* to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “because this is what the prophet Micah wrote:

John 7:42

⁶ “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, though you are only a small town in the land of Judah, you are by no means less important than the leading cities of Judah, because out of you will come a Ruler who will be the Shepherd of My people Israel.’ ”

(*Micah 5:2*)

⁷ Herod then secretly called the wise men to a meeting and questioned them carefully as to when they had first seen the star.

⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after telling them, “Go and make a most careful search for the young Child, and when you find Him, come back and tell me, so that I may go and worship Him too.”

⁹ After their meeting with the king they went on their way. And look! There was the same star they had seen in the East!

***Matt. 2:4** – “**The Messiah.**” * A great Deliverer (the Messiah) had been promised Israel by God many centuries before.

Matthew 2

¹⁰ They were ecstatic upon seeing the star again. *And it went on ahead of them until it hovered over the place where the young Child was.*

¹¹ When they had entered the house, there they found the young Child with Mary, His mother. Falling to their knees they paid Him homage; and opening their treasures, they presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Psalm 72:10

The Escape to Egypt

¹² When the wise men returned home they went another way, because God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

¹³ *Then think of this!* After the wise men had left, Joseph again saw an angel of the Lord in a dream, who said, “Get up! Escape with the young Child and His mother into Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod will soon be searching for the Child to kill Him.”

¹⁴ So he got right up, and, in the middle of the night, he took the Child and His mother and left for Egypt,

¹⁵ where they stayed until Herod died. This took place so that the prophecy the Lord had spoken by the prophet Hosea would come true, when He said, “I have called My Son out of Egypt.” (*Hosea 11:1*)

Matthew 2

The Massacre of the Children

¹⁶ When Herod realized he had been outwitted by the wise men, he was furious. Acting on the information he had earlier received from them, He sent soldiers to put to death all the boys two years of age and under in Bethlehem and in the surrounding area.

¹⁷ Herod's bloody massacre brought about the fulfillment of the prophecy by Jeremiah the prophet, who had said:

¹⁸ "There are screams of soul-piercing anguish, and weeping and utterly uncontrolled mourning coming from Ramah. What you are hearing is Rachel, hysterically weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are dead!" (*Jeremiah 31:15*)

The Return Home to Nazareth

¹⁹ But after Herod died, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream in Egypt.

²⁰ "When you get up in the morning," the angel said, "take the young Child and His mother back into Israel, because those who were trying to kill Him are now dead." Exodus 4:19

²¹ So when he awoke, he immediately got up and brought the Child and His mother back to Israel.

Matthew 2, 3

²² But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus had succeeded his father as king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. After receiving further instructions from God in a dream, he withdrew from Judea and went up into the region of Galilee.

²³ He settled his family there in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled the prediction of the prophets who had said, "Messiah will be called a Nazarene."

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way

(Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:19-28)

3 Years later John the Baptizer went into the wilderness wasteland of Judea and preached.

² "Turn away from your sinning, and obey God!* he warned the people again and again. "Because the Kingdom* of Heaven has now come very close to us!*" Matthew 10:7; Mk. 1:15

Matthew 3:2 - "Turn away from your sinning, and obey God!"
The word is **repent** and the root meaning is to "turn away from sin." This does not mean to simply "be sorry or regret," but rather involves a change of heart that leads to a change of conduct. "**Kingdom**"* means "the Reign or Rule of God, His Kingly Rule." "**Has now come very close to us!**"* Literally "has approached us."

Matthew 3

³ John was the man the prophet Isaiah had told about centuries before when he had said: “Listen! Someone is shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare for the coming of the Lord! Straighten the path where He will walk!*’ ” (*Isaiah 40:3*)

⁴ As for John, his clothes were made out of camel’s hair. He wore a wide leather belt around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. 2 Kings 1:8

⁵ From Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from the whole region along the Jordan River, people streamed out to hear him.

⁶ When they openly declared that they were turning from their sins, John baptized* them in the Jordan River. Acts 19:4, 18-19

⁷ But when John saw many of the Pharisees* and Sadducees* coming to where he was baptizing, he challenged them, “You children of snakes! Who told you that you could escape God’s fierce anger and the judgment that’s coming? Matthew 23:33; Acts 24:25

***Matt. 3:3** – “**Straighten the path where He will walk!**”* or straighten out your ways for Him! ***Matt. 3:6** – “**John baptized**” ... People were baptized in the Jordan River while making a public confession of their sins. ***Matt. 3:7** – “**Pharisees**”* were a Jewish religious party whose name means ‘the separated ones.’ They cut themselves off from anyone insufficiently obeying the Law of Moses as they interpreted it. “**Sadducees**”* were a party of priests who denied the doctrine of the resurrection and of angels. See Mk. 12:18; Acts 23:8.

Matthew 3

⁸ “If you are repentant, do things that prove your hearts are changed! Acts 26:19-20

⁹ “Don’t think you are safe just because you can say, ‘Abraham is our ancestor,’ because I’m telling you that God is able to take even these stones and raise up descendants for Abraham!

John 8:39

¹⁰ “The axe of God’s judgment is already lifted high, ready to strike at the root of the trees. And every tree that is not producing good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire! Lk. 13:7-9

¹¹ “Yes, I baptize you people in water as a sign that you have now changed your mind and intend to live a new life, a life that is pleasing to God. But the One who will come after me is far more powerful than I am. I’m not fit to even carry His sandals. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.

Acts 1:5

¹² “His threshing fork is already in His hand, and He will separate all the wheat from the chaff. Then He will bring His wheat into His barn, but He will burn the chaff with fire that can never be put out.”

Matthew 13:30

The Baptism of Jesus

(Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

¹³ Then Jesus left Galilee and went to the Jordan River where John was. He wanted John to baptize Him.

Matthew 3, 4

¹⁴ But John tried to talk Him out of it, saying, “Look, I need to be baptized by You, and You come to me?”

¹⁵ “**Just do it now,**” Jesus replied, “**because it’s the right thing for us to do in order to fully please and obey God.**” So John agreed.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, He walked up out of the water. Then John saw a most remarkable happening: The heavens opened up! And he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove, and come to rest upon Jesus!

John 1:29-34

¹⁷ Then a voice from Heaven said, “This is My Son, whom I love so dearly. I am so highly pleased with Him.”

Isaiah 42:1

Jesus is Tempted

(Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

4 Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus* into the wilderness to allow the devil to test Him.

² After eating nothing for 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry.

³ The tempter then came to Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, why don’t you command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

***Matt. 4:1** – Mark 1:12 indicates this happened *immediately* after Jesus’ baptism.

Matthew 4

⁴ But Jesus responded, “**The Scriptures declare, ‘It is not possible for man to survive on bread alone. He must also feast and meditate upon every word that comes from God.’**”

(Deuteronomy 8:3)

⁵ Then the devil took Him into Jerusalem, and had Him stand on the highest part of the Temple.

⁶ “Now,” the devil said, “if you are the Son of God, jump down from here. According to Scripture: God will instruct His angels concerning You. They are to keep a firm hold on You with their hands, so that not even Your feet will be injured on the stones below.” *(Psalm 91:11-12)*

⁷ “**But the Scriptures also say,**” Jesus replied, “**You must not try to force your God into a situation where He must prove Himself.**”
(Deuteronomy 6:16)

⁸ Finally, the devil took Him to the top of a very high mountain and pointed out to Him all the nations of the world and their splendor.

⁹ “I will give you all these nations and their glory,” he promised Jesus, “if you will just kneel and worship me.”

¹⁰ “**Satan, get out of here!**” Jesus thundered. “**The Scriptures command, You shall worship the Lord, your God, and He is the only One you shall serve!**” *(Deuteronomy 6:13)*

Matthew 4

¹¹ When Jesus said that, Satan left Him. Then angels came and waited on Him. Lk. 22:43

Jesus Begins His Work

(Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15)

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been thrown into jail, He went back to Galilee.

¹³ But He soon moved from Nazareth to Capernaum, a city on the shores of Lake Galilee, in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.

¹⁴ This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy:

¹⁵ "Those who live in darkness in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali, beside the lake and beyond the Jordan River, in the area of Galilee that is occupied by many foreigners, have seen a great light!

¹⁶ Yes, light has dawned in the region that was formerly in the dark shadow of death."

(Isaiah 9:1-2)

¹⁷ That was when Jesus began preaching.

And his message was, "**Turn from your sin to obey God*, because the Kingdom* of heaven has now come very close to you!**" Matthew 10:7

***Matt. 4:17** – "**Turn from your sin to obey God**"* is what is referred to as **repentance**. It is a change of heart and mind that results in moving a completely new direction (that direction is towards God). In repentance a person turns from darkness to light, from Satan unto God. In this turn the free gift of grace that results in forgiveness (righteousness) is granted to those who believe (Acts 26:18). "**Kingdom**"* means the Rule and Reign of God, His Kingly rule.

Matthew 4

An Invitation to Four Fishermen

(Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee one day, He saw two commercial fishermen throw a large net out into the lake; they were Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew.

¹⁹ “Come along with Me,” Jesus invited them, “and I will teach you how to harvest people instead of fish.”

²⁰ They immediately left their nets and went with Him.

Mark 10:28

²¹ As He walked farther up the beach, He saw two other brothers, James and John, who were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He invited these brothers to come with Him too.

²² Without any hesitation, they too left the boat and their father, and went with Him.

Jesus Teaches, Preaches, and Heals

(Luke 6:17-19)

²³ Then Jesus traveled all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Great News about the Kingdom,* and healing every sickness and disease among the people. Matt. 9:35

Matt. 4:23 – “The Great News about the Kingdom” is the Good News about God’s Rule and Reign. It is received through repentance and faith with the result of forgiveness and promised eternal life.

Matthew 4, 5

²⁴ News about him even spread all over Syria. People brought Him all who were sick – those who suffered from various diseases and pain, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and those paralyzed – and He healed them all.

²⁵ Huge crowds followed him, coming from all over Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and even from the other side of the Jordan River.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 When Jesus saw the great crowds, He went up on a hillside. And when He sat down, all those who were following Him went up to Him,
² and He began to teach them, saying:

Great Happiness Promised

(Luke 6:20-23)

³ “**There is extreme happiness, both now and forever, for those who are poor in spirit,* because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them!*** Isaiah 57:15

***Matt. 5:3** – “**Those who are poor in spirit,**”* that is, who know they are spiritually poor, who feel their spiritual need, who look to God for everything. “**The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them,**” that is, God accepts them into His Kingdom.

Matthew 5

⁴ There is extreme happiness for those who mourn, because God will comfort them. Isaiah 61:2-3

⁵ There is extreme happiness ahead for those who are meek,* because they will inherit the earth!*

Psalm 37:11

⁶ There is extreme happiness ahead for those who hunger and thirst with desire to do what pleases God, because they will be completely fulfilled!

Matthew 6:33

⁷ There is extreme happiness ahead for those who are merciful to others, because they will receive mercy from God!

James 2:13

⁸ There is extreme happiness ahead for those whose hearts are pure, because it is they who will see God!

Psalm 24:3-4

⁹ There is extreme happiness ahead for those who work for peace, because it is they who will be called children of God!

Hebrews 12:14

Matt. 5:5 – “Meek,” that is, gentle and lowly. **“They will inherit the earth.”*** The time will come when God’s people will enjoy the benefits of heaven and the joys of a redeemed earth (See 2 Peter 3:13). Jesus spoke of the present and future visitations of the kingdom. At the end of this present evil age the kingdom will manifest in power with the result of the regeneration, rebirth and transformation of the material order (Matt. 19:28). This will be the renewal of the earth spoken of in Isaiah 11:6-9 and Romans 8:19-23.

Matthew 5

¹⁰ There is extreme happiness, both now and forever, for those who are persecuted because they do and say what they know is pleasing to God, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them! 1 Peter 3:14

¹¹ There is indeed extreme happiness coming your way when people insult and persecute you and say all kinds of things about you which are not true, because of Me. Matthew 10:22

¹² Always rejoice and be extremely glad when such persecution comes, because your reward in Heaven will be extremely great! Because that's the way the prophets *who lived and witnessed faithfully for God* before your time were treated. Acts 7:52

You are to be Salt and Light

(Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34-35; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16)

¹³ “You are the preserving salt* of the earth,” Christ continued, “with which the people of this world are to be salted *and saved*. But if the salt in your life *and testimony* has lost its sharp penetrating qualities *and healing powers and has become lifeless and useless*, how will others be convinced, convicted, saved, and preserved in purity, uprightness, and self-control by your influence and help? Such salt is good for nothing! In fact, all that remains then is that it be

Matthew 5

thrown out and trampled underfoot by people because of its worthless condition.*

¹⁴ “You are also to shine and give light to everyone in the world. It’s impossible for people not to see a city on a hill. John 8:12

¹⁵ “Neither do people light a lamp and then cover it with a large basket. No, they put it on a lampstand, and then it gives light for everyone in the room. Luke 11:33

¹⁶ “So let your light shine before others so they will see your good works.* Your Father in Heaven will receive honor when you do that.

Ephesians 5:8-9

***Matt. 5:13** – “Salt” can penetrate, give flavor, create thirst, preserve, melt the cold and heal wounds. “**You are the salt**” indicates that only those who are genuinely born again can help meet the needs of the world. If the salt loses its sharp penetrating qualities, it is worthless.

***Matt. 5:16** – “Your good works” and the good life you are living.

Regarding the Law

¹⁷ “Don’t think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses or the pronouncements of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them but to satisfy the Law and fulfill the prophecies of the prophets. Romans 3:31

¹⁸ “I tell you the absolute truth, that as long as the heavens and the earth last, there’s no possibility whatever that the smallest letter or the smallest part of a single letter will be abolished

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from the Law until its whole purpose has been accomplished. Luke 16:17

¹⁹ “So if you refuse to obey even one of the least important of these commands, and teach others that they may do so, you will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But if you obey them, and teach others to obey them, you will be called great by those in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Romans 8:4

²⁰ “Because I tell you, that unless you obey and serve God in a far better way than the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses, there’s no way whatever that you will gain entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.*

**Matt. 5:20 – “For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven” (Jerusalem Bible).*

Murder and Anger

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to our people of long ago, “You shall not commit murder,” (*Exodus 20:13*) and that whoever does must be brought to trial. Romans 13:9

²² “But I tell you that anyone who is even angry with his brother or sister for no good reason will be in danger of being brought to trial. And whoever calls his brother or sister ‘worthless,’ ‘stupid,’ or ‘shallow-brained’ shall answer to the court. Anyone who says ‘You

Matthew 5

worthless fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of Hell.*

Ephesians 4:26-27

²³ “So if you bring your gift to the altar, and while there you remember that someone carries a grudge against you,

²⁴ leave your gift at the altar. Go and get things straightened out with that person. Then come back and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Come to a quick agreement with the one who is suing you, before you come to court, so that he doesn’t bring you before the judge, and the judge then turn you over to the bailiff to be thrown into jail.

²⁶ “I assure you that there’s no way you will get out of there until you have paid the last cent you owe.

Matthew 18:34-35

***Matt. 5:22** – Jesus elevated the Law from an external act to the internal motives of the heart.

Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to our people of long ago, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ (*Exodus 20:14*)

Roman 13:9

²⁸ “But I tell you that whoever gazes at a woman with lustful desire to sin with her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ “So even if it’s your best eye that’s causing you to keep on sinning, gouge it out and

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throw it away. Because it's better that one part of your body be destroyed, than for your whole body to be thrown into Hell.

³⁰ “And if it's your right hand that's causing you to keep on sinning, then cut it off and throw it away. Because it's better that one part of your body be destroyed, than for your whole body to be thrown into Hell. Mark 9:43-47; Matthew 18:8-9

Divorce

(Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18)

³¹ “It has also been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. (Deuteronomy 24:1) Matthew 19:7; Mark 10:4

³² “But I tell you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason other than marital unfaithfulness causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a woman divorced for marital unfaithfulness is committing adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

Jesus Forbids Oaths

³³ “You have also heard that it was said to our people of long ago, ‘You shall not break the oath of your promises, but you must do whatever you promised the Lord.’

Numbers 30:2

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³⁴ “But I tell you, don’t swear by anything when you make a promise; not by Heaven, because Heaven is God’s throne, James 5:12

³⁵ or by the earth, because the earth is His footstool, or by Jerusalem, because that’s the city of the great King. Psalm 48:2

³⁶ “Don’t even swear by your own head, because you can’t make even one hair white or black.

³⁷ “Just say ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one. James 5:12

About Revenge and Giving

(Luke 6:29-30)

³⁸ “You have heard that the Law of Moses says, ‘If someone destroys the eye of another, he must pay by having his own eye destroyed. If one knocks out the tooth of another, his own tooth must be knocked out.’ (*Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21*)

³⁹ “But I tell you: Don’t resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him also.

⁴⁰ “If someone wants to take you to court and sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. I Corinthians 6:7

⁴¹ “If someone forces you to go a mile, go two miles with him.

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⁴² “Give to the one who asks you for something; and if someone asks to borrow something from you, lend it to him. Dt. 15:8

Love Your Enemies

(Luke 6:27-28; 32-36)

⁴³ “You have heard that it’s been said, ‘You shall love your neighbor,* (Leviticus 19:18) and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴ “But I tell you: Make it your practice to love your enemies. Speak kindly to those who curse you, and do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who treat you with contempt and persecute you. Exodus 23:4-5; Romans 12:14, 20

⁴⁵ “If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in Heaven, because He causes His sun to rise on evil people as well as on those who are good. And He sends rain for those who do wrong as well as for those who do what’s right.

Ephesians 5:1

⁴⁶ “What reward can you expect from God if you love only those who love you? Even the morally debased tax-collectors do that.

⁴⁷ “And if you are friendly and considerate only toward your friends and relatives, what are you doing more than others? Even the corrupt tax-collectors do that.

Matt. 5:43 – “Love your neighbor,” that is, your friend.

Matthew 5, 6

48 “So you must always aim at conducting yourselves as fully developed followers of Mine in every situation, striving to act as perfectly and maturely as your Father in Heaven. Leviticus 19:2

Give Honorably and Profitably

6 “Take warning: Be careful not to do your charitable and good deeds publicly, to call attention to what you’ve done.* If you do, you will get no reward from your Father in Heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, don’t broadcast the fact with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and out on the streets, in order to win the praise of others. I tell you the truth: They have received all the reward they will ever get. Matthew 23:5

³ “But when you give to the needy, do it in such a way that even your closest friends won’t know about it, so that your giving is done in secret.

⁴ “Then your Father, who continually watches you in secret, will Himself reward you openly.

***Matt. 6:1** – It may seem that Christ is contradicting what He said in Matthew 5:16, but this is not the case. In Matthew 5:16 Christ is challenging His followers to live in such a way that they will bring honor to God. But here in Matthew 6:1 the Lord is warning about giving to the needs of others in such a way that you seek honor for yourself.

Matthew 6

The Model Prayer

(Luke 11:1-4)

⁵ “And when you pray don’t be like the hypocrites, who love to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners so everyone will see them. I tell you the truth: They have already received all the reward they will ever get. Luke 18:10-12

⁶ “But when you pray, go to your room and shut the door. Then pray to your Father who is watching in secret, and your Father, who sees you there, will reward you openly. 2 Kings 4:33

⁷ “And as you pray, don’t keep mindlessly repeating the same words over and over again, like the heathen do. They think that the more words they say, the more likely they are to have their prayers heard. Eccl. 5:1-2

⁸ “Don’t be like them, because your Father knows all about the things you need before you even ask Him. Luke 12:30

⁹ “Instead, pray like this: ‘Our Father who is in Heaven, may Your name be most highly revered!

¹⁰ Reign as King in every life! May You be fully obeyed here on earth, just as You are in Heaven.

¹¹ Continue to give us the food we need for each day. Proverbs 30:8

Matthew 6

¹² And forgive us all the wrongs we have done, in the same way that we forgive those who have wronged us.

¹³ Keep us from being tempted in any way to do wrong. Instead, liberate us from the temptations of the flesh and of the Evil One. Because we belong to Your Kingdom! And all power and glory are Yours forever! May it always be so!’

Luke 22:40, 46

¹⁴ “Because if you forgive those who have wronged you, your Father in Heaven will also forgive you.

Mark 11:25

¹⁵ “But if you don’t forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you. Mark 11:26

True and Effective Fasting

¹⁶ “Also, when you fast, don’t go around with a sad face like the hypocrites do. They actually neglect their hair, face, and clothes, to make sure everyone will know they are fasting. I assure you, they already have all the reward they will ever get.

¹⁷ “But when you fast, wash your face and comb your hair, so that others won’t know you are fasting. Only your Father will know.

¹⁸ “And your Father who is watching all that is done, though unseen by anyone, will reward you openly.

Matthew 6

Make Eternal Investments in Heaven

(Luke 12:33-34)

¹⁹ “Stop piling up treasured material things for yourselves here on earth, where every imaginable kind of moth and corrosion can destroy them, and where thieves can break in and steal them from you. Proverbs 23:4

²⁰ “Instead, pile up treasures for yourselves in Heaven. No disasters of any kind can destroy them there, and no thieves can break in and steal them. Mark 10:21

²¹ “Remember, your heart will always be where your treasure is.

²² “Your eyes act as windows for your body. If they are clear and in good condition, your whole body will be flooded with light.

²³ “But if your eyes have degenerated and are now useless, your whole body will be full of darkness. In the same way, if the eyes of your understanding, which should be giving you light in your soul, are keeping you in darkness instead, consider how dreadful that darkness is.

²⁴ “You cannot serve two masters, because either you will hate one of them and love the other, or you will serve one with zeal and have little or no time for the other. You cannot be zealously occupied in serving both God and money. Luke 16:13

Matthew 6

Never Worry

(Luke 12:22-31)

²⁵ “For this reason I most earnestly tell you: Don’t worry about what will be available for you to eat and drink in order to stay alive. And don’t worry about your body about clothing you will need. Isn’t life more precious than food, and the body than its clothing?

²⁶ “Look at the birds in the air. They don’t plant seeds or gather in a harvest and put it into barns; but your Father in Heaven is continually feeding them. Are you not much more highly valued by God than the birds? Job 38:41

²⁷ “Which of you by worry and anxious care can add 18 inches to your height?*

²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothes? Look at the lilies out in the field, how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves.

²⁹ “But I tell you that even Solomon, with all the wealth and power he had, was never able to dress himself as beautifully as one of these flowers.

***Matt. 6:27** - The Greek word *heylikian* can refer either to the *length of one’s life* or to one’s *stature*.

Matthew 6, 7

³⁰ “Now then, if God so beautifully dresses the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown on the fire tomorrow, won’t He even more surely provide you with clothing? How can you have so little faith!

³¹ “So don’t worry, saying, ‘Will we have anything to eat?’ or ‘Will there be something to drink?’ or ‘How will we get clothes to wear?’

³² “Those are the very things the people of the world are always so concerned about. But your Father in Heaven knows all about your need for all these things.

Luke 12:30

³³ “Your chief concern, above all else, must be to seek the Kingdom of God, and do all that is pleasing to Him. If you sincerely do that, in one way or another all the things you need will be provided for you.

Luke 12:31

³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, because with tomorrow will come the ability and the opportunities to deal with tomorrow’s problems. Today’s problems are enough for you to be concerned about today.

Stop Judging Others

(Luke 6:37; 41-42)

7 “Stop condemning others, and God won’t condemn you.

Matthew 7

² “Because God will treat you in the same way that you treat others. The same measuring stick you use to measure others will be used by God to measure you. Romans 2:1-3

³ “And why do you fret about the tiny speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye, when, look, you completely ignore the big log in your own eye?

⁴ “How can you dare say to your brother, ‘Let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you refuse to deal with the big log in your own eye?

⁵ “You hypocrite! First remove the log from your own eye. Then you’ll be able to see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

⁶ “Don’t give that which is sacred to the dogs, or throw your pearls in front of pigs.* If you do, they may merely trample them under foot, and then turn on you and tear you to pieces.

***Matt. 7:6** – The meaning is, don’t waste much time with people who are savage and snarling haters of the Great News. Use your time wisely, and seek those who are willing to listen.

To Pray Effectively

(Luke 11:9-13)

⁷ “When you pray, you must earnestly persist* in your asking; then what you are asking for will definitely be given to you. Keep on

Matthew 7

diligently seeking,* and you definitely will find what you are looking for. Keep on loudly knocking,* and the door will open for you.

⁸ “Because everyone who keeps on asking* is definitely in the process of receiving, and everyone who keeps on seeking* is definitely in the process of finding, and for the one who keeps on knocking,* the door will open.

⁹ “Would any of you men here give a stone to your children if they asked you for bread?

¹⁰ “Or if they asked for a fish, would you give them a snake? Of course not!

¹¹ “If you, then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good things to those who earnestly persevere in asking* Him for them!

¹² “In every situation, treat others in the same way that you want them to treat you. This is the very heart of the Law of Moses and the books of the prophets. Galatians 5:14

*Matt. 7:7, 8, 11 – All are present tense in the Greek, representing continuous action.

The Narrow and Wide Gates

(Luke 13:24-27)

¹³ “You must find and enter the narrow gate in order to get onto the road that leads to

Matthew 7

eternal life! The gate that leads to Hell and destruction is wide, and the road leading there is broad, and most everyone is traveling that easy road.

¹⁴ “The reason so many travel the broad road is because of the narrowness of the gate one must enter to get onto the road that leads to life, and because the road that leads to life is also narrow and difficult. So there are few who are looking for it with enough diligence to find it.

John 14:6

Beware of False Teachers

(*Matthew 24:24; 2 Th. 2:9-12; Dt. 13:1-3; Jer. 23:16-17*)

¹⁵ “You must constantly be on the alert* for men who preach a false message. They come to you looking like gentle sheep, but if you could look inside their hearts, you would discover that they are bloodthirsty wolves who will tear you apart!

2 Peter 2:1-2

¹⁶ “You will be able to tell what they really are by the fruits* they bear. Do you gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

***Matt. 7:15** – The present tense in the Greek causes the meaning to be, “You must constantly be on alert and continue to be on alert for men who preach a false message. **Matt. 7:16, 20** – The word “fruits” is plural in both verses because we are not only to judge the life of the preacher, but we are to judge the results of his preaching in the lives of his listeners. Have the people become doers of God’s Word?

Matthew 7

17 “The obvious truth is: Every good tree always produces good fruit, but a bad tree always produces *poisonous* or worthless fruit.

18 “A good tree cannot produce *poisonous* or worthless fruit, and a corrupt tree cannot produce good fruit.

19 “Every tree that fails to produce good fruit will soon be cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 “So you will be sure to recognize false preachers by the fruits* they produce. Matt. 12:33

21 “Not everyone who continues to call Me ‘Lord’* will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who practice* obedience to My Father in Heaven will be allowed in. Lk. 6:46; Jas. 1:22

22 “On Judgment Day there will be many who will say to Me, ‘But, Lord! O Lord! Didn’t we prophesy and preach in your name? We even drove out demons and performed many miracles in Your name!’ Acts 19:13-15

***Matt. 7:21** – “**Call Me Lord.**” The present tense in Greek causes this phrase to mean, “Not everyone who calls Him Lord and continues to call Him Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“**Those who practice obedience**” – The present tense causes this phrase to mean, “Only those who practice obedience to my Father in Heaven and continue to practice obedience will be allowed in.” This is a phrase that describes the ongoing process of repentance and its fruit (See Acts 26:19-20; Romans 2:7-10). This is not salvation by works, this is the fruit of salvation, the evidence of salvation and grace (Titus 2:11-12).

Matthew 7

23 “Then I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get out of My presence, you who insist on living as you please* instead of obeying God!’ Luke 13:25-27; 2 Tim. 2:19

***Matt. 7:23** – Again the Greek uses the present tense which is brought out by the phrase, ‘you who insist on living as you please ...’ The King James Version says, ‘you that work iniquity.’ The present tense means, they practice living in sin. For this reason they have by-passed repentance and will not enter God’s Kingdom, even though they use the religious words, ‘Lord, Lord.’

Wise and Foolish People

(Luke 6:47-49)

24 “So everyone who is listening to what I have just said, and continues* to put My words into practice, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 “The rain came down in torrents, and the flood waters rose. The winds blew fiercely and pounded the house, but it didn’t break apart because it was built on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears what I have just said, and still ignores Me and fails to put My words into practice, is like a man who was foolish enough to build his house on sand. James 1:23

Matt. 7:24 – “Continues,”* is present tense in Greek.

Matthew 7, 8

²⁷ “The rain came down in torrents, the flood water rose, the winds blew fiercely, pounding the house, and it collapsed, with devastating results.”

²⁸ When Jesus finished talking, the people who had heard Him were utterly amazed at the way He had taught. Mark 1:22

²⁹ Because he didn't teach at all like the teachers of the Law of Moses, lacking confidence, but with great authority.

The Healing of the Leper

(Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-14)

8 After Jesus came down from the hillside, great crowds followed Him.

² Suddenly a man suffering with leprosy came and knelt down in front of Him, pleading, “Sir, I know that if You want to, You are able to make me well.”

³ Jesus reached out His hand and touched him, and said, “**I do want to. Be well!**” Immediately the man's leprosy was gone!

⁴ “**Make sure you don't tell anyone about this,**” Jesus told him. “**But go to the priest and show him that you are now well. Bring an offering, as Moses instructed,* as a testimony to everyone that you are now healed.**” Lev. 14:1-4

***Matt. 8:4** – “**Instructed**”* in Leviticus chapters 13 and 14.

Matthew 8

A Servant Healed

(Luke 7:1-10; John 4:46-53)

⁵ When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a Roman army captain came to Him with an urgent request.

⁶ “Sir,” he said, “my servant is lying at home paralyzed and in frightful pain.”

⁷ “**I will go and heal him,**” Jesus replied.

⁸ “Sir,” the captain responded, “I’m not worthy to have you come into my home. Just give the command, and my servant will be healed.

⁹ “Because I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. I command, ‘Go’ to one, and he goes. To another I say, ‘Come’ and he comes. I tell my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ Jesus was so amazed when He heard this, that He said to those following Him, “**I tell you the truth, I haven’t found such great faith anywhere, not even among the Jews.**

¹¹ “**Many will come from the east and the west, I tell you, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the Feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.** Matthew 21:43

¹² “**While many who should have been in the Kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” Matthew 13:41-42

Matthew 8

¹³ Then Jesus said to the Roman captain,
“**Be on your way, because what you have
believed would happen has already happened.**”
And his servant was healed that very moment.
Matthew 15:28

Many People Healed by Jesus

(Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)

¹⁴ When Jesus arrived at Peter’s house, He found Peter’s mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever.

¹⁵ He simply touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got right up and started preparing a meal for them.

¹⁶ When evening came, the people brought many to Him who were demon possessed. He drove the evil spirits out with a single word, and He healed all who were sick.

¹⁷ In doing this, He made the prophecy of Isaiah come true that says: ‘He Himself took our sicknesses and carried away our diseases.’

(Isaiah 53:4)

The Cost of Following Jesus *(Luke 9:57-62)*

¹⁸ Sometime later,* when Jesus noticed how large the crowd was growing, He ordered the Twelve to prepare to cross to the other side of the lake.

***Matt. 8:18** – “Sometime later,” implied from Mark 4:35.

Matthew 8

¹⁹ A teacher of the Law then came up to Him and said, “Teacher, I’ll follow You wherever You go.”

²⁰ “**Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests,**” Jesus replied, “**but the Son of Man has no home or possessions here, not even a pillow He can call His own.**”

²¹ Then another of His followers said, “Sir, let me stay at home until I bury my father.”

²² “**Follow Me,**” Jesus responded, “**and let those who are spiritually dead bury their own dead!***”

***Matt. 8:22** – This man wanted to follow Jesus, but wanted to wait until his father had died, which could be many years later. Christ wanted him to know that following and serving Him was of far more importance than any other obligation.

Jesus Calms a Storm

(Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)

²³ Then Jesus and His followers got into the boat and started across the lake.

²⁴ Suddenly, when they were part way across, a fierce storm swept down over the lake, creating such extreme turbulence that the waves towered over the boat and threatened to bury them. But Jesus just lay there sleeping.

²⁵ So His followers rushed over to Him and frantically shook Him awake, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re about to die!”

Matthew 8

²⁶ “**Oh, what little faith you have!**” He replied. “**Why are you so afraid?**” Then He stood up and ordered the wind and the waves to stop their violence, and everything became completely calm.

²⁷ The men were utterly amazed. “What kind of man is this!” they exclaimed. “Why, even the wind and waves obey Him.”

Two Men with Demons Healed

(Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)

²⁸ When they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the district of the Gergesenes, two demon-possessed men came out from among the tombs in a graveyard and met Him. They were extremely fierce, so much so that no one dared to travel the road there.

²⁹ Suddenly they screamed, “What business do You have in coming to us, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come to torment us before the appointed time?” Luke 4:34

³⁰ Not far from them was a large herd of pigs feeding.

³¹ “If You force us out,” the demons pleaded, “please allow us to enter that herd of pigs.”

Matthew 8, 9

³² All Jesus said was, “Go!” And they came out of the men and promptly entered the herd. But immediately, that whole herd of pigs ran violently down a steep bank and into the lake, and drowned.

³³ When that happened, the men herding the pigs ran into town and reported everything that had happened, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

³⁴ And listen! It looked like everyone in town was coming out to angrily confront and threaten* Jesus. But once they saw him, they merely begged Him to leave their part of the country. Acts 16:39

Matt. 8:34 – “**Angrily confront and threaten Jesus.**” The King James Version uses the word **meet** in this verse but it probably does not have the idea of “becoming acquainted with.” It most likely has the idea of encounter or angrily confronting.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

(Mark 2:3-12; Luke 5:18-26)

9 So Jesus got into the boat and crossed back over to the town where He lived.

² Soon after, some men came to him bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a stretcher. Seeing how strong and determined their faith was, Jesus said to the paralytic, “**Cheer up, My son. Your sins are forgiven.**”

Matthew 9

³ Immediately some of the teachers of the Law thought to themselves, “This man’s a blasphemer!” Matthew 26:65; John 10:33

⁴ But Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He said, “**Why are you thinking such evil thoughts?**” Luke 6:8

⁵ “**Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or, ‘Get up and walk’?**”

⁶ “**But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ... ‘Stand up!’**” He said to the man. “**Now fold up your stretcher and be on your way home.**”

⁷ And he got right up and went home!

⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were astounded, and praised God for giving such power to men. Acts 9:33-35

The Calling of Matthew

(Mark 2:14-17; Luke 5:27-32)

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector’s booth. “**Come with Me,**” Jesus invited him. And Matthew got right up and went with Him.

¹⁰ Matthew then invited Jesus and His followers to his home for dinner. He also invited many other tax collectors and other sinners. Mark 2:15

¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His followers, “Why does your teacher eat

Matthew 9

with these crooked tax collectors and other sinners!” Luke 15:1-2

¹² Upon hearing this, Jesus said, “**Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do.**

Mark 2:17

¹³ “**But go and learn what this Scripture means: ‘I am even more concerned that you be merciful to others, than that you sacrifice to Me.’ (Hosea 6:6) I didn’t come to call those who consider themselves so godly that they have no need of further help. I’m here to call sinners to turn from their sinning to living lives of obedience to God.’**”* Jer. 18:11; Ezek. 18:30; Dan. 4:27; Acts 3:19

***Matt. 9:13 - “I’m here to call sinners to turn from their sinning to living lives of obedience to God.”** This phrase is translated from the English term “**repentance**” and the Greek word *metanoia*. *The Lexical Aids to the New Testament* states about *metanoia*, “Repentance is a change of mind from evil to good or from worse to better.” See Jeremiah 18:11, Ezekiel 18:30, Daniel 4:27 and Acts 3:19.

A Question about Fasting

(Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39)

¹⁴ One day the followers of John the Baptizer came to Jesus and asked Him, “Why is it that we and the Pharisees often go without food, but Your followers never fast?”

¹⁵ “**Would you expect the guests at a wedding reception to go without food while the bridegroom is with them?**” Jesus asked in reply.

Matthew 9

“But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them. They will indeed fast then.

Acts 13:2-3

¹⁶ “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth onto an old garment, because when the patch would shrink, it would pull away from the old cloth and make a bigger hole.

¹⁷ “Nor does anyone pour new wine into old wineskins, because the wine would swell and burst the old skins. Then the wine would spill out, and the skins would also be ruined. New wine is put into new wineskins; then both are preserved.”

One Dead and One Sick

(Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56)

¹⁸ While He was still speaking to them, an official of the synagogue rushed up and knelt before Him, saying, “My daughter has just died! But come and put Your hand on her, and she will live again.”

¹⁹ So Jesus and His followers got up and went with him.

²⁰ Then with extreme urgency, a woman who had suffered a severe bleeding problem for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His prayer shawl.

²¹ “If I can just touch His shawl,” she had said to herself, “I will be healed.”

Matthew 9

²² Jesus turned around, and looking at her, He said, “**Take courage, My daughter, your faith has made you well.**” And the woman was instantly healed! Mark 10:52; Luke 7:50; Acts 3:16

²³ When Jesus entered the official’s home and saw the funeral musicians and the wailing crowd, 2 Chron. 35:25

²⁴ He said, “**Everybody out! The girl is not dead, but asleep.**” The people there couldn’t believe anyone would say such a thing at such a time, and they laughed at Him in scorn.

²⁵ But when the crowd had been put out, He went into the girl’s room and took her by the hand, and the girl got right up! Mark 5:41- 42; Luke 8:54-55

²⁶ News about this great miracle spread throughout all that part of Israel. Mark 1:28; Luke 5:15

Two Blind and one Mute Healed

²⁷ As Jesus left there, two blind men began following Him and shouting, “Son of David! Have pity on us!” Matthew 20:30-31; Mark 10:47

²⁸ When he went indoors, the blind men went in too. So Jesus asked them, “**Do you believe I am able to do what you are asking?**” “Yes, Sir, we do!” they replied.

²⁹ So He touched their eyes, and said, “**Let it happen then, as you believe.**”

Matthew 9

³⁰ Immediately they could see! “**Now listen:**” Jesus strongly ordered them, “**Do not tell anyone about this.**” Mark 7:36; Isaiah 42:2

³¹ But when they left, they told everyone about Him throughout that whole region.

³² And as these men were leaving the house, a man was brought to Jesus who was demon-possessed and couldn’t talk.

³³ After Jesus forced the demon out, the man started talking! The crowd was amazed, saying, “Nothing like this has ever happened before in Israel!” Matthew 12:22

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “It’s the ruler of the demons who gives him the power to drive out demons.” Mark 3:22

A Bumper Harvest – Pray for Workers!

³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the cities and towns, teaching in their synagogues, telling the Great News about the Kingdom of God, and healing every kind of disease and sickness of the people. Matthew 4:23

³⁶ When He saw the crowds, His heart went out to them, because they were weary and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷ “**There are so many people to harvest,**” He said to His followers, “**but so few workers to harvest them.**”

Matthew 9, 10

³⁸ “So plead most earnestly* with the Lord of the harvest to send *more* laborers into His field, for the laborers are scarce. John 4:35

***Matt. 9:38** – “Plead most earnestly.” The Greek *deomai* means to beg, plead, implore – not merely ask. This harvest is a matter of life or death, forever!

Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

(Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16)

10 Then Jesus called together His twelve followers. He gave them power to drive out evil spirits and to cure every kind of disease and sickness. Mark 3:14-15; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1-2

² The names of the twelve apostles* were: Simon, better known as Peter; his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee; his brother John; Acts 1:13

³ Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus; Lebbaeus, whose last name was Thaddaeus;

⁴ Simon, the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot, the one who later betrayed Him. Matthew 26:25

***Matt. 10:2** – “Apostles”* means “one who is sent as a messenger.”

Matthew 10

Apostles Instructed and Sent Out

(Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6)

⁵ Jesus sent these twelve out with the following instructions: “Do not go to the Gentiles,* and don’t go into any Samaritan* towns.

⁶ “Instead, go to the lost sheep of Israel.

Jeremiah 50:6

⁷ “As you go, cry out to the people, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven has come very near to you!’

Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Luke 10:9

⁸ “Heal the sick, cure the lepers, restore the dead to life, and drive out the demons. What you received was given you free of charge; now give without expecting to be paid.

⁹ “Don’t bring gold, silver, or money of any kind with you.

¹⁰ “Don’t carry a knapsack* or an extra coat or shoes or walking stick; because the worker is worthy of being supported by those to whom he ministers.* 1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Timothy 5:18

Matt. 10:5 – “Gentiles.” All who are not Jews. “Samaritan.”* Samaritans were a mixed blood, only part Jewish (2 Kings 17:24).

Matt. 10:10 – “Knapsack” ... for food and other essentials ...

“The worker is worthy of being supported by those to whom he ministers.”* The Lord wanted them to experience how well He could supply all their needs. Take care not to spend your life making provision for self-support before obeying the call of God.

Matthew 10

11 “When you come to a city or town, ask the people there who they could recommend as an upright and worthy person, and stay in his home until you leave. Luke 10:8

12 “And when you go to a home, greet the people there warmly.

13 “If they offer you their support and cooperation, ask God’s blessing on them. But if they offer no help, keep the blessing you had reserved for them. Luke 10:5

14 “And when you leave the house or city where the people refuse to receive you or listen to your message, shake the very dust of that place from your feet!*

Acts 13:51

15 “I tell you the truth, God will show more mercy to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than to the people of that city *or home*. Jude 1:7

Matt. 10:14 – “Shake the very dust of that place from your feet!” This is a ritual act symbolizing God’s Judgment against those who reject the Messiah. “But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, ‘Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’” (Acts 18:6, NIV).

Beware of Trouble

(Mark 13:9-13; Luke 21:12-19)

16 “Now listen! I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as clever as snakes and as harmless as doves. Acts 20:29

Matthew 10

17 “You must constantly be on your guard against certain people, because they will have you arrested, tried in their religious courts, and whipped in their synagogues.* Acts 5:40; Acts 26:11

18 “And because you represent Me, you will be brought before governors and kings, so that you can tell them and their people about Me. Acts 25:24-26

19 “But when they arrest you, don’t worry about what you should say at your trial, or how you should say it, because the words will be given you when it’s your time to speak.

20 “It won’t be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father in Heaven will be speaking through you. Luke 12:11-12; Acts 4:8-9

21 “A man will even betray his brother and have him put to death. Fathers will betray their own children, and children will turn against their parents and have them put to death. Micah 7:6;

Luke 21:16

22 “You will be hated by everyone because of the stand you take for Me. But if you remain faithful to Me to the end of your life, you will be saved.

***Matt. 10:17** – “Synagogues.”* Places of public worship and teaching for the Jews. Jewish men capable of teaching were permitted to do so in the synagogue (See Acts 13:14-16).

Matthew 10

23 “When they persecute you in one city, move on quickly to the next, because I tell you the truth, you won’t even cover all the cities in Israel before the Son of Man comes.* Acts 14:6

24 “A student can’t expect to be treated with greater respect than his teacher; nor a servant, than his master. John 13:16; John 15:20

25 “So a student should be satisfied if he is treated in the same way that his master is. If they have called Me, the Master of the house, Beelzebul,* it is certain they will call the members of My household even worse names.

Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15; John 8:48, 52

***Matt. 10:23** – “You won’t even cover all the cities in Israel before the Son of Man comes”* ... *to judge Israel*. Which happened when Rome crushed Israel only 40 years later, in A.D. 70.

Matt. 10:25 – “**Beelzebul**”* (lord of flies was a god of the Ekronites (2 Kings 1:2). The Jews had given this name to Satan.

Fear only God (Luke 12:2-7)

26 “But don’t be afraid of them, because there’s nothing that’s now covered up that won’t one day be uncovered; and nothing hidden that won’t then be exposed. Mark 4:22

27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak it out in broad daylight; and what I whisper in your ear, preach it from the housetops!

28 “Never be afraid of people. The most they can do is kill your body, but they can’t kill your soul. But always fear God, who is able to

Matthew 10

bring both body and soul to utter ruin in Hell!

Isaiah 8:12-13; Luke 12:4-5

²⁹ “Don’t they sell two sparrows for a mere copper coin? Still, not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing about it *and allowing it.* Luke 12:6

³⁰ “But as for you, God even knows the number of hairs on your head. Luke 21:18

³¹ “So don’t be afraid, because you are of far more value to God than an enormous number of sparrows. Matthew 6:26

We Must Never be Ashamed of Jesus!

(Luke 12:8-9)

³² “So then, if you will speak out and share* with others what you know and believe about me, I will speak to My Father in heaven about you. I will tell Him that you are one who belongs to Me. Romans 10:9

³³ “But whoever denies or disowns Me before others* – I will also deny or disown before My Father in Heaven.* Mark 8:38; 2 Timothy 2:12

***Matt. 10:32** – “**Speak out and share.**” A confession of Christ includes our actions as well as our words. ***Matt. 10:33** – “**Disowns Me before others.**” Christ can be disowned by both words and actions. “**I will also deny or disown before My Father in Heaven.**”* “But all who stand before others and say they do not believe in me, I will say before my Father in heaven that they do not belong to me” (New Century Version).

Matthew 10

Jesus' Declaration of War and His Call to Arms! (Luke 12:51-53; Luke 14:26-27)

³⁴ “Don't get the idea that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but war! Luke 12:49, 51-53

³⁵ “Because My coming, and the message I bring, “ will turn sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law.

³⁶ Your worst enemies will many times be the members of your own family.’ (Micah 7:6)

³⁷ “But If you love your father or mother or son or daughter more than you love Me, you are not qualified to be a follower of Mine! Luke 14:26

³⁸ “Neither are you qualified to receive all that I came to give if you are unwilling to take up your own cross* and follow My example. Mark 8:34-35

³⁹ “If you insist on living your life as you yourself please, you will lose it, but if you are willing to lose your present life for My sake, you will find it in eternal life.* Lk.17:33; John 12:25

***Matt. 10:38** – “Take up your own cross.” Jesus was demanding a total commitment, even unto physical death. This call to full surrender was a part of the message his followers were to proclaim to others. ***Matt. 10:39** – “You will find it in eternal life.” Jesus' followers were giving up their own rights to their lives. In so doing they would find His life in return.

Matthew 10, 11

Promised Rewards (Mark 9:41)

⁴⁰ “The person who welcomes you is welcoming Me, and the one who welcomes Me is actually welcoming the One who sent Me. Jn. 12:44

⁴¹ “When you welcome and help someone who is faithfully and boldly speaking out for God, because you recognize him as a true messenger of God, you will receive the same reward that he will. And when you welcome and assist a good man because of the fact that he is living to please God, you will receive the same reward that he will. 1 Kings 17:10; 18:4; 2 Kings 4:8

⁴² “And if you give as little as a cup of cold water to one of the least admired followers of Mine, because of the fact that he is My follower, I tell you the truth, you won’t fail to be rewarded, even for that.” Matt. 18:5-6; 25:40; Mark 9:41; Heb. 6:10

Messengers from John the Baptizer

(Luke 7:19-35)

11 When Jesus had finished instructing His twelve followers, He left there to teach and preach in the neighboring cities.

² While in jail, John heard about the things the Messiah* was doing, and he sent two of his followers to Him. Luke 7:18-19

*Matt. 11:2 – *Messiah** the anointed One, usually anointed as King.

Matthew 11

³ “Are You the One we were promised would come?” they asked Him. “Or are we to keep on looking for someone else?” Deut. 18:15, 18; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9

⁴ “Go back and tell John what you’ve been hearing and seeing,” Jesus replied.

⁵ “People who were blind now see, those who were lame are walking, lepers have been cured, the deaf can hear, the dead are being brought back to life, and the Great News is being preached to the poor. Isaiah 35:4-6; 61:1; Luke 4:18-19

⁶ “Happy and blessed by God is the person to whom I will not be a stumbling block.” Isaiah 8:14-15; Matthew 13:57; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 1 Peter 2:8

⁷ As John’s followers were leaving, Jesus said to the crowds concerning John, “What kind of person did you go out into the wilderness to see? Were you looking for someone like tall grass that is easily swayed this way or that by whichever way the wind is blowing?

⁸ “But what kind of person did you actually go out to see? Were you looking for a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes live in expensive homes.

⁹ “But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and you found one who is far greater than any other prophet. Mt. 14:5;21:26; Lk.1:76

Matthew 11

¹⁰ “Because John is the one about whom God was speaking when He said to His Son:

‘Listen! I am sending My messenger to go ahead of You. He will prepare the people to receive You.’ (*Malachi 3:1*) Mk. 1:2; Lk. 7:27

¹¹ “I tell you the truth, no woman has ever given birth to anyone who has risen to a higher level of greatness than John the Baptizer. But even the least important person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John is now.

¹² “And from the days that John the Baptizer started preaching, until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been under siege, but only those who are thoroughly and fiercely determined to enter are gaining entrance.* Luke 13:24; Luke 16:16

¹³ “Because all the pronouncements of the Law of Moses and of the prophets before John* looked forward to this time. Malachi 4:6

¹⁴ “And if you are willing to receive it, John is Elijah,* who is yet to come. Mal. 4:5; Mt. 17:10-13; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:17

***Matt. 11:12** – “He that will take, or get possession of the kingdom ... must be in earnest. All Hell will oppose him in every step he takes. This requires a *violent* earnestness” (Adam Clark Commentary). ***Matt. 11:13** - “**Moses and the prophets**” were the instructors concerning the Messiah who was to come, until John came. ***Matt. 11:14** – “**John is Elijah.**” Very likely meaning, John is *like* Elijah, because even John said he was not Elijah (Jn. 1:21). He came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).

Matthew 11

¹⁵ “If you have been given ears for the purpose of hearing, then give serious consideration to this.

Matthew 13:9; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8

¹⁶ “But to what can I compare the response of you people of today? The situation is similar to children sitting in the marketplaces, whose playmates call out to them and complain,

¹⁷ ‘We played wedding music for you on the flute, but you wouldn’t dance! We sang funeral songs, but you wouldn’t cry!’ Luke 7:31-32

¹⁸ “Because when John came he didn’t eat or drink with others, and they said, ‘He has a demon in him.’ Luke 1:15

¹⁹ “On the other hand, the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! He’s nothing but a gluttonous drunkard and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wise actions are always later proved to be right by the results.” Luke 7:35

Disaster Awaits Unrepentant People

(Luke 10:13-15)

²⁰ Then He began to publicly denounce the people in the cities where most of His miracles had been performed, because they repented not.

Luke 10:13

Matthew 11

²¹ “Awful misery and suffering lies ahead for you people in Chorazin! The same awaits you in Bethsaida! Because if the great miracles I did for you in your cities had been performed long ago in sinful Tyre and Sidon, those people would have repented long ago, dressed in sackcloth and putting on ashes (*as a sign of remorse*). Jonah 3:7-8

²² “I assure you, the people of ancient Tyre and Sidon will receive a lighter sentence on Judgment Day than you will! Matthew 10:15

²³ “And you people of Capernaum, you who have been lifted up to Heaven,* you will be delivered down into Hell! Because if the great miracles I did for you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained a city to this day.

²⁴ “And I tell you, those who lived in Sodom will receive a lighter sentence on Judgment Day than you will.” Matthew 10:15

***Matt. 11:23** – “You people of Capernaum, you who have been lifted up to Heaven.” Jesus had made Capernaum His headquarters during His entire public life.

There is Rest for the Weary (Luke 10:21-22)

²⁵ Then, in reference to what He had just said, Jesus prayed, “O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, I thank You for hiding these things from those who consider themselves to be so wise and

Matthew 11, 12

learned, and revealing them instead to those who are childlike in faith and acceptance. Matt. 16:17

²⁶ “Yes, My Father, because that’s the way You were pleased that it should be.”

²⁷ Then turning to His followers He said, “My Father has delivered everything into My hands. No one has a thorough comprehension of the Son, except the Father. And no one has a thorough comprehension of the Father, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

²⁸ “Come to Me, all of you who are working so hard and are burdened down with so many cares, and I will give you rest. Jeremiah 6:16

²⁹ “Accept My direction for your life and learn of Me, I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ “Because My yoke* is easy to wear, and the load I ask you to carry is truly light.” 1 Jn. 5:3

***Matt. 11:30** – “My yoke.”* A *yoke* is a wooden frame to fasten two animals together to pull a load, a plow, etc.

A Question about the Sabbath

(*Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-11*)

12 Around that time, Jesus was walking by some grainfields on a Sabbath* day. His

***Matt. 12:1** – “Sabbath.”* Saturday, the Jewish day of rest.

Matthew 12

followers were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of wheat and eating the kernels.

² When the Pharisees saw this, they said, “Look, your followers are harvesting grain on the Sabbath! That’s unlawful!” Ex. 20:10; Dt. 5:14; Jn. 9:16

³ “Haven’t you ever read,” Jesus replied, “what David did when he and his men were hungry?”

1 Samuel 21:6

⁴ “He went right into the house* of God and ate the sacred bread, which was not lawful for him or his men to eat. Only the priests were allowed to eat it. Leviticus 24:5-9

⁵ “Or haven’t you read in the Law of Moses that on the Sabbath days the priests work in the Temple, actually breaking the Sabbath law, but are not judged guilty? Numbers 28:9-10

⁶ “But I’m telling you that One far greater than the Temple is with you now. Luke 11:31-32

⁷ “And if you had known the meaning of the Scripture,

‘I am even more concerned that you show kindness to others, than that you sacrifice to Me,’ (*Hosea 6:6*) Micah 6:6-8

you would not have condemned the innocent.

*Matt. 12:4 – “House*of God.” That is, the tabernacle tent.

Matthew 12

⁸ “Because I, the Son of Man, am even the Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-10)

⁹⁻¹⁰ After leaving there, Jesus went into their synagogue, where He saw a man with a withered hand.

Looking for a way to bring a charge against Jesus, some men asked Him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” Luke 13:14; Luke 14:3

¹¹ “If one of your sheep fell into a pit on a Sabbath,” He replied, “which of you men wouldn’t grab hold of that sheep and lift it out?”

Luke 14:5

¹² “Consider then how extremely valuable a man is compared with a sheep! Of course it’s lawful to do good on the Sabbath!” Mt. 6:26; 10:31

¹³ “Stretch out your hand,” He then said to the man. So he stretched it out, and it was restored, just as full of life and vigor as the other!

¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted together as to how they might destroy Him. Matthew 27:1

Jesus, God’s Chosen Servant

¹⁵ Knowing this, Jesus withdrew from there. But still, great crowds followed Him, and He healed all who were sick. Matthew 19:2

Matthew 12

¹⁶ But He strongly ordered them not to tell anyone who He was or what He had done for them.

¹⁷ All this happened so that what God had said through Isaiah the prophet would come true, when He said:

¹⁸ “Look! Here is My Servant whom I have chosen. I love Him dearly, and have found such great delight in Him. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall bring justice to all the world.

¹⁹ He will not argue or shout, and no one will hear Him preaching loudly in the streets.

²⁰ He will not break off a reed that is bruised. And He will not snuff out a faintly burning flame, until He has caused justice to triumph.

²¹ People throughout the nations will put their hope and trust in Him.” (*Isaiah 42:1-4*)

Jesus and Beelzebul (*Mk. 3:22-30; Lk. 11:14-23*)

²² Then some people brought a man to Jesus who was blind and couldn't talk because he was demon-possessed. And Jesus healed him, so that he could both see and speak. Matthew 9:32

²³ That entire great crowd was amazed, and exclaimed, “This Man couldn't be the Messiah, could He?”

Matthew 12

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that statement, they said, “The only reason he’s able to drive out the demons is because he’s doing it with power given him by Beelzebul,* the ruler of the demons.”

²⁵ Jesus knew what they were thinking, and He told them, “Any country that’s divided, with one side fighting another, is in the process of being destroyed. Any city or family that allows internal fighting won’t last either. Matthew 9:4

²⁶ “So if Satan allows part of his forces to war against his other forces, he’s fighting himself. How long could his kingdom continue under such conditions?

²⁷ “If I’m driving out demons with power given Me by Beelzebul, by whom do your own followers drive them out? So even they will refute and cut the ground out from under your claim.* Matthew 9:34

²⁸ “But if I’m driving out demons by the power of the Spirit of God, that proves that the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. Lk. 11:20; Lk. 17:20-21

***Matt. 12:24** – “**Beelzebul**”* means ‘lord of dung or filth,’ that is, ‘lord of the flies.’ Beelzebul was considered to be prince of the demons. ***Matt. 12:27** – “**So even they will refute and cut the ground out from under your claim,**”* that is, “Your own followers prove that you are wrong!” (Today’s English Version).

Matthew 12

²⁹ “Or look at it this way: How can a man enter a strong man’s house and take what he has, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can take whatever he wants. Luke 11:21-23

³⁰ “Anyone who is not working with Me is working against Me. And everyone who is not gathering souls with Me is actually chasing them from Me.* Luke 9:50; Mark 9:40

³¹ “That’s why I tell you, people can be forgiven any sin and any evil thing they say, but anyone who says anything evil against the Holy Spirit* will not be forgiven.

³² “If you speak evil against the Son of Man, you can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks evil against the Holy Spirit* will not be forgiven—not in this age or in the age to come.

***Matt. 12:30** – There can be no neutrality concerning Christ. You are either truly for Him, or you are against Him, your indifference or opposition gives evidence. ***Matt. 12:31, 32** – **“But anyone who says anything evil against the Holy Spirit.”** The King James Version uses the English word ‘Blasphemy.’ ‘Blasphemy’ means ‘profane and reproachful speech injurious to the divine majesty, including the resistance against the convincing power of the Holy Spirit (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).

Two Kinds of Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)

³³ “If you want good fruit, you must plant a tree of a good variety; if you plant a tree of a poor variety, you won’t be able to eat the fruit. The

Matthew 12

kind and variety of a tree is known by the fruit it bears. Matthew 7:15-20

³⁴ “You children of snakes! How can you, filled as you are with evil, say anything good? Because whatever fills a man’s heart comes out in what he says. Matthew 3:7; Matthew 23:33

³⁵ “From the good treasures in a good man’s heart come good things, and from what an evil man treasures in his heart come evil things.

³⁶ “I am warning you, that on Judgment Day everyone must give an account of every worthless word they have ever spoken.

³⁷ “By the words you have spoken, you will either be declared free from guilt, or you will be condemned.”

The Demand for Proof (Mk. 8:11-12; Lk. 11:29-32)

³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign.” 1 Cor. 1:22; Jn. 6:30

³⁹ “You’re asking for another sign,” He replied, “because you’re part of an evil and adulterous generation that refuses to believe Me. But no further sign will be given you except the sign that will resemble what happened to the prophet Jonah.

Matthew 12

40 “Because just as Jonah was inside a great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17

41 “The people of Nineveh will rise from their graves on Judgment Day at the same time you do and condemn you, because they turned from their sinning to obey God when Jonah preached to them. And the truth is, One who is far greater than Jonah is speaking to you now! Jonah 3:1-10

42 “The Queen of the South will also rise from her grave on Judgment Day when you do, and she will condemn you as well, because she came a long way to listen to the wisdom of Solomon. The truth is, One who is far greater than Solomon is here now! 1 Ki. 10:1-13; 2 Chron. 9:1-12

***An Evil Spirit Will Return,
Unless God is Invited in and Obeyed (Lk. 11:24-26)***

43 “When an evil spirit goes out of a person, it looks in the desert for a place to rest.

44 “When it doesn’t find any it says to itself, ‘I’ll go back to the home I left.’ When it returns, it finds the place empty, clean, and everything in order.

45 “Then it goes off and gets seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all come and live there. As a result, the person is now worse

Matthew 12, 13

off than he was before. And the same thing will happen to you people who continue to live in sin today!” 2 Peter 2:20; John 5:14

The True Family of Jesus (Mk. 3:31-35; Lk. 8:19-21)

⁴⁶ While He was still speaking to the crowds, His mother and brothers came and stood outside the packed house, asking to speak to Him. Mark 6:3; John 7:3-5; Acts 1:14

⁴⁷ “Sir,” someone said, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to talk to You.”

⁴⁸ “Who is My mother?” He replied. “And who are My brothers?”

⁴⁹ Then stretching out His hand toward His followers, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!

⁵⁰ “Because whoever does what My Father in Heaven wants him to do is My brother, sister, and mother.” John 15:14

A Story about a Farmer (Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)

13 That same day, after Jesus left the house, He went down to the lake and sat down.

² But such great crowds came to Him there, that He soon got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while the people stood on the shore.

Matthew 13

³ Then He talked to them about many things, in parables saying. “Once there was a farmer,” He said, “who went out to plant seed.

⁴ “As he scattered the seed, some fell on the hard path alongside the plowed field, and the birds flew down and ate them.

⁵ “Some fell on rocky areas where there was little soil. The stalks came up quickly because the soil was shallow and warm.

⁶ “But when the sun rose higher they were scorched, because they weren’t able to put their roots down. So they withered away.

⁷ “Some fell among thistles, and the thistles sprang up and choked them.

⁸ “But some seed fell into good soil and produced a crop that was 100, 60, or 30 times what had been sown. Genesis 26:12

⁹ “Let the one who has been given ears with which to hear, seriously consider what I’ve said.”

The Purpose of Parables (Mk.4:10-13; Lk.8:9-10)

¹⁰ Some of His followers then asked Him, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹ “Because you have been given the privilege of understanding the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven,” He replied, “but it has not been given to them. Matthew 16:17; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 14

Matthew 13

12 “Because whoever is continuing to highly esteem and preserve what he is receiving from Me,* will be given more, and he will end up with great understanding. But whoever does not highly esteem what he’s receiving,* even the little he now has will be taken from him. Luke 19:26; Matthew 25:29

13 “That’s the reason I use parables—because although they can see, most of them are not looking with any real interest. And although they can hear, they aren’t really listening, nor do they make any real attempt to understand. Jeremiah 5:21

14 “These people fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah, through whom God said:

‘When it comes to hearing, you will keep on listening, but you won’t really understand; and when it comes to seeing, you will keep on looking, but you won’t really grasp the truth.

15 Because the heart-center of the deep emotions of these people has become flabby. So it’s hard for them to listen to what’s being said, and they’ve closed their eyes. If they hadn’t allowed themselves to get into such a deplorable spiritual and moral condition, they

***Matt. 13:12** – “**What he is receiving from Me.**” The present tense in this context is present continuing action. And the subject under consideration is knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. See Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18; and Luke 19:26.

Matthew 13

would be able to see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts. Then they could be changed in their thinking and in their ways, and I, the Lord, would heal them.’ (*Isaiah 6:9-10*) Mark 4:12; Hebrews 5:11

¹⁶ “But how fortunate you are, because your eyes are taking in what there is to see, and your ears are intently listening to what I say.

¹⁷ “I tell you the truth, many prophets and good men of the past had great longing to see what you are now seeing, but they didn’t see it, and to hear what you are now hearing, but they didn’t hear it. Luke 10:23-24

The Meaning of the Parable (*Mk.4:10-13; Lk.8:9-10*)

¹⁸ “So listen now to the meaning of the parable about the farmer:

¹⁹ “When someone hears the message about the Kingdom of God, but he has little real interest in understanding it, Satan comes along and snatches away the words that were planted on his hard heart. That was illustrated by the seed that fell on the hard path alongside the plowed field.

Matthew 4:23

²⁰ “The rocky areas that received the seed represent the one who, upon hearing the message, immediately and joyfully accepts it.

Matthew 13

21 “But he doesn’t allow the teaching to go deep into his life, so the message and its effect last for only a short while. When he’s given a hard time and is persecuted because of his faith in the message, he quickly gives up and falls away.

John 5:35

22 “Now the thistle area that received the seed represents the man who gladly understands and accepts the message, but because of his divided interest, in being anxiously concerned about his earthly problems and the deceitful glamour of money, the great message is choked. He comes at last to the place where he isn’t bearing any fruit. Mt. 19:23; 1 Tim. 6:9-10, 17; Lk. 12:16-21

23 “But he who received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, understands *it’s demands*, and produces a crop 30, 60, and even 100 times as much as was planted.

About Wheat and Weeds

24 Then Jesus gave them another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is also like what happened when a man sowed good seed in his field.

25 “One night, when everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds* in the field where the wheat had been sown, and then left.

***Matt. 13:25** – *Weeds.** *Darnel*, a weed resembling wheat but is not.

Matthew 13

²⁶ “When the wheat grew and formed heads of grain, then one could see the heads of the weeds too.

²⁷ “The farmer’s hired men then went to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Then where did all these weeds come from?’

²⁸ ‘An enemy did this!’ he exclaimed. ‘Shall we go out then and pull up the weeds?’ his men asked him.

²⁹ ‘No,’ he said, ‘you’d be in danger of uprooting the wheat at the same time.

³⁰ ‘Let them both grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll tell the harvesters to first gather the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned, and then bring the wheat into my barn.’” Mt.3:12

A Mustard Seed and Yeast (Mk.4:30-34; Lk.13:18-21)

³¹ Then He told them another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is also like what happens when a man plants a mustard seed* in his field.

³² “It’s the smallest seed of all, but when it’s grown, it’s larger than any other plant, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

***Matt. 13:31-** “A mustard seed.”* This is evidently the black mustard, *Brassica nigra*. The seed is the size of a fleck of ground pepper, and the plant may grow to a height of 15 feet.

Matthew 13

³³ Then He gave them still another parable:
“The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast, which a woman mixed into a large bowl of flour, causing the whole batch of dough to rise.” Luke 13:20-21

³⁴ Jesus spoke everything He said to the crowd that day in a parable. He didn't say anything to them without using a parable. Jn.16:25

³⁵ In doing this He fulfilled what the prophet declared, when he said:

“I will open My mouth and speak in parables, revealing things that have been kept secret since the world was created.” (*Psalm 78:2*)

A Parable Explained

³⁶ Following this Jesus sent the crowds away and went into a house. His followers then came to Him and said, “Please tell us what You meant in the parable about weeds in the wheat field.”

³⁷ “I, the Son of Man, am the One planting the good seed,” He replied.

³⁸ “The field is the world, the good seeds are the people who belong to the Kingdom of God, the weed seeds are Satan's followers (children of the wicked one). John 8:44; 1 John 3:10

³⁹ “The enemy who planted weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are the angels. Joel 3:13

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40 “Just as the weeds are to be gathered up and burned, that’s what will happen at the end of the age.

41 “The Son of Man will send out His angels to sort out of His Kingdom all persons who tempt others to sin,* and all who practice sin.

42 “Then they will throw them into the blazing furnace, where they will weep and wail in awful anguish and regret, and gnash their teeth in pain.

Luke 13:28

43 “Then those who have lived pure and honorable lives will shine as brilliantly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Let those who have been given ears for the purpose of hearing, listen!

***Matt. 13:41** – “Persons who tempt others to sin,” or whatever offends and makes people stumble.

Buried Treasure

44 “Also, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man found hidden in a field. He hid the treasure again, and was so ecstatic about it that he sold everything he had and bought the field.*

***Matt. 13:44** – *He sold everything he had and bought the field.**
The Kingdom of heaven is indeed a great treasure! It is worth giving our all to obtain. Accept God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and make a full surrender of your life to Him as Lord. Do it! Don’t delay!

Matthew 13

45 “The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a merchant looking for beautiful pearls.

46 “When he found one that was extremely valuable, he went out and sold everything he had, and bought it.*

***Matt. 13:46** – “He went out and sold everything he had, and bought it.”* Here the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to the most beautiful and most valuable gem that one can find. We should gladly be willing to sacrifice all to obtain it.

Like Sorting Fish

47 “Also, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet thrown into the lake, which caught every kind of fish. Matthew 22:10

48 “When it was full, the fishermen pulled the net ashore. Then they sat down and sorted the good fish into containers and threw the bad ones out.

49 “That’s how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will sort out those who have lived sinful lives from the just,* Matthew 25:32, 46

50 and will throw the sinful ones into the blazing furnace, where they will weep and wail in awful anguish and regret, and gnash their teeth in pain. Verse 42

***Matt. 13:49** – “Will sort out those who have lived sinful lives from the just,”* that is, unrepentant from the repentant, wicked from the righteous, the sinful from those who have lived for God.

Matthew 13

⁵¹ “Do you understand all of this now?” Jesus asked.

“Yes, Lord,” they said. “We do.”

⁵² “Very well,” Jesus continued. “Because you say you understand, let Me say this: Every person who has been instructed in the things of the Kingdom of Heaven, to the point where he understands the truth, is like the owner of a home who is able to bring out both antique and new furniture from his storeroom.”*

***Matt. 13:52** – “Both antique and new.” In ministering to others they were now to use truth from both the Old Testament and from the new truth He was giving them. When you have come to understand the truth, you are then able to teach others, by bringing out the truth from both the Old and New Testaments.

Jesus Rebuffed in His Home Town

(*Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30*)

⁵³ When Jesus finished giving these parables, He left the area.

⁵⁴ When He came to His hometown* and began to teach in their synagogue, the people were astonished. “Where did he get all this wisdom?” they asked. “And the ability to do these miracles?” John 7:15

***Matt. 13:54** – “His hometown,”* that is, Nazareth.

Matthew 13, 14

⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t Mary his mother? And aren’t James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas his brothers? John 6:42

⁵⁶ “Don’t all his sisters live here in our town? Where then did he get all this?”

⁵⁷ And they deeply resented Him. But Jesus told them, “**A prophet isn’t without honor, except in his hometown and among his own family members.**” Luke 4:24

⁵⁸ So He didn’t do many miracles there because of their unbelief. Mark 6:5-6

John the Baptizer Beheaded (Mk. 6:14-29; Lk. 9:7-9)

14 It was at this time that Herod, the ruler of Galilee, heard the news about Jesus.

² “That’s John the Baptizer!” Herod told his attendants. “He’s come back to life again, and that’s why he has power to do these miracles!”

³ Because he was living in adultery with Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, Herod had earlier ordered John’s arrest, and had him chained in jail, Luke 3:19-20

⁴ because John had kept telling him, “You are breaking God’s Law by living with your brother’s wife!” Leviticus 18:6, 16; 20:21

Matthew 14

⁵ Herod had wanted to put him to death, but he was afraid the people would mob him if he did, because they considered John a prophet.
Matthew 21:26

⁶ But when they celebrated Herod's birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for those at the party.

⁷ And Herod was so immensely pleased that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she wanted.

⁸ After being pressured by her mother, she said, "I want the head of John the Baptizer right here, on a platter."

⁹ The king was greatly distressed that she'd made that request, but because of the oath he had made in front of all his dinner guests, he ordered John's head to be given her.

¹⁰ So he sent someone to behead John in jail.
Matthew 17:12

¹¹ The head was then brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother.

¹² Afterward John's followers came and took his body and buried it, and then went and told Jesus what had happened.

Matthew 14

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People (Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-14)

¹³ Upon hearing of John's death, Jesus immediately went by boat to a deserted area to be alone. But when the crowds heard He was leaving, they left the towns and followed Him on foot.

¹⁴ When Jesus got out of the boat and saw the huge crowd, His heart was filled with pity for them, and He healed the sick among them. Matthew 9:36; Mark 1:34, 41; Luke 4:40-41

¹⁵ As evening was approaching, His followers went to Him and said, "This is a deserted area, and it's getting late. You'd better send these people away, so they can go into the towns and buy food for themselves." Mark 6:35-36; Luke 9:12

¹⁶ "They don't need to leave," Jesus responded. "You give them something to eat." 2 Kings 4:42-44

¹⁷ "But all we have here are five small loaves of bread and two fish!" they replied.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to Me," He said.

¹⁹ Then He told the people to sit down on the grass. And taking the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to Heaven and asked God to bless the food. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to His followers, who in turn gave them to the people. Matthew 15:36

Matthew 14

²⁰ All the people ate until they were full. And when they collected the leftovers, they filled twelve baskets!*

²¹ About 5,000 men had eaten, not counting women and children. Mark 8:6-10; Matthew 15:35-39

Matt. 14:20 – “They filled twelve baskets!” After feeding that immense crowd, they had far more food left over than when they started!

Jesus Walks on the Lake (Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:16-21)

²² Immediately after this, Jesus made His followers get into the boat and go ahead of Him across the lake, while He sent the crowds away.

²³ After He had dismissed the crowds, He went away by Himself into the hills to pray. When it got dark, He was there alone. Mark 6:46

²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat was being tossed about by the waves in the middle of the lake. What’s more, they were rowing against the wind.

²⁵ Sometime between 3 and 6 o’clock in the morning, Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake!

²⁶ When His followers saw Him walking toward them on the water, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they cried out in fear.

Matthew 14

²⁷ Immediately Jesus spoke to them. “**Keep up your courage, men!**” He said. “**It is I. Don’t be afraid.**”

²⁸ “Lord,” Peter then spoke up, “if it’s really You, order me to come out to You on the water.”

²⁹ “**Come,**” Jesus responded. And Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he noticed the big waves caused by the powerful wind, he became frightened and began to sink. “Lord, save me!” he cried out.

³¹ Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “**Oh, what little faith you have,**” He said. “**Why did you doubt Me?**” Matthew 6:30

³² And the instant Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the wind stopped blowing.

³³ Then those in the boat came and bowed down and worshiped Jesus, saying, “Truly, You are the Son of God!” Matt. 27:54; Acts 8:37; Rom. 1:4

³⁴ After crossing the lake, they landed at Gennesaret.

³⁵ When the people there recognized Jesus, they spread the news of His coming throughout the whole region. Soon they were bringing all the sick people to Him.

Matthew 14, 15

³⁶ And they begged Him to let them at least touch the fringe of His prayer shawl.* And all who did were made perfectly well! Matthew 9:20-21; Mark 3:10; Luke 6:19; Acts 19:12

***Matt. 14:36** – “**His prayer shawl.**” The word is *garment*, and can refer to His robe, cloak, or prayer shawl.

It's What's Inside that Matters (Mark 7:1-13)

15 Then several Pharisees and teachers of the Law from Jerusalem came up to Jesus.

² “Why don't your followers obey the traditions of the elders?” they challenged Him. “They don't even go through the hand-washing ceremony before they eat their food!” Luke 11:38

³ “**And why do you disobey God's commands in order to obey your traditions?**” Jesus replied.

⁴ “**God has commanded, ‘Honor your father and mother.’ (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16) ‘Anyone who treats his father or mother with disrespect must be put to death.’ (Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9)**

⁵ “**But you say, ‘Whoever tells his father or mother, “Whatever financial help you might have received from me, I have dedicated as a future gift to God's work,” is no longer allowed to use**

Matthew 15

his money or property to help his father or mother.’

⁶ “By doing so, you have nullified God’s commands to honor one’s father and mother, in favor of your tradition!*

⁷ “You hypocrites! God spoke the truth about you through Isaiah when He said:

⁸ “These people draw near to Me and honor Me with words, but their hearts are far from Me. Ezekiel 33:31

⁹ The worship they offer Me is worthless, because what they teach as truth is merely a set of rules made up by men, instead of the laws I have given them.” (*Isaiah 29:13*) Titus 1:14

¹⁰ Then He called the crowd together and said, “Listen! This is something you must understand!

¹¹ “It is not what a person puts into his mouth that makes him unclean, but what comes out of it—that’s what pollutes his soul.” Matthew 12:34

***Matt. 15:5, 6** – Jesus is speaking about a person possessing something that can help his parents. However, by dedicating or devoting it to God, it is removed from helping the parents. Some today do the same thing by saying everything must go in the offering plate, so I am relieved from helping others.

Matthew 15

¹² Following this, His followers went to Him and said, “Do You know that the Pharisees have been greatly offended by what You’ve been saying?”

¹³ “Every plant that My Father in Heaven didn’t plant will be pulled up by the roots,” was Jesus’ reply.

¹⁴ “Don’t bother with them. They are blind leaders who are leading the blind. And when a blind person leads another who is blind, both will fall into a pit.” Isa. 9:13-17; Jer. 5:30-31; Lk. 6:39; 2 Tim.4:3-4

¹⁵ Then Peter spoke up and said, “Please explain what You meant by what You said about uncleanness.”

Mark 7:17

¹⁶ “Are you still as dull as the rest?” Jesus replied.

Matthew 16:9; Mark 7:18

¹⁷ “You certainly know that whatever food you put into your mouth goes into your stomach and is finally eliminated.

¹⁸ “But foul words coming from a person’s mouth come from the very heart of his being, and make him dirty, unclean, and unholy.* Jas. 3:6

Matt. 15:18 – “Make him dirty, unclean, and unholy.” that is, reveal how unfit he is to be with God.

Matthew 15

¹⁹ “Because it’s from the very central core of a person’s being that evil thoughts come that lead to murders, adulteries, sexual immorality, thefts, false testimony, and slander. 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 5:19-21

²⁰ “These are the things that pollute a person. But to eat with hands that have not been ceremonially washed has nothing to do with making a person unfit to be with God.”

A Woman’s Constant, Unrelenting Faith (Mark 7:24-30)

²¹ Jesus then left there and went to an area near the cities of Tyre and Sidon.

²² While there, a Canaanite woman living in the area pled with Jesus and persistently continued pleading, “O Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and is suffering frightfully!”

²³ But Jesus completely ignored her. After awhile, His followers went up to Him and urged Him to do something about her, saying, “Please send her away.* Her constant pleading back there is getting to us.”

*Matt. 15:23 – “Please send her away” ... with her cure. This is certainly implied from Jesus’ next words.

Matthew 15

²⁴“I haven’t been sent to anyone except to the lost sheep of Israel,” Jesus replied. Matthew 10:5-6; Romans 15:8

²⁵ Then the woman, herself, went right up to Jesus and, kneeling before Him, pleaded, “Please, sir, help me!”

²⁶ “It’s not right for Me to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs,”* He replied. Matthew 7:6; Phil. 3:2

²⁷ “That’s true, Sir,” she said, “but even the little dogs get to eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

²⁸ “O woman, your faith is indeed great*!” Jesus replied. “Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed!

²⁹ Leaving there, Jesus traveled toward Lake Galilee, where He walked up a hillside and sat down. Mark 7:31; Matthew 4:18

³⁰ Immense crowds converged on Him there, bringing the lame, blind, dumb, disabled, and many others, and laid them down at His feet. And He healed them. Isa. 35:5-6; Matt. 4:23; 11:5

***Matt. 15:26** – “**Throw it to the dogs.**” The Jews considered themselves children of God. And they were accustomed to referring to all other people as *dogs*. ***Matt. 15:28** – “**Your faith is indeed great!**”* Jesus said she had great faith because she refused to be denied. See Luke 11:5-13; 17:6; 18:1-8.

Matthew 15

³¹ That huge crowd was amazed at what they both saw and heard. People who couldn't speak were now talking. Disabled people were made well and strong, those who had been lame could now walk, and the blind could see. That whole crowd rejoiced and praised the God of Israel.

Jesus Feeds 4,000 People (Mark 8:1-9)

³² Then Jesus called His followers to Him and said, “**I have deep concern for these people. They have stayed with Me now for three days, and have nothing left to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry, or some of them may collapse on their way home.**”

³³ “But where can we ever get enough food in this wilderness to satisfy everyone in this massive crowd?” His disciples responded. John 6:5

³⁴ “**How many loaves of bread do you have?**” Jesus asked them.

“Seven, and a few small fish,” they replied.

³⁵ So He ordered the people to sit down on the ground.

³⁶ Then He took the seven loaves and the fish, and gave thanks to God for them. Next He broke the loaves and fish into pieces, which His disciples then distributed to the crowd.

Matthew 15, 16

³⁷ Everyone ate until they were full! Then they gathered up seven large hamper baskets full of leftovers! Jn. 6:9-13; Mk. 6:38-43; Lk. 9:13-17

³⁸ Four thousand men had eaten, besides women and children!

³⁹ Then He sent the people on their way, got into a boat and went to the region of Magdala.
Mark 8:10

Another Demand for Proof (Mark 8:10-13; Luke 12:54-56)

16 There the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, asking Him to prove He was from God by causing something miraculous to happen from heaven.* Matthew 12:38; John 6:30; 1 Corinthians 1:22

² “When the sky is red in the evening,” He replied, “you say, ‘It will be a beautiful day tomorrow, because the sky is red.’”

³ “But when the sky is red in the morning you say, ‘It will be a stormy one today, because the sky is red and threatening.’ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret what the sky is revealing, but you can’t interpret the signs that apply to these times! Luke 12:54-56

***Matt. 16:1** – “Something miraculous to happen from heaven,” possibly in the sky.

Matthew 16

⁴ “You’re asking for another sign because you’re part of an evil and adulterous generation that refuses to believe Me. But no further sign will be given you except the sign that will resemble what happened to the prophet Jonah.”

Then He left them and left the area. Matthew
12:38-41

The Warning about Yeast (Mark 8:14-21)

⁵ When they got to the other side of the lake, Jesus’ followers realized they had forgotten to bring any food with them. Mark 8:14

⁶ So when Jesus warned them, “**Watch out and always be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees,**” Luke 12:1

⁷ they discussed the matter among themselves, and concluded, “He said that because we didn’t bring any bread with us.”

⁸ Knowing what they were discussing, Jesus declared, “**Oh, what little faith you have! Why are you worried about not bringing bread?**”

⁹ “**Don’t you understand yet? Don’t you remember the five small loaves that fed the 5,000 men, and the many baskets of fragments you gathered up?**” Mark 6:39-44; Matthew 14:17-21

¹⁰ “**Or the seven small loaves that fed 4,000 men, and the many large hamper baskets of leftovers you gathered up?**” Mark 8:6-9; Matthew 15:34-38

Matthew 16

¹¹ “How is it that you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread when I warned you to constantly be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?”

¹² Then they realized that Jesus had not been telling them to be on their guard against the yeast in bread, but to watch out for the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Peter Confesses Jesus to be Messiah

(Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21)

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His followers, “What are people saying about Me? Who do they say the Son of Man is?” Mark 8:27; Luke 9:18

¹⁴ “Some say You’re John the Baptizer,” they replied. “Some say Elijah; others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.” Matthew 14:2; Mark 6:14-15; Luke 9:7-9

¹⁵ “What about you? Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter spoke up and said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 14:33; John 20:31

¹⁷ “Right you are, Simon, son of Jonah,” Jesus replied. “But you didn’t make up your mind about this by human reasoning. My Father in Heaven revealed it to you. Galatians 1:16

Matthew 16

18 “You know that I have named you Peter,* and it is on the solid rock of your confession* that I will build My Church. And no plots or attacks from the gates of Hell will ever overpower it.

Ephesians 2:20

19 “And I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you may forbid on earth must be that which is already forbidden in Heaven, and whatever you may permit on earth must be that which is already permitted in Heaven.” Matthew 18:18

20 Then He gave a firm command to His followers not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.* Mark 8:29-30; Luke 9:20-21

Matt. 16:18 – “Peter” ... a stone ... **“Confession.”*** The Rock on which Christ would and has built His church was the affirmation that Peter had just given, that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Matt. 16:20 – “Not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.” Too much public acclaim would only increase the fury of the opposition, causing them to demand His death immediately, before His work was finished. God had chosen the time and place for Him to die. He was the Lamb of God (Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29, 36).

Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

(Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:22-27)

21 From that time on, Jesus began to tell His followers that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer in many ways at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the Law; that He must be

Matthew 16

killed; but that three days later, He would be raised back to life again. Matt. 20:17-19; Jn. 2:19, 21;

1 Cor. 15:3-4

²²

On hearing this, Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “God forbid!” he said. “No, Lord, such a thing must never happen to You!”

²³

Turning to Peter and squarely facing him, Jesus said, “**Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, because you don’t see things as God sees them. You reason only from man’s viewpoint!**” Romans 8:7

Take Up Your Cross! (Mt. 10:38; Mk.8:34; Lk.9:23)

²⁴

Then Jesus said to His followers, “**Whoever makes up his mind to follow Me must determine to refuse to live any longer for the purpose of pleasing and satisfying his own natural desires. Taking up his own cross, he must die to those selfish and flesh-satisfying desires, and follow Me.***

***Matt. 16:24** – “**Take up his own cross, and follow Me,**”* that is, make it his practice to continually endeavor to fully obey what I have taught and commanded.

Matthew 16

25 “Because if you choose to continue to satisfy your desire to live as you, yourself, please, you will lose your soul! But whoever denies, gives up or considers his own life unimportant in order to become my follower will experience eternal life.*

26 “Because what good would it do you even if you gained all the wealth and power and all the flesh-fulfilling experiences in all the world, but then found yourself barred from Heaven and sent to your judgment in Hell? What could man pay to buy back his soul, once it is lost?

27 “ I, the Son of Man, will soon come in the glory of My Father with His angels. I will at that time reward every person according to what he has done.

Romans 2:6-11

28 “I tell you the truth: Some of you standing here right now will definitely not die until you have seen the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.”* Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27

**Matt. 16:24-25 – “If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps he must give up all right to himself, take up his cross and follow me. For the man who wants to save his life will lose it; but the man who loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Phillips Modern English) *Matt.*

16:28 – In Matthew, Mark and Luke this promise is made prior to His Transfiguration. The word “kingdom” can have the meaning of “Kingly splendor, rule and reign.” Therefore, this could have reference to the Transfiguration which would take place a week later.

Matthew 17

When Heaven Came Down (Mk.9:1-13; Lk.9:28-36)

17 Six days later, Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain where they were alone.

² As they were standing there, Jesus became altogether changed in appearance! His face became as brilliant as the sun, and His clothes became as dazzling white as light! 2 Peter 1:16-18

³ Then suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Him.

⁴ Peter then spoke up and said, “Lord, it’s wonderful that we can be here! If you are willing, allow us to put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵ But even as he was speaking, a bright cloud covered them completely, and a voice spoke from the cloud, saying, “This is My Son whom I love so dearly, and with whom I am so well pleased. Keep on listening to Him!”*
Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22

⁶ On hearing God speak, Jesus’ followers were so terrified that they threw themselves facedown on the ground.

⁷ Then Jesus walked over and touched them. “**Stand up,**” He said. “**Don’t be afraid.**”

***Matt. 17:5** – “**Keep on listening to Him!**”* Present tense in Greek, listen and continue to listen.

Matthew 17

⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one there but Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them strict orders, saying, “**Don’t tell anyone about the vision you’ve just seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.**” Matthew 16:20; Mark 8:30; 9:9

¹⁰ His followers then asked Him, “Why then do the teachers of the Law insist that Elijah must come before the Messiah will come?”* Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:14; Mark 9:11; Luke 1:16-17

¹¹ “**It’s true,**” Jesus replied, “**Elijah will come first. And when he comes, he will restore everything.**”* Mal. 4:5; Luke 1:16-17; Acts 3:20-21

¹² “**But I tell you, Elijah has already come*** but the Jews didn’t recognize him, and they treated him in whatever way they pleased. **The Son of Man is about to suffer in the same way at their hands.**” Matthew 16:21

¹³ The followers then realized that He was speaking about John the Baptizer. Matthew 11:14

***Matt. 17:10** – “**Why do the teachers of the Law insist that Elijah must come before the Messiah will come?**”* ... *if You are the Messiah, and Elijah is to come before You?* Malachi 4:5-6 ***Matt. 17:11** – “**He will restore everything.**”* His ministry will be to restore people to faith in God and to obedience to Him, and to a proper understanding about the Messiah. ***Matt. 17:12** – “**Elijah has already come.**”* John the Baptizer came in the spirit of Elijah. Luke 1:17. But the Scripture is clear that Elijah will return in person shortly before God judges the earth (Malachi 4:5-6).

Matthew 17

The Healing of a Boy (Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:37-42)

¹⁴ When they came down to the crowd that was waiting, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him, most earnestly pled,

¹⁵ “Lord, have pity on my son! He’s an epileptic, and suffers so frightfully from seizures that he often falls into fire or into water.

¹⁶ “I brought him to Your followers, but they couldn’t heal him.”

¹⁷ “O you unbelieving and hard-headed* people!” Jesus reprimanded them. “How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to Me.”

¹⁸ Jesus then sternly commanded the demon in the boy to come out, and it came out. The boy was instantly healed.

¹⁹ Later Jesus’ followers went to Him when He was alone and asked Him, “Why couldn’t we drive that demon out?”

²⁰ “Because of your unbelief,” Jesus replied. “I tell you the absolute truth: If you will continue to exercise* whatever faith you have in the same

Matt. 17:17 – “Hard-headed,” that is, misled, misguided or led astray. *Matt. 17:20 – “If you continue to exercise,”* Present tense, continuous action.

Matthew 17

determined, persistent way that a tiny mustard seed goes to work,* you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:23; Luke 17:6

²¹ “But the only way this kind of demon can be forced out is by both prayer and fasting.”

²² While they were staying in Galilee, Jesus told His followers, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men who will kill Him. Matthew 16:21; 20:18-19

²³ “But three days later, He will be raised back to life again.” His followers were extremely sad when they heard this.*

***Matt. 17:20** – “Persistent way that a tiny mustard seed goes to work.”* See Luke 11:5-13 and 18:1-8 for illustrations Jesus gave as to how we are to be determined and persistent in the use of our faith, until what we are asking God for is granted. ***Matt. 17:23** – “His followers were extremely sad when they heard this.”* All that registered in their minds at the time was that He would be killed.

Paying the Temple Tax

²⁴ When Jesus and His followers arrived at Capernaum, those who collected the Temple tax approached Peter and said, “Your Teacher does pay the Temple tax, doesn’t he?” Romans 13:7

²⁵ “Of course He does!” Peter replied.

When Peter entered the house, Jesus spoke before Peter had a chance to open his mouth.

Matthew 17, 18

“What are you thinking about, Simon?” He asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or taxes—from their own children, or from others?”

²⁶ “From others,” Peter responded.

“Then the King’s children don’t have to pay,” Jesus returned.

²⁷ “But so that we don’t offend them, go to the lake and throw out your fishing line. When you open the mouth of the first fish you catch, you will find a coin. Take that and pay the Temple tax for the two of us.”

The Greatest in Heaven (Mk. 9:33-50; Lk. 9:46-50)

18 It was at this time that Jesus’ followers came to Him and asked, “Who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” Luke 22:24

² In answer, Jesus called a little child to Himself, and had the child stand in the middle of the group.

³ “Now I tell you the truth,” He said, “unless there’s a change in your life, and you turn* from your sins* and take upon you the humble attitude of a little child toward God, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; 1 Corinthians 14:20; 1 Peter 2:2

Matthew 18

4 “So whoever humbles himself and becomes the most like this little child will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 20:27; 23:11

5 “And whoever warmly welcomes a little child* like this, because of Me,* is welcoming Me. Matthew 10:42; Luke 9:48

***Matt. 18:3** – “**Turn.**”* The Greek word is *strephe* and the English word *converted*. It implies one’s who life and person is turned toward God. It is far more than mental assent or acknowledgment of facts. It implies a turning from sin and a turning to God. It corresponds closely to ‘repentance.’ “**Turn from your sins**”* to living in obedience to God is implied. ***Matt. 18:5** – “**A little child**”* could be children in the sense that verses 3-4 describes, the humble, converted, true believer. “**Because of Me.**”* The King James Version uses the phrase “**in My Name.**” In New Testament times, ‘name’ was more than identification. It represented the character and authority of a person, or the person himself.

Frightful Punishment Awaits Tempters

6 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in Me to lose his faith, or to sin,* would be far better off if someone had hung a massive millstone around his neck and had drowned him in the bottom of the ocean! Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-2; Romans 14:21

***Matt. 18:6** – “**To lose his faith, or to sin**”* literally *stumble into sin* or *stumble in their belief (in Me)*. A frightful warning for anyone who would tempt someone to sin or lose faith.

Matthew 18

7 “Woe to everyone in the world because of all the temptations* there are. These temptations* are sure to come, but awful misery and suffering lie ahead for the person who does the tempting.* Luke 17:1

8 “So if your hand or foot causes you to sin,* cut it off and throw it away! It’s far better for you to gain eternal life maimed or crippled, than to have two hands and two feet and be thrown into the fire where the flames will rage forever. Matthew 5:29-30; Mark 9:43-48

9 “And if your eye causes you to sin,* gouge it out and throw it away! It’s far better for you to gain eternal life with only one eye, than to have both eyes and be thrown into the fires of Hell! Revelation 21:27

10 “You must always be most careful not to look down on or mistreat any of these little ones, because I warn you, their guardian angels are continually making their reports in Heaven directly to My Father. 1 Thessalonians 4:8

Matt. 18:7 – “Temptations.” The Greek word is *skandalon* and is translated “**offences**” in the King James Version. The word means ‘any person or thing by which one is (entrapped) drawn into error or sin (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon) ***Matt. 18:8, 9 – “Causes you to sin”*** is the Greek word *skandalizo* and means ‘a stumbling block, upon which another may trip and fall – to entice to sin or to fall away from the One he ought to trust’ (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).

Matthew 18

¹¹ “Because the Son of Man has come to save all who are lost.* Matt. 9:12-13; Lk. 9:56; 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15

***Matt. 18:11** – “**To save all who are lost.**”* So Jesus is deeply interested in even the very weakest, the least talented, and least desirable person.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)

¹² “What does a man with a hundred sheep do if one of them wanders away? Doesn’t he leave the 99 and go into the hills and search diligently for the lost one? Luke 15:4

¹³ “And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice more about that sheep than about the 99 that didn’t go astray. Luke 15:5-10

¹⁴ “That’s the way it is with your Father in Heaven. He doesn’t want even one of these little ones to be lost. John 6:39-40

If a Follower Sins Against You (Luke 17:3)

¹⁵ “If a follower of Mine sins against you, talk to him privately about the wrongdoing. If he listens and admits his wrong, you have won him back. Luke 17:3-4; Colossians 3:13

¹⁶ “But if he won’t listen, go to him again and take one or two other people with you, so that ‘everything may be supported by the testimony of

Matthew 18

two or three witnesses.’ (Deuteronomy 19:15) Jn. 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19

¹⁷ “If he still won’t listen, bring the matter up before the church. But if he won’t even listen to the judgment of the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or *renegade* tax collector.*

¹⁸ “I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth must be that which has already been forbidden in Heaven, and whatever you permit on earth must be that which has already been permitted in Heaven. Matthew 16:19

¹⁹ “And listen! If two of you agree on earth concerning anything you are praying for, My Father in Heaven will do it for you.

²⁰ “Because where even two or three of you come together as My followers, I will already be there with you.”

***Matt. 18:17** – “**Renegade tax collector.**” * One who has deserted the faith and is considered the worst of sinners.

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who keeps on sinning against me? Seven times?” Luke 17:3-4

²² “**Not just seven times,**” Jesus replied, “**but seventy times seven.**” Matt. 6:11-12, 14-15; Mk. 11:25-26; Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:13

Matthew 18

²³ “You see, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to bring his accounts up to date with his servants. Matthew 25:14

²⁴ “He had just begun to do so when a man was brought to him who owed him over 11 million ounces of silver. Luke 7:41-42

²⁵ “But because he was unable to pay, his master ordered that everything he had was to be sold, and that the man and his wife and children were to be sold into slavery to pay off the debt.

² Kings 4:1

²⁶ “Upon hearing the sentence, the servant fell to his knees before him, frantically pleading, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe!’

²⁷ “The king was genuinely sorry for him, so he released him and forgave the debt. Psalms 78:38

²⁸ “But that same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a mere 100 denarii.* He grabbed him and began choking him, demanding, ‘Pay me what you owe me!’

²⁹ “The man fell to his knees at his feet, earnestly pleading, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’

***Matt. 18:28** – “100 denarii”* is less than 20 ounces of silver.

Matthew 18, 19

³⁰ “But he wouldn’t listen. Instead he had him arrested and thrown in jail until he had paid what he owed. 1 Kings 22:27

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw this, they were very upset and went to the king and told him all that had happened.

³² “So the king called the first servant back in and said, ‘Oh you wicked servant! I forgave you that entire enormous debt because you so earnestly pleaded with me.

³³ ‘Shouldn’t you also then have pity on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ Eph. 4:32; Colossians 3:13

³⁴ “His king was so angry that he sent him to the torture chambers to be tortured until he had paid all that he owed.

³⁵ “And that is exactly what My heavenly Father will do to you, unless each of you sincerely forgives the person who has sinned against you.” Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:26; James 2:13

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage (Mark 10:1-12)

19 When Jesus had finished speaking, He left Galilee and went into Judea, and then to the other side of the Jordan River. Mark 10:1

Matthew 19

² Giant crowds followed Him there, too, and He healed those who were sick. Matt. 4:23-25; Matt. 9:35-36; Matt. 12:15; Matt. 14:35-36; Matt. 15:30-31; Mk. 6:55-56

³ The Pharisees also came, again testing Him. “Does our Law allow a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” they asked Him. Matt. 16:1; Matt. 22:16-18, 35; Mk. 10:2; Mk. 12:13-15; Lk. 11:53-54; Jn. 8:6; Heb. 3:9

⁴ “Haven’t you read the Scripture,” He replied, “that says that ‘the Creator, who made people at the beginning, made them male and female,’ (Genesis 1:27) Matt. 12:3; Matt. 21:42; Matt. 22:31; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 10:26

⁵ and then said, ‘For that reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife; and the two shall become so devoted to each other that they become like one person?’ (Genesis 2:24) Mk. 10:5-9; Eph. 5:31

⁶ “So they are no longer two, but one. And man must not separate what God has joined together.” Prov. 2:16-17; Mal. 2:14; Mk. 10:9; Heb. 13:4

⁷ “Why then did Moses say that a man could hand his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” they asked. Deut. 24:1-4; Isa. 50:1; Jer. 3:8; Matt. 5:31; Mk. 10:4

⁸ “Moses allowed you to divorce your wives,” Jesus replied, “because of the hardness of your hearts. But that’s not the way it was in the beginning. Zech. 7:12; Mk. 10:5

Matthew 19

⁹ “And I’m telling you that whoever divorces his wife, and then marries another woman, is committing adultery. The only exception is if his wife had been unfaithful and had sexual relations with another man. And whoever marries a person who has been divorced because of marital unfaithfulness is committing adultery.” Matt. 5:32

¹⁰ “If that’s how it must be between a husband and his wife,”* His followers then spoke up, “it’s really better not to get married.” 1 Cor. 7:8, 26-28, 32-35, 39-40

¹¹ “Not everyone would agree with you about that,” Jesus replied, “only those who have been given the grace to stay single. 1 Cor. 7:2, 7, 9, 17, 35

¹² “Because there are some who cannot bring a marriage to completion because they were born eunuchs. Others have been made eunuchs by men. And others stay single for the sake of promoting the Kingdom of Heaven. Allow those who are able to abstain to do so.” Isa. 56:3-4

Matt. 19:10* - “If that’s how it must be between a husband and his wife.”* Jesus was setting a very high standard for marriage. The disciples seemed to understand that divorce was being permitted only in the most extreme circumstances and was contrary to God’s original intention in creation.

Matthew 19

Jesus Welcomes the Little Children (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

¹³ Then little children were brought to Him, so that He might place His hands on them and pray for them. But His followers scolded the people and told them to stop bothering Jesus with little children. Mk. 10:13; Lk. 18:15

¹⁴ “**Let the little children come to Me!**” Jesus corrected them. “**Don’t stop them! Because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who become like these little ones.**” Mk. 10:14; Lk. 18:16-17

¹⁵ After He had placed His hands on the children and blessed them, He left the area. Mark 10:16

A Rich Man’s Question (Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)

¹⁶ A man came to Jesus one day and said, “Good Teacher, what good thing must I do so that I may have eternal life?”* Mk. 10:17; Lk. 18:18

¹⁷ “**Why do you call Me ‘good’?**” Jesus asked. “**No one is truly good except One, and that is God. But if you desire to enter into everlasting life, obey God’s commands.**”

Matt. 19:16* - “**Eternal life**”* is descriptive of the ‘age’ to come in which God would rule and reign. It later developed the meaning of ‘everlasting,’ since it was believed to be endless and eternal.

Matthew 19

18

“Which ones?” the man asked.

Jesus replied,

“Don’t murder. Don’t commit adultery. Don’t steal. Don’t tell lies about anyone.

19

Honor your father and mother.
(Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20)
And love others in the same way that you love yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18)

20

“I’ve obeyed all of these from the time I was a child,” the young man said. “What else must I do?” Mk. 10:20; Lk. 18:21; Rom. 3:19-23

21

“If you want to be perfect,” Jesus replied, “go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor. By doing so you will be transferring your investments to Heaven. Then come and follow Me.”

22

When the young man heard this, he walked away with a heavy heart, because he was very rich. Matt. 13:33; Mk. 10:22; Lk. 18:23

23

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus then said to His followers, “it will be very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.* Prov. 11:28; Matt. 13:22; Mk. 10:23; Lk. 12:15-21; Lk. 16:13-14; Lk. 16:19-28; Lk. 18:24; 1 Tim. 6:9-10

***Matt. 19:23** – “Hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Jesus is not against riches, but He points out the extreme danger of making riches one’s god, and of using them for self-satisfying purposes instead of under God’s approval and supervision.

Matthew 19

²⁴ “It is easier, in fact, for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God.” Mk. 10:24-25; Lk. 18:25

²⁵ When His followers heard that, they were utterly amazed, and questioned, “Well, who then can be saved?”*

²⁶ Looking straight at them Jesus replied, “Yes, it’s impossible for people to be saved from the human standpoint, but with God all things are possible.” Psa. 3:8; Mk. 10:27; Lk. 18:27; 1 Cor. 1:29-30

²⁷ Peter then spoke up, “Look, we’ve left everything and followed You, so what will our situation be?” Matt. 4:20-22; Matt. 9:9; Mk. 1:17-20; Mk. 10:28; Lk. 5:11; Lk. 14:33; Lk. 18:28; Phil. 3:8

²⁸ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “when the earth and everything in it has been restored to its original perfect state, and the Son of Man is sitting on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Isa. 65:17; Isa. 66:22; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:5

***Matt. 19:25** – Wealth was considered by the Jews to be a sign of blessing and approval by God. If these men, approved by God, couldn’t make it to Heaven, they questioned, who could?

Matthew 19, 20

²⁹ “And everyone else who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake, will receive a hundred times more than he gave up, and will inherit everlasting life. Matt. 16:25; Mk. 10:29-30

³⁰ “But many who are now first will then be last, and many who are now last will be first.*
Matt. 20:16; Mk. 10:31; Lk. 13:30

***Matt. 19:30** – Most of Jesus’ apostles came from the lower rungs of society. Their future position in Christ’s Kingdom will be quite the opposite.

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

20 “Because the Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer* who went out early one morning to hire men to work for him. Matt. 13:24, 31, 33, 44-45, 47; Matt. 22:2; Matt. 25:1, 14

² “After he had agreed to pay them a denarius, the usual amount for a day’s work, he sent them into his vineyard. Matthew 20:13

³ “About 9 o’clock, he went out again and found others standing around in the marketplace.

Matt. 20:1* - “**Farmer.**” The word *farmer* is translated ‘householder’ in the King James version. It simply means in this context *a man, property owner, or farmer.*

Matthew 20

4 “So he said to them, ‘I want you men working for me as well. I’ll pay you whatever is fair.’ And they went to work.

5 “Then at 12 and again at 3 o’clock, he did the same.

6 “When it was almost 5 o’clock, he went out and found still others standing idle. ‘Why have you men been wasting your time standing here all day doing nothing?’ he asked them. Jn. 9:4

7 ‘No one hired us,’ they replied.
‘Go to work in my vineyard,’ he said, ‘and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’

8 “So when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages. Begin with those hired last and end with those I hired first.’ Matt. 25:19; Rom. 2:6-10; 2 Cor. 5:10

9 “When those hired about 5 o’clock came before the foreman, they each received a full day’s wage. Matt. 20:2

10 “So when those hired first came before him, they supposed they would receive more, but they were paid the same as the others.

11 “Upon receiving it, they protested to the owner of the vineyard.

Matthew 20

¹² ‘These men worked only one hour,’ they bitterly complained. ‘And still you’ve paid them the same as those of us who worked hard all day in the hot sun!’

¹³ ‘Listen, friend,’ he answered one of them, ‘I haven’t cheated you. Didn’t you agree to work for me for one denarius?’

¹⁴ ‘Now take what you have coming, and go. It’s my desire to give the last men hired the same as you.

¹⁵ ‘Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I’m generous?’

¹⁶ “So,” Jesus concluded, “the last will be first, and the first last. Because many are being called,* but only a few are chosen.” Matt. 19:30; Mk. 10:31; Lk. 13:28-30

***Matt. 20:16** – “Many are being called”* is in the present tense in Greek. This means that many are called and are continuing to be called.

For a Third Time Jesus Predicts

His Death and Resurrection (Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34)

¹⁷ Then as Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, He took His twelve followers aside by themselves.

Matthew 20

¹⁸ “Listen now,” He said, “we are on our way up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed and handed over to the chief priests and teachers of the Law. And they will condemn Him to death. Matt. 16:21; Matt. 17:22-23; Matt. 26:2; Acts 2:23

¹⁹ “Then they will turn Him over to the Romans, who will treat Him with utter disrespect and whip and then crucify Him. But three days later, He will rise back to life again.” Acts 3:13-16

A Mother’s Request (Mark 10:35-45)

²⁰ The mother of James and John then came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before Him, she said she had a request to make.

²¹ “What is it you want?” He asked.
“Please let one of my sons sit at Your right hand,” she said, “and the other at Your left in Your Kingdom.” Mk. 10:36, 51; Lk. 18:41

²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus replied. “Are you able to drink the bitter mixture in the cup of the suffering and sorrow that I am about to drink, and be baptized* into the baptism into* which I am about to be baptized?”

“Yes, we are,” James and John responded. Mk. 10:38

***Matt. 20:22** – “Baptized” means *immersed*. Here, immersed into awful suffering. “Into” ... *the suffering and death into* ...

Matthew 20

²³ “You will indeed drink from My cup,” He replied, “and be baptized into the baptism into which I am to be baptized, but I do not have the authority to decide who will sit on My right and on My left. My Father has plans for those positions, and He will decide who will fill them.”*

²⁴ When the other ten heard this request, they were thoroughly angry with the two brothers. Mk. 10:41; Jas. 4:1

²⁵ So Jesus called them together, and said, “You know how heathen rulers lord it over their subjects, and how the very top rulers lord it over those rulers.

²⁶ “But that’s not the way it’s to be among you. If any of you desires to become great, you must be one who serves others. Mk. 9:35; Mk. 10:43-45; 1 Pet. 5:3

²⁷ “So if someone among you wants to be your leader, make sure that he considers himself your slave. Lk. 22:26

Matt. 20:23 – “He will decide who will fill them.” Such promises of positions of honor, of glory and of privilege in future service should overwhelmingly challenge every Christian to so live and serve now that he might attain to as high a position as possible in the Lord’s coming Kingdom.

Matthew 20

28 “Let him be like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His very life as a ransom for many.” Lk. 22:27

Two Blind Men Receive Their Sight (Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43)

29 As they were leaving Jericho, a huge crowd was following Him.

30 And when two blind men sitting beside the road heard that it was Jesus who was passing by, they started shouting loudly, “Oh Lord, You Son of David! Have pity on us!” Psa. 146:8; Isa. 29:18; Isa. 35:5-6; Matt. 9:27-31; Matt. 12:22; Matt. 21:14; Matt. 10:46; Luke 4:18; Luke 7:21

31 “Stop that! Calm down!” the crowd scolded them. But instead, they shouted even louder, “Oh Lord, Son of David! Have pity on us!” Matt. 15:23; Matt. 19:13

32 So Jesus stopped and called them to Himself, and said, “**What do you want Me to do for you?**” Matt. 20:21; Phil. 4:6

33 “Lord,” they said, “we want to be able to see!” Psa. 119:18; Eph. 1:17-19

34 Jesus was deeply moved with pity for them, so He touched their eyes. And immediately they could see, and they, too, then joyfully followed Him down the road. Psa. 145:8; Matt. 9:36; Matt. 14:14; Matt. 15:32; Lk. 7:13; 1 Pet. 3:8

Matthew 21

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Mk. 11:1-11; Lk. 19:29-38; Jn. 12:12-19)

21 As they were approaching Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His followers on an errand. Mk. 11:1; Lk. 19:28

² “Go into the town up ahead,” He told them. “As soon as you get there you’ll find a donkey tied up, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me. Mk. 11:2-3; Lk. 19:30-32

³ “If anyone asks why you are untying them, tell him, ‘The Lord* needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

⁴ All of this was done so that the saying of the prophet would be fulfilled, who said: Matt. 1:22; Matt. 26:56; Jn. 19:36-37

⁵ “Tell the people of Jerusalem, Look, here comes your King! He is humble, riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the offspring of a beast of burden.” (*Zechariah 9:9*)

⁶ So the two went ahead and did as Jesus had told them. Gen. 6:22; Ex. 39:43; Ex. 40:16; Jn. 15:14

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their robes on them, and Jesus sat on them. Mk. 11:4-8; Lk. 19:32-35

Matt. 21:3 – “The Lord,” that is, “The Lord their true owner needs them.”

Matthew 21

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their robes on them, and Jesus sat on them.
Mk. 11:4-8; Lk. 19:32-35

⁸ Then most of the crowd that had gathered spread their robes on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jn. 12:13

⁹ Then the crowds ahead, as well as those behind, began to shout:

“Hosanna* to the Son of David! ‘God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!’ (*Psalm 118:26*) Mt. 21:15; Mk. 11:9-10

Hosanna* in the highest heavens!”

¹⁰ When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was excited, and everyone began asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds with Him replied, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee!”
Deut.18:15-19; Matt.16:13-14; Lk.7:16; Jn.7:40; Jn.9:17; Acts 3:22-23; Acts 7:37

***Matt. 21:9** – “Hosanna”* means *save now*. It later became an exclamation of praise.

A Violent Encounter at the Temple (Mk.11:15-19; Lk.19:45-48; Jn.2:13-17)

¹² Then Jesus went into the Temple area and *angrily* drove out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the

Matthew 21

money changers and knocked down the benches of those selling pigeons. Mal.3:1-2

¹³ “It is written in the Scriptures that God has said,

My House shall be called a House of Prayer,”
(Isaiah 56:7)

He passionately protested, “but you have turned it into a safe place for thieves to do business!”
(Jeremiah 7:11)

¹⁴ Then those who were blind and lame came to Him there in the Temple area, and He healed them. Isa.35:5; Matt.9:35; Matt.11:4-5; Acts 10:38

¹⁵ But when the chief priests and teachers of the Law saw the wonders He was performing, and heard the children shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant. Matt.27:1, 20; Mk.11:18; Lk.22:2; Jn.11:47-48

¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” *they angrily challenged Him.*

“Yes,” He replied, “and haven’t you ever read the Scripture:

‘From the mouths of little children and infants you have provided praise?’ (Psalm 8:2)

¹⁷ Then He left them and went out of the city and went to Bethany, where He spent the night.

Matthew 21

A Fig Tree Miraculously Withers (Mk.11:12-14, 20-24)

¹⁸ As He was returning to the city, early the next morning, He was hungry. Mk. 11:12-13

¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, He went up to it. But finding nothing on it but leaves, He said to it, “**May you never bear fruit again.**” And instantly that fig tree dried up!

The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

²⁰ When His followers saw this happen, they were amazed. “How could that fig tree dry up so quickly?” they questioned. Mk.11:20-21

²¹ “**I tell you the truth,**” Jesus replied, “**if you have faith, and don’t doubt and waver, you will not only do what was done to that fig tree, but more. Even if you should say to this mountain, ‘Get up from here and throw yourself into the sea,’ it will happen.**” Matt.17:20; Mk.11:22-23

²² “**And that applies to everything. Whatever you ask for in prayer, you will receive—if you continue to believe.**” Matt.7:7, 11; Mk.11:24; Jn.15:7; 1 Jn.3:22; 1 Jn. 5:14-15

Jesus’ Authority Challenged (Mk.11:27-33; Lk.20:1-8)

²³ As Jesus was teaching the people after coming into the Temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people came right up to Him.

Matthew 21

“What right do you think you have to do the things you did here in the Temple yesterday?” they demanded. “Who gave you such authority?”
Mk.11:27-28; Lk.20:1-2

²⁴ “I will also ask you a question,” Jesus replied. “If you answer Me, then I will also answer you and tell you where I got the authority to do what I did. Col.4:6

²⁵ “Who gave John the right to baptize people? Did he get it from God, or was it just his own idea?”

They thought about the matter, and then said among themselves, “What shall we say? If we say, ‘From God,’ He will ask us, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ Mk.11:27-33

²⁶ “But if we say, ‘It was his own idea,’ this whole mob will tear us apart, because they’re all convinced that John was a prophet.” Matt.14:5; Matt. 21:46; Mk.11:32; Lk.20:6

²⁷ So their answer to Jesus was, “We don’t know.”

“And neither will I tell you where I got the right to do what I’m doing,” Jesus replied.
Matt.15:14; Lk.20:7-8

Matthew 21

Faithful and Unfaithful Sons

²⁸ “But what do you think of this? A man with two sons went to the older son and said, ‘Son, go out and work today in my vineyard.’

²⁹ “But the son answered, ‘No, I won’t!’ Later he was sorry and changed his mind and went. Matt.21:31

³⁰ “The man then said the same thing to his younger son. ‘Sure, I’ll go,’ he said. But he didn’t. Ezek.33:31; Matt.23:3

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The older one,” they replied.

“And I tell you the truth,” Jesus responded, “that the despised tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the Kingdom of God before you do.

Matt.7:21

³² “Because John the Baptizer came preaching the way of righteousness. But you wouldn’t believe that God had sent him, and accept his message. But the despised national traitors and prostitutes did. Even after you saw the results of John’s message in changing the lives of these sinners, you didn’t turn from your sins and live what he preached. Isa.35:8

Matthew 21

Murderous Sharecroppers to be Replaced (Mk.12:1-12; Lk.20:9-18)

³³ “Listen to another parable:* A landowner planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a hole for a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he rented it out to sharecroppers and left the area.

³⁴ “When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants to the sharecroppers to receive his share of the harvest. Jer.35:15; Mk.12:2-5; Lk.20:10-19

³⁵ “But the sharecroppers attacked the servants. They beat one up, killed another, and threw stones at a third. Matt.5:12; Matt.23:31-37; Acts 7:52; 1 Th.2:15-16; Heb.11:36-37; Rev.6:9

³⁶ “He sent other servants—more than at first—but the same happened to them. Matt.23:37; Mk.12:5; Lk.6:23; Lk.13:34

³⁷ “Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ Mk.12:6; Lk.20:13

³⁸ “But when the renters saw the son coming, they said to each other, ‘Look! Here comes the heir! Come on, let’s kill him. Then we’ll get this vineyard for ourselves that he would otherwise inherit.’ Matt.2:13-16; Matt.26:3-4; Mk.12:7-8; Lk.20:14

³⁹ “So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard and killed him. Acts 2:23

***Matt. 21:33** – “**Parable.**”* The Greek word translated “parable” literally means *comparison*.

Matthew 21

⁴⁰ “So what do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those renters when he comes?” Mk.12:9; Lk.20:15-16

⁴¹ “He will cause them to suffer miserably, and destroy them,” they replied. “Then he will rent his vineyard to other sharecroppers who will give him his share of the harvest at the proper time.” Matt.22:6-7

⁴² Jesus then said, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The Stone that the builders threw out as worthless has become the Chief Cornerstone. This was done by the Lord, and it is marvelous to consider and look into?’* (*Psalm 118:22-23*)

⁴³ “And it’s for that reason, I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will give God His rightful and proper harvest.* Matt.8:11-12; Matt.21:41

***Matt. 21:42** – At His first coming, Messiah was rejected by most of His own people. But God has made Messiah to be the Cornerstone of His Kingdom.

***Matt. 21:43** – The Kingdom of God was taken from among the Jews and given to the Gentiles. It is mainly among the Gentiles that Christ has been received. But a day is coming when great numbers among the people of Israel will also turn to Christ (Rev. 7:1-8).

Matthew 21, 22

44 “Whoever falls on this Stone will be broken, but on whomever It falls, It will grind him to powder!”* Lk.20:18; 1Pet.2:8

45 After listening to His parables, the chief priests and Pharisees realized He was speaking about them. Mk.12:12; Lk.20:19

46 But when they wanted to arrest Him, they were afraid to, because the great crowds there considered Him a prophet.

***Matt. 21:44** – All who cast themselves on Christ, the Rock of humanity’s salvation, and seek mercy from Him, must give themselves to Him. Those who reject His mercy and reject His Lordship over their lives will experience the awful descending blow of judgment.

The Wedding Banquet

22 Then Jesus spoke to the people again, using parables. He said: Matt. 13:3; Mk.4:33-34; Lk.8:10

² “The Kingdom of Heaven is like what happened when a king prepared a great wedding banquet for his son. Matt.13:31-33, 44-47; Matt.25:1, 14

³ “When he sent some servants out to tell the invited guests that the banquet was now ready, they refused to come. Jer.25:4; Jer.35:15; Lk.14:15-17

⁴ “So he sent out other servants, instructing them, ‘Tell my guests, “Look, dinner is ready! My choice roasts are turning on the barbecue

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spits, and everything is ready. Come now to the wedding banquet.””

⁵ “But they paid no attention. One went to his farm, another to his place of business. Prov.1:7, 24-25; Acts 13:46; Heb.2:3

⁶ “Others grabbed hold of his servants and beat them up, and then killed them. Matt.5:10-12; Matt.10:22-25; Matt.21:35-39; Matt.23:34-37; Jn.16:2-3

⁷ “When the king heard about it, he flew into a rage and ordered his armies out and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Matt.21:40-41

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited didn’t deserve enjoying this pleasure. Matt.22:4

⁹ ‘Go out now into the streets and invite everyone you find there to the wedding.’

¹⁰ “So his servants did just that. They went out on the streets and invited everyone they could find, both good and bad. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matt.13:47-48

¹¹ “But when the king came in to greet his guests, he saw that one man wasn’t wearing a wedding robe.

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¹² ‘Friend,’ he said, ‘how did you get in here without wearing a wedding robe?’* The man was speechless.

¹³ “Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie him up, hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ Rev.21:27

¹⁴ “Because many are invited, but only a few are the chosen ones.”* Matt.20:16

***Matt. 22:12** – “How did you get in here without wearing a wedding robe?”* A white robe was provided by the host on such occasions. To spurn the robe offered was an expression of highest contempt. In this parable, the robe represents the right standing with God, provided by Him through Jesus Christ. Those refusing to wear this robe will be rejected by God and thrown into outer darkness (verse 13).

***Matt. 22:14** – Those chosen by God to eternal life (Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:2) are those whom He foreknew would trust Jesus as their Savior; and follow Him as their Lord.

The Question about Paying Taxes (Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:19-26)

¹⁵ The Pharisees then left and began plotting how they could trick Jesus into saying something *for which they could have Him arrested.* Mk.12:13; Lk.20:20

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¹⁶ So they sent some of their men to Him along with some of Herod's followers.* "Teacher," they said, "we know that you always tell the truth, and you also teach the truth about what God wants us to know and do. We know you're not trying to gain the favor of anyone, and that you're not swayed by the importance of anyone. Mk.3:6

¹⁷ "So would you give us your opinion on a matter? Is it right, according to the Laws that God has given us, for us Jews to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or should we refuse to pay them?"*

¹⁸ But Jesus knew what their evil plan was, so He said, "**You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap Me?**" Lk.20:23

¹⁹ "**Show Me the coin you use to pay the tax.**" So they brought Him a denarius.

²⁰ "**Whose picture and name are these on here?**" He asked. Lk.20:24

Matt. 22:16 – "Herod's followers." The Herodians were not a religious sect, but a political party supporting Herod's dynasty, which had been created by Caesar. The Pharisees regarded them as untrue to their religion and country. But here we see them banding together with their bitter enemies against Christ as a common enemy.

***Matt. 22:17 –** As the Passover lamb was examined for four days before Passover, so Jesus was examined by the religious leaders of the nation through intense questioning

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¹⁸ But Jesus knew what their evil plan was, so He said, “**You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap Me?**” Lk.20:23

¹⁹ “**Show Me the coin you use to pay the tax.**”
So they brought Him a denarius.

²⁰ “**Whose picture and name are these on here?**” He asked. Lk.20:24

²¹ “The Emperor’s,” they replied.
“**Then give the Emperor what belongs to him,**”
He said, “**and give to God what belongs to God.**”
Rom.13:7

²² Upon hearing that, they were stunned. And they left Him and went their way. Matt.22:46; Lk.20:26; Lk.21:15; Acts 6:10

On Marriage after the Resurrection (Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40)

²³ That same day, the Sadducees, who say that no one who dies will come back to life again, came to Him with a question. Mk.12:18; Lk.20:27

²⁴ “Teacher,” they said, “Moses said that if a man dies without having any children, his brother must marry the widow, and raise up a child for his brother.*

***Matt. 22:24** - ... to inherit his property.

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²⁵ “We had a case here involving seven brothers. The first one married, but he died before having any children, so he left his wife to his brother. Mk.12:19-23; Lk.20:29-33

²⁶ “The same thing happened to the second brother, and the third, and on down to the seventh.

²⁷ “Finally, the woman died. Dan.12:2; Rom.15:4

²⁸ “So which of the seven brothers will be married to her after the resurrection, since she was the wife of all of them?”

²⁹ “**You are mistaken,**” Jesus replied, “**because you don’t know what the Scriptures teach about the resurrection.* And you don’t realize how powerful God is.**

³⁰ “**After the resurrection, no one will marry or be given in marriage. In Heaven everyone will be like God’s angels.** Mk.12:24-25; Lk.20:34-36; Jn.5:28-29

³¹ “**As for the resurrection of the dead, haven’t you read what God told you about that, when He said,**

³² ‘**I am the God worshiped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?’ (Exodus 3:6)** He is not the God of dead people, but of those who are very much alive!” Ex.3:15-16; Acts 7:32

***Matt. 22:29** – “**The resurrection.**” See verse 32 and Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2.

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³³ When the crowd heard this, they were amazed at the knowledge and wisdom of His teaching. Matt.7:28-29; Mk.6:2; Lk.2:47; Lk.4:22; Jn.7:46

The Greatest Command of God (Mark 12:28-34)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they got together for another strategy session.

³⁵ Then one of them, who was an expert in the Law of Moses, asked Him another question to try to trap Him. Lk.10:25-42

³⁶ “Teacher,” he said, “which is the most important command in the Law?” Mk.12:28-33

³⁷ Jesus replied,

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ (Deuteronomy 6:5) Dt.10:12; Dt.30:6; Matt.12:29-30; Mk.12:33; Lk.10:27; 1Jn.5:2

³⁸ “This is the most important and the greatest of all of God’s commands.

³⁹ “The second most important is like it:

‘You shall love others in the same way that you love yourself.’ (Leviticus 19:18) Matt.19:19; Mk.12:31; Lk.10:27-28; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; Jas.2:8

⁴⁰ “The entire Law of Moses and all the writings of the prophets are founded upon the principles contained in these two commands.” Matt.7:12; 1Tim.1:5; Jas.2:8; 1Jn.4:19-21

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A Question about the Messiah (Mark 12:35-37;
Luke 20:41-44)

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together there, Jesus, in turn, asked them a question.
Matt.22:34

⁴² “What is your opinion about the Messiah?”
He asked them. “What family will He come from?”

“He’ll be a descendant of King David,” they replied. Rom.1:3

⁴³ “How is it then,” He questioned, “that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, David calls Him ‘Lord’? Because David said: Mk.12:36

⁴⁴ God said to My Lord,* “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies into a footstool for Your feet.” (Psalm 110:1) Acts 2:34-35; Heb.1:13; Heb.10:12-13; Heb.12:2

⁴⁵ “Now if David called Him ‘Lord,’ how can He be his son?” Jn.8:58; Rev.22:16

⁴⁶ No one had even one word to say in reply. From then on no one dared to put any more questions to Him. Lk.14:6; Acts 4:14

Matt. 22:44 – “God said to My Lord.” This was God the Father speaking to God the Son.

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The Jewish Leaders Condemned (Mark 12:38-40;
Luke 20:45-47)

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to His followers:

² “The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in explaining what the Law of Moses teaches.

³ “So whatever they explain to you about the Law, be sure that you pay close attention and follow their instructions and do as they direct. But don’t do what they do, because they don’t practice what they teach. Dt. 4:5; Dt. 5:27; Dt. 17:9-12

⁴ “They put heavy loads of religious requirements on people’s backs, that are hard to carry, but they won’t use even one of their own fingers to lift and ease the burden. Matt. 23:23; Lk.11:46

⁵ “Everything they do is for the purpose of drawing attention to themselves. Notice how they’ve enlarged the little boxes containing Scriptures to be worn on the forehead and arm.* Also notice how long they’ve made the fringes on their robes.* Matt. 6:1; Jn. 5:44

Matt. 23:5 – “Little boxes containing Scriptures to be worn on the forehead and arm.” The English word is ‘phylacteries.’ These small boxes were tied on the forehead and upper left arm in obedience to the Lord’s command (Ex. 13:9, 16; Dt. 6:8; 11:18). “Fringes on their robes.” These *fringes* were

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tassels worn by Jews on the corners of their garments as a sign of devotion to God (Num. 15:37-41; Dt. 22:12).

6 “They love a place at the head table at banquets, and the prominent seats in the synagogue. Prov. 25:6-7; Mk. 12:38-39; Lk.11:43

7 “And, oh, how they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have people call them ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’.”* Jn. 1:38; Jn. 3:2

8 “None of you should be called ‘Rabbi’ because you have only one Great Teacher, which is the Messiah, and you are all brothers and sisters. Matt. 23:10

9 “And don’t call anyone on earth ‘Father’, because you have only one Father, who is in Heaven.

10 “Nor are you to be called ‘masters’, because you have only one Leader, who is the Messiah. Matt. 23:8; 1Cor.12:5

11 “The greatest among you will be the one who serves you. Matt. 20:26-27; Mk. 10:43-44; Lk. 22:26-27; Jn. 13:14-15; 1Cor. 9:19; 2Cor. 4:5; Gal. 5:13; Phil. 2:5-8

***Matt. 23:7** – “**Rabbi.**” The word *Rabbi* was an honorary title which meant *Lord, Master, great Teacher, or My Lord*, for outstanding teachers of the law.

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¹² “So whoever promotes himself will be pulled down. But whoever humbles himself will be honored. Psa. 138:6; Prov. 15:33; Prov. 16:18-19; Prov. 29:23; Isa. 57:15; Matt. 5:3; Matt. 18:4; Lk. 1:51-52; Lk. 14:11; Lk. 18:14; Jas. 4:6; 1Pet. 5:5

The Leaders’ Hypocrisy Condemned

¹³ “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! Because you shut the door to the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. Not only are you not entering it yourselves, but when others try to enter, you stop them. Zech. 11:17; Matt. 23:14-15, 27, 29; Lk. 11:43-44

¹⁴ “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You cheat widows out of their homes and other properties, and then pretend to be so holy by your long prayers. Therefore your sentence on Judgment Day will be even greater than what’s given other sinners. Ex. 22:22-24; Mk. 12:40; Lk. 20:47; 2Tim. 3:6; Titus 1:10-11; 2Pet. 2:14-15

¹⁵ “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You travel to the ends of the earth to win one convert, and after you win him, you make him twice as fit for Hell as you are yourselves.

¹⁶ “Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘You don’t need to fulfill your promise when you make a promise by swearing by the Temple; but

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whoever swears to God concerning a future gift of gold he vows to bring to the Temple is obligated to fulfill his promise.’* Isa. 56:10-11; Matt. 15:14; Matt. 23:17, 19, 24, 26; Jn. 9:39-41

¹⁷ “You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold, or the Temple that makes the gold sacred?

Psa. 94:8

¹⁸ “You also say, ‘You don’t need to fulfill your promise when you make a promise by swearing by the altar; but whoever swears by the gift he vows to sacrifice to God there, is obligated to perform his oath.’

¹⁹ “You blind fools! Which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

²⁰ “So the one who swears by the altar also swears by everything on it.

²¹ “And the one who swears by the Temple also swears by God, who lives there. Psa.132:13-14

²² “And the one who swears by Heaven, swears by the throne of God and by the One who sits on that throne. Isa. 66:1; Matt. 5:34; Acts 7:49

***Matt. 23:16** – The Lord makes it clear that all the vows were binding, since they were made in the presence of God.

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23 “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You give God a tenth of even the spices from your garden, such as mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected to obey the more important matters of the Law, such as justice, mercy, and faith.* You should do the good you are doing, but not to the neglect of these more important matters! Lk. 11:42

24 “You blind guides! You strain out a tiny fly from your soup, but then swallow a camel!.* Matt. 7:4; Jn. 18:28, 40

25 “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You wash the outside of your cups and dishes so diligently, but inside yourselves you are rotten with the filth of cheating others and thinking only of yourselves. Matt.15:19-20; Mk. 7:4-37; Lk. 11:39-40

26 “You blind Pharisees! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, then the outside will also be clean.* Isa. 55:7; Ezek. 18:31; 2Cor. 7:1; Heb. 10:22; Jas. 4:8

***Matt. 23:23** – “Faith,” that is, *faithfulness* or *being faithful to God*.

***Matt. 23:24** – They placed such importance upon little things, but ignored the truly important things. ***Matt. 23:26** – First clean the inside (your heart), then the outside (the things you say and do) will also be clean.

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²⁷ “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You are like white marble tombs, beautiful on the outside, but inside, full of dead men’s bones and other filth. Lk. 11:44; Acts 23:3

²⁸ “In the same way, your outward appearance causes people to believe you are so pure and honest, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and sins. 1Sam.16:7; Psa. 51:6; Jer. 17:9-10; Lk. 16:15; Heb. 4:12-13

²⁹ “Woe to you Pharisees and teachers of the Law! You hypocrites! You build monuments for the prophets and decorate the tombs of those who lived good lives, Lk. 11:47-48

³⁰ and then you say, ‘If we had lived when our ancestors did, we wouldn’t have had any part in killing the prophets.’ Matt. 21:35-36; Matt. 23:34-35

³¹ “But you witness against yourselves, because you admit that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets.

Their Awful Punishment Predicted

³² “Go ahead! Fill up to the top the measuring cup which already holds the sins of your fathers! *
Gen. 15:16

***Matt. 23:32** – This was a prediction of what they were about to do to Jesus. He was saying, in effect, “By slaying Me, you will fill up to the brim the cup containing the sins of your fathers until that measuring cup is full – until as much has been committed as God can possibly stand. But then you must take the consequences.”

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³³ “You snakes! You children of vipers! How can you expect to escape being condemned to Hell? Psa. 58:3-5; Matt. 3:7; Matt. 12:34; Lk. 3:7; Jn. 8:44

³⁴ “For that reason, I will indeed send you prophets and wise men and teachers.* But you will kill some, and nail others to crosses. Others you will whip in your synagogues, and then chase and persecute from one city to the next. Lk. 11:49

³⁵ “For that reason, the punishment due for the murder of godly men throughout the whole world will fall on you—from the murder of righteous Abel, to the murder of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar. Gen. 9:5-6; Num. 35:33; Lam. 4:13-14; Rev. 18:24

³⁶ “I tell you the truth, the total of all the judgments for all these atrocities over the centuries will fall upon you people who are alive today!.* Matt. 13:30-31

***Matt. 23:34** – “**Teachers.**” ... in an endeavor to awaken you to the truth. ***Matt. 23:36** – The horrendous slaughter and destruction of Jerusalem took place less than 40 years later in A.D. 70. The Romans killed well over a million Jews during the siege, then burned the city, and drove almost 100,000 Jews into captivity.

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Jesus' Love for Jerusalem (Luke 13:34-35)

³⁷ “O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! You who have killed the prophets and stoned to death the messengers sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Jer. 4:14; Lk. 13:34

³⁸ “Look! Your Temple is about to be utterly abandoned by God.* Matt. 24:2; Lk. 13:35; Lk. 19:43-44; Lk. 21:6, 20, 24

³⁹ “I tell you, there is no way that you will see Me again until the day when you will say, ‘How wonderful and blessed by God is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.’”* (*Psalm 118:26*)

*Matt. 23:38 – See Matthew 24:1-2.

Destruction of Jerusalem Predicted (Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6)

24 As Jesus was leaving the Temple area, some of His followers came up to Him to point out some of the interesting things about the Temple buildings.

² “Yes, take a good look at these beautiful buildings,” Jesus responded, “because I tell you the truth, *when Jerusalem is destroyed, not one*

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stone will be left upon another. They will all be torn down.” Luke 19:44

The Signs of the End of the Age (Mark 13:3-13; Luke 21:7-19)

³ Later, as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, some of His followers went to speak to Him privately. “Tell us,” they inquired. “When will all these things happen? And what will happen to alert us that You are soon coming again, and that the end of the age is near?” Mark 13:3-4

⁴ “One of the main things,” Jesus replied, “is to be on your guard so that no one fools you. Jer. 29:8; Mk. 13:5-6; 2Cor. 11:13-15; Eph. 4:14; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:8; 2Th. 2:3; 2Pet. 2:1-3; 1Jn. 4:1

⁵ “Because many will come in my Name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’* and many will be fooled.* Matthew 24:24

⁶ “And you will hear of wars, and rumors of more wars, but don’t be alarmed. All of these events must take place, but they do not mean that the end has come. Mk. 13:7-8; Lk. 21:9

***Matt. 24:5** – “I am the Christ,”* or ‘the anointed.’ “Many will be fooled.”* Several historians, including *Josephus*, wrote that there arose a number of imposters claiming to be the Messiah between the time of Christ’s resurrection and the destruction of Jerusalem. Some of the people were deceived by these men. Even though *false Christs* arose in that era, a double fulfillment of this prophecy, as is true of many other prophecies, is to be expected.

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⁷ “Because when the end is actually approaching, many nations will rise up and war against many other nations, and kingdoms against other kingdoms. And there will be famines, disease epidemics, and earthquakes in various places.

⁸ “But even these are only the beginning of the birth pangs. 1Th. 5:3

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to be brutally mistreated, tortured, and put to death. You will be hated by people in all nations because of your solid allegiance to My name.*
Matt. 10:17-22; Mk. 13:9-13; Lk. 11:49; 1Pet. 4:16

¹⁰ “At that time, many will give up and turn away from their faith in Me,* and betray and hate one another. 1Tim. 4:1; Matt. 11:6; 2Tim. 4:10, 16

¹¹ “Many false prophets will also appear on the scene and will fool many.* Matt. 7:15; Matt. 24:5, 24; Mk. 13:22; Acts 20:30; 1Tim. 4:1; 2Pet. 2:1; 1Jn. 2:18; Jude 4

***Matt. 24:9** – Christians have been persecuted since the time of Christ, and especially during the first 300 years following His crucifixion and resurrection. ***Matt. 24:10** – “**Then shall many be offended**” (**King James Version**), literally, ‘caused to stumble’ – suggesting professing believers who fall away and even turn against one another. The *Today’s English Version* states, ‘And then many will fall away.’ Similar translations are ‘give up believing in Me or being My followers.’ ***Matt. 24:11** – Today, false cults and *false prophets* are literally flooding the land. No doubt their will increase.

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¹² “And because people will be sinning everywhere and in every way, multiplied times worse than ever before, people’s love will grow cold.*

¹³ “But those who remain faithful to Me to the end of their life will be saved. Matt. 10:22; Mk. 13:13; Rom. 2:7; Heb. 3:6, 14; Heb. 10:39; Rev. 2:10

¹⁴ “*In spite of the great falling away, the Great News about the Kingdom of Christ** will be preached throughout the whole world and solemnly declared in every nation. Then the end will come. Matt. 4:23; Matt. 9:35; Matt. 10:7; Acts 20:25

Matt. 24:12 – “People’s love will grow cold.” ‘Even many of My followers will grow cold in their love for Me and My teachings’ (implied). ***Matt. 24:14 – “The Great News about the Kingdom of Christ.”*** The Great News about salvation through Jesus Christ, and about His Kingdom, was preached to all the then-known-world by the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The Great News is again going forth *throughout the whole world* with emphasis on *the Kingdom message* – that Christ must be made Lord and King in one’s life and the Great News about His Kingdom.

The Sign to Flee Judea (Mark 13:14-23; Luke 21:20-24)

¹⁵ “So when you see the abominable thing that represents the one who has caused so much devastation, standing now in the Temple area, just as the prophet Daniel said would happen (let whoever reads Daniel give diligence

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to understand what he is saying),* Mk. 13:14; Lk. 19:43; Lk. 21:20

16

then those in Judea must flee to the hills!

Lk. 21:21-22

17

“If you are out on your roof deck when you hear the news, don’t go down into the house for anything at all. Mk. 13:15-16; Lk. 17:31-33

18

“The person in the field must not go back into the house or anywhere else, even to get his clothes.

19

“This will be a frightful and difficult time for those who are expectant mothers, and for those with nursing babies. Hos. 13:16; Mk. 13:17-18; Lk. 21:23; Lk. 23:29-30

20

“Pray that you won’t need to escape in winter or on the Sabbath.

21

“Because there will then be frightful persecution, calamity, and suffering—far greater than any other since the beginning of time until now. There will never again be anything like it.

Mark 13:19

***Matt. 24:15** – In 168 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes sent General Apollonius with 22,000 soldiers to Jerusalem (pretending to come peacefully) and then attacked and plundered the city. They then desecrated the altar of burnt offerings by building an altar dedicated to Zeus upon it, and killing and offering pigs upon their altar. A statue of Zeus was also erected in the Temple area. But Jesus said (verse 15) the primary fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy is yet future.

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²² “If God didn’t cut that time short, there wouldn’t be any life left on earth. But for the sake of God’s chosen ones, He will cut that time short.* Mark 13:20

²³ “If anyone then tells you, ‘Look! The Messiah is over here!’ or ‘Over there!’ don’t believe it. Mk. 13:21; Lk. 17:23-24

²⁴ “Because false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and do such amazing wonders and miracles that they will be convincing enough to deceive even God’s chosen ones, if that were possible. Matt. 24:5, 11; 2Pet. 2:1-3; 2Pet. 3:17

²⁵ “Pay attention, and realize that I have warned you before all of this takes place. John 16:1

²⁶ “So if anyone tells you, ‘Look! He’s out in the desert!’ don’t go out there. Or if they say, ‘He’s in a room back there!’ don’t believe it.

Acts 21:38

²⁷ “Because when the Son of Man comes, He will be as visible for everyone to clearly see as a bolt of lightning is when it flashes in the east and then brilliantly travels all the way across the sky to the west. Luke 17:24-37

***Matt. 24:22** – God will show this mercy *for the sake of His elect*. The elect are all the chosen of God, whether Jew or Gentile. They are those persons who truly love Him, obey and serve Him.

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28 “Because wherever there’s a body about to die, there you will find the vultures gathered together. Luke 17:37

The Second Coming of Messiah (Mark 13:24-29; Luke 21:25-31)

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the natural forces in the heavens controlling the planets will be shaken. Mk. 13:24-25

30 “Then the sign that will herald the coming of the Son of Man will appear in the sky! When that happens, all the people on earth will mourn, because then they will see the Son of Man whom they had spurned, coming on the clouds in the sky, with a most majestic display of awesome power and exceedingly great glory. Dan. 7:13; Matt. 24:3; Rev. 1:7

31 “And accompanied with the sound of a mighty trumpet blast, I will send out My angels to gather My chosen ones together from the four corners of the earth, from the extremity of one horizon to the extremity of the other.

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³² “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches become tender and grow leaves, you know that summer is near.* Mk. 13:28-29; Lk. 21:29-30

³³ “In the same way, when you see all these things beginning to happen, realize that the end is near, right at the door.

³⁴ “I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away before all of these things have taken place. Mk. 13:30-31; Lk. 21:32-33

³⁵ “The heavens and the earth will in time pass away, but there’s no possibility whatever that what I say will come to nothing. Isa. 34:4; Isa. 51:6; Heb. 1:11-12; 2Pet. 3:7-12; Rev. 6:14; Rev. 20:11

***Matt. 24:32** – Many claim that the *fig tree* here is symbolic of the Jewish nation. But such an interpretation fails in light of the fact that Luke 21:29 adds, *and all the other trees*. Jesus’ statement was simply a matter of everyday understanding. When one sees the trees of the forest and field putting forth leaves, he knows that summer is close at hand. Likewise, when people see these prophecies of Jesus beginning to take place, they can know that the time of His coming is near.

No One Knows the Day and Hour (Mark 13:32-37; Luke 17:26-30)

³⁶ “But as for the day and the hour when I will return in power and great glory, no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven. Only My Father knows.* Matt. 24:42, 44; Matt. 25:13; Mk. 13:32; Acts 1:7; 1Th. 5:2; 2Pet. 3:10; Rev. 16:15

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***Matt. 24:36** – Our Lord does not tell us that we will not know *the approximate time* of His coming, because He has given us all kinds of signs and indications to look for which will indicate that the time is drawing near. But He does state that nobody but the Father *knows the day or the hour* when He will return (Mk. 13:32).

37 “But when the Son of Man comes, things will continue just like they did in the time of Noah. Lk. 17:26-27; 1Pet. 3:20-21; 2Pet. 2:5; 2Pet. 3:6

38 “During the days just before the flood, people were eating and drinking as usual. They were getting married and giving their daughters in marriage. Life was going on as usual even on the very day that Noah and his family entered the big ship he had built. Lk. 12:19, 45; Lk. 17:26-28; Lk. 21:34; Rom. 13:13-14

39 “They didn’t know that the prophesied flood would come that day, until it came and swept them all away. And that’s exactly how it will be when the Son of Man comes.* Rom. 1:28; 2Pet. 2:5, 7-9

40 “Two men at that time will be working in the field. One will be taken away and the other will be left behind. Lk. 17:34-37; 2Pet. 2:5, 7-9

***Matt. 24:39** – It may be that the Lord is comparing wickedness in Noah’s day to wickedness in the days of His coming. On the other hand, He may simply be saying that life will go on as usual, even as it did just prior to the great flood. People will be *eating and drinking, getting married and giving their daughters in marriage, even on the very day* that judgment from God strikes.

Matthew 24

41 “Two women will be together grinding grain. One will be taken away and the other left behind.

42 “So you must always be ready, because you don’t know what day or hour your Lord will come. Matt. 25:13; Mk. 13:33-37; Lk. 12:35-40; Lk. 21:36; Rom. 13:11; 1Th. 5:6; 1Pet. 4:7; Rev. 16:15

43 “Look at it this way: If the man of the house had known at what hour of the night the thief was coming, he would have been ready for him, to make sure his house wasn’t broken into.

44 “For that very reason, you must always be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at a time when you will least expect Him.* Matt. 25:10, 13; Lk. 12:40

***Matt. 24:44** – Let’s not dare to twist our Lord’s words here to fit our so-called system of theology. There is urgent need to be *ready* for His coming at all times, and to help others to be ready.

Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Luke 12:35-48)

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant? He is the one whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give them food at the proper time. Lk. 12:41-43; Lk. 19:17

46 “He will be a very happy servant indeed if he is found doing what he was assigned to do when his master returns. Matt. 25:34; Lk. 12:37, 43; 2Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 16:15

Matthew 24

47 “I tell you the truth, his master will put him in charge of everything he owns.* Matt. 25:21; Matt. 25:23; Lk. 12:44; Lk. 19:17; Jn. 12:26; 2Tim. 2:12; 1Pet. 5:4; Rev. 21:7

48 “But suppose that servant is evil, and says to himself, ‘My master won’t be here for a while yet.’

49 “So he begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken.

50 “The master of that servant will return on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not expecting him. Prov. 29:1; Matt. 24:42-44; 1Th. 5:2-3; Rev. 3:3

51 “His master will most severely punish him* and assign him his proper place, with the other hypocrites, where there will be bitter weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Luke 12:46

***Matt. 24:47** – The Lord promises rewards to all of His faithful servants who give His household spiritual *food at the proper time*.

***Matt. 24:51** – “His master will most severely punish him,” literally *will cut him in two*. ‘Hypocrites.’ These are frightful warnings indeed, coming directly from the mouth of Jesus Himself. We will do well to take most earnest heed ourselves and to shout the warnings and urge all who profess Christ as Lord and Savior to live thoroughly what they profess.

Matthew 25

The Five Wise and Five Foolish Virgins

25 “At that time, the Kingdom of Heaven will be like the night when ten girls* took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Matt. 24:42-51; Lk. 21:34-36

² “Five were wise, and five were foolish. Matt. 7:24-27

³ “The foolish ones brought their lamps but no extra oil.*

⁴ “While those who were wise brought along containers with plenty of extra oil to keep their lamps burning.

⁵ “But while the bridegroom delayed his arrival, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. Matt. 24:48; Lk. 12:45; 2Pet. 3:4

⁶ “Then at midnight, the cry rang out, ‘Everybody up! Here comes the bridegroom! Go out now to meet him!’ Matt. 24:44; Mk. 13:33-37; Lk. 12:20, 38-40, 46; 1Th. 5:1-3; Rev. 16:15

***Matt. 25:1** – “Girls” translates a Greek noun that has the root meaning of ‘virgin’ (King James Version). The word may also be used in a broader sense of an unmarried girl. ***Matt. 25:3** – “No extra oil.”* The Today’s English Version translates similar to the Last Days Bible when it states, ‘The foolish ones ... did not take any extra oil with them.’ These translations are based upon verse 8 that states, ‘Our lamps are going out!’ The girls originally had oil in their lamps but failed to take additional oil to refill them. The King James Version states that the foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them. In either case the point is that they did not have lamps that could be lit.

Matthew 25

7 “And all the girls got up and began to trim the wicks* of their lamps. Lk. 12:35; 2Pet. 3:14

8 “But then the foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil! Our lamps are going out!’*
9

“No!’ the wise ones replied. ‘We may not have enough for both you and us. Go to the store and buy some for yourselves.’ Ezek. 14:20

10 “And while the foolish ones were gone, buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, after which the door was shut. Matt. 25:6; Rev. 22:20

11 “Later, the others arrived. ‘Sir! Oh, Sir!’ they called out. ‘Open the door for us!’ Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 12:16-17

12 “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ Psa. 1:6; Psa. 5:5; Lk. 13:26-30; Jn. 9:31; Jn. 10:27; 1Cor. 8:3; 2Tim. 2:19

13 “So you must always watch,* because you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Mt. 24:42-44; Mk. 13:33-37; Lk. 21:36; Acts 20:31; 1Cor. 16:13; 1Th. 5:6; 1Pet. 4:7; 1Pet. 5:8; Rev. 16:15

***Matt. 25:7** – “Trim the wicks”* is a term used in English to describe what is done to make a lamp burn efficiently by adjusting the wick. ***Matt. 25:8** – “Our lamps are going out”* The lamps have gone out or will soon be going out. ***Matt. 25:13** – “You must always watch.”* This is in the present tense, imperative mood, denoting present, necessary action that must be continuous.

Matthew 25

A Story about Three Servants (Luke 19:11-27)

14 “The Kingdom of Heaven is also like what happened when a man traveled to another country. Before going, he called in his servants and entrusted each of them with his money to invest for him. Matt. 21:33; Mk. 13:34; Lk. 19:12-13; Lk. 20:9

15 “To one he gave five talents,* to another two, to another one—to each man according to his ability.* Then he went on his trip. Lk. 12:48; Lk. 19:13

16 “The first one invested the five talents, and made another five. 1Cor. 15:10; 2Tim. 4:5-8

17 “The one who had two did the same, and made two more. Acts 9:36; Acts 10:2; 2Cor. 8:12; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 6:¹⁰; 1Pet. 4:¹⁰

18 “But the one who had received the one talent dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. Lk. 19:20; Heb. 6:12; 2Pet. 1:8

19 “After a long time, the master returned home. He soon called in each servant to report what he had done with his money. Matt. 24:48; Matt. 25:5

***Matt. 25:15** – “Talents.”* A talent was worth more than 15 years’ of wages. “According to his ability.”* The Barclay Version says, “He gave each man a sum proportionate to his ability.”

Matthew 25

²⁰ “So the one who had received the five talents came with them and also brought the five additional talents. ‘Sir,’ he said, ‘you gave me five talents, and, as you see, I have gained five more, to add to the ones you gave me.’ Lk. 19:16-17; Acts 20:24; Col. 1:29; Jas. 2:18

²¹ ‘Well done!’ his master replied. ‘You have been a capable and faithful servant. Because you have been faithful in the handling of a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come on in and share my happiness!’ 2Cor. 10:18

²² “The one who had received two talents also came. ‘Sir,’ he said, ‘you gave me two talents, and look, I have gained two more, to add to the ones you gave me.’ Lk. 19:18-19

²³ ‘Well done!’ his master replied. ‘You have been a capable and faithful servant. Because you have been faithful in the handling of a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come on in and share my happiness!’

Matt. 25:21

²⁴ “Then the one who had been given one talent came. ‘Sir,’ he said, ‘I know that you are a hard man. You reap harvests where you haven’t planted, and you gather in where you haven’t scattered any seed. Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46

Matthew 25

25 ‘So I was afraid, and I went out and hid your talent in the ground. Look, here now, you have what is yours.’ Prov. 26:13

26 ‘But his master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you’re sure you know, are you, that I reap a harvest where I haven’t planted, and gather in where I haven’t scattered any seed?’ Matt. 18:32

27 ‘In that case, you should have at least earned honest money for me by depositing my money in the bank, so that on my return, I would have received back what belonged to me, with interest. Lk. 19:22-23

28 ‘Take the talent from him,’ he told his other servants, ‘and give it to the one with the ten talents!’ Lk. 19:24

29 ‘Because everyone who diligently uses what he has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. As for the one who has nothing, *because of his fear and unfaithfulness*, even the little he has will be taken from him. Matt. 13:12; Mk. 4:25; Lk. 8:18; Lk. 19:25-26

30 ‘And throw the worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Matthew 25

The Judgment of the Nations

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, He will sit upon His glorious throne. Matt. 16:27; Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26; 2Th. 1:7-10; Jude 14

³² “Then all the people of all the nations in the world will be gathered before Him. And He will separate them from one another in the same way that a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. Psa. 96:13; Psa. 98:9; Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 2:16

³³ “He will put the sheep at His right, but the goats at His left. Jn. 10:26-28; Jn. 21:15-17

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those at His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, and inherit the Kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. Lk. 1:31-33

³⁵ ‘Because I was hungry and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you welcomed Me into your homes. Prov. 11:24-25; Prov. 14:31; Prov. 19:17; Isa. 58:7; Dan. 4:27; Mic. 6:8; Matt. 10:40-42; Matt. 25:40

³⁶ ‘I needed clothes, and you gave Me something to wear. I was sick and you cared for Me. I was in jail and you came to visit Me.’ Lk. 3:11

Matthew 25

³⁷ “Then those who had done what was right will say to Him, ‘Lord, when did we ever see You hungry, and give You food? Or thirsty, and give You something to drink?’ Matt. 6:3

³⁸ ‘When did we ever see You alone, away from home, and invite You into our homes? When did we see You in need of clothes, and give You something to wear?’

³⁹ ‘Or when did we see You sick or in jail, and came to visit You?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it for even one of the least known or least important of My brothers or sisters, you were doing it for Me.’ Heb. 6:10

⁴¹ “Then the King will give vent to His anger to those at His left and declare, ‘Out of My presence, you detestable ones! Away with you into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his demons!’

⁴² ‘Because I was hungry, but you would not feed Me. I was thirsty, but you would not give Me a drink. Jn. 14:21; Jas. 2:15-24; 1Jn. 3:14-17

⁴³ ‘I was alone and away from home, but you wouldn’t welcome Me into your homes. I needed clothes, but you wouldn’t give Me anything to wear. I was sick, and in jail, but you didn’t visit Me.’ Judg. 19:15; Jer. 23:2; Heb. 13:2-3

Matthew 25, 26

44 “Then they also will ask Him, ‘Lord, when did we ever see You hungry or thirsty or alone and away from home or in need of clothes or sick or in jail, and refused to help You?’

45 “Then He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, anything you refused to do for one of these people of Mine, even for the least important one, you refused to do for Me.’ Prov. 14:31; Zech. 2:8

46 “These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous, *those who were kind and considerate to My brothers and sisters will enter everlasting life.*” Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:41; Jn. 5:29; Rev. 21:8

The Plot to Kill Jesus (Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6)

26 When Jesus had finished giving all of these parables and prophecies, He said to His followers, Matt. 19:1

² “As you know, the Passover celebration begins two days from now. And that’s when the Son of Man will be turned over to the Romans to be nailed to a cross.” Mk. 14:1-2; Lk. 22:1-2, 15; Jn. 13:1

³ In fact, at that very moment the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders of the people were assembled in the palace of Caiaphas the High Priest. Psa. 2:1-2; Jer. 11:19; Matt. 21:45-46; Jn. 11:47-53, 57; Acts 4:25-28

Matthew 26

⁴ They were discussing ways and means of arresting Jesus in some underhanded way and killing Him. Psa. 2:2

⁵ “But we can’t do it during Passover,” they said, “or the people may riot.” Mk. 14:2; Jn. 18:28;

Jesus Honored at Bethany (Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-11)

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a former leper,

⁷ a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She proceeded to pour it on His head as He reclined at the table.* Jn. 12:2-3

⁸ When Jesus’ followers saw what she was doing, they became angry, and said, “Why this waste? Mk. 14:4; Jn. 12:4-6

⁹ “That perfume could have been sold for a fabulous price, and the money given to the poor!” Mk. 14:5; Jn. 12:5-6

¹⁰ But Jesus, knowing what they were saying, said, “**Why are you giving this woman a hard time? What she has just done for Me was a beautiful thing.** Mk. 14:6; Lk. 7:44-50

***Matt. 26:7** – “**As He reclined at the table.**” The custom was to recline on couches while eating. John 12:3 states that the woman poured the perfume on His feet. She no doubt did both, as John 12:3 indicates she had a large amount.

Matthew 26

¹¹ “You will always have the poor with you, but you won’t always have Me. Mk. 14:7; Jn. 12:8

¹² “When she poured this perfume on Me, she was preparing My body for burial. Mk. 14:8; Jn. 12:7; Jn. 19:39-40

¹³ “I tell you the truth, wherever the Great News is preached throughout the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told, as a memorial to her.”

A Traitor Negotiates to Betray Jesus (Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6)

¹⁴ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests. Mk. 14:10; Lk. 22:3-6; Jn. 13:2

¹⁵ “What are you willing to pay me if I hand Jesus over to you?” he asked them. And they counted out 30 silver coins and gave them to him. 1Tim. 6:9-10

¹⁶ So from that time on Judas looked for a chance to hand Him over to them. Mk. 14:11; Lk. 22:6

Jesus Eats The Last Passover Meal with His Followers (Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13; John 13:21-30)

¹⁷ On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus’ followers went to Him and asked, “Where do you want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover meal?” Num. 28:16-17; Mk. 14:12; Lk. 22:7

Matthew 26

¹⁸ He mentioned the home of a certain man, and said, “Go into the city and tell him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is drawing near. My followers and I will eat the Passover meal in your home.’”” Mk. 14:13-16; Lk. 22:10-13

¹⁹ So His followers did as Jesus had instructed them, and prepared the Passover meal there. Matt. 21:6; Jn. 15:14

²⁰ When evening came, He reclined at the table with the Twelve. Mk. 14:17-21; Lk. 22:14-16

²¹ And as they were eating, He said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will hand Me over to My enemies.” Psa. 55:12-14; Matt. 26:2, 14-16; Jn. 6:70-71; Jn. 13:21

²² The men were greatly distressed and sad upon hearing such an announcement. And one after the other they asked Him, “Lord, You surely don’t mean me, do You?” Mk. 14:19-20; Lk. 22:23; Jn. 13:22-25

²³ “The one who has dipped his bread in the same bowl with Me is the one who will betray Me,”* Jesus replied. Psa. 41:9; Lk. 22:21; Jn. 13:18, 26-28

Matt. 26:23 – “The one who has dipped his bread in the same bowl with Me is the one who will betray Me.” According to John 13:21-26, Jesus evidently said this privately to John.

Matthew 26

24 “The Son of Man will indeed go from this life in the very way it has been written in prophecy concerning His suffering and death.* *But awful judgment awaits the man who is betraying the Son of Man.** It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”

25 Then Judas, who was in the very process of betraying Him, said, “Surely, Teacher, You’re not speaking of me, are You?”

“Yes, I am,” Jesus replied.

***Matt. 26:24** – “It has been written in prophecy concerning His suffering and death.” See Psalm 22:1-22; Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 52:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 12:10; Luke 24:25-27, 45-47. *“But awful judgment awaits the man who is betraying the Son of Man”* (implied).

Jesus Institutes the Lord’s Supper (Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-23)

26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread in His hands, and after thanking God for it and asking Him to bless it, He broke it and gave it to His followers. “Take this and eat it,” He said. “This is My body.”* Mk. 14:22; Lk. 22:19

***Matt. 26:26** – “This is My body” which is being broken and sacrificed for you.

Matthew 26

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and after giving thanks to God, He handed it to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you.** Mk. 14:23-24; Lk. 22:20

²⁸ “**Because this is My blood—the blood that guarantees and makes possible God’s New Agreement with mankind. It is being poured out so that many may have their sins forgiven.** Lev. 17:11; Jer. 31:31; Mk. 14:24; Lk. 22:19; 1Cor. 11:25; Heb. 10:4-14; Heb. 13:20

²⁹ “**But as for me, I will never again drink this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink the new wine with you in My Father’s Kingdom.**” Mk. 14:25; Lk. 22:15-18

³⁰ Then, after having sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Psa. 81:1-4; Mk. 14:26; Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16-17

Peter’s Denial Predicted by Jesus (Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “**Tonight you will all be ashamed of Me and desert Me, because it is written:**

I will strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. (*Zechariah 13:7*)

Mk. 14:27-28; Jn. 16:32

³² “**But after I have come back to life again, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.**” Matt. 16:21; Matt. 20:19; Matt. 27:63-64; Mk. 9:9-10; Lk. 18:33-34

Matthew 26

³³ Then Peter spoke up and said, “Even if everyone else loses faith in You and leaves, I never will!” Mk. 14:29; Lk. 22:33; Jn. 13:36-38

³⁴ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “this very night, before the rooster crows at dawn, you will have said three times that you don’t even know Me.” Mk. 14:30-31; Lk. 22:34; Jn. 13:38

³⁵ But Peter emphatically declared, “There’s no way that I would ever deny You, even if I must die with You!” And all the other followers said the same. 1Cor. 10:12; Phil. 2:12

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. “Sit here,” He said, “while I go on a little farther and pray.” Mk. 14:32-35; Lk. 22:39-71

³⁷ Taking with Him Peter and the two brothers, James and John, He became overwhelmed with grief and was deeply depressed.* Matt. 17:1; Mk. 5:37

*Matt. 26:37 – “Deeply depressed,” that is, grief and anguish came over him.

Matthew 26

³⁸ “I am extremely overwhelmed with sorrow,” He said to those with Him, “so much so that I’m at the brink of death. You must stay here and keep watch with Me.” Psa. 116:3; Isa. 53:3, 10; Gal. 3:13; 1Pet. 3:18

³⁹ Then He went a little farther and fell with His face to the ground, and prayed, “O My Father, if there is any way possible, let this cup be taken from Me!* But still, I don’t want what I desire, but whatever You know must be done.”

⁴⁰ Then He went back to His three followers—and they were asleep! To Peter He said, “*Is this the way you stand with Me as you promised? Couldn’t you men keep watch with Me for even one hour?*” Matt. 26:43; Mk. 14:37

⁴¹ “You must continue to be alert, and earnestly pray, so that when temptation comes, *you won’t be overcome by it and fall.** It’s true that your spirit wants to do what’s right, but the *flesh is weak!*” Mk. 13:33-37; Mk. 14:38; Lk. 22:40, 46; 1Pet. 4:7; 1Pet. 5:8

***Matt. 26:39** – “**Let this cup be taken from Me!**” His suffering on the cross was much more than physical . He evidently experienced total rejection by God (See Psalm 22:1). ***Matt. 26:41** – “**When temptation comes, you won’t be overcome by it and fall.**” Or *so you won’t be tempted to lose faith in Me when I die.*

Matthew 26

⁴² Then He left them and prayed a second time, saying, “O My Father! If it’s not possible for this cup to be taken away until I drink it, Your will be done.” Matt. 26:39; Mk. 14:39-40; Heb. 5:7-8

⁴³ Then He came back and found them asleep again. They just couldn’t keep their heavy eyes open.

⁴⁴ So He left them again and went back and prayed a third time, saying the same words. Lk. 18:1; 2Cor. 12:8

⁴⁵ Returning to His followers, He said, “Are you still sleeping? Still taking your rest? But look, the time has come! The Son of Man is right now being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ “Get up now, and let’s be on our way. Look! Here comes the man who’s betraying Me!”

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-14)

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, there came Judas, one of the Twelve, with a whole mob of people carrying swords and clubs. They’d been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Matt. 26:55; Mk. 14:43; Lk. 22:47-48; Jn. 18:1-8

⁴⁸ Judas had prearranged a signal, saying, “The one I greet with a kiss is the man you want. Arrest him!”

Matthew 26

⁴⁹ He immediately went right up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Teacher!” and embracing Him, kissed Him on the cheek.

⁵⁰ “**My friend,**” Jesus responded, “**why all the pretence?**”^{*} Then the men with Judas came forward and grabbed Him and arrested Him. Psa. 41:9; Psa. 55:13-14; Lk. 22:48

⁵¹ But suddenly, one of Jesus’ followers pulled out his sword and slashed out at one of the servants of the High Priest, and cut off one of his ears. Mk. 14:47; Lk. 22:49-51; Jn. 18:10-11

⁵² “**Put your sword back in its place,**” Jesus told him, “**because all who use the sword will die by the sword.**” Matt. 5:39; Rom. 12:19; 1Th. 5:15; 1Pet. 3:9

⁵³ “**Don’t you realize that I could call My Father for help? If I did, He would send Me more than twelve legions* of angels.**” 2Th. 1:7

⁵⁴ “**But if I did, how could the Scriptures be fulfilled that say that this is what must happen?**” Matt. 26:24; Lk. 24:25-26, 44-46

***Matt. 26:50** – “**Why all the pretence?**” The meaning of the Greek question is in doubt. The alternative possibility is ‘Friend, why have you come?’ or ‘Why are you here?’ ***Matt. 26:53** – “**Legions.**” A Roman legion equaled more than 6,000 men.

Matthew 26

⁵⁵ Then Jesus spoke to the mob, “Do you consider Me so dangerous that you needed to come out against Me as you would against a thief, with swords and clubs to take Me into custody? I sat with you in the Temple area many days as I taught, and you didn’t arrest Me then. Mk. 14:48-50; Lk. 22:52-53

⁵⁶ “But all of this has happened so that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” It was at this turn of events that all of His followers deserted Him and ran. Matt. 26:54

Jesus’ Trial Before the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:53-54; Luke 22:52-54; John 18:19-24)

⁵⁷ Then those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to *the home of Caiaphas*,* the High Priest, where all the Pharisees and teachers of the Law had gathered. Mk. 14:53-54; Lk. 22:54-55; Jn. 11:49; Jn. 18:12-14, 24

⁵⁸ But far behind was Peter, following Jesus to the High Priest’s courtyard. He went in and sat with the soldiers to see what would happen. Jn. 18:15-16

*Matt. 26:57 – “To the home of Caiaphas.” See Luke 22:54.

Matthew 26

⁵⁸ But far behind was Peter, following Jesus to the High Priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the soldiers to see what would happen. Jn. 18:15-16

⁵⁹ The chief priests, the elders, and the entire Council kept trying to find someone who could convincingly give false testimony of some wrong Jesus had done, so they could have Him put to death. Dt. 19:16-21; Psa. 27:12; Psa. 35:11-12; Mk. 14:55-56; Acts 6:11-13

⁶⁰ But they couldn't find any. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they couldn't find any whose testimony would make sure He would be put to death. Titus 2:8; 1Pet. 3:16

⁶¹ Finally two men came forward and said, "This fellow claimed he could destroy the Temple of God and then rebuild it in three days."

⁶² The High Priest then got up and addressed Jesus, "Well, do you have an answer? Have you anything at all to say about these charges against you?" Matt. 27:12-14; Mk. 14:60; Lk. 23:9; Jn. 19:9-11

⁶³ But Jesus didn't say a word. Then the High Priest challenged Him, "I command you in the name of the living God that you tell us if you are indeed the Messiah, the Son of God!" Isa. 53:7; Acts 8:32-35; 1Pet. 2:23

Matthew 26

⁶⁴ “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I will also inform you that in time to come, you will see the Son of Man both sitting at the right hand of the Almighty and coming back to earth on the clouds of Heaven.” Mk. 14:62

⁶⁵ When the High Priest heard this, he tore his clothes and shouted, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look! You all heard his blasphemy! What is your verdict?” Mk. 14:63-64

⁶⁶ “He must die!” the crowd thundered back. Jn. 19:7; Acts 7:52; Acts 13:27-28; Jas. 5:6

⁶⁷ Then they spit in His face and pounded Him with their fists. Others slapped Him with the palms of their hands, Isa. 50:6; Isa. 52:14; Matt. 27:30; Mk. 14:65; Mk. 15:19

⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy, you messiah! Who hit you that time?” Mk. 14:65; Lk. 22:63-65

Peter’s Denial of Jesus (Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27)

⁶⁹ Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard when a servant girl came up to him and said, “You were also with Jesus, the Galilean.” Mk. 14:66-68; Lk. 22:55-57; Jn. 18:16-17; Jn. 18:25

⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of everyone there. “I don’t know what you’re talking about!” he said. Matt. 26:34-35, 56; 1Cor. 10:12

Matthew 26, 27

⁷¹ When he went out near the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This man was also with Jesus from Nazareth.”
Mk. 14:68-69; Lk. 22:58; Jn. 18:25-27

⁷² But again he denied it, this time with an oath, declaring, “I tell you, I haven’t even met the man!” Matt. 5:34-36

⁷³ After a short while, the men standing nearby went up to Peter and said, “You’ve got to be one of His followers, because even your accent is proof that you’re from Galilee.” Lk. 22:59-60; Jn. 18:26-27

⁷⁴ At this he began to curse. Then he declared, “I swear to God, as I told you, I haven’t even met the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed. Mk. 14:71

⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered that Jesus had told him: “**Before the rooster crows at dawn, you will have said three times that you don’t even know Me.**” And he went out and cried bitterly. Matt. 26:34; Lk. 22:61-62; Jn. 13:38

A Hurry-up Early Morning Trial (Mark 15:1-2; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:28-37)

27 Very early that morning, all the chief priests and elders of the people met together to decide what steps should be taken to make sure that Jesus was put to death.

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² Then after tying Him up,* they led Him away and turned Him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. Jn. 18:12, 24

***Matt. 27:2** – “**After tying Him up.**” This possibly consisted only in tying His hands together.

The Traitor Hangs Himself (Acts 1:18-20)

³ When Judas, the traitor, saw that Jesus had been sentenced to death, he was extremely sorry for what he had done, and brought the 30 silver coins back to the chief priests and elders.

⁴ “I have sinned by betraying a Man who never did anything wrong!” he blurted out. 1Sam. 15:24, 30

“That has nothing to do with us,” they sneered. “That’s your problem.”

⁵ Judas then violently hurled the silver coins to the floor of the Temple, and left, and went off and hanged himself. Acts 1:18-19

⁶ As the chief priests picked up the coins, they said, “It would be against our Law to put this money back into the treasury, because it’s blood money.”

⁷ After considering the matter they decided to use the money to buy the field from which the potter had dug his clay, as a place to bury strangers.

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⁸ So to this very day that field is called the Field of Blood.

⁹ This fulfilled what Jeremiah the prophet had prophesied, when he said:

‘And they took the 30 silver coins, the amount they had been willing to pay for Him (this was the miserable value placed on Him by the sons of Israel),

¹⁰ and gave them in payment for the potter’s field, as that’s what the Lord had told me to do.’ (*Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 32:6-9*)

Pilate Questions Jesus (*Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:33-38*)

¹¹ Meanwhile, Jesus stood before the governor. “Are you the King of the Jews?” the governor asked Him.

“**Yes, what you say is true,**” Jesus replied.

¹² And yet, while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave them no answer.

¹³ “Don’t you hear all the charges they are making against you?” Pilate demanded.

¹⁴ But Jesus didn’t say even one word in answer to his question, which utterly amazed the governor. Mk. 14:61

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Jesus is Sentenced to Death (Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:38-40)

¹⁵ Now it was the custom during Passover for the governor to free whichever *Jewish* prisoner the people wanted freed.

¹⁶ At that time, a well-known rebel named Barabbas was in jail.

¹⁷ So when a crowd had gathered, Pilate asked the people, “Whom do you want me to release to you— Barabbas, or Jesus, who is called the Messiah?”

¹⁸ He said this because he knew very well that the Jewish leaders had turned Jesus over to him because they were jealous of Him.

¹⁹ But just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judge’s bench, his wife sent him a note, saying, “Don’t have anything to do with condemning this good man, because I went through extreme suffering last night in a dream about Him.” Job 33:14-17

²⁰ Meanwhile, as Pilate was receiving the note and reading it, the chief priests and elders were convincing the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. Mk. 15:11

²¹ So when Pilate again asked, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” the crowd shouted back,

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“Barabbas!”

²² “What should I do, then, with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. Mk. 14:55; Mk. 15:12-14; Lk. 23:20-24; Jn. 19:14-15

“Crucify him!” they all shouted.

²³ “Why?” the governor demanded. “What wrong has He done?” But the crowd just kept shouting, even louder, “Crucify him! Nail him to a cross!”

²⁴ When Pilate realized he was getting nowhere with them, but that instead he was about to have a riot on his hands, he took a basin of water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I refuse to have anything to do with killing this innocent man. It’s now up to you what you do with him.”

²⁵ “Yes, you can place the blame for His bloody death on us and on our children!” someone shouted. And that whole mob shouted their agreement. 2Sam. 1:16; 1Ki. 2:32; Matt. 23:30-37

²⁶ So he released Barabbas to them. But he ordered that Jesus be whipped,* after which he turned Him over to the soldiers to be crucified. Mk. 15:15; Lk. 23:25

Matt. 27:26 – “Ordered that Jesus be whipped.” The Roman scourge consisted of a handle, to which several cords or leather thongs were fastened, weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, and sometimes with spikes, to make the blows more painful and effective. Up to 39 lashes with the scourge were then painfully

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inflicted. The punishment was so severe that the victim usually fainted, and often died from it. And this was only part of the suffering our Lord endured to free us from the guilt of our sins.

The Soldiers Scornfully Insult Jesus (Mark 15:15-20; John 19:1-6)

²⁷ The governor's soldiers then took Jesus into the Praetorium,* where all the soldiers of the entire garrison gathered around Him. Mk. 15:16; Jn. 18:28, 33; Jn. 19:8-9

²⁸ First they took off His clothes and put a bright red robe on Him. Mk. 15:17; Lk. 23:11; Jn. 19:2-5

²⁹ After twisting some thorn branches with long, sharp thorns into a crown, they put it on His head. Then in mockery, they put a slender pole in His right hand as a scepter. In further mockery, they knelt before Him and shouted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" Isa. 53:3; Matt. 20:19; Heb. 12:2-3

³⁰ After repeatedly spitting on Him, they grabbed the pole out of His hand and beat Him on the head with it again and again.* Isa. 50:6; Isa. 52:14; Matt. 26:67; Mk. 15:19; Lk. 18:32-33

***Matt. 27:27** – "**Praetorium**,"* that is, the governor's palace or headquarters. ***Matt. 27:30** – "**Beat Him on the head with it again and again**."* In Greek this is the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action. The repeated beating on Jesus' head was driving the long thorns ever painfully deeper into His skull.

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³¹ After they got tired of mocking Him, they took the red robe off Him and put His own clothes back on, and then led Him away to be crucified. Matt. 20:19; Jn. 19:16; Heb. 13:12

The Crucifixion (Mark 15:22-28; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:17-22)

³² On the way they met a man from Cyrene, in Libya, named Simon. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

³³ When they came to the place called Golgotha, which means The Place That Looks Like a Skull, Mk. 15:22; Jn. 19:17

³⁴ they gave Jesus vinegar wine to drink, mixed with a drug to ease the pain.* But when Jesus tasted what it was, He refused to drink it. Psa. 69:21; Matt. 27:48; Mk. 15:23; Jn. 19:28-30

³⁵ Then they nailed Him to a cross. And as He hung there, they divided His clothing among them and threw dice for His robe, thus fulfilling David's prophecy:

They divided My clothing among them and threw dice for My robe. (*Psalm 22:18*)

³⁶ Then they sat down, to keep guard over Him. Matt. 27:54; Mk. 15:39

***Matt. 27:34** – “Mixed with a drug to ease the pain.” Literally ‘gall’ or ‘a bitter substance.’

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³⁷ Above His head, they had placed a written notice of the charge against Him, which read: Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19-22

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

³⁸ They had also nailed two robbers on crosses, one on each side of Jesus. Isa. 53:12; Matt. 27:44; Mk. 15:27-28; Lk. 22:37; Lk. 23:32-33, 39-43; Jn. 19:18, 31-35

³⁹ And the people passing by kept shaking their heads and hurling vicious insults at Him. Psa. 22:6-7, 17; Psa. 31:11-13; Psa. 69:20; Psa. 109:25; Mk. 15:29-30; 1Pet. 2:22-24

⁴⁰ “So you’re the one who could destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days!” they shouted. “If you’re the Son of God, save yourself now and come down from the cross!”

⁴¹ The chief priests, elders, and teachers of the Law were ridiculing Him in the same vile way. Mk. 15:31-32; Lk. 18:32; Lk. 23:35

⁴² “He saved others,” they shouted, “but he can’t save himself! If he’s the King of Israel, as he claims, let him come down now from the cross, and we’ll believe him.

⁴³ “He says he trusts in God. Well, let God deliver him now if He wants him. After all, he claims, ‘I am the Son of God!’” Psa. 3:2; Psa. 22:8; Psa. 71:11

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⁴⁴ Even the robbers who were crucified with Him threw the same insults at Him. Lk. 23:39-40

The Death of Jesus (Mark 15:33-38; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30)

⁴⁵ Then at noon, *a most amazing thing happened.* The whole country became enveloped in darkness, a condition which lasted until 3 in the afternoon! Mk. 15:33-34; Lk. 23:44-45

⁴⁶ It was about 3 o'clock when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "**Eli! Eli! lama sabachthani?**" which means, **My God! My God! Why have You abandoned Me?** (Psalm 22:1) Mk. 15:34

⁴⁷ When some of the people standing there heard Him, they said, "The man's calling for Elijah!" Mal. 4:5; Mk. 15:35-36

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with vinegar wine, put it on a stick, and lifted it up for Him to drink. Psa. 69:21; Matt. 27:34; Lk. 23:36; Jn. 19:29-30

⁴⁹ But the rest of them said, "Leave him alone! Let's see if Elijah really will come and save him." Matt. 27:43

⁵⁰ When Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit and died. Mk. 15:37; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30

Matthew 27

⁵¹ Immediately, there was a great earthquake! Rocks split apart, and the great curtain in the Temple separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom!
Lev. 16:2; Mk. 15:38; Lk. 23:45

⁵² Tombs broke open, and the bodies of many godly people who had died came back to life.

⁵³ After Jesus' resurrection, these people then left the cemetery and went into Jerusalem, where many people saw them.

⁵⁴ When the captain, and the soldiers who were with him guarding Jesus, felt the severe earthquake and saw everything else that happened, they were extremely afraid, and said, "Without a doubt, this Man really was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ Many women who had come with Jesus from Galilee to be of help to Him were there, watching from a distance. Lk. 23:48-49

⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of James and John. Matt. 27:61; Matt. 28:1; Mk. 15:40-41; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:10

Matthew 27

Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb (Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-53; John 19:38-42)

⁵⁷ In the late afternoon, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had also become a follower of Jesus,

⁵⁸ went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Mk. 15:44-46; Lk. 23:52-53

⁵⁹ After taking the body down, Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. Mk. 15:46; Lk. 23:53

⁶⁰ Then he laid it in his own new tomb that he had carved out of a wall of rock, and rolled a large stone in front of the entrance, and left. Isa. 53:9

⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had been there, sitting across from the tomb, watching. Matt. 27:56; Matt. 28:1; Mk. 15:40, 47

The Tomb Sealed and Guarded

⁶² The next day, the day after the day of Sabbath preparations, the chief priests and Pharisees went together to see Pilate. Jn. 19:42

⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember what that deceiver said while he was alive. He declared, 'After three days, I will come back to life again.'

⁶⁴ "So please order the tomb to be securely sealed and carefully guarded until after the third day. Otherwise, his followers may come at night,

Matthew 27, 28

steal his body, and then announce to the people that he has risen from the dead. In that event, the last deception would be worse than the first.”*

Matt. 28:13

⁶⁵ “Your request for a guard is granted,” Pilate replied. “Go and make it as secure as you can.”

Matt. 28:11-15

⁶⁶ So they left, and secured the tomb by putting a seal on the stone and leaving soldiers to watch it.

***Matt. 27:64** – “**The last deception would be worse than the first.**” The chief priests and Pharisees believed that the first deception was the Messianic claims which Jesus is accused of having made. The last deception being that He had risen from the dead.

The Resurrection (Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)

28 When the Sabbath day* had ended, and as Sunday morning began to dawn,* Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to look at the tomb. Mk. 16:1-2; Lk. 24:1, 22; Jn. 20

² Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, caused by an angel of the Lord who came down from Heaven and rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb, and then sat on it. Matt. 27:51-53

***Matt. 28:1** – “**The Sabbath day,**”* that is, ‘the day of rest (for the Jews).’ “**As Sunday morning began to dawn,**”* literally, as the first day of the week began to dawn.

Matthew 28

³ His appearance was as brilliant and striking as lightning. And his clothes were as white as snow. Rev. 10:1; Rev. 18:1

⁴ The soldiers guarding the tomb were so shaken up with fear when they saw him, *that they fainted and* appeared to be dead. Matt. 28:11

⁵ But the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. Mk. 16:6; Heb. 1:14

⁶ “But He is not here, because He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would. Come on in and see the place where He was lying. Matt. 12:40; Matt. 17:9, 23; Matt. 27:63; Mk. 8:31; Lk. 24:23; Jn. 10:17

⁷ “Now run and tell His followers that He is risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there. Now I have told you the message I was sent to give you.” Matt. 28:10; Mk. 16:7-8; Lk. 24:34; Jn. 20:17-18

⁸ So they immediately left the tomb, after being badly frightened, but also now filled with great joy! And they ran to bring the news to His followers. Mk. 16:8; Lk. 24:36-41; Jn. 16:22; Jn. 20:20-21

⁹ But as they were on their way—suddenly, Jesus, Himself, met them. “**Rejoice!**” He said.

Dropping to their knees, they held Him by His feet and worshiped Him.

Matthew 28

¹⁰ Then Jesus spoke to them. “Don’t be afraid. But go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and they will see Me there.” Matt. 14:27; Matt. 28:5; Jn. 6:20

The Guards Agree to Lie

¹¹ While they were on their way, some of the soldiers who had been guarding the tomb went into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. Matt. 28:4

¹² When the chief priests had gotten together with the elders and considered the matter, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money.

¹³ “You are to say,” they were told, “His followers came at night and stole him away while we were asleep.’

¹⁴ “If the governor hears about your sleeping, we’ll pacify him somehow, and keep you out of trouble.” Acts 12:19

¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were told. And the report they spread is the report that’s being spread among the Jews to this very day. 1Tim. 6:10

The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21-23)

¹⁶ Then the eleven followers went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

Matthew 28

¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him. But some still couldn't believe it was really Jesus.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came over to them and said, "My Father has given Me unlimited power and authority in Heaven and on earth. Psa. 89:27; Dan. 7:14; Jn. 3:35; Acts 10:36; 1Cor. 15:27; Phil. 2:9-11; 1Pet. 3:22

¹⁹ "So I want you to go now to everyone in every nation and teach them all that I have taught you. Then baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit all who believe and accept what you taught them. Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47-48; Acts 1:8; Col. 1:23

²⁰ "And you must teach them that they must obey everything that I have commanded you.* And listen! I will always be with you, even to the very end of the age." So be it! Acts 10:42; Acts 15:35; Acts 20:27; Col. 1:28; 1Th. 4:2; 2Th. 3:4; 1Tim. 6:3; Titus 2:12

***Matt. 28:18-20** – These three verses contain what is called the Great Commission (See also Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-48). The commission is to all of Christ's followers. All of us are to be reaching out to those who still need to hear the Great News. Notice, that within this commission is the command to teach. We are to teach new converts (those that have turned to Christ in repentance and faith) to obey everything that Jesus commanded His apostles to obey. Each convert is also to be baptized.

If you have never unconditionally surrendered all that you know about yourself to all that you know about God, do it today and come follow Jesus.

Discipleship Questions

Matthew Chapter 1

1. The ancestors of Jesus came through the families of:
a. Moses. b. David. c. Abraham verse 1
2. Jesse was the father of : a. Elijah. b. John the Baptist. c. King David. verse 6
3. Mary had a baby by means of: a. Joseph. b. her boyfriend. c. God's Holy Spirit. verse 18
4. Mary's son was named JESUS because: a. it's a family name. b. that's what Joseph wanted. c. He will save their people from their sins. verse 21
5. Jesus will be called "Immanuel" meaning "God is now with us." This is a quotation from: a. Genesis 1:1. b. Isaiah 7:14. c. John 3:16. Verse 23.

Matthew Chapter 2

6. Out of Bethlehem will come: a. a good Bible teacher. b. a Ruler. c. a Shepherd. verse 6
7. According to the prophets God called His Son out of :
a. slavery. b. America. d. Egypt. Verse 15
8. Herod's blood massacre brought about the fulfillment of the prophecy by: a. Ezekiel. b. Hosea. c. Jeremiah. Verse 18
9. After Herod died, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph:
a. in a car. b. on a bus. c. in a dream. verse 19

10. The Messiah will be called: a. a great teacher. b. a Nazarene. c. a Baptist. verse 23

Matthew Chapter 3

11. John the Baptizer preached: a. go to church on Sunday. b. Repent, that is, turn from sin to obey and follow God. c. The Kingdom of God, the rule of God has approached us. verse 2

12. John was a man that the prophet Isaiah had told about centuries before his time. True or False verse 3

13. John baptized people who openly declared that they were turning from their sins. True or False verse 6

14. John told about a future judgment that was coming. True or False verse 7

15. John said, “If you are repentant: a. keep the Sabbath. b. give to the church. c. do things that prove your hearts are changed!” verse 8

16. John baptized people in water as a sign: a. that they are now Baptist. b. that they have had a change of mind and now intend to live a new life unto God. verse 11

Matthew Chapter 4

17. Man shall not live by bread alone but upon: a. the food that comes from a health food store. b. beans and rice. c. every word that comes from God. verse 4

18. Jesus said, “You must not try to force your God into a situation where He must prove Himself.” True or False verse 7

19. You shall worship: a. material things. b. sex. c. pleasure. d. money. e. the Lord your God and serve Him only! verse 10

20. The message that Jesus preached was: a. repent, turn from your sin to obey God. b. the Kingdom (rule and reign) of God is very close to you!
c. all of the above. verse 17

21. Jesus traveled all over Galilee, teaching and preaching: a. that God loves you. b. that God wants you to be happy. c. the Great News about the Kingdom. verse 23

Matthew Chapter 5

22. Those that know they are spiritually poor, who feel their spiritual need, who look to God for everything, the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. True or False
verse 3

23. The time will come when God's people will enjoy the benefits of heaven and the joys of a redeemed earth.
True or False verse 5; 2 Peter 3:13

24. Those who are merciful to others, will receive mercy.
True or False verse 7

25. Persecution for righteousness sake is part of the commitment that involves following Christ. True or False verse 10, 12

26. Let your light shine before others that they might: a. get out of the way. b. see your good works and glorify our Father in Heaven. verse 16

27. Jesus came to satisfy the Law and fulfill the prophecies of: a. Matthew. b. Mark. c. the prophets.
verse 17

28. You should let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no.' True or False verse 37

29. Make it your practice to: a. love your enemies. b. speak kindly to those who curse you. c. do good to those who hate you. d. pray for those who treat you with contempt. e. all of the above. verse 44

Matthew Chapter 6

30. When you give to the needy, do it in secret and your Heavenly Father will reward you openly. True or False
verses 3-4

31. When we pray, we should request that God reign as King in our lives every day. True or False verse 10

32. Forgive us all the wrongs we have done, in the same way that we forgive others. True or False verse 12

33. If you forgive those who have wronged you, your Father in Heaven will forgive you. True or False verses 14-15

34. Stop piling up treasured material things for yourselves here on earth, instead pile up treasures for yourselves in Heaven. True or False verses 19-20

35. You cannot be zealously occupied in serving both God and money. True or False verse 24

36. Your chief concern, above all else, must be to seek the Kingdom of God, and His way of doing things, and all the things you need will be provided.

True or False verse 33

Matthew Chapter 7

37. The same measuring stick you use to measure others will be used to measure you. True or False verse 2

38. When you pray, don't give up. True or False verses 7-8

39. In every situation, treat others in the same way: a. that they treat you. b. that you want them to treat you. verse 12

40. The road that leads to destruction is wide, almost everyone is traveling that easy road. True or False verse 13

41. The road the leads to life is narrow. There are few who are looking for it. True or False verse 14

42. You must constantly be on the alert for men who preach a false message. You will know them by their fruits. True or False verses 15-16

43. Not all who call Jesus – Lord – will enter His Kingdom, but only those who truly are following God. True or False verse 21

44. Those who insist on living in sin will not be with God in the end. True or False verse 23

45. Those that listen to Jesus' words and put them into practice are wise. True or False verse 24

Matthew Chapter 8

46. When Jesus healed and delivered people from demonic spirits, He was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah which said, 'He Himself took our sicknesses and carried away our diseases.' True or False verses 16-17

47. It takes a total commitment to follow Jesus. True or False verses 19-22

48. There will be a judgment against the demons of hell at a future appointed time. True or False verse 29

49. Demons and the spirit world are subject to Jesus (willingly or unwillingly). True or False verses 31-32

50.. People sometimes become angry when good prevails. True or False verse 34

Matthew Chapter 9

51. In Matthew 9: 13 the Last Days Bible states, "I'm here to call sinners to turn from their sinning to living lives of obedience to God." This phrase is translated from the English term "repentance" and the Greek word *metanoia*. *The Lexical Aids to the New Testament* states about *metanoia*, "Repentance is a change of mind from evil to good or from worse to better." Look up Jeremiah 18:11, Ezekiel 18:30, Daniel 4:27 and Acts 3:19 and discuss among yourselves the true nature of repentance.

52. If we touch Jesus we can be made whole. True or False. Verse 21

53. Jesus traveled through cities and towns: a. teaching the Great News the Kingdom of God. b. healing every kind of disease and sickness. c. all of the above.
verse 35

Matthew Chapter 10

54. Jesus sent the twelve out to preach: a. the prosperity doctrine. b. the Kingdom of God has come very near to you! c. the 4 spiritual laws. verses 7-8

55. The twelve were to ask God's blessing to rest on those who received Jesus teaching and gave their support. True or False verses 11-14

56. People will hate you because you take a stand for Jesus. True or False verse 22

57. There is nothing that's now covered up that won't one day be uncovered. True or False verse 26

58. Sometimes a believers' enemy will be those of his own household. True or False verses 34-36

59. If you insist on living your life as you yourself please, you will lose it. True or False verse 39

60. When you welcome and help someone who is faithfully and boldly speaking out for God, you will receive the same reward that he will. True or False verses 41-42

Matthew Chapter 11

61. The Messiah would be a miracle performing Messiah. True or False verses 4-5

62. Only those who are thoroughly and fiercely determined to enter God's Kingdom will gain entrance. True or False verse 12

63. Jesus began to publicly denounce the people in the cities where most of His miracles had been performed, because they: a. talked bad about Him. b. were unkind. c. repented not. verse 20

64. Jesus told of a future Judgment Day. True or False verses 22-24

65. Jesus gives an invitation for people to: a. come to Him. b. accept His direction for their life. c. learn of Him. d. all of the above. verses 28-30

Matthew Chapter 12

66. God is more concerned that you show kindness to others than he is with your sacrifices and offerings. True or False verse 7

67. Is it lawful to do good and heal on the Sabbath day? Yes or No verses 9-12

68. Jesus driving out demons by the Spirit of God, proved that the Kingdom of God had arrived among the people. True or False verse 28

69. Jesus said that anyone who is not working with Him is working against Him. True or False verse 30

70. People who continue to live in sin can open up themselves to the demonic world. True or False verses 43-45; 2 Peter 2:20; John 5:14

71. Who is Jesus' brother, sister and mother? Those that do the will of the Heavenly Father. verse 50

Matthew Chapter 13

72. Someone who hears the message about the Kingdom but has little interest, Satan will come and snatch away those words. True or False verse 19

73. Those who do not allow Jesus teaching to go deep into their lives, will find the effect on their lives last for only a short time. True or False. Verse 21

74. Divided interest, earthly problems, deceitful glamour of money, choked God's Word out of one's life. True or False verse 22

75. We must earnestly listen to God's Word, and put it into action. True or False verse 23

76. There are only two kinds of people in this world: a. nice and pretty. b. children who belong to God's Kingdom and children of the wicked One. Verse 38

77. There are only two destinations for man: a. the kingdom of Heaven. b. a blazing furnace. c. the grave. verses 41-43

78. At the end of this present evil age the angels of God will sort out those who have lived for God and those who have not. True or False verses 49-50

Matthew Chapter 14

79. John the Baptist told Herod he was breaking God's law by: a. speeding over 65 m.p.h. b. eating pork. c. living with your brother's wife. verse 4

80. People considered John the Baptist to be a: a. great Bible teacher. b. trouble maker. c. prophet. verse 5

81. Jesus was filled with pity for the people and: a. gave them money. b. healed the sick. c. gave them bread.
Verse 14

82. Sometime between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning , Jesus went out and walked on the lake. He also stopped the violent winds. As a result His followers truly believed He was: a. Elijah. b. a powerful man. c. the Son of God. verse 33

Matthew Chapter 15

83. Some people today do the same thing that the scribes and Pharisees did by saying, 'Everything must go into the offering plate at church, so I am relieved from helping others.' True or False verses 5-6

84. What pollutes a person is not what he eats but what comes out of his mouth (from an unclean heart). True or False verses 17-18

85. Jesus demonstrated He was the Messiah by healing the lame, blind, dumb, disabled, etc. True or False verse 30, 31; Isa. 35:5-6

86. By a miracle, Jesus fed: a. 200 people. b. 2000 people. c. 4000 men, besides women and children. verse 38

Matthew Chapter 16

87. The sign of the prophet Jonah relates to: a. strange things happening in the sky. b. stories told by fisherman. c. Jesus, His death and resurrection. Verse 4; John 12:38-40.

88. Jesus said, ‘Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ What He was talking about was: a. a kind of bread they were baking. b. the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees. c. a type of grain. verse 12; Luke 12:1

89. Some people said Jesus was: a. John the Baptizer. b. Elijah. c. Jeremiah. d. one of the prophets of the Old Testament. e. all of the above. verse 14

90. The Heavenly Father revealed to Simon Peter that Jesus was: a. Michael the arc angel. b. Satan’s brother. c. the Messiah, the Son of the living God. verses 16-17

91. Jesus is looking for: a. those who will give Him one day of their week to go to church. b. a half-hearted commitment. c. those who will be totally committed to Him and give Him their lives. verses 24-25

Matthew Chapter 17

92. Moses and Elijah appeared and began to talk to Jesus. A voice from heaven spoke, “This is My Son whom I love so dearly, ... Keep on: a. going to church. b. reading your Bible. c. Listening to Him!, that is, listen and continue to listen to Him. verse 5

93. When Jesus' disciples ask about Elijah coming before the Messiah comes, Jesus replied, "Elijah will come first, but his reference was referring to: a. Moses. b. Abraham. c. John the Baptist. verse 13

94. When the disciples failed to heal an epileptic boy, Jesus said, 'Bring the boy: a. to a healing service. b. to a healing evangelist. c. to Me!' verse 17

95. The deliverance of some need to be accompanied by: a. giving much in the church offering plate. b. both prayer and fasting. verse 21

96. Did Jesus pay the temple tax? Yes or No. verse 27; Romans 13:7

Matthew Chapter 18

97. There is no way that you will gain entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven unless: a. there's a change in your life. b. you turn from your sins, that is, you are converted. c. you take upon you the humble attitude of a child toward God. d. all of the above. verse 3

98. Whoever causes someone who believes in Jesus to lose his faith or to turn to sin is in big trouble. True or False verse 6

99. Jesus, the Son of Man, has come to: a. make you very happy. b. give us a good example of how to be happy. c. save all who are lost. verse 11

100. To not forgive after you have been forgiven is: a. a bad example. b. wickedness. verses 32-33

Matthew Chapter 19

101. God's original intention for marriage was that two people would become: a. the same sex. b. like one person. c. happy. verses 4-6

102. Divorce was permitted because men's hearts were: a. soft and tender. b. hard and calloused. c. full of love. verse 8

103 It is easy for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven because: a. they trust in God. b. they give to charity. c. none of the above. verse 23

104. Those that have left everything in order to follow Jesus will receive: a. help from the government. b. a hundred times more than they gave up. c. everlasting life. verse 29

Matthew Chapter 20

105. Discuss the meaning of Matthew 20:1-16.

106. Jesus told the 12 about His suffering and future death and resurrection. True or False verses 17-19.

107. Anyone who would be great in the Kingdom of God must learn to: a. rule over people. b. give a good speech. c. serve others. verses 25-28

108. Jesus healed by being deeply moved with: a. sorrow. b. grief. c. compassion and pity. Verse 34

Matthew Chapter 21

109. Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem fulfilled the prophecy of: a. Zechariah. b. Isaiah. c. Jeremiah.
verse 5
110. Jesus spoke of the temple as a: a. place of comfort.
b. shelter in a storm. c. house of prayer.
111. What do we learn about faith from the account of the withered fig tree? verses 18-22
112. What lessons do we learn from the faithful and unfaithful sons? verse 28-32
113. Discuss the meaning of verses 33-46.

Matthew Chapter 22

114. Share your insights from verses 1-14.
115. Discuss among yourselves the meaning of verses 15-22.
116. The Sadducees believe there will be a resurrection in the last days of this age. True or False verse 23
117. In the resurrection, God's people will be like: a. superman. b. the angels. c. giants. verse 30
118. The most important law of all is: a. keep the Sabbath. b. do not covet. c. love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind. verse 37

Matthew Chapter 23

119. The scribes and Pharisees taught from the Scriptures but: a. didn't do or practice what they taught. b. sought only the praise of men. c. all of the above. verses 3, 7

120. The greatest among you is the one: a. who is the best teacher. b. who is young and strong. c. who serves. Verse 11

121. The sentence on Judgment Day will be greater for the Pharisees and scribes because: a. they broke the law. b. they were hypocrites. verse 14

122. The most important teaching in the Law are: a. giving a tenth of the spices from your garden. b. justice. c. mercy. d. faithfulness to God. verse 23

Matthew Chapter 24

123. The first sign that the end of this present evil age will soon disappear with the coming of Christ is: a. money will be in short supply. b. that it will be hard to buy food. c. spiritual deception, that is, take heed that no one deceives you. verse 5

124. Before Christ appears a second time, there will be: a. famines. b. disease epidemics. c. earthquakes in various places. d. all of the above. verse 7

125. Before Christ returns, many people will: a. love the Lord. b. turn away from their faith in Jesus. c. get rich. verse 10

126. Those who remain faithful to Jesus until the end of their life: a. will be a good Christian witness. b. will be saved. verse 13

127. In spite of the great falling away, the Great News about: a. asking Jesus into your heart will be preached. b. the Kingdom of Christ will be preached. verse 14

Matthew Chapter 25

128. Discuss the meaning of Matthew 25:1-13. What are the insights that you see?

129. According to Matthew 25:15, what are we responsible for?

130. Discuss Matthew 25:14-30. What lessons do we learn from this?

131. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What differences was there from the sheep and the goats?

132. What two destinations were assigned to these people groups? verse 46

Matthew Chapter 26

133. The chief priests' and elders' gathered to: a. discuss ways and means of arresting Jesus. b. discuss some underhanded way of killing Jesus. c. all of the above. verse 4

134. The disciples claimed it would be the best use of the perfume to: a. pour it on Jesus head. b. sell it and give to the poor. c. sell it and keep the money. verses 7-11

135. Share your thoughts on Matthew 26:6-13.

136. Judas spent his last days with Jesus: a. casting out devils. b. healing the sick. c. looking for ways to hand over Jesus to the chief priests. Verse 16

137. What statement did Jesus make about His betrayer?
Verse 24

138. What lessons do we learn from Matthew 26:69-75?

Matthew Chapter 27

139. Did Judas truly repent for what he had done (as the Bible describes repentance)? verses 3-5; Acts 26:18-20

140. Why did Jesus not even say one word when being accused? Verses 12-14

141. Jesus was crucified so that who could go free?
verses 16-26

142. What was Jesus crime according to Roman law?
verse 37

143. Explain Matthew 27:46.

Matthew Chapter 28

144. When Jesus raised from the dead, the soldiers guarding the tomb were so shaken with fear that they: a. ran away. b. fainted. c. called the police. d. appeared to be dead. verses 2-4

145. Some people love money more than truth. Discuss verses 11-15.

146. Read Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss the footnote on Matt. 28:18-20, then respond accordingly.

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