



BEHOLD YOUR KING

**A STUDY
IN THE
GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW**



“...Behold, your King is coming to you,
lowly, and sitting on a donkey...”

- Matthew 21:5

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"Hosanna... blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!"

- Matthew 21:9

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How to Use This Study Guide

Bible study is not just learning about God; it is about knowing God and growing in our relationship with Him. When you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, a concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note: The New King James Version (NKJV) was used for this Study Guide, with consideration of the New American Standard Bible (NASB), the Amplified Bible (AMP), and the New Living Testament (NLT).

Each lesson begins with reading through a portion of Scripture. As you answer the questions, keep in mind that *there are no right or wrong answers*. If you do not understand something, or you cannot answer a question, bring it to your group for discussion. This is a benefit of the small group setting.

Near the end of the study questions, there is a "Growing Stronger" section. This is an important and personal part of the study. As you answer the questions in this section, reflect on how you can apply the lesson personally by asking the following questions: What does this mean for my life? Is there something I can start doing? Is there something I need to stop doing?

Each lesson ends with a "Final Thoughts" section. Consider using a journal to write your thoughts and insights as you answer the questions and reflect on the lesson you completed. Your journal is also a good place to write prayers to God in response to what He reveals to you in His Word.

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Study notes for Matthew Introduction

Matthew Chapter 1... *The Birth of the King*

The gospel of Matthew was written to declare to the nation of Israel that Jesus is their King and Messiah. The genealogy reveals Jesus as a direct descendant of king David and as the promised Messiah through Abraham. It closes with "Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ." Although both Joseph and Mary were descendants of David, Joseph did not beget Jesus Christ. However, it is to Joseph that God gave His Son to foster.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 1

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-17

1. Which names do you recognize?
2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Genealogy
3. Why is the genealogy of Jesus Christ important? (verse 1, Jeremiah 23:5, Galatians 3:16)
4. Read John 3:16. Whose begotten Son is Jesus Christ?
5. Read the following verses and describe four of the women in the genealogy.
Tamar (verse 3) - Genesis 38:24

Rahab (verse 5) - Joshua 2:1

Ruth (verse 5) - Deuteronomy 23:3-4, Ruth 1:22

Bathsheba (verse 6) - 2 Samuel 11:3-5

Why is the inclusion of these women in Jesus' genealogy important to you?

Read verses 18-25

6. How is the virgin birth explained? (verse 18, Luke 1:35)

How is the Trinity described in Luke 1:35?

7. How did Joseph respond to Mary's pregnancy?

What did this reveal about Joseph's character?

8. How would the angel's message have brought comfort to Joseph?

In what ways would it have caused anxieties?

9. According to verses 22-23, why is the virgin birth important?

10. What does the name "Immanuel" signify?

Growing Stronger...

"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with Child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:22-23) Good news! The King has arrived! Coming as a Baby born in lowly circumstances may be a familiar story. But what do the following verses reveal about the Child who is King?

Isaiah 9:6

Luke 1:30-33

John 1:14

Galatians 4:4-5

*"The birth of Christ is the central event in the history of the earth –
the very thing the whole story has been about." ~ C. S. Lewis*

Final Thoughts...

There is great comfort in Christ's family tree. No matter your past, Jesus can save you and welcome you into His family. Matthew was a corrupt tax collector yet Jesus made him an apostle and one of the greatest writers of the New Testament. No matter what you have done in the past, Jesus can save you. If an adulterer can be saved, you can be saved. If a murderer can be transformed, you can be transformed. If liars and thieves can be redeemed, then there is hope for you. No matter what your past looks like, no matter where you have been or what you have done, God can make you a part of His family.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 2... *In Search of the King*

By faith wise men from the East traveled far from home to find the King of the Jews. They stopped in Jerusalem to ask Herod for help. The wise men sought to worship the King and Herod sought to destroy Him. But God protected His Son through the obedient actions of His faithful servant, Joseph. Truly the wise still seek Him!

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 2

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-12

1. Why did the wise men come to Jerusalem?
2. Describe Herod's reaction to the wise men's visit.

Why would he be concerned?

3. What question did Herod ask the chief priests and scribes?

How did they know the correct answer? (Micah 5:2)

4. In what ways were the wise men different from the religious leaders in this passage?

Record John 1:11

5. Compare Herod's search for the Christ-Child with that of the wise men.

How do you search for Christ?

"Jesus was God spelling Himself out in language humanity could understand."

~ S. D. Gordon

6. How did the wise men react when they found Jesus?

What examples do their actions provide for you?

Read verses 13-18

7. Why did Joseph flee with his family to Egypt?

8. What did Herod do when the wise men failed to return to him?

Read verses 19-23

9. What did the "angel of the Lord" direct Joseph to do?

Recall a time when God stepped in and removed you from a bad situation.

How have you used this to glorify God?

Growing Stronger...

The conduct of the wise men is a striking example of spiritual faith. They believed in Christ whom they had never seen – but that was not all. They believed in Him when the scribes and Pharisees were unbelieving. They saw no miracles; they heard no teaching. They saw no signs of divinity or greatness. They saw nothing but a young Child needing a mother's care. And yet when they saw the Child, they believed that they were looking upon the Savior of the world. "They fell down and worshiped Him." Read the following verses in the Amplified Bible (AMP). Record what they convey about faith.

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:6

What evidence of authentic faith is there in your life?

Final Thoughts...

Are you willing to place your faith in God like Joseph and the wise men? Are you willing to sacrifice your comfort and face dangers to follow Him? Are you willing to set off with an unknown end/destination to serve the Lord? Are you willing to trust in God's promises without proof? Search your heart and ask Him to give you such a faith as this.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 2

Matthew Chapter 3... *Anointing of the King*

John the Baptist was the appointed forerunner who heralded the arrival of King Jesus. This chapter describes the King's divine coronation and commissioning, His baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit. The kingdom of heaven is present in the Person of the King!

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 3

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-6

1. What was the role of John the Baptist? (Malachi 3:1, Luke 1:76)

Summarize John's message from Matthew 3:1-6.

2. How did the people respond?
3. Have you been baptized? Why or why not?

Read verses 7-12

4. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Hypocrisy

5. Why did the religious leaders believe they were safe “from the wrath to come”?

Are you saved “from the wrath to come”? (Romans 5:7-9) Explain.

6. How should you respond to the nearness of God’s kingdom? (Matthew 3:2,6,8)

Why is this so urgent? (verses 10-12, Malachi 4:1)

Read verses 13-17

7. Why was John hesitant to baptize Jesus? (verse 11, Luke 3:16)

8. What does Jesus’ submission to baptism reveal about Him? (Psalm 40:7-8, John 4:34)

9. How is the Trinity described? (Matthew 3:16-17)

Growing Stronger...

"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance..." (Matthew 3:8) John saw that the Pharisees and Sadducees were insincere because they were not producing fruit in their lives that indicated they had repented from their sins. Describe the fruit that is evidence of repentance using the following verses.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Galatians 5:22-23

Ephesians 5:8-10

Colossians 3:12-15

List some ways this fruit is evident in your life.

Which areas do you need to cultivate to bear more fruit?

*"Come boldly into His throne of grace – even when you have sinned and failed.
He forgives – instantly – those who repent with godly sorrow."*

~ David Wilkerson

Final Thoughts...

Baptism is important, but not because it saves you. The grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ saves you. Being baptized is an act of obedience that tells the world about your relationship with the King of Heaven. If you have not yet been baptized and have questions, the following Scriptures will be helpful: Acts 2:38-41, Acts 8:26-39, Romans 6:3-4, and 1 Peter 3:21-22.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 3

Matthew Chapter 4... *The Kingdom Proclaimed*

God's Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil. Jesus triumphed over temptation and began His ministry by proclaiming His kingdom and calling a few fishermen to be His disciples. Jesus' fame quickly grew as He began preaching the gospel and healing the sick. Jesus' message is the same for us today. He calls us to turn from our sin and enter the kingdom of heaven.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 4

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-11

1. List the three temptations Matthew described and Jesus' response to each of them.

Temptation	Jesus' Response

What was Satan trying to accomplish?

2. Describe what James 1:13-14 says about temptation.

3. Write the following Scriptures. Choose one or two to memorize to help you overcome the next temptation.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Ephesians 6:11

Philippians 4:13

1 Timothy 6:11

*"No matter how enticing the temptation, we are responsible
for the choices we make." ~ Hank Hanegraaff*

Read verses 12-17

4. Why did Jesus begin His ministry in the region of Galilee?
5. What were the two parts of Jesus' message?
6. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Repent

Read verses 18-22

7. What was Jesus' invitation to the fisherman?

How did they respond?

Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus? How has your choice affected your life?

Read verses 23-25

8. What three things did Jesus do?

9. What did Jesus' healing the sick say about His ministry? (John 10:37-38)

10. How did the people respond to Jesus?

Growing Stronger...

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matthew 4:17) Repentance has several characteristics – having a sense of one's own guilt and sinfulness, an appreciation of God's mercy, a hatred of sin, and turning from it to God. Record what the following verses show you about repentance:

Job 42:5-6

Proverbs 28:13

Joel 2:12-13

2 Timothy 2:19

Final Thoughts...

As you ponder this week's lesson, pray that you will hold fast to what first drew you to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways to combat any temptations you might be facing and pray for opportunities to share with others the exciting message of the coming kingdom.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 4

Matthew Chapter 5... *Kingdom Law*

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' teaching on the righteousness required of the citizens of His kingdom. It addresses both our outward actions and our internal motivations. The Sermon on the Mount is important because it shows the absolute necessity of the new birth. Since God's perfect standards cannot be met by human power, only those who partake of God's own nature through Jesus Christ can fulfill such requirements. King Jesus is our only hope of meeting such standards.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 5

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-12

1. Read verse 3 in the Amplified Bible. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?
2. According to Isaiah 61:1-3, what will Messiah do for "those who mourn"?

Describe the comfort those who mourn receive and give in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

3. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Meek

How did Jesus exemplify meekness? (see also John 6:38, 1 Peter 2:23)

4. How will you be filled if you "hunger and thirst for righteousness"? (John 4:14, John 6:47-48)

5. "Blessed are the merciful". Who in your life needs "mercy"?

How can you show them mercy and compassion this week?

6. "Blessed are the pure in heart." How do the following verses describe the natural heart of people?

Jeremiah 17:9

Matthew 15:19

Describe those who have a pure heart.

Psalm 24:3,4

Psalm 51:10

How are the "pure in heart" blessed?

7. What is the reward for being a "peacemaker"?

Describe what it takes to be a "peacemaker"? (Ephesians 4:31-32)

"It is a good thing to live well. It is better to live well with others, but the great achievement comes when one lives well with others according to Christ."

~ Rev. E. Allen Chamberlin

8. List some of the blessings of being “persecuted for righteousness’ sake” found in the following verses.

Luke 6:22-23

1 Peter 4:14

Read verses 13-15

9. What are some benefits of salt?

What happens when you turn on the light?

How are you “salt” and “light” in your family and community?

Growing Stronger...

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” (Matthew 5:17) Jesus expounds on Old Testament laws to show that God is concerned with the attitudes and motivations of your heart and not simply your actions. He did not abolish the law but brought it to a higher standard. How did Jesus expound on the law in the following verses?

Murder (Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:21-22)

Adultery (Exodus 20:14, Matthew 5:27-28)

Retaliation (Leviticus 24:19-20, Matthew 5:38-40)

Love of Enemies (Deuteronomy 23:3-6, Matthew 5:43-44)

In what ways do you fall short?

Final Thoughts...

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Loss and sorrow are part of the human experience. There are those who are mourning a loss or tragedy, are grieved by their sin, or mourning the death of a loved one. Write the names of those you know who are mourning and prayerfully consider how can you be a vessel of God's comfort to them.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 5

Matthew Chapter 6... *Pleasing the King*

The Sermon on the Mount continues as Jesus described how good deeds are only righteous when done out of sincere devotion to God, rather than for man's approval. He offered the Lord's Prayer as a model of how believers are to pray. Jesus then explained how excessive worry interferes with faith in God. Knowing that God loves us should lead believers to trust in Him and not be anxious.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 6

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-18

1. Explain the difference between Matthew 5:16 and Matthew 6:1?
2. List the deeds of righteousness in these verses.

What should your attitude be while doing these things? (Colossians 3:23)

3. What do you learn about prayer in verses 5-8?
4. Why is doing these things "in secret" pleasing to God?

Read verses 19-24

5. What treasures are you storing up here on earth?

What will happen to them?

What should you treasure? (1 Timothy 6:19, 1 Peter 1:4)

According to Mathew 6:21 and 2 Corinthians 4:18, why is this important?

6. How can you keep material things from becoming more important than spiritual things?

7. What warnings do you find in the following verses?

Matthew 6:24

1 Timothy 6:9-10

8. How are you to serve God?

1 Samuel 12:24

John 12:26

9. Why is it not possible to serve both "God and mammon"? (Matthew 6:24 AMP)

Read verses 25-34

10. According to these verses, why should you not worry?

Instead of worrying, what are some things you can do?

"Worry is nothing but practical infidelity. The person who worries reveals his lack of trust in God and that he is trusting too much in self."

~ Lee Roberson

11. Record God's promises in the following verses:

Philippians 4:6-7

Philippians 4:19

Hebrews 13:5

1 Peter 5:7

What do you need to turn over to God trusting that He will meet your need?

Growing Stronger...

"In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'" (Matthew 6:9). Prayer is not a formal duty; it is not an attempt to bend the will of God to our desires. Prayer is communicating with God - talking and listening. It is for intercession, giving thanks, confession, and praise. Prayer is an act of humility in which to receive the mercy of God. Prayer is attempting to submit our will to the will of God. Record what the following verses reveal to you about the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven

John 1:12-13

Hallowed be Your name

Luke 1:49

Your kingdom come

Matthew 6:33

Revelation 12:10

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Psalms 40:8

Philippians 2:12-13

Give us this day our daily bread

Psalms 37:3

John 6:51

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors

Matthew 6:14-15

Ephesians 4:32

And do not lead us into temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

But deliver us from the evil one

1 John 3:8

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Revelation 15:3

Pray the Lord's Prayer; stop at each phrase and expand upon it to make it **your own** heartfelt prayer.

Final Thoughts...

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light." Matthew 6:22

Our eyes can be focused on material things or spiritual things. Focusing on materialism can bring darkness while focusing on spiritual things brings light. Material things are necessary for this life, but if they take our focus away from our relationship with God, then darkness creeps in. Where is your focus? Does the light of Christ shine brightly through you? Prayerfully consider how you can adjust your focus to always be pleasing to our Lord Jesus.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 6

Matthew Chapter 7... *Requirements of the Kingdom*

In this chapter, the religious leaders were guilty of exercising false judgements about themselves, others, and even the Lord. Their self-righteousness will be judged. Kingdom servants are given instructions and warnings in a series of contrasting choices. The outstanding feature of Christ's teaching was His authority, which was in direct contrast to that of the scribes. They had to rely on tradition for their authority, whereas Jesus had the authority of His Father.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 7

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-6

1. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Judge (verb)

Why is it important to examine yourself first before judging another? (Galatians 6:3-5 AMP)

*"The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit
which makes us look to ourselves for salvation."*

~ Charles Spurgeon

2. How does God judge? (Jeremiah 17:10)
3. Explain the warning in verse 6. (Proverbs 9:8)

Read verses 7-12

4. What does it mean to you to “ask”, “seek”, and “knock”?
5. How do the following verses encourage you to ask, seek, and knock?
Psalm 34:10

Jeremiah 29:13

Luke 11:9-13

Read verses 13-23

6. What do John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 teach about the way of salvation?
7. How can you identify “false prophets”? (Mark 7:20-23)

What will happen to them?

8. Describe how you can bear good fruit. (John 15:4-5)

Read verses 24-29

9. Why do you think Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount with this parable?

10. How did the crowds react to this teaching?

What is your reaction?

Growing Stronger...

"Enter by the narrow gate..." (Matthew 7:13) The Sermon on the Mount made it clear that the only way into the Kingdom of God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. There are those in your life who are on the wrong road, trying to get in through the wrong gate. Christians over the years have used key verses in Romans which, taken together, form a road that leads to a basic understanding of the gospel. Use the following verses to write out a clear plan of salvation.

Romans 3:10

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9-13

Final Thoughts...

"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12 NASB

One day, King Jesus is going to come in great power and glory, destroy unrighteousness on this earth, and establish His kingdom. The Sermon on the Mount reveals what living under His rule will be like then and how we are to live now. We cannot live perfect lives, but by prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit we can treat others as we want to be treated. Make a list of things you would like others to do for you and then make an effort to do those same things for others.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 8... *The Power of the King*

After the Sermon on the Mount, great multitudes followed Jesus. He began to demonstrate His power and authority over every kind of disease, over demons, and even over the weather as He traveled throughout the land. Jesus brought His healing touch to those who sought Him. He has the same power to heal you as you bring your struggles, wounds, and afflictions to Him. His healing may not come about within your timeframe, but His power to heal remains both true and miraculous today.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 8

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-4

1. What was the leper's request?

How did Jesus respond?

What else does Mark 1:41 tell you about this event?

2. Why was the cleansed leper told to go to the priest?

Read verses 5-13

3. With what attitude and beliefs did the centurion approach Jesus?

4. Why did Jesus "marvel" at the centurion's faith?

What are verses 11 and 12 referring to? (see also Romans 9:24-26)

Read verses 14-17

5. Describe what happened when Jesus arrived at Peter's house.
6. What happened that evening?

What is indicated by the phrase, "He cast out the spirits with a word"?

Does Jesus heal today? (Psalm 30:2, Hebrews 13:8) Explain your answer.

Read verses 18-22

7. How did Jesus respond to those who wanted to follow Him?

Describe what is necessary to follow Jesus. (see also Luke 9:23)

What hinders you from being fully committed to Christ?

Read verses 23-27

8. How do these verses reveal both the disciples' faith and their doubts?

What kind of faith is Jesus looking for in His disciples?

How do **you** respond to the storms of life?

*"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in the believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear."*

~ John Newton

Read verses 28-34

9. What strikes you most about what the demons cried out?

What does this event reveal about demons? (see also James 2:19)

What does this event reveal about Jesus?

Growing Stronger...

"Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!'" (Matthew 8:25) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has power and authority over **everything** in this physical world as well as **everything** in the spiritual realm. You can trust Jesus with **every** aspect of your life. Review the following verses and record what they reveal to you about Jesus' power and authority.

Matthew 9:6

Matthew 28:18

John 5:26-27

Colossians 2:9-10

Jude 1:25

In what areas of your life do you need to fully trust in the power and authority of Christ?

Final Thoughts...

"But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." Matthew 8:26

As you seek Jesus this week, thank Him for the ways He has proven Himself worthy of your trust. Pray for the courage to yield all areas of your life to His authority.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 8

Matthew Chapter 9... *King of Mercy*

The religious leaders contended with Jesus for the first time as He bestowed mercy on a paralytic. Jesus showed that when mercy is lacking, religious formalities are meaningless. Matthew, also called Levi, was a despised tax collector and yet Jesus called him into service as He continued His ministry of mercy in Galilee.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 9

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-8

1. Why did the religious leaders think Jesus was blaspheming? (Mark 2:7)
2. What was the paralytic's greater need?
3. What did this miracle prove? (Luke 7:20-22)

Read verses 9-13

4. Read Luke 5:29. Why did Levi (Matthew) invite "tax collectors and sinners" to dine with Jesus?

Who can you invite to "dine" with Jesus?

5. How do each of the following statements relate to you?

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." (see also Psalm 38:3)

"I desire mercy and not sacrifice." (see also Hosea 6:6)

"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (see also Romans 3:23)

"God's mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow than diminish the great mercy of God."

~ Charles Spurgeon

Read verses 14-34

6. What did Jesus mean in His reply to the question in verse 14?
7. Jesus contrasts the new and old. Why is everything new for a follower of Jesus? (John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17)
8. Briefly describe the healings found in these verses.
9. What examples of faith and unbelief do you find?

Faith

Unbelief

How does Jesus' power and authority strengthen your faith in the trials you face?

Read verses 35-38

10. List the different aspects of the Jesus' ministry.

What was His motivation?

11. What is the harvest?

Who are the laborers?

Are you one of the laborers? Why or why not?

Growing Stronger...

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) Jesus is a merciful Shepherd who takes care of His flock in many ways. Using the following verses, describe some of the ways He takes care of you.

Isaiah 40:11

Ezekiel 34:11-12

John 10:11

1 Peter 2:25

Revelation 7:16-17

What are some other ways He takes care of you?

Final Thoughts...

"...Follow Me..." Matthew 9:9

Matthew did not disguise or make any excuse for his past, but he immediately responded to the King's call. Matthew's example shows that no matter what your "old life" was, you can serve the Lord. Is there something in your past that you feel hinders you from obeying Jesus' call to follow Him? Write and memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 as a reminder that you are made new in Christ and follow Him!

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 10... *Messengers of the King*

Jesus made it clear that He did not come to do His Father's work alone. Therefore, Jesus multiplied His ministry by sending His apostles to participate in His mission. He first prepared them by giving specific instructions, warnings, and reassurances. To demonstrate the truth of their message, Jesus empowered them with His own authority as His representatives to perform miracles in His name.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 10

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-4

1. Read Matthew 9:37-38. Before Jesus gave His disciples a mission, what did He tell them to do first?

2. What power did Jesus give His disciples?

3. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Disciple (noun)

Apostle

When did the disciples become Jesus' apostles?

Read verses 5-15

4. Where were the apostles supposed to go?

What were they to do on their journey?

Why were they not to take supplies or money with them? (1 Corinthians 9:14)

5. As they entered a city or town, what were they to do?

Why were they to “shake off the dust” from their feet? (Matthew 7:6)

Read verses 16-26

6. What does it mean to “be wise as serpents and harmless as doves”? (Colossians 2:8, 1 Peter 3:15-16)

7. What could the apostles expect as they went about preaching?

8. Why were they not to worry about what to say? (verses 19-20, Luke 12:12)

How does this apply to you?

9. According to Matthew 10:24-25, why are Christians persecuted? (John 15:20)

Why should we not be afraid? (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Read verses 27-31

10. How valuable are you to God? (see also Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 31:3)

How does knowing this reassure you?

Read verses 32-39

11. Describe what these verses say about allegiance and priorities.

12. How did Jesus bring a “sword” to earth? (verses 34-35, Hebrews 4:12)

What kind of commitment is necessary to follow Jesus?

Do you have this kind of commitment? Explain your answer.

"When we come to Christ, we are no longer the most important person in the world to us; Christ is. Instead of living only for ourselves, we have a higher goal, to live for Jesus." ~ Billy Graham

Read verses 40-42

13. What are Jesus' words of encouragement?

Growing Stronger...

Abandoning Jesus because of persecution is not an option, for the one “who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Jesus gives numerous motivations to endure with firm, fearless, even joyful faith. What are they?

Matthew 5:11-12

Matthew 10:19-20

Matthew 10:24-26

Matthew 10:29-33

Matthew 10:39-42

What active role do you/can you take to encourage other believers to endure “to the end”?

Final Thoughts...

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me...” Matthew 10:37

Love is a word we use loosely. We love our dog, we love our family, we love to hike. Yet in this verse, Jesus says we are not to love our family more than we love Him. Are you putting someone or something above your love for Jesus? Are you totally invested in your relationship with Him? Prayerfully consider what things get in your way and ask Jesus to help you seek Him first and to follow Him with your whole heart.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 11... *Reactions to the King*

Jesus answered John the Baptist's questions by pointing to His works of healing and preaching. Jesus rebuked those who did not repent and turned from reaching out to the nation to approach the individual. The blessed rest of God is for all who come to the meek and gentle King.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 11

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-19

1. Read Luke 3:15-17. After such a strong testimony, why do you think John was having doubts about Jesus' identity?

What circumstances in your life have caused you to doubt Jesus?

How did you overcome your doubt?

2. What did Jesus mean by His answer to John's disciples? (verses 4-6, Isaiah 35:5-6)
3. What insights do you gain from verses 18-19?

Read verses 20-24

4. Where did Jesus do most of His "mighty works"?

How did the people respond to His message and "mighty works"?

What is **your** response to the message of the gospel?

What "mighty works" has Jesus done in your life?

5. Why might it “be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for” **your** city?

What can you do? (Isaiah 52:7, 2 Timothy 4:2)

Read verses 25-30

6. Why has God hidden certain things “from the wise and intelligent, and revealed them to infants”? (verse 25 NASB, see also 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

7. Why has the Father “delivered” all things to His Son? (see also John 3:35, John 17:2)

8. Describe the burden everyone carries. (Psalm 38:4, Isaiah 1:4)

How did Jesus deliver believers from this burden? (Romans 5:8)

9. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Rest

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee."
~ Augustine

10. In verses 28-29, how did Jesus describe the following?

His character:

His yoke:

His promise:

11. What does it mean to **you** to “come” to Jesus?

Growing Stronger...

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words.” (Matthew 11:15 AMP) We must pay careful attention to God’s word so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we understand it with our minds, believe it with our hearts, and live accordingly. Using the following Scriptures, describe what will help you to listen and to obey Him.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6

Psalm 1:1-2

Psalm 119:11

Matthew 5:6

Ephesians 5:18

Final Thoughts...

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls.”
Matthew 11:29 AMP

To take Christ’s yoke upon you is to yield yourself to the Lord, allowing Him to guide and teach you. It is letting go of the things that weigh you down like legalism or trying to please others. Are you trying to fix things in your own strength? Is there a religious standard you are trying to uphold? Pray and ask the Lord to help you take His yoke upon you. You will find rest as you walk in one accord with Him.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 12... *Sabbath Controversies*

Once again Jesus came into conflict with the religious leaders. The Pharisees began to increase their attacks and accusations, attempting to trap Jesus into saying or doing something they could use against Him. Jesus responded to their criticisms and rebuked their evil hearts as the source of their hateful words.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 12

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-14

1. Why did the Pharisees consider what the disciples did as unlawful?

What did Jesus tell the Pharisees?

2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice"? (Micah 6:7-8)

If the Pharisees had followed this teaching, what would they not have done?

*"Mercy is the act of withholding deserved punishment,
while grace is the act of endowing unmerited favor."*

~ Philip Wijaya

3. Why is it true that Jesus is "Lord even of the Sabbath"? (Matthew 28:18)

4. What did Jesus ask the Pharisees in verses 11-12? (see also Mark 3:4)

How did the Pharisees respond?

Read verses 15-32

5. What conclusions did the Pharisees make about Jesus based on His words and works?

How did Jesus counter their accusation?

6. According to Jesus, what decision must every person make? (verse 30)

Read verses 33-37

7. What did Jesus say about the words we speak?

How do you fill your heart with good things so that good will pour out? (Philippians 4:8)

Read verses 38-45

8. What "sign" did Jesus say He would give the Pharisees?

How was this fulfilled?

9. What claims did Jesus make about Himself? (see also Matthew 12:6, 8)

Read verses 46-50

10. Who did Jesus say was His family?

What does this mean in your life?

Growing Stronger...

"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37) Jesus said that a person's own words will justify or condemn — including the most casual or careless of remarks. Your very words reveal what is in your heart. Read James 1:26 and James 3:2-12 in the NLT. What insights, instructions, warnings, or encouragements do you glean from these passages?

Final Thoughts...

"...I desire mercy and not sacrifice..." Matthew 12:7

The Pharisees got so caught up in trying to live by the letter of the law that they neglected mercy. Regular church attendance is important, but don't neglect acts of mercy. Perhaps there is a single parent, widow, or struggling family that needs help in your community. Pray and ask the Lord to guide you into an act of mercy.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 13... *Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven*

One of Jesus' favorite teaching tools was the parable. He used everyday things and activities to make spiritual points. Since He did not use specialized terms but common everyday language, the crowds could easily understand His teaching. The parables communicated spiritual truths quickly and easily, but could also be puzzling. Those who were genuinely interested pursued the meaning until they found it; those who merely wanted entertainment drifted away.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 13

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-17

1. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Parable
2. Why did Jesus "speak to them in parables?"
3. Why could some people understand the parables and others could not? (Ezekiel 12:2, 1 Corinthians 2:12-14)
4. Do you have the same blessing the disciples had? (verses 16-17) Why or why not?

Read verses 18-23

5. What does the seed represent? (verse 19, Luke 8:11)

Describe what hinders the seed in the first three soils from bearing fruit.

6. Which of the four soils best describes you?

7. How do you “bear fruit”? (John 15:1-8)

What “fruit” are you bearing? (see also Galatians 5:22-23)

Read verses 24-30

8. How did Jesus explain the parable of the “wheat and the tares”?

Read verses 31-43

9. What is the connection between “the kingdom of heaven” and the size of the mustard seed and how it grows?

How has the Word of God brought about growth in your life?

Read verses 44-46

10. What did Jesus say “the kingdom of heaven” was like in these two parables?

Who does the man and the merchant represent?

Who does the treasure and the pearl represent?

What is your response to the lessons in these parables?

Read verses 47-58

11. What does the parable of the dragnet teach about the judgment to come?

12. Why were the people of Jesus' hometown "astonished"?

How do they compare with those described in verses 13-15?

"Now He did ____ do many _____ there because of their _____." (verse 58)

Growing Stronger...

"Behold, a sower went out to sow..." (Matthew 13:3) The farmer sows the seed by faith. He is never guaranteed that the seed will grow; he only knows he must sow the seed to have a crop. Like the farmer, we are to sow the seed of God's Word though not everyone will receive it. Read the following verses and describe the encouragement you find for sowing the seeds of the gospel.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Mark 16:15

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:15

2 Timothy 4:2

*"In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand;
for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that,
or whether both alike will be good."* ~ Ecclesiastes 11:6

Final Thoughts...

"Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?" Matthew 13:54

Those who are spiritually blind do not know that they are; none of us are immune to our sin nature. Begin each day this week by asking God to show you areas of spiritual blindness in your life. Confess your sins and ask the Holy Spirit to help you turn from them.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 14... *Jesus' Power Over Creation*

After learning of John the Baptist's death, Jesus sought seclusion. However, He was followed by a vast crowd of people. Full of compassion, He healed the sick and miraculously fed more than five thousand. Later that night, Jesus walked on water to help His disciples who were struggling against a raging storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 14

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-12

1. Who did Herod think Jesus was?
2. What events led to the death of John the Baptist?

What weaknesses in Herod prompted him to carry out these events?

Read verses 13-21

3. Upon hearing of John's death, what did Jesus do?
4. What motivated Jesus to help the people who followed Him?

What motivates **you** to help people?

5. What did the disciples ask Jesus to do with the multitude?

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?

How did the disciples react? (see also Mark 6:37)

6. How did Jesus take care of the needs of the crowd?

Can Jesus multiply the gifts you give to others? Explain your answer.

Read verses 22-33

7. Why was Jesus in a hurry to send the disciples away? (John 6:14-15)

What did Jesus do after He sent the multitudes away?

8. What might have gone through the disciples' minds as they battled the storm?

How did Jesus respond when they cried out in fear?

Does Jesus calm **your** fears? Explain your answer.

"There is power in simply speaking the name Jesus."

9. How did Jesus answer Peter's request?

Why was Peter afraid?

What do **you** learn from this event?

10. How did the disciples in the boat react to what they saw?

Read verses 34-36

11. Record the additional detail you find in John 6:21 about the lake crossing.

What does this verse reveal?

12. What happened in Gennesaret?

Growing Stronger...

Jesus walked on the raging sea and declared to His terrified disciples, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27 NASB). "It is I" in the Greek is literally translated "I am". This phrase first appears in God's naming of Himself in Exodus. Read the following verses and consider what Jesus was declaring about Himself:

Exodus 3:14

Isaiah 41:4

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 43:10

How do these words comfort you?

Final Thoughts...

"Lord, save me!" Matthew 14:30

Bring your fears, even your sense of panic, to the Lord and call out as Peter did, "Lord, save me!" Thank Him for His faithfulness and find rest in knowing that He will *never* fail you. Bring what you have to Jesus, no matter how inadequate it looks, and allow Him to use it as He wishes for His glory.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 14

Matthew Chapter 15... *King of Jew and Gentile*

Because the scribes and Pharisees took offense at His teaching, Jesus made His sharpest break from conventional Judaism so far. Jesus left Jewish territory and began to minister in Gentile regions. The nation of Israel and her religious leaders increasingly rejected Him, but Gentiles were ready to accept Him.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 15

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-20

1. When the disciples did not wash their hands, what were they transgressing?

How does that compare with what Jesus charged the religious leaders?

Why is this distinction important? (Acts 4:19)

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Hypocrite

3. What happens to that which our "heavenly Father has not planted"? (see also John 15:2)

4. What was Jesus' explanation of the parable to the disciples?

What specific "things" defile you? (see also Galatians 5:19-21)

Read verses 21-28

5. When the "woman of Canaan" called Jesus the "Son of David," what was she acknowledging? (Matthew 22:41-42)

6. How did the disciples and Jesus initially react to her?

What changed Jesus' response? (verse 25)

7. Explain how this event can give you confidence to approach God in prayer.

Read verses 29-39

8. List the miracles Jesus performed in verses 29-31.

Why is it important that Matthew included these miracles? (Isaiah 35:5-6, Luke 4:18, John 2:23)

*"The age of miracles has not passed. The Miracle-Worker is still ALIVE.
His name is Jesus Christ." ~ T. B. Joshua*

9. Who did Jesus hand the multiplied loaves and fish to?

What did they do with them?

How did this foreshadow their future ministry? (John 21:15, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 4:6)

10. Where does your spiritual food come from?

Who are you sharing it with?

Growing Stronger...

"He answered and said to them, 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?'" (Matthew 15:3) Jesus made a clear distinction between human traditions and the divine commands of Scripture. The commandment of God cannot be superseded by man's religious traditions. Devotion to God includes both obedience to His commandments and ministering to others — these two cannot be separated. Using the following verses, list specific ways you can obey God's commandments while serving others.

John 13:34

Romans 13:9

Galatians 5:22-23

Ephesians 4:31-32

Final Thoughts...

"Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.'" Matthew 15:28

Great faith does not depend on background or position, but on the attitude of the heart. We are to be persistent in prayer and not give up, even when the answer does not come immediately or in the way we think it should. "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6 NLT) How are **you** sincerely seeking Him?

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 16... *Son of the Living God*

Jesus was confronted by yet another group of religious leaders who asked for a sign from heaven. Once again, these men proved their insincerity; no amount of evidence would be enough for them. After a passionate discussion about Jesus' identity, Jesus declared that His followers must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 16

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-4

1. Why did Jesus rebuff the Pharisees and Sadducees?

Read verses 5-12

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to "beware" of?

What did they think Jesus meant?

What did Jesus mean? (see also Luke 12:1)

Is there a need to "beware of the leaven" today? Explain your answer.

Read verses 13-20

3. What answer did the disciples give when Jesus asked, "Who do men say that I am"?
4. How did Peter respond when Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?"

Who did Jesus say "revealed" the answer to Peter?

Who do **you** say Jesus is? Explain your answer.

5. Who is "the rock" the church is built upon? (1 Corinthians 3:11)
6. What is significant about the way Jesus described His church?

Read verses 21-28

7. What did Jesus begin to "show to His disciples"?

Why was this plan necessary? (Matthew 20:28, 1 Peter 1:18-19)

8. How did Peter react?

Why did Jesus respond to Peter's outburst with such force?

Do you ever hold on to your own ideas and insist on your own way when you don't understand something instead of conforming to the Lord's will? What happens when you do that?

9. If you desire to follow Jesus, what must you do?

In what specific ways do **you** deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?

"Taking up my cross means a life voluntarily surrendered to God."

~ A. W. Pink

Growing Stronger...

"But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:23)
Sometimes it is difficult to differentiate between God's will and our own. What do the following verses reveal to you about discerning God's will?

Psalm 119:105

Matthew 6:33

Romans 12:2

Colossians 1:9

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Final Thoughts...

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'" Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus calls His followers to unflinching and radical dedication. Prayerfully read His words again. What impact do they have on your heart and will? As you seek the Lord, ask Him to give you steadfast devotion.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 16

Matthew Chapter 17... *Glory and Faith*

A decisive shift had occurred by this point in Jesus' ministry; His march to the cross had begun. But before the end came, Jesus gave His followers a brief glimpse of His coming kingdom. Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus transfigured as the King of glory.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 17

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-8

1. Describe what happened on the "high mountain".

How did Peter describe the Transfiguration in 2 Peter 1:16-18?

2. What did the Voice tell them to do?

How did the disciples respond?

How do **you** respond? (John 2:5, Acts 3:22)

3. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Transfiguration

What does the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus Christ to you?

4. In what specific ways can you give God glory today?

Read verses 9-13

5. Who did Jesus indicate “Elijah” was?

What was his mission? (Luke 1:17)

How was his ministry cut short? (Matthew 14:10-12)

Read verses 14-21

6. What did the man first ask of Jesus? (verse 15)

7. Why were the disciples unable to cure the boy?

8. What is the result of having “faith as a mustard seed”? (1 John 5:14)

What does this teach you about trusting God’s ability to accomplish His will?

“Even if our faith is that small, He says we can do the seemingly impossible. Why? Because the power is not in the amount of our faith, but in the object of our faith. It’s not about the strength of our faith, but the strength of the One in whom we trust.” ~ Drew Hunter

Read verses 22-23

9. How did the disciples react to Jesus’ declaration?

What is your response to Romans 5:8?

Read verses 24-27

10. Before Peter had a chance to tell Jesus what happened, what did Jesus ask him?

What did this reveal about Jesus?

Growing Stronger...

Just like a mustard seed, your faith is meant to grow. A mustard seed is extremely small but can grow into a bush that is over 20 feet tall. The tiniest bit of faith, when it is true faith from God, can grow to huge proportions in the lives of believers and spread out to influence those around them. By using the small mustard seed as an example, Jesus spoke figuratively about the omnipotent power of God in the lives of those with true faith. Investigate the following verses and describe how your faith grows.

Romans 10:17

1 Corinthians 2:5

1 Corinthians 16:13

Colossians 2:6-7

Hebrews 11:6

Final Thoughts...

"...if you have faith as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

Your faith does not need to be outwardly great to have an enormous impact. You don't have to be Billy Graham to be an effective witness. You don't have to be wealthy to give generously. Every small act of kindness, such as praying with a hurting friend or giving sacrificially for the needs of others, can have an eternal impact. Pray and ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to step out in faith today.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 18... *The Greatest in the Kingdom*

Holding a small child in His arms, Jesus explained that the “greatest in the kingdom” will be the one who humbles himself like a child. His point is not that Christians ought to be naïve, rather it is humility that counts in God’s kingdom. Those who help and guide other spiritual “children” are serving God. Those who lead believers astray can expect judgment.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 18

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-11

1. What did the disciples ask Jesus?

How did Jesus answer their question?

2. What must you do to enter the kingdom of heaven? (see also Acts 3:19)

3. What does this passage teach you about humility?

How does this contrast with the way the world views greatness?

4. What warning does Jesus give regarding anyone who would cause “one of these little ones” to sin? (verses 6-7; see also Matthew 13:41 AMP)

Is Jesus just talking about little children or does it also apply to others? Explain your answer.

Read verses 12-14

5. Describe the love of the shepherd.

How have **you** experienced the love of the Shepherd?

Read verses 15-20

6. List the steps Jesus laid out for settling disputes between Christians.

7. What did Jesus promise in verse 20?

Read verses 21-35

8. How many times did Jesus say we are to forgive a person?

What does this number really suggest?

Do you need to forgive a person if they have not asked for forgiveness? Explain your answer. (Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Colossians 3:12-13)

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."

~ Martin Luther King

9. What lessons do you learn from the parable of the "unforgiving servant"? (see also Matthew 5:7)

How can you practice compassion this week? (Zechariah 7:9; 1 Peter 3:8)

Growing Stronger...

"If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble and sin, cut it off and throw it away from you [that is, remove yourself from the source of temptation]; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into everlasting fire." (Matthew 18:8 AMP) Our behavior matters a great deal to Jesus and, in fact, has eternal consequences. What do the following verses reveal to you about recognizing and removing those things that cause you to sin?

Psalms 139:23-24

1 Corinthians 6:18

1 Corinthians 15:33

Ephesians 4:22-23

Ephesians 4:26-27

Ephesians 6:11

James 4:7

1 Peter 5:8

Final Thoughts...

"Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'" Matthew 18:21-22

Since we have been forgiven so much, we have no right to withhold forgiveness from others. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Have you experienced the freedom of forgiving? Spend time in prayer thanking the Lord for His forgiveness and ask Him to help you forgive those who have hurt you.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 19... *Final Journey to Jerusalem*

Jesus left Galilee and returned to Judea as He made His way toward Jerusalem for the last time. With the multitudes that followed Him were Pharisees, who continued to test Him. Jesus gave His disciples instructions on divorce, children, riches, sacrifice, and rewards.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 19

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-12

1. What did the Pharisees hope to accomplish with the question they asked Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say to confirm God's plan for marriage? (see also Genesis 2:24)

Name the only permissible reason Jesus gave for divorce.

Is divorce mandatory in this instance? Why or why not?

3. Read Malachi 2:14-16. Why did God "make them one"?

Why does God hate divorce?

Read verses 13-15

4. Why were the children brought to Jesus?

How did the disciples react?

What did Jesus remind them of? (see also Matthew 18:3-4)

Why is this difficult to understand and remember?

Read verses 16-30

5. What did the man who came to Jesus ask?
6. How would you answer the question Jesus asked him? (verse 17)
7. Which of the Ten Commandments did Jesus leave out? (Exodus 20:3-17)

What did Jesus convey to the young man by leaving out those commandments?

8. Why did Jesus ask him to sell what he had and give to the poor?
9. What is the cost of following Jesus? (Luke 9:23)

What should your motive be for following Jesus? (John 14:21)

"Following Christ isn't something that can be done half-heartedly on the side. It must be central to everything we do and are."

~ Francis Chan

10. Describe a life lived in whole-hearted devotion to God.
11. How did Jesus answer the question in Matthew 19:25?
12. What do the following verses say about God's ability to do the impossible?
Job 42:2

Jeremiah 32:17

13. Describe the wealth that Jesus will give when He is “on the throne of His glory”.

Growing Stronger...

“And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.” (Matthew 19:2) The word “multitudes” is used 49 times in the New King James Version of Matthew. Jesus was constantly surrounded by a crowd of people in need of healing, forgiveness, and His loving touch. Investigate the following verses and comment on the relationship between Jesus and the multitudes.

Matthew 9:8

Matthew 9:36

Matthew 14:19

Matthew 15:30

Matthew 21:9

Matthew 26:55

Matthew 27:20

What do you need from Jesus today?

Are you willing to follow Him anywhere? Why or why not?

Final Thoughts...

“But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” Matthew 19:22

This story’s application is not meant to imply that believers need to give away all of their possessions in order to get into heaven. Jesus knew that this young man’s heart was given over to the idol of riches. It is not possible to do a “good thing” and gain eternal life. The source of eternal life is faith in Jesus Christ. Followers of Jesus are to rely on Him alone as the only way to heaven. Believers are to have whole-hearted devotion for God and His kingdom above all else. Are you fully seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness? Pray about your answer to question 10 and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to lay aside those things that keep you from being wholly committed to Jesus Christ.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 20... *Grace, Greatness, and Service*

Still on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples for the third time that He would be killed and then raised on the third day. When asked, Jesus explained that it was not up to Him to grant the seats on His right and left hand in the kingdom. Instead, the disciples would find greatness by serving others.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 20

1. What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-16

2. Why do the first-hired laborers grumble against the landowner?

How did the landowner respond?

Was the landowner a just or unjust man? Explain your answer.

3. What does this parable teach you about grace, work, and compensation in the kingdom of heaven?

Read verses 17-19

4. What specific details did Jesus give about what would happen to Him? (see also Mark 10:32-34, and Luke 18:31-34)

How did the disciples react?

Read verses 20-28

5. What favor did the mother of James and John ask of Jesus?

Why might she have made such a request?

6. Explain Jesus' responses in verses 22-23.

7. How did the other disciples react when they heard this interaction?

What lesson did Jesus teach them?

8. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Ransom

9. In your own words, describe what Jesus is saying in verse 28.

How does this verse influence how you live?

*"When Jesus came in the form of a Servant,
He was not disguising who God is. He was revealing who God is."
~ John Ortberg*

Read verses 29-34

10. What do you learn about the blind men?

11. What is the parallel between physical and spiritual blindness? (Revelation 3:17-18)

Growing Stronger...

"...but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave." (Matthew 20:26b-27) Examine your own ambitions for "greatness". Do they interfere with your service to the Lord? Are you pursuing greatness according to the way of Jesus? Search the following verses and record what they reveal to you about serving others.

Matthew 23:11

Mark 10:45

Acts 20:35

Galatians 5:13

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Peter 4:10

Final Thoughts...

"So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, 'What do you want Me to do for you?'" Matthew 20:32

Jesus asked this question with full knowledge that these men were blind. He knew what they needed and what they sought, still He asked. You cannot get through this life without the Lord's help. God wants us to tell Him our needs as an expression of our trust and reliance on Him. As you spend time with Him this week, "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 21... *The King Rejected*

Jesus came to Jerusalem as Messiah and King. He was met with both praise and criticism. He answered the challenges of the religious leaders with a parable accusing them of plotting His death. Even as the excitement and tension increased, Jesus was in full control of when and where He would die. He was never more kingly than when He approached His death on a cross.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 21

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-17

1. In your own words, describe the scene in verses 1-11.
2. What did the multitudes acknowledge about Jesus as they “cried out”?
3. What details from the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 were fulfilled?
4. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Hosanna

"Desire not to live but to praise His name; let all your thoughts, words, and works tend to His glory." ~ John Wesley

5. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple? (see also Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11)

What did He do for those who came to Him afterward?

6. Why were the chief priests and scribes “indignant”?

What should they have done instead?

7. Consider all that has taken place in this event. In what ways does this sum up the entire ministry of Jesus?

Read verses 18-22

8. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

What should your faith in Christ produce? (Galatians 5:22-23)

9. How is a leafy fig tree without fruit an example of hypocrisy?

Read verses 23-32

10. What were the “chief priests and elders” challenging?

Where did Jesus’ authority come from? (John 17:1-2)

Why were they unable to answer Jesus’ counter question?

11. If they had believed John was sent from God, what would they have done? (Matthew 3:2)

If they had believed Jesus was sent from God, what would they have done?

12. Who will “enter the kingdom of God before” the priests and elders?

Why?

Read verses 33-46

13. Who is represented by the landowner, the vinedressers, the servants, and the son?

14. What did the religious leaders say to condemn themselves? (verse 41)

15. What will be the result of the Jews' rejection of their King? (verse 43, Acts 13:46)

16. Who were the religious leaders afraid of?

Why was this a mistake? (Proverbs 29:25)

Who do you fear? Explain your answer.

Growing Stronger...

"...The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone..." (Matthew 21:42) In the Bible, God is frequently referred to as our Rock. Rocks can be a place of shelter and strength, or they can be a danger and threat. Consider the following verses and describe what they mean to you.

Psalms 18:2

Psalms 31:2-3

Psalms 61:1-3

Psalms 118:22

1 Peter 2:6-8

Final Thoughts...

"...Behold, your King is coming to you..." Matthew 21:5

The Bible reveals Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King. Prayerfully read Matthew 21 again and look for ways that Jesus fulfilled each of these roles. How is He your Prophet? Your Priest? Your King? What can you do today to prepare yourself for the coming kingdom of God?

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 21

Matthew Chapter 22... *Silencing the Opposition*

Jesus continued His debate with the religious leaders using a parable about invited guests who refused to attend a wedding feast. Jesus then fielded questions from several different religious groups, who failed in their attempts to trip Him up. His wise and profound answers silenced them all.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 22

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-14

1. How did the invited guests respond to the king's invitation?

What did they do to the king's servants?

What did the king do in return?

What does it mean that they "were not worthy"? (verse 8)

2. How did the wedding hall become "filled with guests"?

3. Describe what happened to the guest who was not wearing "a wedding garment".

What kind of person does he represent? (see also Matthew 7:21-23)

*"The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit
which makes you look to yourself for salvation."*

~ Charles Spurgeon

4. Identify the participants in the wedding feast parable:

Who did the king represent?

Who did the son represent?

Who was invited first?

Who did the king's servants represent?

What did the second invitation refer to?

What is the meaning behind this parable? (see also Matthew 21:42-43)

Read verses 15-22

5. What trap were the Pharisees hoping Jesus would fall for?

Why are you to "Render, therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"? (verse 21; Romans 13:6-7a)

Read verses 23-33

6. What was the point of the Sadducee's question?

What were the Sadducees ignorant of?

How can you prevent this ignorance from happening to you? (Isaiah 26:4, 2 Timothy 2:15)

Read verses 34-40

7. What question did the lawyer ask to "test" Jesus?

What was Jesus' answer? (see also Deuteronomy 6:5, Galatians 5:14)

Explain what Jesus meant.

What is something you need to shift your focus away from so that you can fulfill the law of Christ?

Read verses 41-46

8. How did the Pharisees answer Jesus' questions, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"

Why were the Pharisees unable to answer Jesus' question in verse 45?

Growing Stronger...

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless." (Matthew 22:11-12) The Bible often uses clothing as a symbol to teach us about righteousness. In the wedding feast parable, a man came improperly dressed and was thrown out in disgrace. This symbolizes the difference between trusting in self or in Christ for salvation. Self-righteousness is a delusion; we cannot make ourselves righteous. Only Christ can clothe us with His righteousness. Consider the following verses and record what they reveal to you about being clothed in Christ's righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10

Zechariah 3:4

Romans 13:14

Ephesians 4:22-24

Final Thoughts...

"Jesus said to him 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

How well are you obeying the great commandment? How do you demonstrate the first by complying with the second? Believing in God is not enough. You must give Him your total love, a love that dominates your emotions and directs your thoughts and actions. It is only when you love God with your whole heart that others become lovable.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 22

Matthew Chapter 23... *The King Rejects the Religious Leaders*

The religious leaders wanted a King and Messiah on their own terms. They refused to bow to a King who was not to their liking, even though He had revealed He was the Son of God. They clung to their sins of hypocrisy, greed, and hollow religion. In His final answer to their rejection, Jesus delivered a scathing rejection of them. And it broke His heart.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 23

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-12

1. What did Jesus say about the responsibility and authority of the religious leaders? (Malachi 2:7)

How were they abusing their authority?

2. What motivated the actions of the scribes and Pharisees?

3. Why are you not to call any religious authority "father"?

4. Using the following verses, describe the attributes of your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:48

Matthew 6:9

Matthew 6:14

Matthew 6:26

5. Fill in the blanks: "And whoever _____ himself will be _____, and he who _____ himself will be _____." (Matthew 23:12 NKJV)

What does this verse mean to you?

Read verses 13-36

6. What do all the “woes” have in common?
7. Jesus repeatedly called the scribes and Pharisees “hypocrites”. List the other terms He used and why.

"With their doctrine they build, and with their lives they destroy."
~ Augustine

8. According to verse 23, what is more important than tithing?

Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Justice

Mercy

Faith

Read verses 37-39

9. What does Jesus’ lament show you about His heart for those who reject Him?

What is your response to those who reject you because of your faith in Christ?

Who are they really rejecting?

Growing Stronger...

"But all their works they do to be seen by men..." (Matthew 23:5) Jesus condemned the religious leaders for exchanging outward appearances for inward righteousness. Are there ways in which you are inclined to do the same? Make a list of all the religious activities you participate in (Bible reading, serving in ministry, attending church, etc.).

Are there any you are doing "to be seen" by others or for their approval? If so, which ones?

Study the following verses and record how they can help you better serve your King.

Matthew 6:3-4

Ephesians 6:7-8

Colossians 3:17

Colossians 3:23-24

Final Thoughts...

"...but you were not willing!" Matthew 23:37

Jesus stands with open arms to receive you and protect you under the shadow of His wings. He calls you to Himself for your good and His glory. Are there areas in your life that you are "not willing" to surrender to Him? Write them out; name them and confess your reasons for holding back. Then prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to help you give yourself entirely to the King of kings, Jesus.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 24... *Signs of the End of the Age*

After proclaiming God's judgment on the scribes, Pharisees, and Jerusalem, Jesus left the temple and walked towards the Mount of Olives with His disciples. There, He predicted the temple's destruction and answered the disciples' questions about the end times. There would be false prophets, lawlessness, and turmoil, but the gospel would be preached throughout the world. No one knows the day or hour, so we must be constantly ready for Jesus' return.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 24

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-2

1. What prediction did Jesus make about the temple?

Read verses 3-14

2. What did the disciples ask Jesus on the Mount of Olives?
3. What warning did Jesus give? (verses 4,5,11)
4. List some of the things that will happen before the end comes. (verses 5-12, Mark 13:4-13)
5. What else will happen before the end comes? (verse 14)

Read verses 15-22

6. In your own words, describe "the abomination of desolation." (verse 15; Daniel 11:31 AMP, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

How are His people to react?

Read verses 23-28

7. Record the warning Jesus gave in these verses.

Why is this warning repeated throughout Jesus' response? (also reread verses 5,11)

How can you keep from being deceived? (John 15:4)

Read verses 29-31

8. How did Jesus describe His return? (see also Luke 21:25-27)

What is the "sign of the Son of Man"? (Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:11)

Read verses 32-35

9. List "all these things" Jesus referred to in verse 33. (see verses 6-7, 15, 21, 23-24, 30-31)

Are you seeing any of "these things" happening today? If so, what is your response to them?

10. How does Jesus confirm that everything in God's Word will happen? (verse 35, Isaiah 40:8)

Read verses 36-51

11. Will the Son of Man come at an hour we expect? Explain your answer.

12. According to Jesus, what will the attitude of most people be during the last days?

13. How can you be “ready” for Christ's return?

14. What main lesson did Jesus convey in verses 45-51?

*"Perseverance is more than endurance.
It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty
that what we are looking for is going to happen."*

~ Oswald Chambers

Growing Stronger...

Jesus said, “but he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:13). Perseverance is a crucial subject in the Bible, especially as it relates to faith and salvation. Not all who make a profession of faith are necessarily saved. True saving faith perseveres. Search the following verses and record what you learn about enduring to the end.

Colossians 1:21-23

1 Timothy 4:16

Hebrews 3:14

Revelation 2:7

Final Thoughts....

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30

Take some time to reflect on what the assurance of Christ’s return means for you: your choices, goals, priorities, and relationships. Then give thanks for the confidence and strength that comes from Christ’s presence through His Word and Spirit, and for the assurance of His coming.

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 25... *Be Prepared, Be Serving*

Jesus closed the Olivet Discourse with His last parables and a description of future events. As He faced His crucifixion and death, Jesus promised to return as King and Judge. Even though nations will be gathered before His throne, He will judge individuals. Those who are prepared and serving will enter into eternal life and inherit the kingdom.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 25

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-13

1. Describe how this parable is a picture of the Second Coming of Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
2. Why were five of the virgins called wise and five called foolish?
3. Are you prepared for the return of Jesus? Explain your answer.
4. What did Jesus exhort you to do in verse 13? (see also 1 Thessalonians 5:6)

"People get ready, Jesus is coming. Soon we'll be going home."

~ Brian Ray

Read verses 14-30

5. In this parable, who do the master and his servants represent?

6. Since the master gave "to each according to his own ability" what did he expect from them? (Romans 12:6a, 1 Corinthians 12:7)
7. Two of the servants received equal praise even though they were given and yielded different amounts. What does this show you about comparing yourself with others?

Read verses 31-46

8. Describe the scene in verses 31-33. (see also Matthew 16:27, 2 Thessalonians 1:7)

Who are the sheep? (John 10:27-28)

How will the people be separated according to John 3:36?

9. What are the most wonderful words a person can hear? (Matthew 25:34)
10. When did the Father begin preparing your inheritance?
11. List the ministries Jesus mentioned. (verses 34-44)
12. What is necessary for your good works to be rewarded? (Hebrews 11:6)

How does this show that heaven is not earned by works? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Growing Stronger...

"...but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46) The promise of eternal life is yours through faith in Jesus Christ. Using the following verses, describe what eternal life will be like.

Psalm 16:11

John 14:1-3

Revelation 7:9-12

Revelation 21:1-4

Revelation 22:1-5

Final Thoughts...

"After a long time the lord of those servants came..." Matthew 25:19

It has been a long time since Jesus promised to return. But the Lord is not slow concerning His promise; He is patiently waiting for all to come to repentance. The anticipation of His return can be a strong influence for spiritual growth and evangelism. What can you do specifically to prepare yourself for Christ's return? How can you encourage others to accept the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ? Record your responses below.

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 25

Matthew 26:1-35... *Take, Eat...Remember*

Now that His teaching was complete, Jesus prepared for the cross. After He was anointed at Bethany, Judas joined with the chief priests to plot His death. At His last Passover, Jesus instituted communion as a remembrance of His sacrifice. Knowing all things, He prophesied that the disciples would abandon Him and Peter would deny Him.

Prayerfully Read Matthew 26:1-35

What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

Read verses 1-5

1. Why did the chief priests, scribes, and elders meet?

Read verses 6-16

2. Whose house were they in?

Do you think he was still a leper? Why or why not?

3. Who came to see Jesus in Bethany? (see also John 12:1-3)

What did Mary do?

How did the disciples react?

What did Jesus say about what Mary had done?

4. What did Judas do after Jesus' anointing?

Why do you think Judas plotted to betray Jesus? (see also John 12:4-7)

Read verses 17-25

5. What did Jesus tell His disciples at His last Passover meal? (verses 20-21)

How did Jesus identify His betrayer? (Psalm 41:9)

6. What did Jesus say about "that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed"?

Read verses 26-30

7. What significance does Jesus give to the bread?

8. What significance does Jesus give to the cup?

9. Why should **you** celebrate communion? (see Luke 22:19)

*"The bread and wine exist not simply to stir cognitive remembrance
but to light a fire of unquenchable longing for the Savior
whose body and blood they symbolize."*

10. What did Jesus and His disciples do before departing for the Mount of Olives?

11. How do the following verses remind you to praise the Lord with singing?

Psalm 30:4

Psalm 96:2

Psalm 105:2

Read verses 31-35

12. At the Mount of Olives, what did Jesus predict His disciples would do?

13. What assurance did Jesus give them in verse 32?

How does this affect you?

14. What did Peter declare?

What reply did Jesus give to Peter?

15. What did all the disciples say they would do?

What do **you** have that the disciples did not have until Pentecost? (Acts 2:1-4)

How does this help you to have the strength and courage that the disciples needed?

Growing Stronger...

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you.'" (Matthew 26:26-27) The Lord's Supper serves many purposes. It is a memorial to Jesus' sacrificial death; it is where we commit our whole being to Him and commune with fellow believers. It also points us to the time when Jesus Christ will come again. Prayerfully ponder and record what the following verses reveal about the observance of the Lord's Supper:

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 11:26-32 (NLT)

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

How is remembering Christ through participating in the Lord's Supper meaningful to **you**?

Final Thoughts...

"For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always." Matthew 26:11

Jesus was not disparaging ministry to the poor; He pointed to the appropriate nature of that moment in honoring Him in an extravagant way. The beauty of Mary's sacrificial act was that it was all for Jesus and Him alone. How can you turn all of your attention upon the Lord and honor Him in a profound way? Like Mary, does your love for the Savior motivate you to devotion and sacrifice?

Study notes for Matthew 26:1-35

Matthew 26:36-75... *Betrayal of the King*

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus pleaded with the disciples to watch with Him while He prayed. In His sorrow and distress, Jesus asked the Father to let the cup of His wrath pass from Him. Nevertheless, Jesus was committed to doing God's will to the very end. With the betrayer's kiss, the King is arrested, tried, and sentenced to death. Peter's denial and the abandonment of His disciples left Jesus utterly alone.

Prayerfully Read Matthew 26:36-75

What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

Read verses 36-46

1. Describe the scene in these verses.
2. Jesus asked the disciples to "watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." How does prayer keep you from entering into temptation?
3. How does knowing Jesus did the will of God help **you** do the will of God?
4. What did Jesus ask in His prayer? (see also Mark 14:36)

What was the posture He used?

What does this show you about Jesus?

How many times did He pray?

Have you learned to accept the will of the Father and say, "Thy will be done"? Explain your answer.

*"It matters not to me what I do, or what I suffer, so long as
I abide lovingly united to God's will — that is my whole business."*

~ Brother Lawrence

5. How would you describe what Jesus experienced in the garden of Gethsemane? (see also Luke 22:41-44)

Read verses 47-56

6. Who came with Judas to the Garden of Gethsemane? (see also John 18:3)
7. What sign did Judas use to betray Jesus?

What was Jesus' reply? (see also Psalm 41:9)

Why does the betrayal of a friend cut so deeply? (Psalm 55:12-13 NLT)

8. How did Jesus handle the attempt to defend Him? (see also Luke 22:51)
9. Why didn't Jesus ask His Father to send "twelve legions of angels"? (verse 54, Luke 24:25-26)

What is your response to Jesus' choice not to defend Himself?

Should you always defend yourself? Why or why not?

10. When Jesus was arrested, what did the disciples do?

Read verses 57-68

11. What did the religious leaders attempt to do?

How did Jesus respond to their accusations? (Isaiah 53:7)

12. What did Jesus say in verse 64 that made the high priests charge Him with blasphemy?

Describe their reaction.

Read verses 69-75

13. What happened to Peter when he was in the courtyard?

When the rooster crowed, what did Peter remember? (see also Luke 22:61)

What did he do?

14. Both Jesus and the disciples faced temptation in this chapter. How can Jesus' example and the disciples' failures help you to withstand temptation and testing?

Growing Stronger...

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" (Matthew 26:39) The reason for Jesus' state of distress was the prospect of the cup of God's wrath which He had to drink. Using the following verses, explain what Jesus did for you when He drank that cup.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Isaiah 53:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:21

Final Thoughts....

"Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.'" Matthew 26:42

Go before the Lord with praise and worship. Give thanks to Him for drinking the cup of God's wrath for you and for seeing His mission through to the very end. Pray that you will have the strength to stand with Jesus when things are tough knowing that He suffered for you.

Study notes for Matthew 26:36-75

Matthew Chapter 27... *The King on the Cross*

Everything in God's redemptive plan centers on the cross. We cannot save ourselves and our holy God cannot let sin go unpunished. It is through the cross of Christ alone that the Lord has provided the way for sinners to be saved and reconciled to God. Jesus had to die because He was the only perfect One who could pay the penalty for your sins. There is no salvation apart from the cross of Christ. As Pilate and the religious leaders condemn, mock, and crucify God's Son, God Himself seems strangely absent. Yet His presence and power are unmistakable.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 27

What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-10

1. Why was it necessary for the chief priests and elders to take Jesus to Pilate? (John 18:31)

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Remorse

Repentance

How are they different?

3. As a result of being remorseful, what did Judas do?

What did the chief priests and elders do?

4. Had Judas gone to Jesus, would He have forgiven him? (Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9)

Read verses 11-25

5. What did Jesus acknowledge to Pilate, the chief priests, and elders? (see also John 18:37)

6. What motivated the chief priests and elders to persuade the multitudes to “ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus”? (verse 18)
7. How does the terrible proclamation in verse 25 coincide with Matthew 21:33-42, 23:37-38, and 24:2?

Read verses 26-31

8. Describe the scene in these verses.

Why is it important that Matthew included all of these details? (Isaiah 50:6, Isaiah 52:14)

What are your feelings as you read and visualize these details?

Read verses 32-44

9. Why did they compel Simon to carry the cross? (see verse 26)
10. What accusation was put over Christ’s head?

List the other taunts and accusations made against Him during His crucifixion.

Which ones are true?

Read verses 45-56

11. What did Jesus cry out in the darkness?

How does this indicate an even greater suffering than the physical pain He experienced? (see John 17:21-23)

According to John 19:30, what else did Jesus cry out before yielding His spirit?

*"When Jesus cried out on Calvary, 'It is Finished', He meant what He said.
All that men have to do now is just accept the work of Jesus Christ."
~ D.L. Moody*

12. List the supernatural events that took place in Matthew 27:45, 51-53.

Which one is the most significant to you and why?

How did the centurion and those with him react to these events?

Read verses 57-66

13. How was the prophecy of Isaiah 53:9 fulfilled?

14. Why was it important for Matthew to describe the death and burial of the King?

15. What final measure did the Romans and Jews take to ensure their victory over the King?

What had Jesus promised that caused them to do this?

Growing Stronger...

"...Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Matthew 21:5)

Jesus came as a lowly baby born in poverty. He lived a sinless life, did the will of the Father, and fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning Himself. He was a King, yet He was crucified as a criminal. Why did Jesus have to die? What did His death accomplish? Prayerfully read the following verses and record the answers you find to these questions.

Leviticus 17:11

Isaiah 53:4-6

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8-10

Final Thoughts...

"...then what should I do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?" Matthew 27:22 NLT

Your eternity depends on **your** answer to this question; how have you answered it? Jesus loves you so much that He paid for your sins. If you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then your sins will be forgiven and God will accept you into His kingdom. If you do not accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, when you die you will be punished for your own sins in the everlasting fire. So the choice is yours. What will you do with Jesus who died for you?

[illegible]

Matthew Chapter 28... *The Risen King!*

The enemies of the King had done everything in their power to destroy Him, but no power on earth could keep Jesus in the grave! This chapter focuses on the messengers of Jesus' resurrection—the angel told the women, the women told the disciples, the guards told the religious leaders, and all disciples were to tell the nations of the Risen King. Jesus promised to be with us as we pass on His teachings and commands.

Prayerfully Read Matthew Chapter 28

What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read verses 1-10

1. Who were the first witnesses to Jesus' resurrection?
2. Describe what took place by the tomb.
3. Neither the women nor the guards were expecting the resurrection or the appearance of an angel. What would be a reason for their different reactions?
4. How did the women react when they met Jesus?
5. What did Jesus tell the women?

Read verses 11-15

6. What story did the chief priests and elders contrive about Jesus' unexpected disappearance from the tomb?

What was the truth? (see also 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

What were the religious leaders afraid of? (see also Matthew 27:64)

7. Why is the resurrection the heart of Christianity? (1 Corinthians 15:13-19; 2 Corinthians 4:14)

8. What does the resurrection prove about Jesus' teachings and promises?

*"Jesus said... I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."
~ John 11:25*

Read verses 16-20

9. Where did the eleven disciples go to meet with Jesus?

10. Record what the following verses reveal to you about Jesus' authority.

Matthew 28:18

John 5:26-27

John 17:1-2

11. Matthew 28:19-20 is commonly called "The Great Commission." Describe this commission in your own words.

12. What promise did Jesus give at the end of verse 20?

How does His promise change the way **you** live?

Growing Stronger...

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3) Jesus, in His victory over the grave, proves that God is greater than all our fears, worries, and sorrows. He is greater than death itself. Jesus is our Risen King! What do the following verses reveal about Him?

Ephesians 1:19-20

Philippians 2:8-11

Philippians 2:13

Hebrews 7:25

Final Thoughts...

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus' words in the Great Commission reveal the heart of God. We too are commissioned to share the Good News until everyone has heard. We are to be about the business of the kingdom, making disciples of all nations — starting in our homes, then our neighborhoods, towns, cities, nation, and the world. How are you living out the Great Commission?

Summary

Having completed the study of Matthew, record some key lessons you have personally learned. What has made an impression on you? What has made a difference in your life?

Study notes for Matthew Chapter 28

~ Friends, Prayer Requests... ~

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
~ Matthew 5:8*