

 Faith Covenant Church

Matthew

Adult Discipleship

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Matthew
“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson Plan

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29	Matthew 28	Jesus' Resurrection and Commission

Matthew

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Introduction

Author

The author is Matthew, the tax collector then called by Jesus to be an apostle (Matthew 9:9-13). His name means “gift of the Lord” and he was known as Levi in Mark and Luke. However, some modern scholars contend that Matthew was not the writer since the book allegedly relies so heavily on the Gospel of Mark. But others claim the similarity of Mark and Matthew show that the Apostles were not divided. Matthew was an eye witness to events in Jesus’ life.

Date of Writing

The date of writing is between 50-70AD. The Gospel is written in Greek. Therefore, the early readers were most likely Greek Jews.

Theme

The basic theme is to prove to Jews that Jesus is their Messiah predicted in the Old Testament. Matthew quotes many Old Testament verses and some of them are listed below.

Matthew 1:22-23

“The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

Matthew 2:15

“Out of Egypt I called my son.” (Hosea 11:1)

Matthew 2:17-18

“A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping.” (Jeremiah 31:15)

Matthew 2:23

He will be called a Nazarene (Not a direct quote but where Jesus is despised)

Matthew 4:14-16

“In the past he humbled the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles.” (Isaiah 9:1)

Matthew 8:17

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.” (Isaiah 53:4)

Matthew 12:17-21

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a moldering wick he will not snuff out.” (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Matthew 13:35

“I will open my mouth in parables” (Psalm 78:2)

Matthew

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Matthew 27:9-10

Speaks about potter's field (Jeremiah 32:6-9)

While not specifically quoted, Matthew 27 and 28 see many parts of Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 fulfilled.

Structure

The Gospel is arranged around 5 great discourses of Jesus and not necessarily in chronological order.

Matthew 5-7: Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 10: Commissioning of His disciples

Matthew 13: Kingdom of heaven parables

Matthew 18: Life in the Kingdom

Matthew 24-25: End of the age and Kingdom of Heaven (Olivet Discourse)

Chapters 1-2 give us a prologue of Jesus Jewish genealogy and birth, while Matthew 28:16-20, gives today's believers a great challenge and good work to do.

Matthew

Lesson 1

Jesus' Advent

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*As we begin our study of Matthew, this first lesson will cover Jesus' **Advent** in two divisions: **Jesus' Genealogy and Jesus' Virgin Birth.***

Jesus' Genealogy

Read Matthew 1:1-17, Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 22:15-18, and 2 Samuel 7:11b-16.

1. As Matthew writes to the Jews of his day, what is the significance of tracing Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham and through David?
 - God made covenant with Abraham 1:1b (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - God made covenant with David: his house will rule forever
 - God keeps His covenant (promises)
 - God's plan of a redeemer (messiah) was from the beginning
 - Jesus fulfills God's covenant to His people
 - Genesis 22:15-18 Abraham's covenant
 - Genesis 28:13-14 all people will be blessed through you, Jesus Christ
 - Jeremiah 33:14-16 house of David
 - Isaiah 16:5 House of David
 - Genealogy shows that God fulfilled His promise. It was necessary to safeguard genealogy until Christ when God's promise was fulfilled. Genealogies disappear after the temple was destroyed in 70AD.
2. How did Matthew organize the genealogy? Why is that significant?
 - Fourteen generations from Abraham to David
 - Fourteen generations from David to Judah's exile to Babylon
 - Fourteen generations from the exile to Jesus' advent
 - Significant
 - Abraham believed God and credited as righteous = Father Abraham (Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3)
 - David 2 Samuel 7:16 = kingdom shall last forever
 - Exile = God's judgment of Israel, but then restoration
 - Jesus comes to redeem people including Israel, but Israel is yet to be restored (Romans 11:25-29)
3. It is unusual to mention women in genealogies. Give the background of each woman mentioned in the genealogy.
 - a. Tamar (see Genesis 38)
 - Sex with Judah who was first son of Jacob
 - She was more godly than Judah
 - b. Rahab (see Joshua 2 and 6:17)
 - Hid the Jewish spies in Jericho and asked to be saved
 - She was saved and went on with the Jews
 - c. Ruth (see Ruth 1 and 4:13-17)
 - Married Boaz who was kinsman redeemer
 - Genealogy of David carried on in Ruth 4:13-22
 - d. Wife of Uriah (see 2 Samuel 11, 12:15, 18, 24)
 - David had sex with Bathsheba, had Uriah killed

Matthew Lesson 1 Jesus' Advent

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Child was Solomon
- e. Mary (see Luke 1:26-56)
 - Jesus' Mother of course
 - Virgin birth
- 4. How does the Genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3:23-38 compare or contrast to Matthew's genealogy?
 - Jesus was son of Joseph they thought?
 - Genealogy goes backward from present to past
 - Notice it goes back through Noah to Adam
- 5. How does this genealogy help you to see God's redemptive plan for His people?
 - Abraham had faith
 - “All were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.” (Hebrews 11:3)
 - Jesus is the culmination of that redemptive plan, people looked forward to Jesus
 - We look backward to Him, but look forward to His second coming
 - Women and gentiles are welcome into God's kingdom, not just Jewish men.
 - Genesis 3:15 points to Jesus. Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam

Lesson: God promised a Savior from the beginning.

Jesus' Virgin Birth

Read Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6.

- 6. What was Joseph's initial reaction to Mary's pregnancy?
 - Wanted to divorce her quietly
 - Joseph was a righteous man and wanted to prevent her from being stoned as it appeared she committed adultery
- 7. What did an angel of the Lord say to Joseph?
 - Don't be afraid to take Mary as wife
 - Conceived by Holy Spirit
 - Give birth to a son
 - Name him Jesus meaning he will save people from sins
 - Jesus means the Lord Saves
- 8. What was the significance of naming the child Jesus? See Isaiah 53:4-6.
 - Means God saves
 - Matthew says He will save people from sins (1:21)
 - He is our savior
 - Immanuel= God with us
- 9. Does a virgin birth seem plausible to you? If so, what is its significance?
 - Yes
 - Jesus was fathered by the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus had no sin passed on through His father like each one of us
 - Jesus can be a perfect sacrifice for sinners as prescribed in the Old Testament
 - Fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy Isaiah 7:14
- 10. What do you learn from Joseph and Mary and their actions?

Matthew
Lesson 1
Jesus' Advent

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- Joseph
 - Listened to himself first, but wanted to do the right thing
 - Took Mary home as wife but no union with her until she gave birth
 - God told him in a dream what happened and he obeyed
 - Served God and obeyed
 - Mary
 - Questioned God at first
 - But then accepted what would happen as God's servant
 - Served God and obeyed
11. What good work has God prepared in advance for you to do? Did you accept it or reject it at first?
- Personal

Lesson: As Isaiah prophesied, Jesus was born of a virgin in order to save sinners.

Challenge: How will you continue to thank God for sending Jesus to save you from sin?

Matthew

Lesson 2

Jesus' Infancy

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Last time we covered Jesus' Advent in two divisions: Jesus' Genealogy and Jesus' Virgin Birth. In this lesson we will study Jesus' Infancy as God Directs the Magi to the King of the Jews and God Directs Joseph to Protect Jesus. We will see that nothing can stop God from completing His salvation plan.

God Directs the Magi to the King of the Jews

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

1. Who were the Magi and what were they seeking?
 - Matthew says
 - Came from the east and were seeking the king of the Jews
 - Wanted to worship king of the Jews
 - Herodotus (Greek Historian) says
 - Tribe of the Medes serving a priestly function in Persian empire
 - Studied stars, philosophy, medicine, natural science
 - Wise men
 - They were well noticed in Jerusalem and caused an uproar for sure
 - They were not Jews
2. Why were the Magi following a star from the east and wanting to worship the King of the Jews?
 - Some say they were into magic and astrology
 - No one knows
 - Perhaps this was God's sovereign plan to have gentiles announce and confirm the coming Messiah (Christ) to the Jews?
 - God wants all people to see Jesus
 - They wanted to seek God
3. Who was Herod and why was he disturbed?
 - King of Israel, but history says
 - Not from line of David, Herod the great was called an Edomite
 - Edomites were enemies of the Jews
 - But he rebuilt the Jewish temple
 - He killed his best-loved wife out of Jealousy
 - Imprisoned 70 Judean elders in the Hippodrome in Jericho and ordered them executed at his death so people would mourn
 - He was a bad guy
 - Probably didn't want the king of the Jews (not him) to come in and take over
 - Might have known the Jewish scripture and the promised Messiah?
 - Asked the Jewish leaders where the Christ was to be born (so he could kill him)
 - See verse 8 where he wants to have the Magi find the child so he could worship him
 - But we see later that Herod wanted to kill him
 - Herod was devious and a liar
 - He didn't really want to worship the king of the Jews
 - Later we will see he wanted to kill the Messiah, king of the Jews
4. Who are the chief priests and teachers of the law and what did they tell Herod? See Micah 5:1-5.

Matthew Lesson 2 Jesus' Infancy

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Experts in the Jewish scripture
 - Correctly answered that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
 - Read Micah 5:2
 - Notice it says ruler of Israel
 - Origins from old from ancient times
5. Who is the king of Jews that the Magi were seeking? Who is the Christ that Herod asked about? What do the following verses tell you about him?
- a. 2 Samuel 7:11b-13
 - I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever
 - Jesus talks a lot about the Kingdom of heaven in Matthew 25
 - b. Isaiah 11:1-5
 - Shoot comes up from the stump of Jesse who is David's Father
 - c. Psalm 110:1 and Matthew 22:41-46
 - Jesus is the son of David but David's Lord
 - d. Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Government on His shoulders means He is king
 - Will reign on David's throne
 - God will accomplish that
 - e. Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Time is coming when I will make a new covenant
 - It will be like the one when I lead them out of Egypt
 - I will forgive their sins and remember them no more
6. Notice that the star led the Magi to worship the child? Describe the star and the Magi's worship.
- Star
 - Some say it was a conjunction of planets or an astronomical event
 - But notice that it moved and then stopped
 - Reminds me about the pillar of fire in the desert that led the Israelites at night
 - Seems like a super natural event
 - Worship
 - Worshipped with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh
 - Gold shows He is king
 - Incense shows He is priest
 - Myrrh shows for his burial
 - Jesus was born to die
7. How has God directed you to Jesus? See Luke 19:10.
- God led me to seek Him when I was lost, as He was seeking me
 - Each day I pray, open the Bible, and see His creation.

Lesson: God directs people to Jesus.

God Directs Joseph to Protect Jesus

Read Matthew 2:13-23.

8. What does the angel tell Joseph to do? Why is that significant?
- Go and escape to Egypt and Joseph does so obediently

Matthew Lesson 2 Jesus' Infancy

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- Herod is going to try to kill Jesus
 - Fulfills the prophecy, "Out of Egypt I called my son."
9. What is Herod's response to being outwitted by the Magi? Why is that significant?
- He was furious that he had been tricked
 - Gave orders to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem that were two years old or younger. He learned the time from the Magi so time had elapsed during these events after Jesus' birth
 - Prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled
 - So, Matthew is showing that baby Jesus was the Christ that was prophesied so many places in scripture. He is writing in hindsight of course
 - Notice the Peter didn't realize that Jesus was the Christ until Matthew 16:16
10. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream a second time. What were the instructions and Joseph's actions.
- Go back to Israel, those wanting to kill baby Jesus are dead (Herod)
 - Joseph obeyed
 - Heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judah in place of father
 - Then warned in a dream, he withdrew to Galilee to live in Nazareth
 - This fulfilled what the prophets said "He will be called a Nazarene."
11. "He will be called a Nazarene" is not found in the Old Testament. What do you think Matthew meant when he said that? See Psalm 22:6, Isaiah 53:3, and John 1:44-46.
- Nazareth was linked with being despised which goes along with Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53:3
 - Later in Matthew 21 during triumphal entry the crowds answered, "this is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."
 - Nathaniel asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
12. In Matthew 1 and 2 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to give direction to Joseph? How does God give you instructions today?
- He could give instructions in a dream
 - My Arab friend tells about Muslims that have dreams of a book or of a man in dreams
 - But, we have the entire Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - We have much more direction and instruction than Joseph ever had
 - We are blessed with the entire scripture today
 - We should praise Him for that
13. What do you learn about God and His plans?
- God has a plan and it will come to pass regardless of human intervention
 - God uses evil for good
 - God protects His plan
 - God is powerful to enact His plan even though others may try to thwart His plan
 - God is totally sovereign over the world in the past, present and future

Challenge: How will you worship and praise God for sending His Son Jesus to die for your sins?

Matthew

Lesson 3

Jesus' Baptism by John

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*In lesson 2 we studied **Jesus' Infancy as God Directs the Magi to the King of the Jews** and **God Directs Joseph to Protect Jesus**. We will see that nothing can stop God from completing His salvation plan that He promised. Matthew does not give any details of Jesus' life from His infancy to His baptism. Only Luke 2:41-52 gives a few details of Jesus' boyhood. So between lesson 2 and lesson 3 there is a time gap close to 30 years. In the next two lessons we will discover Jesus' preparation for His public ministry. In this lesson we will see **Jesus' Baptism by John** in three divisions: **Baptism of Repentance, Baptism of Holy Spirit, and Baptism of Jesus**.*

Baptism of Repentance

Read Matthew 3:1-10, Malachi 3:1, and Malachi 4:5.

1. What would the readers of the Old Testament understand about the coming of the Messiah?
 - Malachi 3:1
 - God will send a messenger who will prepare the way
 - Will be the messenger of the covenant whom you desire
 - The Lord Almighty says this
 - Malachi 4:5
 - See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord
 - Will turn hearts (repentance that John was preaching)
 - Otherwise, they will have a curse (brood of vipers)
 - Jews expected a literal return of Elijah
2. How was John's birth miraculous and what do you learn about John from Luke 1:5-17.
 - Miraculous
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth were old and without children
 - Angel appears to Zechariah that they will have a son
 - Learn about John
 - The son will be called John (God named him that)
 - Many will rejoice at his birth
 - Great in eyes of the Lord, no drinking and filled with Holy Spirit even from birth
 - Will bring back many of people of Israel to Lord
 - Important: "Will go on in spirit and power of the Lord in spirit and power of Elijah"
 - So, John wasn't a literal return of Elijah, but in the spirit and power of Elijah
 - Also, John looked like a prophet with his dress and preaching
3. What was John's message? How might it have been different to the Jews?
 - Message
 - Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near
 - Prepare the way for the Lord
 - Be baptized as many were
 - Different
 - Repent, you must humble yourself before the Lord
 - You don't get to come just because you are Abraham's children

Matthew Lesson 3 Jesus' Baptism by John

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Notice he is critical of the Pharisees and Sadducees
 - Baptism was for gentiles only
4. What do you think it means to repent?
- Some say it is something we feel
 - Wish we hadn't done it (regret)
 - Feel sorry for our sin (remorse)
 - Some say the greater the sorrow the greater the repentance
 - Some weep of sin but keep doing it
 - Some say do a 360, which means we turn around and keep sinning
 - Some say confess and say certain words, try to clean up our act, but life doesn't stay clean
 - Agreeing with God about sin
 - Begins with a change in thinking
 - Seeing sin as God does
 - This produces a godly sorrow
 - Godly sorry produces a changed life
 - Repentance means doing a 180 and not a 360
 - Go the opposite way
 - Turning away from sin and toward God
 - Change of heart, direction and life
5. When have you repented?
- When I first believed Jesus
 - When my language changed
 - When I became less angry
 - When I was able to “love” people

Lesson: True repentance leads to a changed life.

Baptism of Holy Spirit

Read Matthew 3:11-12.

6. In what ways is the one coming after John, greater than him?
- Greater in power
 - John baptized with water to prepare for change
 - He baptizes with Holy Spirit that makes change possible
 - Greater in position
 - John is less worthy by far
 - Not even fit to carry His sandals, which is the position of a slave
 - John is less than a slave
 - Greater in authority
 - John baptized with water, but He would baptize with Holy Spirit
 - Baptize with fire or judgment
 - Able to separate righteous from the unrighteous
7. What does verse 12 tell you about the one coming after John? See Matthew 25:31-45
- He will come in judgement to separate righteous from unrighteous

Matthew Lesson 3 Jesus' Baptism by John

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Sheep and goat separation
 - There is a coming judgment
8. Describe the three baptisms in these two verses.
- a. John's baptism with water (Matthew 3:11)
 - Confession of sin and repentance or change
 - This was specifically for Jewish people and before Jesus actually came
 - b. Baptism of Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)
 - John pointed to this baptism
 - Began during Pentecost which was 50 days after Jesus was on the cross
 - God sent Holy Spirit to live permanently in those that trust in Jesus for salvation
 - Since that day the Holy Spirit indwells in every believer permanently when they receive Jesus
 - c. Baptism with fire (2 Peter 3:10-16)
 - Refers to time of judgment that is yet to come
 - Talks about the coming judgment future to us
 - Jesus will judge the whole earth in His righteous judgment
9. Why did God wait to baptize with Holy Spirit? Have you been baptized with Holy Spirit?
- He waited until after Jesus paid the price of sin on the cross
 - Believing in Jesus allows us to be counted as righteous
 - Yes, I have been baptized with Holy Spirit

Lesson: True Holy Spirit Baptism places the believer in Christ and Christ in the believer.

Baptism of Jesus

Read Matthew 3:13-17.

10. As John was baptizing, Jesus now appears on the scene after 30 years of private life. Why would the sinless Jesus present himself for baptism to “fulfill all righteousness?” See Hebrews 7:11-28 and Luke 3:21-23.
- Jesus had no sin to repent of
 - Jesus came as Prophet, Priest and King
 - Jesus was a priest forever in order of Melchizedek
 - Jesus is the great high priest and he is holy, blameless, and set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
 - Priests had to be 30 years old and go through an induction ceremony (Exodus 29:4; 40:12-13)
 - Washed with water as ceremonial cleansing
 - Anointed with oil as symbol of the Holy Spirit
 - Set apart for service as a minister of God
 - Jesus was just 30 years old
11. What is John the Baptists testimony in John 1:32-34?
- Goes right along with what Matthew writes
 - Saw the Spirit come down like a dove and remain on Him

Matthew
Lesson 3
Jesus' Baptism by John

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- The one who sent me to baptize Him told me about Him
 - He will baptize with Holy Spirit
 - I testify He is the Son of God
 - Notice in these verses you see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
12. In what way is Jesus your great high priest? See Isaiah 53:4-12 and Luke 19:10.
- Jesus came to seek and identify with sinners
 - Jesus bore our sins on the cross
 - Jesus made us righteous before God

Lesson: True righteousness is received and not achieved.

Challenge: How will you be like John and point others to Jesus?

Matthew

Lesson 4

Jesus' Temptation and Power

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*Matthew's purpose in Chapters 1-4 is 1) to present Jesus as the Savior promised by God in the Old Testament and 2) that Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Old Testament expectations and prophecies. In Chapters 1 and 2, we saw Jesus' human and divine origins with his virgin birth. In Chapter 3 last time, we studied the **Baptism of Repentance, Baptism of Holy Spirit, and Baptism of Jesus**. Now in Matthew 4 we will see **Jesus' Temptation and Power** in two divisions: **Jesus' Victory in Temptation** and **Jesus' Power in Ministry**.*

Jesus' Victory in Temptation

Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 1:11-12.

1. What differences do you see between the Matthew and Mark passages?
 - Mark says "at once", which is right after, this is my Son whom I love and well pleased
 - Also, Mark says the Spirit SENT Him out into the desert
 - Matthew says He was led by the Spirit to be tempted
 - Mark says tempted by Satan while Matthew says tempted by the devil
2. The devil is a created being and a person. His personal name is "Satan" which means adversary. His main title is the devil which means "Accuser." What do you learn about the devil from the following verses or other verses you might know?
 - a. Luke 10:18
 - Cast out of heaven with 1/3 of the angels now demons
 - b. Genesis 3:1-5
 - Tempted Adam and Eve
 - c. 1 Corinthians 7:5
 - Tempts people to sin
 - d. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - Wants to devour you
 - e. Job 1:6-12
 - Not omniscient or omnipresent
 - Only can do what God allows
 - f. 2 Corinthians 11:14
 - Disguises as angel of light = perfect disguise
3. Why was Jesus led or sent into the desert to be tempted by the devil?
 - Time of preparation for Jesus
 - Time alone with His Father in complete dependence
 - Time of weakness where He would be vulnerable
 - The devil trying to get Jesus to go outside of the Father's will
4. Describe the first temptation in vs. 2-4. How have you been tempted in a similar way? See Psalm 91 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - Describe
 - Turn stones to bread go ahead because you are God's Son
 - You can make it happen and you don't have to wait on God
 - But Jesus waited on God to act rather than Himself
 - Humbled Himself
 - Similar way
 - I am in charge and not going to wait on God's timing

Matthew

Lesson 4

Jesus' Temptation and Power

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- Why doesn't God care about me?
 - Why is He allowing the trial I am going through?
 - This temptation is based on the false assumption that we have a right not to suffer
 - Think of Paul and thorn in the flesh. My grace is sufficient for you
 - Think of 1 Corinthians 10:13, won't be tempted beyond what you can bear and He will provide a way out.
5. Describe the second temptation in vs. 5-7. How have you been tempted in a similar way? See Deuteronomy 6:16.
- Describe
 - Jump off the temple and let people see that you will live
 - Jesus says don't put God to the test
 - Satan quotes Psalm 91 but changes the passage
 - Psalm 91 says God will care for us if our foot slips, but not if we jump
 - Trust God
 - Similar way
 - Abuse your own body and ask for God's protection
 - God if you will give me (this), I will believe
 - Demand God means our needs and requests without regard to His timing or purposes
6. Describe the third and final temptation in vs. 8-10. How have you been tempted in a similar way? See Luke 4:5-7.
- Describe
 - Shows and promises to give all the kingdoms of the world with their splendor
 - Luke says the devil shows Him all of the kingdoms in an instant. Is that all the kingdoms of all time?
 - But, you have to worship Satan
 - Jesus, says away "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."
 - Jesus already had all this
 - Obey God
 - Similar way
 - Don't store up treasures in heaven
 - Go for the money, fame, success, power
 - Be selfishly motivated
 - Be obedient
7. In verse 11, the devil left Jesus. Why is that significant? See Hebrews 4:15 and Hebrews 5:8.
- Jesus was tempted like we are
 - Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for taking on our sins
 - Jesus was perfect and sinless
8. How does temptation allow you to grow in humility, trust, and obedience?
- Personal

Jesus' Power in Ministry

Read Matthew 4:12-25

Matthew
Lesson 4
Jesus' Temptation and Power

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

9. Between verses 11 and 12 there is a time gap of about 1 year. Skim John 1-4 and list some events that happened before Jesus went to live in Capernaum.
 - John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah
 - Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth and attending the wedding of Cana
 - Went to Jerusalem for Passover and cleared the temple of moneychangers
 - Talked with Nicodemus about being born again
 - Spent time in the Judean countryside
 - After John's imprisonment by Herod Antipas, He went back to Galilee by way of Samaria where He spoke to the women of the well
 - Met Roman official and healed His son
10. Notice that Jesus' moved to Capernaum to fulfill Isaiah 9. What did Jesus preach and why is that so important? Is that message for people today?
 - Preached
 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near
 - Why important
 - Need to change your life to Jesus and do a 180
 - Change from a life of sin and self to Jesus Christ and follow Him
 - Otherwise, without Jesus people cannot be reconciled to God
 - This is what He called His first disciples to do
 - For people today
 - It is still critical
 - His message is timeless
 - Later in Matthew we will study what the kingdom of heaven is like
11. It appears that Jesus may have called His first disciples three times. What is the cost of following Jesus to Peter, Andrew, James, and John? What is the cost to you of following Jesus?
 - Disciples cost
 - They had heard him preach before and went back to their living of fishing
 - But now they had to give up their livelihood
 - Now they have to follow Him full time
 - Give up security and comfort
 - Had to follow wherever He went, listen to Him, become like Him
 - Had to give up families too
 - This was a real commitment to Jesus
 - Jesus was in charge and calls all the shots
 - But they get to become fishers of men, what a joy
 - Your cost
 - Maybe you are not called to give up everything for Jesus
 - Give up your life of sin
 - Give up comfort
 - Give up money
 - But there is joy in giving up
 - Do you allow Jesus to call all the shots
 - Will you become fishers of men

Matthew

Lesson 4

Jesus' Temptation and Power

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

12. What are the three primary ministries of Jesus' before the cross?

- Preaching and proclaiming God's truth
- Teaching so people could understand
- Healing which authenticates He was Messiah and showing God's mercy and compassion

Lesson: Follow Jesus and share kingdom of heaven with others.

Challenge: Flee from the temptation of sin and follow Jesus this week.

Matthew

Lesson 5

Sermon on the Mount-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In Matthew 4 we saw **Jesus’ Temptation and Power** in two divisions: **Jesus’ Victory in Temptation** and **Jesus’ Power in Ministry**. Jesus is ready to begin His public ministry. For the next four lessons we will study what is commonly known as the **Sermon on the Mount**. In this lesson Jesus teaches about **Christian Character, Christian Conduct, and Christian Influence**.*

Christian Character

Read Matthew 5:1-6.

1. What do you think the word “blessed” means? See Psalm 1:1-3 and Revelation 1:3.
 - Happy
 - Fortunate
 - Someone who flourishes
 - Delights in the law of the Lord
 - Meditates on the Law day and night
 - Yields fruit
 - Whatever he does, it prospers
 - So, well-being or joy of those who share in the salvation of the kingdom of God
2. What does Jesus mean “poor in spirit?” How are you poor in Spirit? See Luke 6:20.
 - Notice that Luke eliminates “in spirit”.
 - God cares about the poor and need
 - Those without money or resources
 - The poor in spirit are humble
 - They know they are powerless and helpless before God
 - They know they are spiritually bankrupt = poor and need
 - They realize that it is God’s grace that gives joy or usefulness
 - Everyone is actually poor in spirit whether they realize it or not
 - Those that realize it are blessed
 - Those that don’t may not be blessed
 - You enter the kingdom by His Grace only
 - Knowing that is a real blessing
 - You are part of God’s Kingdom
 - Are you poor in spirit?
3. What does “Blessed are those who mourn” mean? In what way to you mourn and how are you comforted? See Romans 6:23.
 - Jesus will comfort those who mourn and grieve over loss
 - But more importantly, He is talking about those who mourn over sin
 - All creation groans with due to sin, which brings death to the world
 - Do you mourn?
 - Over your sin
 - The sin in the world?
 - Comforted by knowledge that by God’s grace through Jesus you are free from sin
4. What does it to be meek? How are you meek and what will you inherit? See Romans 8:17 and Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - Humble, teachable, quite or still before the Lord

Matthew
Lesson 5
Sermon on the Mount-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Wait patiently for Him in all things because He can be trusted
 - Inheritance
 - Romans says we are co-heirs with Jesus
 - Some say we reign with Jesus as co-heirs
 - We can be quiet and steady during the uncertainty and upheaval in today's world
5. What does it mean “who hunger and thirst for righteousness?” How do you hunger and thirst and how are you filled? See Romans 3:10.
- Are you righteous? Of course not.
 - But, you seek righteousness of God
 - God will fill you with His Spirit and you will be filled, perhaps daily.
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and wants to fill us with His righteousness
6. How have you experienced the blessing of a heart change?
- When I first believed. Repented and was baptized
 - And then many other times in my life as I draw closer to Him

Lesson: Jesus blesses those who have a changed heart for Him.

Christian Conduct

Read Matthew 5:7-12.

7. What does it mean to be merciful? How have you been shown mercy? See Matthew 18:21-22.
- Not condoning sin but forgiving it as Jesus has forgiven your sins
 - Have you failed to forgive someone?
 - Have you been shown mercy, by Jesus and perhaps by others
8. What does it mean to be “pure in heart?” How do you expect to see God? See Philippians 3:14.
- A pure heart is an undivided heart and one that is all in for Jesus
 - Paul had an undivided heart as He pressed on to the goal
 - One day we will see God face to face, but now when we have an undivided heart God is evident in our lives and becomes evident through scripture
9. What does it mean to be a peacemaker? How will you be a son of God? See Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 1:5.
- Can't be a peacekeeper, but can be a peacemaker
 - Bring peace to people who don't have peace with God
 - Go and make disciples
 - Be witnesses for Jesus
 - God pre-destined you to be adopted to sonship through Jesus Christ
10. What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness? How have you been persecuted for righteousness? See 2 Timothy 3:12.
- Persecuted for your trust in Jesus
 - This hasn't happened so much in the US in years past but it seems to be happening now
 - Jim Elliot was persecuted and killed for a tribe who late came to Christ

Matthew
Lesson 5
Sermon on the Mount-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- If you become more like the world you won't be persecuted
- But the more you become like Jesus, the greater the blessing or reward when you meet Him

Lesson: The more you are like Jesus, the more you will be persecuted.

Christian Influence

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

11. Salt is a healing agent but it hurts. How can you be the salt of the earth?
 - Christians can make wounds of sin known
 - People can then be healed from sin through Jesus
 - Salt is sprinkled out
12. Light dispels darkness and brings warmth and cheer. How can you be the light of world?
 - Christians are not the light, but Jesus is
 - Bring the good news of Jesus to a darkened world
 - Light reveals the darkness of sin
 - Light continues to shine so let your light shine
 - Let your light shine so that God can begin His work inside of someone else

Lesson: In order to influence the world for Jesus, Christians must be in the world.

Challenge: How will your Christian character and conduct influence a wounded and sinful world?

Matthew

Lesson 6

Sermon on the Mount-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we began a four-lesson series about the **Sermon on the Mount**. In that first lesson Jesus teaches about **Christian Character, Christian Conduct, and Christian Influence**. This time we will learn about **Jesus and the Law, Jesus and Religion, and Jesus and Righteousness**.*

Jesus and the Law

Read Matthew 5:17-20.

1. What are the Law and the Prophets that Jesus is referring to?
 - Law
 - First 5 books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - Prophets
 - Later Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, plus the minor prophets
 - Earlier Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles and others
 - Really, He means the whole Old Testament as we have it today
 - Remember the Old Testament is all God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. Explain each of the three parts to the Law listed below. How did Jesus fulfill each of them?
 - a. Moral Law (See Exodus 20:2-17)
 - Summarized in the 10 commandments
 - God's law for all nations at all times and they are unchanging
 - Jesus was without sin and without fault
 - b. Civil Law (See Exodus 21-23 and more)
 - Laws governing the administration of justice in the nation of Israel at that time
 - Like our case law today
 - Jesus obeyed the law in every aspect
 - He who is without sin let him cast the first stone
 - Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's
 - c. Ceremonial Law (See Leviticus)
 - Heart of law was sacrifice for forgiveness of sin
 - God gives mercy and will accept an innocent substitute for sin
 - Jesus did that by being an innocent sacrifice for our sins and atoning for them with His own blood
 - Jesus came to fulfill this ceremonial law and atone for our sins
3. How did Jesus fulfill the prophets? Give examples from anywhere in the Old Testament.
 - Matthew has been telling us about fulfillments of different prophets
 - Isaiah 52:12-53:12 is a great example of His fulfillment and written
 - Psalm 22 is about crucifixion of Jesus
 - Psalm 110
 - Many, many examples
4. Last week when we studied the Beatitudes, we saw that it was our heart attitude that was important. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were righteous on the outside but not with the heart (see Isaiah 29:13-14). How can your righteousness surpass that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law?

Matthew

Lesson 6

Sermon on the Mount-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Let's find out in the next section
- As we know, it is only through Jesus Christ living in our hearts

Lesson: Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets

Jesus and Religion

Read Matthew 5:21-47.

In this section, Jesus gives 6 examples of rules that the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law had said. They taught that if you do these things God will count you as righteous. We do the same thing by showing our outward religion, even though on the inside our heart is different. Now, from these examples, let's find out how you can be more righteous than the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law.

5. How does Jesus relate murder of and anger with someone? Have you ever been angry with someone without reconciling? See Matthew 18:15-17.
 - You murder them with your words even if you keep them quite
 - Reconcile with them and don't stay angry
 - I have done this with politicians
 - My anger becomes a bitter root that grows, if I don't forgive
6. Adultery is wrong. What is the best way to prevent from committing adultery in the heart?
 - Flee from the situation
 - When it occurs, cut it out
 - See Genesis 39:6b-12.
7. Divorce was rampant in Jesus' day as it is today. Some may have been divorced before becoming a Christian while others might be victims of divorce. What are your thoughts about divorce?
 - You may be in an abusive relationship where separation is necessary
 - If you are thinking about divorce, seek Him in prayer and counselling from your pastor
 - No marriage is beyond hope as God can change hearts
 - Sin of divorce is forgivable. Ask for forgiveness
 - Honor the marriage you have
8. How have you made a promise that you could not keep or didn't mean to keep? How have you embellished your promise? How will you ask the Lord to convict you of any area of untruthfulness? See 1 John 1:9.
 - Jesus requires a simple yes or no
 - We say words to people, but in our heart, we know we are lying to them
 - We watch the spin of politicians on TV all the time
 - Untruthfulness abounds, they can't just say yes or no.
 - We have to qualify our answer so as not to offend
9. Have you ever wanted to retaliate against another person? What is Jesus telling you to do about that?
 - Road rage escalates the situation
 - Have you ever refused to loan money to someone?
 - Think of the other person

Matthew
Lesson 6
Sermon on the Mount-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Sometimes it is better to suffer loss for the sake of the gospel
 - Remember the beatitudes
10. It may be easy to love your neighbor or someone you like. Why should you and how can you love your enemies?
- You should love them because Jesus commands it
 - Your enemies are made in God's image
 - God loves everyone he created and wants them to come to Him

Lesson: Righteousness shows on the outside, but only when it begins on the inside.

Jesus and Righteousness

Read Matthew 5:48.

11. How can you be perfect as Jesus says? See Romans 3:9-34 and Ephesians 2:8-10.
- Except the righteousness of Jesus
 - But you need to understand that you cannot be perfectly righteous on our own merit and by doing the right things
 - It is an impossible dilemma for everyone
 - It is by grace you are saved through faith so that no one can boast
 - We become perfect in our position with Christ but unfortunately not in our current condition
 - It is encouraging though they we will be made perfect as described in 1 Corinthians 15 when our body is changed in a twinkling of an eye.
12. How can you be purified from all unrighteousness? See 1 John 1:8-10.
- This is an amazing verse
 - Confessing our sins purifies us from all unrighteousness
 - The Law convicts us of our sins

Lesson: Complete righteousness only comes by recognizing sin and accepting God's amazing gift of grace through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

Challenge: Remember each day “...that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Matthew

Lesson 7

Sermon on the Mount-Part 3

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we discussed our second lesson about the **Sermon on the Mount**. In that lesson we studied **Jesus and the Law, Jesus and Religion, and Jesus and Righteousness**. This time we will continue with Jesus’ Sermon where He reveals **Heart Content regarding Works, Heart Content Regarding Wealth, and Heart Content Regarding Worry**.*

Heart Content Regarding Works

Read Matthew 6:1-18 and Ephesians 2:10.

1. Notice in Matthew 6:1, Jesus says, “be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them.” But in Matthew 5:16, He says, “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Are those statements contradictory? How do you square each of His statements?
 - Not contradictory
 - There are two important differences between the two: Motive and Result
 - Motive (which is attitude of the heart)
 - Matthew 5 = God’s light is seen through you
 - Matthew 6 = so that you are seen
 - Result
 - Matthew 5 = God is praised
 - Matthew 6 = You get the praise
 - People are to do “good works that God prepared in advance to do.” Eph. 2:10
 - But they can have spiritual pride that they are the author of the good work rather than God.
 - It seems like Jesus is saying if your goal is to win approval and praise from people, then you have it, but don’t expect God to reward you
2. Jesus expects believers to give to the needy. How are you not to give and how are you to give? What is your motive in giving? See Matthew 6:2-4.
 - Not to give
 - Don’t be a hypocrite
 - Don’t announce with a trumpet, the expression, blow your own horn
 - Sometimes the rich would drop main coins in the treasury that would make noise
 - Don’t make an offering for a memorial pew to receive your reward and praise from men
 - Don’t be self-glorifying
 - Otherwise, you will already receive your reward and it will not be from God
 - To give
 - Give in secret, then Father that sees you will reward you
 - It certainly isn’t about the amount of money you are seen as giving
 - Luke 21:1-4: The widow gave from her poverty and gave much more Jesus says.
 - Motive for giving
 - Serve God to glorify Him
 - Have compassion for someone in need
 - James says faith with deeds is dead
 - Would you still give if God took the tax deduction away

Matthew

Lesson 7

Sermon on the Mount-Part 3

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Would you help someone in need with your time
 - Men's group help people move do repairs for the needy
 - Sometimes it is easier to give money rather than time or physical work
- 3. How are you not to pray and how are you to pray? See Matthew 6:5-8.
 - How not to pray
 - Pray in public for all to see like a hypocrite
 - Look at me as I know how to pray
 - They already received their reward
 - Don't babble like the pagans with useless word or endless repetition
 - How to pray
 - Go in your room and close the door
 - Pray to your Father who sees you and knows what you need before you even pray
 - Then in the next verses Jesus gives an example
- 4. Describe for yourself each of the verses of in the example of prayer that Jesus gives below. See Matthew 6:9-13.
 - a. “Our Father in heaven”
 - We have a relationship
 - Abba Father
 - b. “Hallowed be your name”
 - Worship
 - God is God and not my buddy or personal Genie
 - He is high and lifted up
 - John 1, where John falls down like a dead man before Jesus
 - c. “Your kingdom come”
 - Looking forward to Jesus second coming
 - Personal commitment or Thanksgiving that He is coming back for us
 - Could be an evangelistic prayer
 - d. “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”
 - We want what God wants because it is for our best
 - Some say to pray “thy will be done” is not praying in faith. Name it and claim it
 - Dangerous to insist on our will
 - e. “Give us our daily bread”
 - Supplication or asking
 - Give us real food today and what we need to sustain ourselves
 - f. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”
 - Debts are sins
 - Confession of ourselves
 - We don't earn salvation by forgiving others though (vs 14)
 - But our standing with God is damaged if we don't forgive others
 - It is a sin to not forgive
 - g. “Lead us not into temptation”
 - God doesn't tempt us but He tests us
 - This prayer expresses a healthy distrust of our ability to resist temptation

Matthew Lesson 7 Sermon on the Mount-Part 3

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Also, expresses a complete dependence on Him
- h. “But deliver us from the evil one”
 - God is involved in every battle we face
 - We have an adversary (devil), but we have one (God) who is greater
- 5. Do you have an active and daily prayer life? Please explain. See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
 - Personal
- 6. Jesus didn’t command fasting, commend fasting or forbid fasting. What is His point in verses 16-18?
 - Don’t do it before men, but do it before God
 - Fasting was a chance to give up something to focus on something else like God
 - Fasting had become a ritual in Jesus day and people showed that they were fasting
 - We do that today during lent as some put marks on the face to show they are fasting for lent
 - Do it all in private

**Lesson: There can be no real relationship with God without a real heart change.
Don’t be a hypocrite and self-centered about your relationship with God.**

Heart Content Regarding Wealth Read Matthew 6:19-24.

- 7. In Jesus day the religious leaders had wealth and were materialistic. How is our society materialistic today? How are you materialistic?
 - Houses, land, possession
 - Bank accounts, retirement plans
 - Reputation and position in society
 - Your work
 - Health and beauty
 - Even people
- 8. What is the danger of loving the things you listed in question 7 above everything else?
 - Earthly treasures are subject to loss and Jesus says so in verse 19
 - Earthly treasures are temporary, you can’t take them with you at death
 - Earthly treasures can and will capture your heart
 - Cool car
 - Beautiful house
 - Beautiful clothes
 - Yacht
- 9. Jesus gives us a metaphor of “good eye” and “bad eye”. What do you learn from that?
 - Are your eyes focused on things of the world = bad eye
 - Are your eyes focused on things of heaven = good eye
 - Do you have one good eye and one bad eye = double minded
 - Do you have one foot in the world and the other in heaven
 - You can’t serve two masters

Matthew
Lesson 7
Sermon on the Mount-Part 3

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

10. Jesus never says that material wealth is bad. What spiritual treasures are you storing up in heaven? See Ephesians 2:10.
- Personal

Lesson: We can only have one master and God will not share first place.

Heart Content Regarding Worry

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

11. The King James Bible uses the words “take no thought” rather than “worry”. Some believe that means you shouldn’t make any plans about future provision like saving for children’s college or planning for retirement years. But, Jesus commands us, “do not worry.” What do you think He means?
- We need to do work, God prepared in advance good works for us to do?
 - We need to work and plan and but trust God as we do to meet the needs of the day
 - Each day has its own trouble and we should trust Him to provide for that day
 - Perhaps we have a problem to solve
 - We can ask God for wisdom and discernment to solve that day’s problem
 - But, it is not good to worry about it without asking for His help
12. Why should we not worry? How can we put into practice verse 33? See Philipians 4:6-7.
- Why
 - Worry is distrusting the promise and provision of God (25)
 - God is our Father who loves (26)
 - Worry is unreasonable because of our faith (27 & 32)
 - Worry is unwise because of our future with Him (34)
 - God has our future secure
 - Verse 33
 - Daily prayer time and study His word
 - Worship Him at local church
 - Give first fruits giving before we pay our bills
 - Put God first in our choices
 - Don’t leave God out of our decisions

Lesson: God promises His grace for tomorrow, but He gives us His grace just for today and one day at a time.

Challenge: How is your heart drawing closer to God regarding your work, wealth and worry?

Matthew

Lesson 8

Sermon on the Mount-Part 4

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we continued with Jesus’ Sermon where He reveals **Heart Content regarding Works, Heart Content Regarding Wealth, and Heart Content Regarding Worry.** In this lesson we will finish our fourth lesson on the Sermon on the Mount. Here we will see Jesus’ calling for a **Humble Heart, Dependent Heart, and Honest Heart.***

Humble Heart

Read Matthew 7:1-6.

1. As we what is happening in the world around us, we see that sin is not just approved of, but it is encouraged. Are we not supposed to make judgments about things clearly spelled out in the Bible?
 - In view of our previous three lessons, Jesus was talking about are heart attitude
 - People see Christians as judgmental and often quote this verse against Christians
 - They want to live and let live, you can’t judge me
2. What do you think Jesus is telling us today about making judgments?
 - He is not saying anything goes, just lighten up
 - But He is saying not to have critical, or hypocritical hearts
 - Is our heart judgmental
 - Is our heart condemning with no awareness of our own sin
 - Are we holding others to a standard we can’t hold ourselves
3. What insights does Jesus give in the following verses?
 - a. Verse 2
 - Describes how Christians might be judged by the world.
 - How do you think the world judges Christians today?
 - Loving compassionate, self-sacrificing
 - Or Judgmental and hypocritical
 - It is not saying that God is judging us
 - b. Verses 3-5
 - Be careful not to ignore you own sin before judging others
 - Don’t be a hypocrite
 - Are you outwardly obedient, but inwardly disobedient with you heart far from God
 - Examine yourself first before you see clearly enough to help someone else
 - Have you ever tried to remove a speck from someone’s eye?
 - Very delicate procedure
 - Requires delicateness and good vision
 - c. Verse 6
 - With those opposed to the gospel your judgment isn’t going to help any
 - If you try to give spiritual truths to those opposed to the gospel, they will ignore you or trample you
 - Dogs and pigs represent people who scorn the gospel
4. In the last lesson, Jesus talked about seeking the praise of men. In these verses, Jesus talks about having a critical spirit. How can you recover from seeking the praise of people and having a sin-inspector spirit?

Matthew
Lesson 8
Sermon on the Mount-Part 4

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Pray to love people and have compassion for them
- Stay in the word
- Hate the sin and love the sinner
- Jesus loved you as a sinner can you love other sinners, if not you can't love anyone because all are sinners

Lesson: God desires a humble heart.

Dependent Heart

Read Matthew 7:7-12.

5. What do you think Jesus means by each of the three words below? How would you incorporate them into your prayer life?
 - a. Ask
 - Tell God honestly what you lack
 - My heart is hard and need a new one
 - I need love in my heart
 - I need to know when to be quiet and when to speak
 - I don't know what to do and need wisdom
 - b. Seek
 - Means expectation and greater intensity
 - Need to re-evaluate your motives
 - What we were asking for isn't right
 - We can gain insight about ourselves and about God
 - We should be seeking God's will
 - c. Knock
 - Active persistence
 - When God says no or doesn't answer continue asking
 - Requires faith and persistence
6. How do verses 6-11 encourage you?
 - God will answer, but perhaps not in the way you want
 - God will give you what is good for you and not necessarily what you want
 - My example about praying that I would have time to do BSF
 - God gave me time by taking away business from me, which was for my good
7. How will you depend on God to put verse 12 into practice?
 - Pray for a loving heart
 - Think of the other person before yourself and how you would feel
 - Remember God loved us before we loved Him
 - You can only do all that by depending on God

Lesson: Depend on God for everything you do.

Honest Heart

Read Matthew 7:13-29.

Matthew

Lesson 8

Sermon on the Mount-Part 4

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

8. Notice in verse 24, Jesus is now calling people to action and to put His teaching into practice. His call to action is illustrated by three different pictures. How do the following verses show the life and death urgency of making the right choice?
 - a. Two Gates and Two Roads (13-14)
 - Wide gate for those who only outwardly accept God but not with their heart
 - Rely referring to the Pharisees of the day
 - The easy way of religion
 - Narrow gate for a few people that accept Jesus with an honest heart (Romans 10:9)
 - The hard way of the heart
 - We can substitute external obedience for heartfelt obedience
 - b. Two Kinds of Prophets (15-23)
 - Prophet who seems to look good on the outside but produces no fruit
 - Could be health and wealth gospel
 - Could be Christian Science or other false teachers
 - Prophet who produces good fruit
 - c. Two Houses (24-27)
 - Houses of firm foundation of putting Jesus' words into practice (24)
 - Houses of firm foundation of NOT putting Jesus' word into practice (26)
 - Build your house on Jesus the Rock, the cornerstone
 - We can't try harder, but need to honestly trust Jesus
9. How has Jesus' sermon called you to action and where is your heart for God lagging behind your behavior before people?
 - Obedience is a problem with continual sin
 - Only Jesus can change my heart
 - Sometimes I drift away and He brings me back.
10. After finishing the Sermon on the Mount, how are you amazed at Jesus' teaching and His authority? See John 1:1-2 and Romans 10:9.
 - Personal
 - Jesus is Lord
 - Jesus is God who became flesh

Lesson: Only God can change your heart.

Challenge: How will you stop resisting God from giving you a humble, dependent and honest heart?

Matthew

Lesson 9

Jesus' Authority-Part 1

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we finished our fourth lesson on the Sermon on the Mount. That lesson ended with a statement that the crowds were amazed at His teaching because "it was taught with one who had authority." This time we will begin a two-lesson study showing the evidence of **Jesus' Authority**. In this lesson, we will see **Jesus' Authority over Disease, Authority over Disciples, Authority over Disasters, and Authority over Demons**.*

Authority over Disease

Read Matthew 8:1-17.

1. What impresses you about the man with leprosy?
 - As a person with leprosy, he was an outcast.
 - Leprosy was a disease that permeated the whole body, not unlike sin does
 - He was willing to come to Jesus
 - He knew Jesus could heal him, if Jesus was willing
 - Also, Jesus touched him and he was healed immediately
 - He disobeyed Jesus and told everyone according to Mark
 - Jesus couldn't go into towns anymore because He was so sought after
2. What impresses you about the Gentile Roman Centurion? See Hebrews 11:1.
 - He was compassionate and cared about His servant who was paralyzed. Luke says about to die
 - According to Luke, he helped build the synagogue
 - Respectful to the Jews, by building synagogue and not wanting Jesus to enter His house
 - Didn't deserve Jesus
 - Believed in Jesus' authority to heal and didn't even need Him to go
 - Jesus pointed out the centurion's faith and said he would enter the kingdom of heaven while others (Jews) may not
 - The centurion went away as Jesus said
 - Jesus used a military term for go to the centurion
 - He had faith believing God would act before there is visible proof
3. What impresses you about the healing of Peter's mother-in-law?
 - No one talked about her or noticed her
 - No one asked Jesus to heal her
 - Jesus just saw her and healed her
 - She was able to do work
4. Jesus then healed many who were sick and demon possessed. What point is Matthew wanting to prove? See Isaiah 53:4.
 - Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy
 - We will go on to see Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in later chapters of Isaiah

Lesson: Jesus has the authority to make you clean and to forgive sins.

Authority over Disciples

Read Matthew 8:18-22.

Matthew
Lesson 9
Jesus' Authority-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

5. What do you learn about following Jesus from the teacher of the law that wanted to follow Him?
 - There is a cost to following Jesus
 - You have to give up your current life style
 - May mean discomfort
 - May mean hardship
 - May mean loss of prestige in the world
 - Health and wealth gospel is being taught (false teaching)
 - Come to Jesus and you will have health and wealth
 - Name it and claim it
 - Paul's thorn in the flesh. See 2 Corinthians 12:7.
 - Calling of Paul Acts 9:15. Lord says He is my instrument. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name
6. What do you learn about following Jesus from the second disciple?
 - Disciple wanted to follow Jesus after his parents had died. Didn't want to follow right then
 - But Jesus says I am the priority
 - What is your priority?
 - God first, family second, job third, ministry forth
 - Jesus wants your full commitment
 - But again there is a cost sometimes
 - Loss of job
 - Loss relationship
 - Loss of returning for a funeral
7. Are you one of Jesus' disciples? If so, what has been the cost? What has been the joy?
 - There is a cost, but there is a joy in doing so
 - Joy isn't necessarily happiness
 - Do you submit to His authority?

Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our unconditional trust and our undivided attention.

Authority over Disasters

Read Matthew 8:23-27.

8. When has a sudden storm come up in your life?
 - Accident
 - Doctors report
 - Job loss
 - Child cheating at school or in jail
9. Notice that Jesus didn't rebuke the disciples for being in a storm, waking Him up, but for forgetting the evidence of His power and authority. How have you been reminded of Jesus' power and authority during a storm in your life?
 - Has Jesus calmed the storm or storms in your life?
 - But perhaps the storm has not been calmed quickly

Matthew
Lesson 9
Jesus' Authority-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- A long time being cured of cancer or not being cured at all
- However, you may have the worry and storm in your heart calmed
- Calmness that Jesus is with you

Lesson: Jesus' divine power and authority is proven not in life's calms, but in life's storms.

Authority over Demons

Read Matthew 8:28-34.

10. Demons are fallen angels cast out of heaven with Satan during their rebellion against God. What do you learn about demons from this passage?
 - They know who Jesus is. See James 2:19.
 - They know they are going to be tortured at some time
 - They can possess people but can only do so with God's (Jesus') permission
 - Jesus has the power to cast them out
 - They believed who Jesus is and knew Him and that He had power over them
11. What do you learn about the townspeople's faith after the two demon-possessed men were healed?
 - They didn't see the authority of Jesus and wanted Him to leave
 - The demons believed but the townspeople did not
12. How have you submitted to the authority of Jesus over your life? See Matthew 28:18.
 - I haven't always
 - But I am learning to
 - Faith in Jesus' authority increases with life's storms

Lesson: Jesus has the authority to not only remove sin from your life but to repair the damage it has caused.

Challenge: How will you eagerly submit to Jesus' authority?

Matthew
Lesson 10
Jesus' Authority-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we studied the first of a two-lesson study showing the evidence of **Jesus' Authority**. We saw **Jesus' Authority over Disease, Authority over Disciples, Authority over Disasters, and Authority over Demons**. In this lesson we continue to see **Jesus' Authority through an Unexpected Visitor, Unexpected Disciple, Unacceptable Banquet, and Unparalleled Miracles**.*

Unexpected Visitor

Read Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:3-12 and Luke 5:18-26.

1. Mark and Luke give more detail about this event. From Mark and Luke, try to set the stage in your mind by describing the beginning of this event.
 - Jesus got in a boat again and crossed over to his own town, Capernaum
 - People heard He came home
 - People gathered at the house (Peters?) and there was no room, they even crowded around the door
 - Pharisees and teachers of the law were there to observe? They came from every village of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem
 - Big crowd there
 - Jesus was healing through the power of the Lord (Luke)
 - Four men brought a paralytic on a mat and could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd
 - So they go up to the roof, dug through it and lowered him in front of Jesus
2. What do you learn about the four men bringing the paralytic? What do you think the paralytic was thinking?
 - Four men
 - Were the brothers or friends of the paralytic
 - They cared for their friend who couldn't walk
 - Willing to give up their time to help him
 - Are you willing to give your time to help someone in need
 - They were insistent on getting their friend to Jesus
 - They had faith that Jesus could heal
 - Paralytic
 - I don't mind being here to be healed
 - But you are taking me up on the roof and lower me down
 - No way I am doing that, what if you drop me
 - I have to trust you four that you will keep me safe
 - I have faith that I can be healed
3. Besides the unexpected person coming through the roof, what unexpected thing did Jesus do and why?
 - Jesus saw their faith, perhaps all four
 - Forgave the paralytic's sin
 - That seems strange he wouldn't heal
 - But Jesus had a teaching in mind
 - Understood that the Pharisees were thinking this was blasphemy because only God can forgive sins

Matthew

Lesson 10

Jesus' Authority-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Jesus says the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins and heals the paralytic
 - This proves Jesus' authority as God, only God can forgive sins
 - This miracle was done in compassion and also revealed who Jesus is
4. What was the crowd's reaction to this event? What is your reaction? See 1 John 1:8-9.
- Crowd filled with awe and praised God, who gave authority to men
 - Never seen anything like this
 - Amazed
 - My reaction
 - Jesus has forgiven my sins
 - I should go and sin no more
 - Repent again and turn from sin

Lesson: Jesus has the authority to forgive sins for those that turn to Him.

Unlikely Disciple

Read Matthew 9:9 and Mark 2:13-14.

5. Matthew also known as Levi was a tax collector. What do you know about tax collectors in Jesus' day?
- Lowest of the low for the Jews
 - Collaborated with Romans to collect taxes and take over and above for themselves
 - Took bribes from wealth to reduce their taxes and falsify their records, then made up by taking more from the poor
 - Couldn't hold public office
 - Jews were permitted to lie to them
 - Barred from Synagogue
 - Good Jews didn't travel with them or have them as guests in their home
6. How unlikely was Matthew to become a follower of Jesus? How unlikely were you to become a follower of Jesus?
- Jesus called to Matthew and told him to follow
 - Matthew got up, and gave up His wealth, business, and livelihood to follow Jesus
 - That is quite unlikely
 - Luke 19:10 comes to mind
 - How unlikely was it that you followed Jesus and He gave you a job to do?
 - What did you leave behind to follow Jesus
 - Started giving money away and became less selfish

Lesson: Forgiveness by Jesus is God's greatest gift because it meets our greatest need.

Unacceptable Banquet

Read Matthew 9:9-17 and Mark 2:14-17.

7. After getting up and following Jesus, describe the big change that occurred in Matthew?
- He got up and turned 180 degrees to follow Jesus
 - Then he invited all of his friends who were tax collectors and sinners to meet Jesus
 - He had a big party for them

Matthew
Lesson 10
Jesus' Authority-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- I wonder what the friends thought and saw a change in Matthew?
 - Maybe it was Matthew's farewell dinner to them?
 - Faith without deeds is dead it says in James 2:26
 - One of the greatest ministries you have is evidence of a changed life to others
8. The Pharisees thought that the banquet at Matthew's house was unacceptable. What do you learn from Jesus' response to them? See Hosea 6:6 and Luke 19:10.
- Pharisees thought that Jesus was wrong to associate with sinners and tax collectors
 - Jesus came for sinners and who realize they are sick
 - If people don't believe they are sick, they remain sick
 - Jesus came to call sinners, which is amazing
9. John's disciples saw the banquet as unacceptable but were asking an honest question. What was Jesus teaching them in His answer in verses 14-17? See John 3:26-30.
- Jesus is the bridegroom who is with them now
 - However, He soon will be taken away, then they can mourn
 - Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it
 - The new covenant has come with Jesus
 - The law is a shadow while Jesus is reality
 - The law prepares for what is to come
 - When the new comes the old is not needed
 - You can't mix the old and the new

Lesson: Let go of your old life and gain a new life through Jesus.

Unparalleled Miracles

Read Mathew 9:18-34.

10. Following Jesus' teaching there are five people that received new lives. Describe the new lives each received.
- a. Jairus the synagogue ruler and sick woman. See Luke 8:40-56.
- Jairus daughter at point of death and came to Jesus out of desperation
 - While on the way Jesus is interrupted by the sick woman who was bleeding and no one could stop it
 - She was permanently unclean, not allowed in the synagogue
 - But she had faith in Jesus and just touched Him
 - Jesus asks who touched me which is a silly question with crowds following
 - Jesus says take heart your faith has healed you
 - She was healed from being unclean as sinners are healed from sin
 - Then Jairus sees a second miracle as his daughter is raised from death
 - Resurrection is true
 - Jesus was resurrected and we will be as well (1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-19)
- b. Two blind men (see Isaiah 35:5)
- They had faith Jesus could heal them
 - They were blind but now they see (Isaiah 35:5)
 - Isaiah prophecies about healing the blind
 - Were you blind to Jesus, but now you see (know Him)

Matthew
Lesson 10
Jesus' Authority-Part 2

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- c. Demon possessed mute man
 - Unable to speak, but now he could speak about Jesus
 - Are you able to speak about Jesus or are you mute
- 11. In what ways have you been given unparalleled miracles by Jesus?
 - Was forgiven of my sin and received new life
 - Was unclean and now I am clean
 - Was blind, but now I see
 - Was mute about Him but now I can talk about Him

Lesson: Jesus graciously forgives sins enabling believers to follow in wholeness and joy.

Challenge: How do you thank Jesus for calling you, forgiving your sins, and giving you a new life?

Matthew

Lesson 11

Jesus' Harvest Field Workers

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*In our last lesson we saw **Jesus' Authority** through an **Unexpected Visitor, Unexpected Disciple, Unacceptable Banquet, and Unparalleled Miracles**. Compare Matthew 4:23 to 9:35, which are almost word for word. Those verses seem to cap off chapters 5-9 where Jesus preached and healed while His disciples watched. Now in this lesson we will see a transition as **Jesus' Harvest Field Workers** are called and taught by Him. His teaching will be in four divisions: **Jesus' Compassion, Jesus' Call and Commission, Conditions of Service, and Costs and Comforts**.*

Jesus' Compassion

Read Matthew 9:35-38.

1. Some scholars estimate there were 200 cities in Galilee with a population of about 3 million people. Crowds followed Him everywhere. From chapters 5-9, what type of people followed Him? What was Jesus' attitude toward the crowds?
 - Type of people that followed
 - Curiosity for some
 - For others, great need for healing and forgiveness
 - Pharisees came in judgment, watching for mistakes, and violating the law
 - Jesus's attitude
 - Came with compassion
 - They were sheep without a shepherd
 - They were harassed and helpless
 - Wanted to have help
 - Disciples followed and observed, but now He sees need for true shepherds rather than the Pharisees that were not true shepherds
2. What did Jesus say to His disciples? What do you learn from His words?
 - What did He say
 - Harvest is plentiful and workers are few
 - Ask (pray) the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest fields
 - What do I learn
 - Begin with prayer for God will send you and other workers
 - He didn't say, my goodness, look at the people, go out and do something
 - He did say to pray first
 - There are so many people
3. In today's world there are so many people without Jesus. Do you think Jesus feels that same compassion today? Do you feel that same compassion? If so, how will you respond to the harvest field? See Luke 6:12-13.
 - Jesus is just as compassionate today. He offers to save all who believe
 - Are you compassionate for others? What to do?
 - Pray first like Jesus did to pray for them
 - Pray that God will show you the "good work He has prepared in advance" for you
 - May not be work you prefer
 - May not fit into your schedule

Matthew Lesson 11

Jesus' Harvest Field Workers

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- May not be comfortable for you
- But He is calling you to it
- In your church, don't look for volunteers, but ask the Lord to direct you to those He has chosen

Lesson: Jesus calls His disciples to be workers in His harvest field.

Jesus' Call and Commission

Read Matthew 10:1-16.

4. In verses 1-2, how would you define the words "called", "disciple", and "apostle"? What do those words mean today?
 - Called = chosen by Jesus and not a volunteer. It wasn't their idea. God calls us (Ephesians 1)
 - Disciple = a follower and a learner, we can be disciples today as I continue to learn
 - Apostle = one sent out with a commission. They had authority of Jesus with power to act, to drive out demons, and to heal every disease. That gave them authenticating credentials. Today pastors and missionaries are sent out with a commission, even though they may not have the same authority that the first 12 had.
5. Interestingly, the 12 apostles are listed four times in scripture in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts. Each time they seem to be listed in three groups of four. In each group of four the one person is always listed first and perhaps the leader of four. What do you know about apostles who were flawed ordinary men called by Jesus.
 - a. Peter, Andrew, James Zebedee, and John
 - Peter: natural leader, loyal, impulsive, denied Jesus, but reinstated. Rock
 - Andrew: Peter's brother, quiet, and always bringing people to Jesus
 - James & John Zebedee: sons of thunder, John wrote gospel lived to old age, James was first to be martyred
 - b. Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew
 - Philip was practical, how can we feed the crowds
 - Bartholomew (Nathaniel) was skeptical, nothing good comes out of Nazareth, but believed Jesus when he saw Him
 - Thomas was known as doubting Thomas, but worshipped Jesus as Lord
 - Matthew tax collector and sinner who followed Jesus and then wrote gospel
 - c. James, Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot
 - Not sure we know anything about them except for Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus
6. List the instructions for their first missionary trip.
 - Limited in scope, but later into all the world
 - Go for lost sheep of Israel because God loved and promised Israel. Peter didn't think the gospel was for Gentiles at first
 - Preach Kingdom of heaven is near, Jesus hadn't yet paid the price for sin
 - Heal sick raise the dead, cleans lepers as authenticating evidence of message
 - Give the message free
 - God will give you the provision so don't take anything with you
 - Special protection from harm as they are sheep among wolves
7. How are you called to be Jesus' witness right where you are? See Acts 1:8.

Matthew Lesson 11

Jesus' Harvest Field Workers

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Personal

Lesson: Believers with power from the Holy Spirit will be Jesus' witnesses in the harvest field.

Conditions of Service

Read Matthew 10:17-25.

8. In verses 5-16, Matthew talks about their first missionary journey. What time frame is Jesus talking about in verses 17-20 and then 21-25? Explain your reasoning.
 - 17-20
 - After Pentecost and about 70AD
 - Apostles were not persecuted until after Jesus' ascension in Acts
 - Holy Spirit was on them
 - Vs 19-20 says don't worry about what to say because it will be given to you, presumably by the Holy Spirit
 - So Jesus is giving them the future after He is gone
 - 21-25
 - Verses 21-23 seem to be talking about the increasing intensity of the conditions of ministry until the end times when He returns
 - Seems to go along with Matthew 24:12-14
 - Jesus' disciples will be persecuted as Jesus was
9. How would you interpret verse 23b? There are many interpretations. See Matthew 24.
 - Seems to be an end times statement
 - Could be a time during the tribulation when 144,000 witnesses preach the gospel in Israel (they are Jewish men)
 - Then Jesus comes back to fight for Israel in Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19.
 - Fun to think about

Lesson: As we move toward Jesus' return ministry will become more difficult.

Costs and Comforts

Read Matthew 10:26-42.

10. These verses apply to ministry in every age. What message does Jesus repeat in verses 26, 28, and 31? How is that message important?
 - Do not be afraid in all three
 - 26, nothing will be concealed that will not be made known
 - Your suffering will not be concealed
 - Not one place you have suffered will be forgotten
 - 28, don't be afraid of death because your soul is preserved John 10:28-29.
 - 29-31, God is in control and cares about you Romans 8:28. He is working for your good, do not be ashamed of the gospel
11. How are verses 32-42 comforting or challenging to you?
 - A lot in those verses
 - We are to love Jesus more than anything
 - More than father or mother (37)
 - More than peace (34)
 - Most follow and be obedient to Jesus (38)

Matthew Lesson 11

Jesus' Harvest Field Workers

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- If you find your life in the world you will lose it eternally (39)
- Share the gospel with others (40)
- Listen to a prophet (41)
- As a disciple share the gospel with a little one (baby believer) will receive a reward (42)

12. How are you putting into practice Matthew 28:19-20?

- Jesus is with us so who can be against us, He is with us until the end of the age
- Keep sharing the good news about Jesus Christ your whole life
- Teach people to obey what Jesus said

Lesson: Following Jesus is costly, but the rewards are eternal.

Challenge: Each day will you ask for the Lord of the harvest to send you into the harvest field?

Matthew
Lesson 12
Evidence that Demands a Choice

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In our previous lesson **Jesus’ Harvest Field Workers** are called and taught by Him. His teaching was in four divisions: **Jesus’ Compassion, Jesus’ Call and Commission, Conditions of Service, and Costs and Comforts.** In this lesson Jesus presents **Evidence that Demands a Choice.** We will study chapters 11 and 12 in four sections: **John’s Doubts, Cities Denounced, Call to Discipleship, and Israel Decides.***

John’s Doubts

Read Matthew 11:1-19.

1. What do you think was the reason for John’s question and doubt? See Matthew 3:7-10.
 - John was in prison due to rebuking Herod Tetrarch
 - John was hearing things about Jesus he didn’t expect
 - God’s wrath is coming on sin
 - One more powerful is coming and his winnowing fork is in hand
 - Gather wheat into barn and burn up the chaff
 - Coming to judge sin
 - John didn’t realize the Messiah would come twice as a suffering servant then in judgment to set up His Kingdom
 - Jews didn’t understand Isaiah
 - They thought the Messiah would free Israel from captivity
 - John saw Jesus welcoming sinners, and healing them, time with tax collectors and prostitutes even gentiles
 - John was baffled by Jesus
2. How did Jesus answer John’s doubts? Have you ever had doubts about Jesus? If so, how were your doubts answered?
 - Jesus answered with what He did, revealing what He had done
 - Jesus didn’t explain everything, but gave John enough to trust Him
 - How about your doubts?
 - Sometimes think why He lets sin go on
 - But ask for understanding through His word and through prayer
 - Jesus has not told us everything, but has given us enough to trust Him
3. How does Jesus commend John publicly?
 - Calls him a prophet and not a weak reed
 - John was fulfillment of prophecy
 - Not anyone greater than John in character, integrity
 - He is the Elijah who was to come
 - John didn’t come eating and drinking and some say he had a demon
4. How do you interpret verse 12?
 - Kingdom of heaven forcibly advancing since days of John the Baptist
 - Jesus is coming with good news and healing
 - Jesus is critical of this generation
 - But then forceful men fight against it (Jews)
 - Notice they call John the Baptist demon possessed
 - They call Jesus a glutton and drunkard and friend of tax collectors and sinners
 - How have you forcibly fought against the

Matthew
Lesson 12
Evidence that Demands a Choice

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson: Jesus may not explain what He is doing, but will give you enough to trust Him.

Cities Denounced

Read Matthew 11:20-24.

5. Why does Jesus say it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for Capernaum on judgment day?
 - Capernaum was given more revelation of Jesus and more light of the truth than Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Capernaum basically rejected Jesus and His miracles
 - Jesus became a stumbling block to them
 - But Sodom and Gomorrah don't have an excuse (see Romans 1:18-20)
 - The greater the light, the greater the responsibility before God for sin
6. Today, much of the world and especially western Europe and the US have heard about Jesus. How do people reject Jesus today, even though they have heard? See 1 Peter 2:6-8.
 - They are indifferent or neutral
 - They are waiting for all the answers before they make up their mind
 - Jesus is actually in every person's path
 - You either stumble over Him as a stumbling stone
 - Or, you accept Him as the cornerstone
 - It seems like intellectuals, leaders, powerful, wealthy, educated reject Jesus today

Lesson: Jesus is either your stumbling stone or your cornerstone.

Call to Discipleship

Read Matthew 11:25-30.

7. Who are the wise and learned and who are the little children? Why had the Father hidden these things from the wise? See Matthew 5:3-7.
 - Wise and learned
 - Pharisees and scribes
 - Religious, moral, upright
 - Self-satisfied, smug, proud, unmerciful to sinners
 - Trusted themselves
 - Not teachable, not humble, not pure in heart
 - Little children
 - Those mentioned in the beatitudes
 - Poor in spirit, humble and lowly
 - Mourn over their sin
 - Meek, humble, teachable
 - Hunger and thirst for righteousness, long to be forgiven of sin
 - Also, they extend mercy
 - Pure in heart, not sinless but whole-hearted for God
 - Why hide these things
 - It was God's pleasure to do so

Matthew Lesson 12

Evidence that Demands a Choice

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- God is pleased to reveal Himself to those who know they are sinners and know they need Him desperately
 - Jesus reveals the Father to these little children
 - No one is able to reveal the Father except Jesus
 - Revealing the Father to the little ones Jesus issued a great invitation
8. What is the great invitation that Jesus gives to the little ones? What is your view of Christianity?
- Invitation
 - Come to all who are weary and burdened with sin
 - I will give you rest from sin
 - Take my yoke, not the yoke of law, from me
 - I am gentle and humble in heart
 - And you will find rest for your souls, won't be burdened by sin
 - My yoke, not the laws yoke is easy and the burden is light
 - This is a big change
 - Give up your sin to me
 - View of Christianity
 - Is it follow the rules and be good enough?
 - Is it turning over to Jesus?
 - Turn to Jesus to
 - Be yoked to Jesus, just you and Him
 - You are personally yoked to Jesus

Lesson: Those yoked with Jesus walk where He walks and at His pace.

Israel Decides

Read Matthew 12:1-50.

9. In verses 12:1-21, Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees for breaking the Sabbath rules. What do you learn about Jesus and the Pharisees?
- Jesus is greater than those Levites in the temple
 - If you knew what is meant by “God desires mercy not sacrifice”, you wouldn't have condemned the innocent
 - For the Son of Man (Jesus) is Lord of the Sabbath
 - Healing someone on the Sabbath is much more important so doing good on the Sabbath is lawful
 - Then the Pharisees plotted how they might kill Jesus
 - Jesus is God's Chosen Servant as prophesied in Isaiah
10. In verses 22-32, the Pharisees claim that Jesus healed a demon possessed man by Beelzebub. What did Jesus tell them and what did He say about an unforgiveable sin?
- What did He tell them
 - Satan drives out Satan he is divided against himself and his kingdom won't stand
 - If Jesus drives out Satan by Beelzebub, then who do you drive demons out?
 - But if I drive demons out by Spirit of God, the kingdom of God has come to you
 - Those who are not with Jesus are against Him

Matthew Lesson 12

Evidence that Demands a Choice

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- What about unforgiveable sin
 - Sin and blasphemy will be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven
 - Blasphemy against the Son of Man will be forgiven. Jesus forgives them and shows mercy to them
- 11. In verses 33-37, what does Jesus teach to the Pharisees about the day of judgment?
 - Challenging them to do good
 - How can you do anything good
 - Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks
 - Good man speaks out good, evil man speaks out evil
 - So you will have to give an account for every evil word spoken
- 12. In verses 38- 45, how does Jesus condemn the Pharisees and the teachers of the law?
 - They asked for a sign and Jesus refuses except the sign of Jonah
 - At the judgment, the men of Nineveh who repented will condemn this generation.
 - Also gives an example of Queen of the South listened to Solomon’s wisdom and now one greater than Solomon is here
 - Verses 43-45, talks about the progressively increasing evil of this generation
- 13. In verses 46-50, how does Jesus describe His brother, sister, and mother?
 - Whoever does the will of the Father
 - Are you part of Jesus’ family?

Lesson: With Jesus, even the greatest sin is forgiven, but apart from Jesus even the smallest sin remains.

Challenge: Have you done the will of the Father and rendered a decision for Jesus?

Matthew

Lesson 13

Parables-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time in chapters 11 and 12, we looked at **Evidence that Demands a Choice** in four sections: **John's Doubts, Cities Denounced, Call to Discipleship, and Israel Decides**. In the next two lessons, we will study the Parables in chapter 13. A parable is a story taken from everyday life with a main point or truth. They also have a key idea which can be a likeness or comparison. These parables provide a revelation of who God is. As the revelation goes forward there becomes a separation among people: people that really follow Him and the religious Jewish leaders that want to kill Him. For this week we will study the **Parable of the Sower**, the **Purpose of Parables**, and the **Parable of the Weeds**.*

Parable of the Sower

Read Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23.

1. There was a large crowd so that Jesus taught them many things in parables. Who is the sower and what is the seed in Jesus' day and now?
 - Sower is Jesus in His day
 - Today it is anyone who shares the gospel with someone
 - That is our task to go and make disciples of all nations Matthew 28
 - Seed is the Gospel and truth about God
 - Not a watered down version
 - Jesus told the truth in chapter 12 and the Pharisees wanted to kill Him as you may recall in the last lesson
2. Explain the seed that is sown along the path where birds came and ate it up.
 - Seed never had a chance and birds came and ate it
 - This is anyone who hears the message of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one, Satan comes and snatches what was sown in His heart
 - Has a hardened heart, like the path is a hard footworn path
 - A hard heart
 - When unbelievers sin, over time guilt is suppressed and their hearts become hard
 - The sin is progressive (see Romans 1:21-32 where God gave them over to their own lusts and sin)
 - When believers sin, we mourn over it due to the work of the Holy Spirit indwelling in us
 - They just won't accept it at all
3. Explain the seed that is sown along rocky places without much soil, and sprang up quickly.
 - Hears the word and at once receives it, but since the word has no root, he quickly falls away
 - People with shallow hearts
 - They have initial excitement and may have a confession of faith
 - Commit to Jesus in a superficial or emotional way
 - Commitment is not real
 - Remain interested only until there is trouble or a price to pay, then they abandon Jesus
 - When trouble or persecution comes they walk away

Matthew Lesson 13 Parables-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Christianity is not what it was cracked up to be
 - The fall away
 - Some would say they lost their faith
 - Jesus would say they never had any root so they never had faith to begin with
 - Perhaps Judas had a shallow heart
 - Some say he was a zealot at first
 - He thought Jesus was Messiah to lead a revolt
 - Then abandoned Jesus
4. Explain the seed that is sown among the thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.
- This can be a thorny heart
 - They hear the word and receive it
 - But beneath the soil are thorns
 - When seed of faith grows
 - The worries of life or desire for wealth choke it out
 - That happened to me
 - The worries or wealth take precedence over Jesus
 - We are to store up treasures in heaven
 - This can be a slow process as you get a taste of wealth and that taste for it grows
 - So the person becomes unfruitful for the gospel
5. Explain the seed that is sown in the good soil. See Philippians 1:6.
- Receptive heart
 - He hears the word and understand it
 - Roots go down deep in Christ
 - He produces a crop yielding 60 or 100 times what is sown
 - Important point
 - Can a person make the soil better
 - Not really, but God can
 - Pray that God will prepare someone's heart to receive God's word
 - God does work in believer's hearts also (Philippians 1:6)
 - Notice vs. 9: “he who has ears let him hear. (see Revelation 2-3)

Lesson: Truth takes root and flourishes when God prepares someone's heart.

Purpose of Parables

Read Matthew 13:10-17; 34-35.

6. Why did the disciples ask Jesus why He was speaking parables?
- It almost seemed critical of Jesus
 - Everything was going great
 - You taught plainly, healed people
 - You sent us out to do the same on our first missionary trip
 - Crowds want to hear you and now you change your message
 - Things were going so well and now we don't know that they are
 - You shot down the Pharisees
7. What is Jesus' answer about speaking in parables?
- Whoever understands will understand more

Matthew Lesson 13 Parables-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Whoever doesn't understand will understand less
 - The Pharisees are plotting to kill Him so the message changed
 - But, this was not a plan change to react to the Pharisees challenges
 - Instead, this was prophesied in Isaiah as Jesus says
 - So this was the plan all along
 - Jesus was with God in the beginning and new the plan
 - Jesus was born to die for sins and this was the plan all along
 - Notice vs 15b, where if they understand with their hearts, I would heal them
 - Nicodemus eventually heard, understood and was healed according to John's gospel, it seems
8. What encouragement does Jesus give to the disciples? How does that encourage you?
- Disciples
 - The Jesus blesses the disciples because their eyes see and their ears hear
 - He encourages them by saying that
 - They were given more to hear than the prophets did. Prophets longed to hear and see what they did
 - Great that disciples asked question and kept asking
 - You
 - You are encouraged to keep asking questions
 - What do you mean Jesus? Help me understand
 - Stay rooted in scripture

Lesson: Believers being drawn by God, don't understand everything, but they keep asking?

Parable of the Weeds

Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43.

9. The disciples had to ask Jesus what He meant in this parable. Describe Jesus' explanation.
- Son of Man sowed the good seed
 - The field is the entire world
 - The good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom
 - Weeds are sons of the evil one (humans?)
 - The enemy that sows the is the devil
 - Harvest is the end of the age and harvesters are angels
 - At end of the age (judgment) the Son of Man will send out angels to weed out the kingdom of everything causing sin
 - Throw them into fiery furnace
 - Weeping and gnashing of teeth
 - Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father
 - He who has ears, let Him hear
10. How are you concerned about this great separation?
- Believers should not be concerned for themselves
 - But should be concerned about unbelievers that can't hear
 - We should go and make disciples

Matthew
Lesson 13
Parables-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

11. The devil will bring forward people that look like true Christians, whether in the church or out. As believers, how should we handle people we suspect as a weed or disagree with?
- We care about doctrine and want it to be pure
 - Not everyone that disagrees with us is a weed
 - It is possible be mistaken on secondary issues and still be saved
 - Be careful about church discipline so that we don't damage or discourage some one for whom Christ died
 - But need to discern truth and compare what is being taught with scripture
 - Speak the truth in love
 - But we can't say anything goes
 - Can't say the Bible means whatever it means to you as long as you really believe it
 - God allows the weeds to grow until harvest, then the truth will be no
 - There will be no weeds in heaven
12. What do you know about judgement for
- a. Believers (see 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - Judgment for things done in the body both good or bad
 - This is for rewards not punitive
 - Some of the things we may not be rewarded for
 - b. Unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - This is the judgment of the weeds Jesus is talking about in Matthew

Lesson: Your response to Christ has eternal consequences.

Challenge: How will you pray for a friend that needs to have their ears opened to Jesus?

Matthew

Lesson 14

Parables-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In the previous lesson we began our study of parables with the **Parable of the Sower**, the **Purpose of Parables**, and the **Parable of the Weeds**. Remember that a parable is a story taken from everyday life with a main point or truth. They also have a key idea which can be a likeness or comparison. These parables provide a revelation of who God is. As the revelation goes forward there becomes a separation among people: people that really follow Him and the religious Jewish leaders that want to kill Him. For this lesson we will study the **Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast**, the **Parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearl**, and the **Parables of the Net and Householder**. After finishing the parables, we will see Jesus as **Prophet Without Honor**.*

1. Matthew doesn't normally order his writing in a time sequence. However, from chapter 12 and the sign of Jonah, through chapter 13, seems to be one day. Check out the following time markers and see if you agree. I so, how should we view these parables?
 - a. Matthew 12:22; 12:38
 - b. Matthew 12:46
 - c. Matthew 13:1
 - d. Matthew 13:36
 - e. Matthew 13:53
 - We should consider this all one teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven
 - What is it like
 - Who is part of it
 - What does that mean
 - The idea is that expectations are overturned
 - Jesus is not the Messiah they expected
 - He actually comes twice
 - Kingdom of heaven may not be what you expected
 - Not now in first century and not in the age to come

Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast

Read Matthew 13:31-33.

2. What is the Kingdom of Heaven? When is it coming? See Romans 11:25-28.
 - It is where God rules
 - When Jesus came the Kingdom of Heaven was near before the cross
 - After the cross God set aside the Jews and work with others who have entered His kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ
 - We call it the church age, Paul says until the full number of Gentiles come in
 - We are in the church age now
 - In the Lord's prayer, we say "Thy Kingdom Come"
 - But some say after the cross we are in now but not yet
 - We have promises of a Millennial Kingdom on earth and a Heavenly Kingdom where Jesus reigns
 - All about Jesus' coming

Matthew Lesson 14 Parables-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

3. When Jesus taught the parable of the mustard seed it was new information. But with 2,000 years of history how would you interpret this parable? How would you interpret the birds?
 - Sower is the Son of Man
 - Field is the entire world
 - Kingdom of Heaven starts very small and will grow very large
 - For us it is easy to see that has happened
 - The church has grown world wide
 - All of this started with Jesus and then 12 disciples originally
 - Birds
 - Kingdom of heaven or church age has provided refuge for people all of the world
 - Or, the birds are unbelievers that have come into the church as a refuge
 - We can see that today with unbelievers in the church
 - Churches that don't teach Jesus crucified for sin
 - At any rate the church is huge and harbors believers and unbelievers. Maybe the world can't distinguish them but God can
4. How do you interpret the parable of the yeast?
 - Church has expanded like yeast in dough by God's power
 - Or you can look at yeast as sin which has believers and true believers for God to separate at the end
 - Remember the parable of the weeds that Jesus taught the same day
 - Let the weeds grow up with the wheat
 - So Kingdom of Heaven is now but not yet
5. Why does God allow sin in the world and in the church?
 - Not sure, but He will eventually wipe it all away
 - Romans 8:28 and John 16:33

Lesson: The Kingdom of Heaven is now but not yet.

Parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearl

Read Matthew 13:44-46.

6. How do you interpret the parable of the hidden treasure?
 - One view
 - Man finding the treasure is someone seeking God
 - When he finds Jesus, he gives up everything for Him
 - Philippians 3:12-17 = the greatness of Jesus
 - Second view
 - Field is the world the man is the Son Man (Jesus)
 - He gave up everything to purchase the world from sin
 - Both interpretations are Biblical
7. Pearls were not valued highly by Jews but they were by Gentiles. How do you interpret the parable of the pearl?
 - Pearl of great value is you a Gentile believer in Jesus
 - Jesus purchased you at a great price

Lesson: Jesus paid a great price to purchase you from sin.

Matthew
Lesson 14
Parables-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Parables of the Net and Householder

Read Matthew 13:47-52.

8. How do you interpret the parable of the net? What do you learn from this parable? See John 3:18.
- During this time of the church age, believers and unbelievers are together
 - At judgment, they will be separated by angels, the good from the bad
 - Weeping and gnashing of teeth is hell
 - This is not a popular subject and is uncomfortable
 - Jesus lovingly warns us over and over again
 - John 3:16-18.
9. How do you interpret verse 52? How encouraging is that to you?
- Jesus keeps bringing out old treasures and new treasures for me each day
 - We know and understand a lot, but then He brings out new things to learn for us

Lesson: Believers should bring out old and new treasures about the gospel to those who are unbelievers.

Prophet Without Honor.

Read Matthew 13:53-58.

10. After a long day of teaching parables, Jesus returns to His hometown. Describe what happened there?
- Taught in the synagogue and people were amazed
 - Where did He get such wisdom and miraculous powers
 - He is just a carpenter's son with brothers and sisters and mother
 - Little did they know He wasn't a carpenter's son
11. Why did the people in His hometown take offense take offense at Him? What was the result of their offense?
- People reject Jesus and don't have faith in Him today
 - Is He too familiar
 - Don't worship Him as Lord
 - As a result, Jesus did few miracles because of their lack of faith
12. Do you have faith in Jesus? If so, have you ever become too familiar to ignore His Lordship?
- Jesus is Lord of the Kingdom of Heaven and rules
 - I can disobey due to sin

Lesson: Jesus is Lord.

Challenge: How will you thank Jesus for calling you into the Kingdom of Heaven?

Matthew

Lesson 15

Who is this Jesus?

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*The last time we finished **Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast**, the **Parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearl**, and the **Parables of the Net and Householder**. After finishing the parables, we saw Jesus as **Prophet Without Honor**. In His own hometown, people were amazed but asking where He got this wisdom, and surprisingly took offense at Him. Let's find out in this lesson **Who is this Jesus?** We will find out by looking at three sections of Scripture: **A Murderous King**, **An Overwhelming Need**, and **An unanticipated Storm**. All of this happened in one day and then late into the night.*

A Murderous King

Read Matthew 14:1-12.

1. Who is Herod the Tetrarch?
 - Son of Herod the Great who ruled during time of Jesus' birth
 - He had a number of wives
 - Seemed to be a weak king
 - Superstitious
2. Who did Herod think Jesus was and why did he think that?
 - John the Baptist back from the dead
 - Why did he think it was John the Baptist
 - Herod had JTB arrested because he said it was unlawful for him to marry his brother Philip's wife
 - He wanted to kill JTB, but was afraid because the people thought he was a prophet
 - Daughter of Herodias danced before him and please him so much he promised to give her whatever she wanted
 - Her mother wanted JTB head on a platter
 - Herod was distressed (v. 9)
 - So Herod gave her that and girl gave it to her mother
 - John's disciples got JTB's body and buried it
 - The disciples went to tell Jesus
3. It seems like Herodias may have orchestrated this event in order to kill John. Notice in verse 9 that Herod was distressed. Why do you think he was distressed?
 - Herod was conflicted knowing it wasn't right to kill John
 - Didn't want to go back on his drunken oath
 - So he was conflicted: influenced by his friends rather than his conscience
4. How did John's disciples respond to his death? How do you respond to devastating news or changes to worldly thinking?
 - They took his body and buried it
 - Then they went to Jesus and told Him (v12)
 - I wonder what Jesus said to them
 - I wonder if they were wondering who this Jesus is?
 - Do you turn to Jesus on those times?
 - What happens when the world says sin must be approved of

Lesson: When faith is costly, we must decide if Jesus is worth it.

Matthew
Lesson 15
Who is this Jesus?

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

An Overwhelming Need

Read Matthew 14:13-21 and John 6:1-15.

5. Notice after hearing that John was murdered, Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to pray with His disciples? What do you think Jesus was praying about?
 - Probably for Herod and the reports of who Herod thought He was
 - Need time alone with His disciples and away from the crowds
 - But the crowds followed them around the lake
 - When He landed, they saw a large crowd, had compassion and healed the sick
6. It was getting late and the disciples suggest that Jesus send the crowds away to eat. But Jesus says, “You give them something to eat.” Describe the dilemma.
 - Getting late, no dinner reservations, and in a remote place with too many people
 - From John, Jesus asks Philip, where shall we buy bread?
 - 8 months wages would be enough for each one to have a bit
 - Impossible
 - Andrew finds a boy with 5 loaves and two small fish, but that won’t go too far
 - Andrew is always bringing people to Jesus
 - Jesus creates order and has people sit down
7. Describe how Jesus solves the dilemma. What do you learn about this?
 - Has the people sit down and creates order maybe 50 people at one place
 - Notice that 5000 men were fed so at least 10000 people were there, maybe 15000
 - That would make 200-300 groups of 50, that is a lot of tables to serve
 - Jesus prays first and gives thanks with the 5 loaves and two fish
 - He breaks the bread and gives them to the disciples to give to the people
 - Jesus allows the disciples to participate in the miracle
 - As they passed out the bread and fish they would undoubtedly see new food being created as everyone was satisfied
 - In John, Jesus asks the disciples to gather up the leftovers and they gathered up 12 baskets full (one for each disciple?) Where did the baskets come from?
 - Science says matter cannot be created or destroyed. Obviously, that is not correct as God created the heavens and earth, provided manna in the desert
 - Learn that when resources are completely inadequate, go to Jesus who is your provider
 - Disciples are seeing Jesus as God, the Creator, Provider, Giver of Bread.
 - Later in John, Jesus says He is the bread of life
8. Who is this Jesus? What did the people say; what did the disciples think? What do you say? See John 1:1-14.
 - From John: People say He is the prophet to come, Jesus knew they wanted to make him king by force so He slips away. It is not His time and has to go to the cross
 - Disciples are seeing Jesus as God, the Creator, Provider, Giver of Bread.
 - Later in John, Jesus says He is the bread of life
 - Who do you say? God who made His dwelling among us.

Lesson: Overwhelming needs open our eyes to Jesus our creator and sustainer.

Matthew
Lesson 15
Who is this Jesus?

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

An Unanticipated Storm

Read Matthew 14:22-36 and John 6:14-15.

9. After feeding the 5,000 what did Jesus do and why did He do it?
 - Commanded the disciples to get in the boat, He made them get in
 - Then He went to a mountain to pray Himself
 - What do you think He was praying about?
 - Remember that Jesus fully God, but also fully human
 - Perhaps he was tempted to become king from His human side
 - Remember in Matthew 4 Satan tempted Him to be come king and He resisted the devil
 - Remember how Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane that this cup be taken away if it is the Father's will
 - This teaches us to go to prayer when we are tempted
10. Meanwhile the disciples encounter a storm not because of their disobedience but because of their obedience. When have you encountered a storm that was not a result of disobedience?
 - Personal
11. What does Jesus do? How does that encourage you to deal with a future storm in your life?
 - Jesus comes walking on the lake during the storm
 - He says “take courage, it is I, don't be afraid”
 - How many times does Jesus say don't be afraid?
 - Fear comes from worry, remember Matthew 6 where Jesus talks about worry
 - This is a great comfort for us, that Jesus is always there for the storms of life
 - He was always there for apostle Paul, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
12. Describe what happened with Peter? What do you learn about Jesus from that incident?
 - Peter asks if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water
 - Peter asked first that is a good thing
 - He only came when Jesus commanded
 - He did not just step out on His own, it was Jesus' will for Him to come
 - Do you ask if it is in the Father's will or do you bolt out on your own
 - Peter got out of the boat but then became afraid and doubted.
 - When he became afraid he asked Jesus to save him
 - That is amazing: SAVE ME
 - Have you asked Jesus to save you?
 - Jesus will immediately do it
 - When have you obeyed Jesus and then became fearful?
 - They took Jesus into the boat and the wind died down
 - John says the immediately got to the shore
 - Wow what a day
13. Who did those in the boat say that Jesus was? Who is this Jesus for you?
 - They said He was the son of God and worshipped Him

Matthew
Lesson 15
Who is this Jesus?

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- I say the same and worship Him

Lesson: Jesus’ glory and power are seen most clearly in life’s storms.

Challenge: How can you encourage others to ask, “who is this Jesus?”

Matthew

Lesson 16

Jesus Trains His Disciples

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we spent one day in the life of Jesus to understand **Who is this Jesus?** We looked at three sections of Scripture: **A Murderous King, An Overwhelming Need, and An unanticipated Storm.** In this lesson we will see **Jesus Training His Disciples** as He prepares them for ministry to have a heart like His. First, we see His **Condemnation of Pharisees** with hard hearts, His **Commendation of a Canaanite Women** with a heart of persistent faith, and finally His **Compassion for Crowds** with needy hearts.*

Condemnation of Pharisees

Read Matthew 15:1-20.

1. Why were the Pharisees and teachers of the law gathered around Jesus? What did they question Him on? See Mark 7:1-5.
 - They came from Jerusalem, probably not for a vacation, but to see who is this Jesus
 - Perhaps they came to trap Him
 - There were an official delegation from Jerusalem
 - So they observed that they He broke their tradition that had been devised over years
 - These were just traditions and not part of the law in scripture
 - Although this had become a ceremonial traditional
 - So people could see you were a good clean Jew but without a clean heart inside
2. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees? How did He respond to the crowd? See Mark 7:9-14.
 - Pharisees
 - He doesn't answer there question directly, but only answers when He talks to the crowd
 - They break the command of God about honoring their Father and Mother, if you don't you should be put to death
 - They declared their money as a gift devoted to God so they didn't have to give money to help their parents
 - So they could be seen as not disobeying the command to honor their parents, but they really never had to honor them with money.
 - This was their tradition that trumped the law of God
 - He says Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you.
 - People honor me with their lips
 - But their hearts are far from me
 - Worship me in vain
 - Teachings are but rules taught by men
 - Jesus really called them out and the disciples even asked that the Pharisees were offended when they heard Jesus say this
 - Crowd
 - He turns to the crowd (I presume the Pharisees were still there)
 - What goes into a man's mouth doesn't make Him unclean
 - What comes out of His mouth makes him unclean
 - Teaching the crowd in front of the Pharisees and publicly criticizing them
3. What teaching does Jesus give to His disciples and to Peter?
 - Reminds them of the parable of weeds

Matthew
Lesson 16
Jesus Trains His Disciples

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Calls them blind guides that are leading each other into to a pit
 - Blind leading the blind
 - Things coming out of the mouth come from the heart and these (words) make you unclean
 - Out of your heart come evil thoughts
 - Murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony (lies), slander
 - These make a man unclean
4. What did the disciples learn from this incident? What did you learn?
- External obedience is worthless and does not please God
 - The condition of your heart is critical
 - Is your heart focused on God?

Commendation of a Canaanite Woman

Read Matthew 15:21-28.

5. Why did Jesus leave the area and go to Tyre and Sidon?
- Region of Tyre and Sidon was a Gentile area, so He left the Jewish area with His disciples
 - Avoid open conflict with Jewish leaders
 - Remove disciples from the all-pervasive influence of Pharisees
 - Pharisees would not go into Gentile area because they would be defiled and unclean
 - Just the dust of the ground would defile them
 - This would be good training for disciples for their upcoming ministry
 - Ministry first to the Jews
 - Then to Gentiles
 - Disciples would learn “clean” was a matter of heart not birth or cleanliness
 - Now they would learn that in real life
6. How does the Canaanite women address Jesus? Why is that significant?
- Son of David, which would be the Messiah, Pharisees didn’t believe He was Messiah it seems
 - Lord, God Himself later
 - Son of David is flattering term
 - But Lord, help me
7. Describe their conversation.
- At first, Jesus doesn’t even answer and the disciples would have sent her away
 - She is persistent, Lord help me, sort of like Peter’s prayer, “Lord save me.”
 - Jesus says He has come for the Jews only, is that training for disciples
 - Then Jesus says it is not right, but she replies with a quick retort
 - Jesus commends her faith and healed her daughter
 - Jesus had compassion
8. What do you think the disciples learned from this? What do you learn about Jesus’ answer to prayer?
- Jesus has compassion for all people both Jews and Gentiles
 - Notice He didn’t answer her prayer at first, He made her wait

Matthew
Lesson 16
Jesus Trains His Disciples

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Commentator said there are four ways Jesus answers prayers
 - I can't hear you, maybe because of unconfessed sin or insisting on your own answer
 - Yes
 - No, there may be a purpose in no that we can't see at the moment and until later
 - Wait, that is difficult because we need to exercise faith

Lesson: Jesus delights in showing mercy, and He always answers prayer.

Compassion for Crowds

Read Matthew 15:29-39.

9. Jesus left the region of Tyre and Sidon for Decapolis, according to Mark. He heals a deaf person in this Gentile area. How do these Gentiles respond to Jesus?
 - Great crowds came to Him
 - He healed lame, blind, crippled, mute and others
 - People were amazed
 - They praised the God of Israel. Again these are Gentiles
10. Explain Jesus' compassion for these people.
 - They were with Him for 3 days with nothing to eat
 - Don't want to send them away hungry
11. How is this feeding different than that in Matthew 14? What did the disciples learn?
 - Different
 - 4000 rather than 5000
 - Different area, but it was a remote place
 - 7 loaves rather than 5
 - 7 baskets full at end rather than 12
 - These are Gentiles
 - Disciples learn
 - They questioned feeding so many
 - But they had seen this done before
 - Seems like they didn't learn to fast
 - They should have compassion for all people not just Jews
 - Jesus needs to repeat teachings, why are they so dull (Matt 15:16)
12. When have you been slow to learn about Jesus and change your heart for Him?
 - Personal

Lesson: Jesus has compassion even for slow learners.

Challenge: How will you have compassion for others that are seeking Jesus?

Matthew
Lesson 17
Jesus Continues Training His Disciples
“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In our last lesson, Jesus and His disciples were in Gentile territory, and we saw **Jesus Training His Disciples** as He prepares them for ministry to have a heart like His. First, we saw His **Condemnation of Pharisees** with hard hearts, His **Commendation of a Canaanite Women** with a heart of persistent faith, and finally His **Compassion for Crowds** with needy hearts. In this lesson **Jesus Continues to Train His Disciples**. We will see the **Disciples’ Confusion**, **Peter’s Confession**, and **Believer’s Cross**.*

Disciples Confusion

Read Matthew 16:1-12.

1. As Jesus and His disciples leave Gentile territory, they meet the Pharisees and Sadducees. Who are they and why did they come to Jesus? See Matthew 12:14.
 - Who were they
 - Jewish leaders, but didn’t agree on much
 - Sort of like conservatives and liberals
 - In fact bitter enemies that fought over every religious issue
 - Pharisee believed in resurrection
 - Sadducees did not for example
 - Why come to Jesus
 - To test Him
 - Did they really want to know if He was the Messiah
 - Or did they want to trap Him
 - Or did they want to kill Him
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees want to see a sign from heaven. What is Jesus’ response?
 - They are a wicked and adulterous generation, but none will be given except the sign of Jonah
 - They can’t see the sign of times they are living in, even though they can predict the weather changes
 - Imagine all of the healings and miracles that Jesus has already done
 - Remember before He called them blind guides, leaders that were blind to the sign of the times.
 - They really had rejected Him and could not see Him at all, even though the Canaanite woman in the lesson knew who He was.
 - Why does Jesus give them the sign or miracle of Jonah?
 - God wanted Jonah to preach to Nineveh, a Gentile nation
 - After being in a great fish for 3 days, Jonah was “resurrected”
 - But Jonah did preach to Nineveh and the whole city repented
3. It is ominous that Jesus left them and went away. Jesus teaches His disciples to “guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. What did the disciples learn and what do you learn?
 - First, the disciples forgot bread for the boat trip and were concerned that is what Jesus is talking about
 - This is after they had seen 5000 and 4000 people fed miraculously
 - Jesus says you of little faith again

Matthew Lesson 17

Jesus Continues Training His Disciples

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- The yeast of P&S was their sin of rejection and beware of it
 - Finally they got it that the teaching was wrong
4. How are you encouraged that Jesus will continue to open the minds of believers? What miraculous signs have you seen in your life?
- Jesus continues to teach me each day through His word and through life circumstances
 - I can recognize false teaching (yeast of the P&S) today
 - I have seen the miracle of my salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit

Lesson: Jesus continues to train those that continue to seek Him and leaves those that reject them.

Peter's Confession

Read Matthew 16:13-20.

5. Caesarea Philippi is another Gentile area. As they come to that area, Jesus asks them, “Who do people say that I am?” Then He asks, “who do you say I am?” Describe Peter's interaction with Jesus.
- Peter says He is the Christ the Son of the living God. Christ is Greek for Messiah
 - Jesus says
 - Blessed are you Peter, this was not revealed by man but my Father in heaven
 - Peter is a rock I will build my church
 - Jesus is the cornerstone
 - Peter is the first of many
 - Gates of hades cannot overcome the church
 - Jesus conquers death
 - Peter gets the keys to the kingdom of heaven
 - He opens the door for the first time
 - See His sermon in Acts 2, 8, 10
 - Peter was first but rest of the disciples are given the keys in Matthew 28
 - Binding and losing, what does that mean
 - Binding to disallow or reject
 - Loosing to allow or accept
 - Only God can forgive sin but believers have the authority to say how sins are forgiven or not forgiven
 - Jesus tells them not to tell anyone He is the Christ
6. Who do you say Jesus is? See John 1:1-14. What authority and responsibility does that give you? See Matthew 28:16-20.
- Jesus is the Christ, God Himself, fully human and fully divine
 - Through Jesus, I am commanded and have authority to share the gospel through Jesus who is with me until the end of this age.

Lesson: Christians have the right and responsibility to declare as true what God has said is true in His word.

Believer's Cross

Read Matthew 16:21-28.

Matthew Lesson 17

Jesus Continues Training His Disciples

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

7. What does “from that time on Jesus began to explain” mean?
 - Jesus is going to tell them many times about what is going to happen
8. What did Jesus tell them must happen?
 - Go to Jerusalem
 - There wasn't a plan B
 - This is what He was born for
 - In Jerusalem He would suffer many things at hands of elders, chief priests, teachers of the law
 - He must be killed or murdered
 - On the third day...raised to life
 - The disciples heard this but didn't seem to sink in
 - Let's see what Peter says in a minute
9. What was Peter's reaction and Jesus' rebuke of Peter?
 - Peter rebukes Jesus that this can't happen to you
 - I will protect you and die for you
 - Jesus says to get behind me Satan
 - Peter was the rock now a stumbling stone
 - Remember Satan tempted Jesus with the whole world
 - Satan didn't want Jesus to go to the cross
 - Jesus meant to go to the cross for our sins
 - What if Jesus hadn't gone to the cross, then everyone goes to hell
10. After rebuking Peter, what training does Jesus give His disciples?
 - Anyone after Jesus must deny Himself and take up his cross and follow me
 - Accept Jesus death, follow Him and deny yourself
 - Die to sin (cross) by following Jesus
 - Whoever wants to save his worldly life will lose it eternal
 - Don't lose your soul
 - Follow Jesus
 - For the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His angels to reward each person for what he has done (see 2 Corinthians 5:10 = judgment seat of Christ)
11. How would you interpret verse 28?
 - Probably see Jesus at His transfiguration in the next lesson, Matthew 17.
12. What cost have you paid for becoming a disciple of Jesus? What joy have you received?

Challenge: How will you tell others that following Jesus is a miraculous sign from heaven.

Matthew
Lesson 18
Jesus' Glory, Power, and Authority
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time Jesus Continues to Train His Disciples. We saw the **Disciples' Confusion**, **Peter's Confession**, and **Believer's Cross**. Six days later some disciples will see **Jesus' Glory**. Afterwards, Jesus will display His **Power and Authority**.*

Glory

Read Matthew 17:1-13 and Luke 9:28-36.

1. Previously, Jesus had told the disciples and His death and resurrection. Describe what occurred in Matthew 16:28 and 17:1-3. What do you think is happening?
 - First, Jesus predicted that those would see the coming of the Son of Man in His Kingdom
 - Peter, James, John and Jesus go up to a high mountain
 - Then Jesus was transfigured before them
 - His face shone like the sun
 - His clothes became white as the light
 - Jesus is being revealed in His true glory without the veil of His human body
 - Just then Moses and Elijah appeared before them talking with Jesus
 - Moses represents the old covenant law
 - Elijah appears as the restorer of all things from Malachi 4:5-6
 - According to Luke they were talking about His departure which Jesus is about to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem
2. Notice that Peter is interrupted by God the Father. Why do the disciples fall face down and what does Jesus do?
 - God the Father interrupts Peter who didn't know what he was saying
 - Peter is known for speaking before thinking
 - When the disciples heard God speaking, they fell face down
 - But then Jesus touched them and said get up don't be afraid
 - Facedown
 - People fall facedown to God because of sin and fear of Him and His Glory
 - But Jesus is our advocate before the Father since Jesus has removed our sin
 - One day every knee will bow and face God
 - Either wrapped in Jesus' righteousness (judgment seat of Christ) 2 Cor 5:10
 - Or wrapped in sin (Great White throne judgment) Revelation 20
3. Have you been transformed by Jesus? Has Jesus touched you and said don't be afraid? Are you wrapped in Jesus' righteousness.
 - Yes, yes, and yes but explain
 - God sees me through the blood of Jesus
 - Jesus transformed me when I first believed, and keeps transforming me daily through the Holy Spirit
 - I can pray to the Father because of Jesus. The Father sees me through Jesus
 - And yet I fear God as all powerful even as my Abba Father
4. Coming down the mountain Jesus tells the disciples not to talk about this until He is raised up. How does He answer their question about Elijah?
 - Malachi 4:5-6 talks about Elijah coming

Matthew Lesson 18

Jesus' Glory, Power, and Authority

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- But Elijah did come in the form of John the Baptist even though JTB said he wasn't Elijah.

Lesson: Experiencing God's Glory in Jesus gives life rather than death.

Power

Read Matthew 17:14-23 and Mark 9:14-32.

5. After showing His divinity and glory in the previous section, how does Jesus show His humanity?
 - Seems frustrated with them
 - How long do I need to stay to train you
 - Unbelieving and perverse generation
 - How long do I put up with you
 - I wonder how many times Jesus is frustrated with me for unbelief and continued sin?
6. Notice that the disciples ask Jesus why they couldn't drive out the demon. What does Jesus teach them? What is He teaching you?
 - They have little faith and Mark says prayer
 - What does it mean to have faith as small as mustard seed?
 - Faith is not convincing yourself you can do something
 - Faith is not deciding what you want and then believing you have (name it and claim it)
 - Were the disciples trying to do this on their own power in the form of saying the "magic" words
 - Were they trying to make themselves great in Jesus' absence
 - Not sure Jesus means they can move mountains
 - But Jesus says nothing will be impossible
 - In Mark it talks about prayer
 - But prayer is dependence on God
 - Are you dependent on God or yourself
 - My faith
 - Do I have faith in the power of Jesus
 - Do I have faith in my own self
 - I have done something before and I can do it again
 - Do I have spiritual pride and proud of myself spiritually
 - True faith has an object: God, the Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Not how much faith you have but who is the object of your faith
7. What is faith to you? See Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 4:3.
 - Faith in God Himself and not faith in myself
 - I am sure of what I hope for = eternal life
 - Certain of what I do not see = God the Father, Jesus, the Son and Holy Spirit
 - Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness
8. How do verses 22-23 tie into verse 17?
 - Jesus knows He is going to suffer and die
 - Perhaps why the frustration of how long must He be with them
 - Jesus knows His time is short from a human point of view
 - His power to forgive sins will be shown at the cross

Matthew Lesson 18

Jesus' Glory, Power, and Authority

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson: Knowing Jesus' Power puts an end to self-confidence.

Authority

Read Matthew 17:24-27.

9. What do you know about the temple tax?
 - Instituted by Moses back in Exodus 30:15
 - ½ shekel
 - Moved to two Greek Drachmas in Jesus day
 - Every adult male over 20 had to pay
 - Also called an atonement tax
 - Reminds Jews that God redeemed them from bondage in Egypt
 - About 2 days wages
10. Notice that when Peter returns to the house, Jesus speaks first asking him a question. What does the phrase "sons are exempt" mean?
 - Peter had said Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God
 - Also he had been to the transfiguration where the Father said this is my son with whom I am well pleased
 - No Jesus says He is exempt from paying because He is God's son
 - Jesus paying the temple tax was like Jesus paying himself
11. Why did Jesus pay the temple tax for Himself and Peter, when He was exempt as God's Son and they didn't have the money?
 - Jesus didn't have a problem offending people when it was a matter of principal or truth
 - But, when it was a secondary issue, He gave up His rights so as not to cause unnecessary offense
12. How do you see Peter obediently trusting in Jesus' authority? Do you obediently trust in Jesus' authority?
 - Peter trusted that the first fish he caught would have a four drachma coin to pay the tax
 - That really seems unlikely that would happen
 - We trust that it did happen even though the Bible doesn't tell us the results
 - Do I obediently trust in Jesus' authority?
 - Yes, in His authority to forgive my sins
 - But, I am not always so obedient
 - If he asked me to go fishing and find a coin in a fish, not sure I would be obedient
 - Jesus is moving on to Jerusalem to suffer and die for our sins and then be raised on the third day

Lesson: Trusting in Jesus' sovereign authority enables our full obedience.

Challenge: How will you glorify Jesus with His power and authority to forgive sins?

Matthew

Lesson 19

Life in the Kingdom

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we saw **Jesus’ Glory** at His Transfiguration. Afterwards, Jesus displayed His **Power and Authority**. This time Jesus gives His discourse on **Life in the Kingdom** and calls believers to have **A Humble Heart, A Compassionate Heart, A Reconciling Heart, and A Merciful Heart**.*

A Humble Heart

Read Matthew 18:1-4 and Luke 9:46-48.

1. What do you think about asking the question about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
 - Jesus didn’t really rebuke them for the question
 - In Luke He knew their thoughts and that they were arguing over the question
 - The desire to be great and to live a life of significance for the Lord is God-given
 - We are created for greatness because we are created in image of God
 - This is a noble desire, but it corrupted by sin
 - In our desire to be great we want to be seen as great and be greater than someone else
 - Our problem is understanding what greatness is
 - Greatness before men or greatness before God
2. The word “change” in Greek means repent. How does Jesus describe greatness?
 - Have a change of heart and be humble as a little child is humbled
 - You humble yourself before God as a child does to its parent
 - In relationship to God you become like a child with empty hands
 - Be humble before the Lord
 - Not hating yourself
 - Not saying you aren’t worth anything
 - JTB example
 - Seen as great before the Lord
 - Chosen by God to do something great
 - Then in Matthew 3 “After me will come One who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry.”
 - JTB pointed the way to Jesus
 - CS Lewis: Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself; its thinking of yourself less
 - Jesus doesn’t condemn the quest for greatness, He transforms it

Lesson: Humility is knowing who you are before God.

A Compassionate Heart

Read Matthew 18:5-14.

3. How have you had compassion for a little child? How have you welcomed them in Jesus’ name?
 - Do you take time like Jesus had compassion to spend time when He fed 4000
 - Perhaps you have caused little ones to stumble, but have you confessed that sin in your heart and asked forgiveness

Matthew Lesson 19 Life in the Kingdom

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Lifewise Academy is an organization that is reaching out to school are children in school to teach them about Jesus
 - Schools have taken God and Jesus out of the conversation in many ways
 - In 2023 teaching children about transgender and those teachers should have a millstone around their neck and thrown into the see
- 4. How does Jesus expand the thought of “little ones” beginning in verse 7?
 - Little ones can me baby believers or believers that have a child-like faith
 - Believers who are worldly in their thinking
 - Or it can be poor and undervalued people
 - Widows or orphans
 - Don’t cause these to stumble
 - Have a compassionate heart for them
- 5. How do you interpret verse 10?
 - The Bible doesn’t give us other verses to reference here
 - Every child or every person has a guardian angel
 - Believers are served by angels
 - The angels are always watching the face of God so as to hear His command regarding a believer
 - God values those who are His and keeps them
 - Note: My Bible doesn’t have verse 11???
- 6. How do verses 12-14 reinforce verse 10? How do those verses encourage you? See Isaiah 53:6 and John 10:28-29.
 - Reinforce
 - We know that God does not want believers to wander of like sheep
 - Sheep are dumb and can wander off, like me
 - Encourage
 - Even though through sin, I wander off, or drift away, God is coming for me with His guardian angel
 - Also with the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Also, encourages me to have compassion for those in need and perhaps unlovely people

Lesson: A compassionate heart seeks and serves others without regard to status or recognition.

A Reconciling Heart

Read Matthew 18:15-20.

- 7. Are these verses calling believers to point out sins of others? What do you think the main theme of these verses are? See Matthew 7:1-5.
 - We aren’t to continually point out minor sins or irritations that other cause
 - The main goal is reconciliation
 - Do you have a reconciling heart
 - In the next section Peter asks how many times we should forgive
 - You may have the same irritating “sins” that you think others cause you

Matthew Lesson 19 Life in the Kingdom

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- If you have a reconciling heart, you won't be easily offended
8. What should happen when there is a serious sin that the relationship is actually broken? See Galatians 6:1.
- Go to your brother and show him his fault, just between the two of you
 - Don't tell the fault or sin to others
 - Notice that the goal is to reconcile and restore the relationship between the two of you
 - Has this happened to you? Has someone tried to restore the relationship with you or have you tried to restore the relationship with another?
 - Restore the person gently (Galatians 6) so that healing can begin
 - Also, the person may have a fault with you so it would be good to hear the other person's side
 - If the brother or sister doesn't listen
 - Take one or two others with you so that the testimony of other witnesses might be established
 - Again the goal is restoration
 - If the person doesn't listen to 2-3 people then, tell it to the church for discipline, but with the goal of restoration
 - If the person refuses to listen to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector
 - But remember Matthew was a tax collector who was brought to faith as Jesus did
 - It doesn't' say to remove them from the church
 - Have a reconciling heart and maybe God will bring them to their senses
9. What is the authority that Jesus is promising to believers?
- The authority to offer grace
 - Again the goal is reconciliation, repentance, and restoration
 - See verse 21-22 which we will talk about in the next section
 - When two or more of you on earth agree and ask about anything, it will be done by my Father in heaven
 - That is not a blank check
 - You need to ask in Jesus' name which mean ask in His character, His purpose, and His will
 - Again the goal is reconciliation
 - God's people should take the first step
 - Jesus didn't say the one who committed the sin should take the first step
 - Jesus didn't say if a person who wronged you, apologizes, sure they mean it and will never do it again

Lesson: God's people take the first step in reconciliation.

A Merciful Heart

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

10. The Jewish Rabbis thought that you should forgive a person 3 times. So, Peter more than doubles it when he asks how many times we should forgive a brother. What is Jesus' response?

Matthew

Lesson 19

Life in the Kingdom

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- I suppose Peter thought he was being pretty impressive by naming 7 times
 - Jesus says not seven times but seventy-seven times.
 - That really means an unlimited number of times, which may seem impossible
 - Some translations say 77 times others say 70X7
 - Again without limit
 - Jesus calls us to have merciful forgiving hearts
 - Doesn't mean feeling kindly toward the person
 - Doesn't mean papering over resentments
 - It does mean treating the person as though they have not hurt us and never bringing it up again
 - How do you do that?
 - Certainly not on your own strength
 - But having the merciful heart of Jesus
11. Jesus goes on to explain by giving a parable. In Jesus day ten thousand talents was an astronomically large sum. The annual tax revenue collected by Rome in the area was 900 talents. The second servant owed 900 denarii which was about three months wages. What do you learn from this parable? See 1 John 1:8-9.
- Believers experience two kinds of forgiveness
 - The first servant had a debt that was impossible to pay, which is just like our sin debt
 - But the master, Jesus gave Him grace and forgave it all
 - That is what Jesus has done for us by forgiving all of our past, present and future sins for we could never pay that debt back
 - The second type of forgiveness
 - Is the on-going daily need for cleansing from sins we commit after we are saved
 - This is to restore our relationship with God
 - This is pictured by the 100 denarii
12. What happens when we refuse to forgive others?
- Basically, we are saying what that person did to me is much greater or much worse than the sins I have committed against God
 - This cuts us off from the daily, ongoing forgiveness that restores us to God
 - Our peace, joy, and witness is also cut off
13. How many times has Jesus forgiven you?
- Unlimited

Lesson: A merciful heart knows God's unlimited grace.

Challenge: How will you allow God to change your heart to one of humility, compassion, reconciliation, and mercy?

Matthew
Lesson 20
Jesus' Love for People

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In our last lesson Jesus gives His discourse on **Life in the Kingdom** and calls believers to have **A Humble Heart, A Compassionate Heart, A Reconciling Heart, and A Merciful Heart**. In this lesson we will see **Jesus' Love for People**. He loves **Married People, Single People, Little People, and Wealthy People**.*

Married People

Read Matthew 19:1-9 and Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

1. During this time, the Jews had two opposing views of divorce and those views were hotly debated. The debate was not about divorce itself, but instead the grounds for divorce. One view was that divorce was permitted for something indecent only. The other view was not only something indecent but also for something displeasing to the man. As Jesus came to Judea and large crowds followed Him to be healed, what do you think the Pharisees motive was?
 - They wanted to test Him
 - On which side of the debate did He fall
 - Notice their question, “to divorce his wife for any and every reason”
 - Which side would Jesus side with? Either way Jesus would alienate one side or the other
 - They really didn't want to know the truth but wanted to discredit Jesus
 - Not much different from our politicians today
 - Also, Jesus was in the territory of Herod Antipas
 - Remember Herod married his sister-in-law and had JTB killed
 - So Jesus could tick off Herod, go to prison and be killed
 - Either way the Pharisees win and discredit or get rid of Jesus
2. Describe Jesus' answer in verses 4-6. See Genesis 1:27, 2:24, and 5:2.
 - Describe
 - In Genesis at the beginning, the creator made them male and female
 - Sexuality is God's plan
 - It is a gift and His purpose in marriage
 - The world says that God wants to restrict our enjoyment of sex
 - But sex outside marriage is forgivable but not without consequences
 - For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, be united with his wife
 - The two will become one flesh
 - They are no longer two but one
 - Marriage is permanent but parent child relationship is permanent
 - So what God has joined together let no man separate
 - This is said in traditional wedding vows
 - But maybe not anymore today
 - God's plan for marriage has not changed today
 - Jesus dealt with the issue of divorce by focusing on the sanctity of marriage as God ordained
3. The Pharisees continue with their test by asking why Moses allowed divorce? Describe Jesus' answer in verse 8.
 - The Pharisees are saying Jesus had just contradicted the law

Matthew
Lesson 20
Jesus' Love for People

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Jesus didn't say Moses commanded divorce, but He permitted it
 - He permitted it because their hearts were hard
 - Moses gave a concession because of hardness of hearts
 - The certificate of divorce was a protection for women, but never God's plan for marriage
- 4. How does Jesus clarify divorce in verse 9?
 - Jesus raises marriage above custom, culture, worldly thinking, common practice, and even above the law.
 - For God's people, the only permissible grounds for divorce is unfaithfulness
 - Even then divorce is permitted but not commanded
 - Perhaps there could be a change of heart between the two and reconciliation
 - See 1 Corinthians 7.
- 5. How do you view Jesus' teaching as relevant in today's world? See Malachi 2:16.
 - Divorce among believers is just as high as unbelievers
 - Homosexual marriage is being accepted and should not be
 - People are not listening to Jesus because their hearts are hard
 - Divorce has consequences for the husband and wife as well as children
 - Jesus loves married people and even divorced people

Lesson: God's plan for marriage is between one man and one woman until death.

Single People

Read Matthew 19:10-12.

- 6. Apparently, Jesus' teaching on divorce was difficult for the disciples as they ask, perhaps it is better to remain single. What is Jesus' answer? See 1 Corinthians 7:8-9.
 - Not everyone can accept this word but only to those it has been given
 - Some people are eunuchs because they were born with a physical incapacity for sexual relations or disinterest in marriage
 - Jesus was unmarried
 - The apostle Paul was unmarried most likely “to remain as I am
 - Some people were eunuchs because they are made that way by men
 - Others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven
 - Perhaps this was Paul's case
 - So only those who can accept singleness should accept it
- 7. Whether married or single, how will you joyfully do the work God has called you to do?
 - Jesus loves single people and calls them to work for Him

Lesson: God will enable you to joyfully do whatever work He calls you to.

Little People

Read Matthew 19:13-15 and Matthew 18:5-6.

- 8. Like the disciples, have you tended to disregard little people?
 - Sometimes I have, not wanted to teach them
 - But little people are humble and will accept the truth of scripture
- 9. When should you begin teaching little people?
 - As soon as they are born, put your hands on them like Jesus did
 - I know an organization that has a ministry to infants

Matthew
Lesson 20
Jesus' Love for People

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Teach them the truth before the world gets to them
- Jesus loves the little children

Lesson: No child is too young to introduce to Jesus.

Wealthy People

Read Matthew 19:16-30, and Luke 18:18-30.

10. Describe the man that came to Jesus.

- From Luke, he was a ruler, perhaps local official with power and prestige
- Most likely a Jew, God's chosen people
- He was good and kept all the commands of the law, he told Jesus
 - Notice Jesus pointed him to 10 commandments
- He was young
- He had wealth
- He really had everything
- But apparently, he lacked something and wanted eternal life
- What must he do to get eternal life
- What do I still lack (20)

11. What was Jesus' response to the young man? See Mark 10:21. Why did Jesus tell him to sell everything?

- First, Jesus taught him that no one is good or perfect
 - There is only one that is good and Jesus didn't identify Himself as good or sinless
- Then Jesus lovingly taught him to be perfect he needed to go sell all his wealth
 - In Mark, Jesus loved him
 - The man went away said because he couldn't give up all his wealth
 - Instead he most likely lost eternal life
- Do we need to sell everything to be saved?

12. The disciples were greatly astonished and wondered who could be saved. What did Jesus teach them and how is that encouraging to you? See Ephesians 2:8-10.

- What did He teach
 - It is impossible for man to save himself
 - But it is possible with God and for God to save you
 - At the judgment
 - The disciples will sit on 12 thrones judging 12 tribes of Israel
 - Those that gave up and followed Jesus will receive 100 times what they gave up and will inherit eternal life
 - First will be last and last first
 - So at the judgment there will be many surprises
 - Those that seemed to be first will be last
- Encouraging to you
 - It is by God's grace I am saved
 - You will receive 100 fold what I gave up for Jesus
 - You will receive eternal life
 - Jesus loves you

Matthew
Lesson 20
Jesus' Love for People

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson: Jesus gives us everything He as promised, all we need, and usually more than we deserve.

Challenge: Jesus loves people that are married, single, children, and wealthy. How will you love them too?

Matthew
Lesson 21
Jesus' Travel to Jerusalem

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we saw **Jesus' Love for People**. He loves **Married People, Single People, Little People, and Wealthy People**. In this lesson, we see **Jesus' Travel to Jerusalem**. But first we will see **Believers' Rewards** for Jesus' humble servants. Next, His disciples will learn about **Jesus' Suffering Servant Lordship**, and finally, we will see **Jesus' Triumphal Entry and Temple Cleansing**.*

Believers' Rewards

Read Matthew 19:30-20:16.

1. Jesus taught this parable in response to Peter's question in Matthew 19:27. In verse 30, Jesus explains about the last being first and the first last. Jesus further explains what He means by a parable. What does each represent?
 - a. Landowner
 - God Himself
 - b. Vineyard
 - God's kingdom
 - c. Working men
 - Workers who responded to God's call
 - Believers
 - They had the privilege of doing good works for His kingdom (Ephesians (2:10)
2. Notice that all workers received the same pay, even though some came to work later in the day. How do you interpret what Jesus is saying?
 - No one can earn their salvation
 - Workers for Jesus (believers) all receive eternal life whether they came worked a lot or not so much
 - God is generous with His gift of salvation and people don't earn it
 - Rewards for Christian service might be different
 - Don't be prideful or grumble that you have worked harder than other but received the same salvation
 - Believers shouldn't resent the jobs for the kingdom that others have
 - Believers should be humble about the work that they do and not think they are better than other believers
 - Have a humble heart and do not be proud
 - You might be surprised at those that received salvation
 - Through faith Jesus, believers receive far more than they could imagine
3. What good work has God prepared for you to do? See Ephesians 2:10.
 - God gifts each one of us with talents
 - God gives us a work or works to do during our lives for the good of His Kingdom
 - Personal

Lesson: Believers receive the reward of eternal life and rewards beyond measure.

Jesus' Suffering Servant Lordship

Read Matthew 20:17-34 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

Matthew
Lesson 21
Jesus' Travel to Jerusalem

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

4. As they are travelling to Jerusalem, Jesus predicts His death and resurrection for a third time. What additional information does He give compared to Matthew 16:21 and Matthew 17:22-23.
 - Matthew 16
 - Go to Jerusalem
 - Suffer at hands of religious leaders
 - Killed, and raised on third day
 - Matthew 17
 - Betrayed into the hands of men
 - Killed and raised to life on the third day
 - Matthew 20
 - Jerusalem
 - Betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law
 - Condemned to death, turned over to Gentiles (Romans)
 - Will be mocked, flogged and crucified
 - On third day raised from the dead
 - Notice in all three He mentions death and resurrection
 - How is Jesus a suffering servant
 - Jesus knew exactly what was to happen to Him, He told Isaiah what would happen
 - This was God's plan according to foreknowledge of the Father
 - In John 10: “No one takes my life, I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again?”
 - Luke 18:34 says the disciples didn't understand any of this
5. How is Jesus God's Servant Leader?
 - How is Jesus a suffering servant
 - Jesus knew exactly what was to happen to Him, He told Isaiah what would happen
 - This was God's plan according to foreknowledge of the Father
 - In John 10: “No one takes my life, I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again?”
 - Luke 18:34 says the disciples didn't understand any of this
6. Just after this James, John and their mother ask to sit at Jesus' right and left. Describe that question and answer with Jesus.
 - Jesus says they don't know what they are asking. Luke 18:34 tells us that
 - They reply that they can drink the cup that Jesus would drink
 - They don't know what they are saying yes to
 - Jesus tells them they will drink from His cup
 - Jesus' cup is death on the cross, payment for sins
 - They would suffer persecution and eventual death
 - Jesus cannot grant them to sit on right or left. These places belong to those for whom the Father has prepared
 - Now let's find out how Jesus teaches about being a servant
7. When the 10 other disciples learned about James' and John's request, they were indignant with the two brothers. What did Jesus teach them?

Matthew Lesson 21 Jesus' Travel to Jerusalem

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- You are different from the Gentiles (Romans), they Lord it over you.
 - But, you are not to be like them
 - Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant
 - Whoever wants to be first must be your slave
 - Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Isaiah 53:12, where He bore the sins of many)
8. How did Jesus serve the two blind men as He left Jericho to Jerusalem?
- Had compassion for them
 - Stopped on His way to the trials and cross He was about to face and healed them
 - That is amazing Servant leadership
9. What do you learn about servant leadership in your church, home and work?
- Think of the other person first
 - Don't think of your own interests
 - Subordinate your own interests to God first and then to those that you serve
 - Seek God's will first
 - Then do that for the benefit of the people you serve

Triumphal Entry and Temple Cleansing

Read Matthew 21:1-17.

10. Now we begin Jesus' last week in His earthly life. It is just before Passover and the population of Jerusalem swelled exponentially to celebrate and remember Passover. What strikes you about Jesus' entry? See Zechariah 9:9.
- Jesus gets a colt to fulfill Zechariah 9:9
 - Large crowd watching Him ride in
 - Spread their cloaks and branches on the road for Him
 - Crowd ahead and behind shouted Hosanna to Son of David
 - Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord
 - Hosanna in the Highest = glory in the highest
 - Notice verse 10
 - Whole city is stirred
 - But they asked who is this?
 - Perhaps the Jerusalem residents didn't know
 - But the crowds in front and back called Him a prophet from Nazareth in Galilee
 - Crowds recognized Him as Son of David = Messiah and King
 - In one week after saying Hosanna, they will say crucify Him
11. Why did Jesus enter the temple area and overturn the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves?
- The money changers charged exorbitant change rates to change currency
 - The people sold doves to the poor at a huge cost
 - These were all to be a sacrifice for their sins
 - Buyers and sellers were making a fortune
 - Jesus called them a den of robbers
 - Those sacrifices will not be needed for the next Sabbath as the temple curtain is torn in Matthew 27:51

Matthew Lesson 21

Jesus' Travel to Jerusalem

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

- Jesus is the Passover Lamb or Lamb of God (John 1:29)
12. Jesus healed many at the temple. What did the chief priests think and say?
- They were indignant (disciples were indignant against James and John)
 - Even though they saw the healings
 - Criticizing Jesus for the children praising Him
 - Jesus quotes Psalm 8:2
 - Jesus left for Bethany and spent the night

Lesson: Where Christ enters, He cleanses.

Challenge: How will you humble yourself before God's Suffering Servant who bore your sins?

Matthew Lesson 22

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we saw **Jesus’ Travel to Jerusalem** for Passover. Before His arrival He teaches about **Believers’ Rewards** and about His **Suffering Servant Lordship**. Then we learn about His **Triumphal Entry and Temple Cleansing** as Jesus begins His final week. In the next two lessons we will see encounters between **Jesus and the Jewish Leaders**. In this lesson we will study four parables giving **Warning about Hypocrisy, Warning about Authority, Warning about Fruitlessness, and Warning about Rejection**.*

Warning about Hypocrisy

Read Matthew 21:18-22, Isaiah 29:13 and Romans 11:25-29.

1. Jesus’ miracles have been ones of restoration. Jesus does a miracle of destruction in front of His disciples? Has He changed?
 - Jesus has never done this before
 - Why does He do this now
 - He is not callous
 - He is not impulsive
 - He is not temperamental
2. What is this miracle teaching?
 - Fig tree is a symbol of Israel
 - There are leaves but no fruit
 - Israel looks like they are alive with all trappings of religion
 - But, they are not heartfelt for God (as we have discussed before)
 - Read Isaiah 29:13. God says, “Honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”
 - Worship me in vain with rules taught by men
 - A lot of religious activity going on but when the promised Messiah came they not only didn’t recognize Him but plotted to kill Him
 - This is a prophetic symbol of what is to come to the nation of Israel which will wither and die suddenly
 - 40 years after this Israel will be conquered by Rome (70AD)
 - Temple will be torn down and Jews will be disbursed for almost 2000 years
 - This became the time of the Gentiles
3. What do you learn about faith from these verses?
 - For some, faith is anything we want it to mean
 - Faith in myself
 - Faith in faith
 - Faith that things will turn out well in the end
 - Biblical faith is faith in God
 - Whatever we ask in prayer, Mark says
 - Can we literally through a mountain into the sea?
 - Not a literal promise
 - Moving a mountain and throwing into the sea would be stupid
 - Jesus never did it and no one else has
 - Atheists use this as proof text that God doesn’t exist since this has not happened

Matthew Lesson 22

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- But, with God all things are possible
- Peter heals a cripple man in Acts 3
- What is your mountain something seemingly impossible
- Pray in God's will
- Jesus prayed in Gethsemane if it is your will to take this cup away (Matthew 26:42)

Lesson: True prayer is absolute confidence in God's power couple with absolute submission to His will.

Warning about Authority

Read Matthew 21:23-32.

4. The chief priests and elders of the people challenge Jesus's authority to teach and heal. How does Jesus respond and what is the result of His response?
 - Instead, He asks them a question: Was John's baptism from heaven or from men?
 - Jews couldn't answer
 - If they say from heaven, then why didn't you believe him?
 - If they say from men, then the people will go against him since they thought he was a prophet
5. What does Jesus go on to tell the chief priests and elders?
 - Talks to them about John the Baptist
 - Tells a story about two sons
 - They answer correctly
 - Then he tells them about themselves
 - Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you
 - The tax collectors believed John that they should repent
 - Even after you saw this you did not repent
6. Do you share authority over your life with Jesus? If so, how can you learn to submit to His authority completely? See Matthew 28:18.
 - We have free will to chose and go our own way
 - It is a life-long process to submit to Jesus completely in obedience
 - The battle is disobedience due to sin (Romans 7)
 - When we confess our sins....(1 John 1:9)
 - If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord...
 - Jesus is Lord and Savior

Lesson: Jesus doesn't offer suggestions. He commands that we bow to His authority.

Warning about Fruitlessness

Read Matthew 21:33-46 and Isaiah 5:1-7.

7. What does each of the following represent in this parable? Why would the chief priests and elders understand this?
 - a. Landowner
 - God
 - b. Vineyard
 - Israel
 - c. Farmers/Tenants

Matthew Lesson 22

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Jewish leaders
 - d. Servants
 - Old Testament Prophets that they killed or rejected
 - Like Isaiah who predicted their exile and warned them
 - Isaiah warns and prophecies about the exile and destruction of Jerusalem
 - Then in Ezra and Nehemiah the temple was rebuilt and Jews regathered
 - e. Landowners Son
 - Jesus Christ their Messiah
 - They will kill Him in a few days
 - Notice that the Jews do not understand this, even though they condemn the wicked tenants, which is them
 - They say to rent the land to new tenants who will produce fruit
 - That is exactly what happened as the new tenants are Gentiles
 - The actually condemn themselves
8. What are Jesus' comments to the chief priests and elders after they answer? How do they respond? See Psalm 118:22-23 and Acts 4:11.
- comments
 - Kingdom of God will be taken from them
 - He is quite direct
 - It will be given to those that produce fruit
 - Those will be the disciples and other believers
 - Peter's sermon in Act 2
 - Jesus is the stone you rejected which has become the cap stone or finish of salvation
 - In the next section Jesus gets more direct
 - Jews response
 - You would think they might want to ask more questions and repent
 - Instead they knew Jesus was talking about them
 - They wanted to arrest Him but were afraid of the people who thought He was a prophet
 - They really had hard hearts
9. How will you produce spiritual fruit? See Ephesians 2:8-10.
- Be strongly rooted in Jesus Christ
 - Submit to Jesus' authority as Lord of your life
 - Say yes to the good works God has prepared in advance for you to do.

Lesson: Spiritual privileges don't guarantee spiritual fruit.

Warning about Rejection

Read Matthew 22:1-14.

10. Jesus speaks again to the chief priests and elders. What is Jesus warning them about in verses 1-7?
- God's servants have invited the Jews to the kingdom of heaven (wedding banquet) two times
 - The first time they just refused to come even though His servants invited them

Matthew Lesson 22

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- The second time the king sent out more servants to invite them to come
 - They paid no attention
 - Some went of the field others to their business
 - The rest seized the servants and killed them
 - This could refer to Jesus and His disciples
 - All disciples were killed except for John who died in prison
 - King is enraged (wrath of God) and burned their city
 - This could refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
11. Describe what Jesus is saying in verses 8-14. See Isaiah 61:10.
- Those invited refused to come and therefore didn't deserve to come
 - Servants were sent out to others in the world to come
 - Gathered all the people they can find both good and bad
 - Wedding hall was filled with guests
 - But the one man didn't have the right wedding clothes
 - Notice that the man was speechless, he had no excuse
 - The man was thrown out
12. Revelation 19:6-9 reveals an event future to us. How will you be dressed for the “wedding of the lamb?” See Galatians 3:27.
- Have you clothed yourself in Jesus' righteousness?
 - How can you be sure? See John 10:28-29

Lesson: There are many ways to reject the gospel, but only one way to accept it.

Challenge: How will you be one of God's servants and share the good news of Jesus with someone?

Matthew Lesson 23

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time Jesus had several encounters with the Jewish leaders and gave them four parables. Jesus gave them **Warning about Hypocrisy, Warning about Authority, Warning about Fruitlessness, and Warning about Rejection.** In this lesson Jesus has His final encounters with the Jewish Leaders before His arrest and trial. First **Jesus Answers Three Questions**, second **Jesus Asks His Own Questions**, and finally, **Jesus Pronounces Woes and Warnings.***

Jesus Answers Three Questions

Read Matthew 22:15-40.

1. This first question to trap Jesus was a political one. Jerusalem was ruled by the Romans. Some people supported the Roman rule and the Pharisees did not. It may have been as contentious as it is today. What do you learn from Jesus' answer.
 - Interesting that He had them bring them a denarius which the price of the temple tax
 - Caesar's picture was on the coin
 - Jesus says to pay Caesar the money, but honor God with what belongs to Him
 - Don't worry about politics
 - Also, don't test Jesus
 - As a follower of Jesus, political agendas take second place
2. The second question is doctrinal. It is interesting that the Sadducees ask about the resurrection because they don't believe in the resurrection. What do you learn from Jesus' answer?
 - First of all, Jesus tells the truth and doesn't mince words.
 - He is not politically correct
 - He says you are wrong and don't know the scriptures
 - That really supports scripture is God breathed
 - He says that there is a resurrection and it will happen because of the power of God
 - There is no marriage in heaven since we will be like the angels
 - No sex, no procreation
 - No death
 - God is the God of the living, which again talks about eternal life
3. The third question is ethical or legal as the Pharisees hoped to outdo the Sadducees which failed. The scribes had identified 613 separate commandments to keep, so which is the most important. How do you love God and how do you love your neighbor?
 - God
 - All of your heart, mind and soul
 - Heart: Are you reminded daily what Jesus has done for you in your heart
 - Soul: is your inner being. Will you follow Jesus joyfully
 - Mind is your intellect. Read God's word, pray, memorizing scripture so that you fill you mind with the things of God
 - Do you remind yourself who He is, He agapeo you
 - Do you thank Him for creating you, knitting you together in the womb and providing all that you need
 - Do you seek after Him daily

Matthew Lesson 23

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Do you listen to the Holy Spirit in obedience or do you grieve the Spirit
- Neighbor
 - That is all people virtually
 - Do you ask God to give you a heart of love rather than stone
 - Do you care about their spiritual well being
 - Do you help in time of need
 - Do you spend time with them
 - Do you love the unlikeable the way Jesus loves you?
 - If you can do those things then you will naturally not sin against them
 - Amazing that all of the law and prophets are tied to these commands
 - Jesus supports the Old Testament
- 4. What questions have you asked of Jesus?
 - Are they questions to trap Him or questions to truly understand who He is?
 - Have you been angry at Him?

Lesson: Human life has been created for God to dwell in the center.

Jesus Asks His Own Question

Read Matthew 22:41-46 and Psalm 110.

- 5. Why did Jesus ask this question of the Pharisees who had been trying to trap Him?
 - Jesus wanted to reveal who He was
 - He wasn't trying to trap them, but seems to be trying to teach them.
- 6. What is significant about Jesus' question about whose son Christ (Messiah) is?
 - The Jews knew that the Messiah would come from the line of David
 - Remember in other parts of Matthew people called Jesus the Son of David
 - They were correct about
 - The Pharisees would know that would be true also
 - So Jesus is giving them a clue to point to Him as the Messiah
- 7. David wrote Psalm 110. How do you answer Jesus' question about David calling the Messiah Lord and Him being David's son? See John 1:1-14.
 - Jesus is fully God and fully man
 - I never fully realized that growing up until I saw John 1:1-14
 - Jesus is telling them that by quoting Psalm 110
 - The entire Old Testament points to Jesus
 - Jesus is the center of everything for us
 - Who do you say Jesus is?

Lesson: The identity of Jesus is the central question of life.

Jesus Pronounces Woes and Warnings

Read Matthew 23:1-39.

- 8. Finished with leaders, Jesus now speaks to the crowds and His disciples. What is Jesus teaching them in verses 1-12.
 - 1-4
 - Teachers of the laws and Pharisees are to be obeyed and do everything they tell you.
 - But don't do what they do, they don't practice what they preach

Matthew Lesson 23

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Give burdens to other but not willing to carry them themselves
 - 5-7
 - They do things for men to see
 - Show how spiritual they are
 - Love to have men call them Rabbi
 - Do I do that
 - 8-10
 - Don't be called Rabbi
 - You only have one master and you are brothers
 - Only one father in heaven
 - Only one teacher is Christ
 - 11-12
 - Be humble or else you will be humbled
 - If you humble yourself, you will be exalted
9. Summarize the seven woes Jesus pronounces on the teachers of the law and Pharisees.
- a. Verses 13-14: Hypocrites that shut kingdom of heaven in men's faces
 - b. Verse 15: Hypocrites that go to convert one person to your false teaching
 - c. Verses 16-22: Blind guide you swear and only certain oaths are binding depending on who you swear by
 - d. Verses 23-24: Hypocrites give a 10th, but neglect justice, mercy, and faithfulness
 - e. Verses 25-26: Hypocrites you are clean on the outside but dirty on the inside. Heart is not right for God
 - f. Verses 27-28: Hypocrite righteous on the outside and wicked on the inside
 - g. Verses 29-32: Hypocrite that say you wouldn't have killed the prophets their forefathers did, but they are going to do so now.
10. How can you avoid being a hypocrite? See Matthew 7:1-5.
- Confess you own sin before you condemn someone else
 - Ask God to change your heart of stone on the inside, even though you look good on the outside
11. What is the final warning that Jesus gives? See Romans 11:25-29.
- Jesus reached out to Jews so often (hen gathers chicks)
 - Snakes and brood of vipers. How will you avoid judgment and being condemned to hell
 - They will be judged in this generation (36)
 - Jesus has called to Israel from the beginning, but they were unwilling
 - He finally exiled them for their disobedience, but then regathered them 70 years latter (Ezra & Nehemiah)
 - The temple will be destroyed in 70AD, which he will talk about in chapter 24
 - For 2000 years the Jews have been without Jesus, but God has regathered them
 - Jesus will come again to save Israel
 - Zechariah 14
 - Revelation 19
 - Now, after coming for the Jews in His first coming, He will leave them until His second coming, which has not happened yet. At that time, they will worship Him (39)
12. How do you escape God's judgment? See John 3:16-18.

Matthew
Lesson 23

Jesus and the Jewish Leaders-Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Accept the free gift of Jesus
- Until you do you are already condemned
- God forgives sins but does not forgive stubborn resistance to Himself

Challenge: How will you humble yourself before the Lord each day?

Matthew
Lesson 24
Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*In our last lesson, Jesus has His final encounters with the Jewish Leaders before His arrest and trial. First **Jesus Answers Three Questions**, second **Jesus Asks His Own Questions**, and finally, **Jesus Pronounces Woes and Warnings**. In this lesson we will begin the first of two lessons as Jesus sits with His disciples giving them His **Mount of Olives Discourse**, known as the Olivet Discourse. In this lesson we will see **Signs Preceding Jerusalem’s Destruction**, **Signs Preceding Christ’s Return**, **Signs Accompanying Christ’s Return**, and **Significance for Today**.*

Signs Preceding Jerusalem’s Destruction

Read Matthew 24:1-3 and Luke 21:20-24.

Note: Passover and Jesus crucifixion is just two days away according to Matthew 26:1-2.

1. Jesus tells the disciples that the temple will be destroyed. Notice that the disciple’s first of three questions is when will this happen? Matthew does not answer the first question, but how does Luke tell us the answer?
 - When the Jerusalem is surrounded by armies, which occurred in 70AD when Rome took over the city
 - People will be killed or taken prisoner to all nations
 - Over 1 million people killed
 - 97,000 taken as slaves
 - Trampled on by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled
 - Romans 11:25-29, which says until the full number of Gentiles come in
 - So Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles and still is
 - So Jesus’ first statement of the temple’s destruction has been fulfilled
2. Interestingly the disciples ask three questions about the timing of the temple’s destruction, Jesus’ return, and the end of the age. How do you see their view of these events versus your view of these events?
 - Their question reveals that these will all occur at the same time
 - But for us with a view of history, we see that Jerusalem has been destroyed and is still “trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled
 - End times understanding is best view through history
 - Jesus has returned yet
 - The end of the age hasn’t occurred yet
 - Those questions are future to us
 - The disciples had a compressed view of these fulfillments as did Daniel
 - Our view is an expanded view
3. How do you view prophecies that are future to us? What to you learn about God?
 - I can trust that they will be fulfilled because of the fulfillment of many other prophecies
 - We studied many so far that have been fulfilled, Jesus’ birth for example
 - Jerusalem’s temple destruction
 - God is totally sovereign over history.
 - He has it planned out in great detail
 - He knows all things
 - He can do all things
 - God has revealed a lot to us through the Bible

Matthew Lesson 24

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- But He hasn't revealed everything
- God is faithful
- In everything God is working for our good (Romans 8:28)
- Fulfilment of prophecy is powerful evidence that there is a God and that the Bible is His word

Lesson: No one knows the future except God who shapes it.

Signs Preceding Christ's Return

Read Matthew 24:4-29.

4. The end times began with Jesus' resurrection and will end with His return. From verses 4-14, what are signs preceding Christ's return? Which of those have occurred?
 - False Messiah's, claiming to be Christ (5)
 - Charles Manson, Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon
 - Don't be deceived
 - Wars and rumors of wars and nations rising against nations (6-7)
 - Most certainly many wars
 - WWII was supposed to be war the ends all wars, now we are threatened with nuclear holocaust
 - China rising against US
 - Famines and earth quakes (8)
 - All the time
 - Some scientists say this is increase
 - Climate change people hoping to save us from famine and destruction = false Christs
 - Jesus says these are the beginnings of birth pangs that increase with frequency and intensity
 - Persecutions of Christians (9)
 - More have been persecuted in 20th century than all other centuries combine
 - This will increase as the end draws near, and is increasing in America
 - Apostasy (10)
 - Many will turn from faith and betray and hate each other
 - People will preach Christ but not the one of the Bible
 - Seeing that today in America
 - False prophets (11)
 - Will appear and deceive many people
 - Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy
 - Increase in wickedness and decline in love (12)
 - Decline in love for God
 - Decline in family
 - Sin is applauded with sexual deviation
 - But those standing firm will be saved
 - Gospel of Kingdom of heaven preached to the whole world (14)
 - Lots of gospel on TV, YouTube
 - Ads by Franklin Graham

Matthew Lesson 24

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

5. What are four specific signs that the end is near from verses 14-29? Have any of those signs occurred?
 - Worldwide preaching of Bible is continuing and getting closer (14)
 - Lot's of internet and TV
 - Final fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy (15-20)
 - See Daniel 9:25-27
 - Several fulfillments
 - 2 BC
 - 70AD
 - Then a final one which will be much worse than 70AD
 - Check out verse 21 where great distress and never to be equaled again
 - Covenant with Israel for 7 years then breaks in in 3.5 years
 - Future to us
 - False signs and wonders (23-26)
 - Performed to deceive the elect if that was possible
 - Appearances of false Christs, but coming of Son of Man will be visible everywhere = public and visible everywhere
 - Future to us
 - Disturbances in the heavens (29)
 - Stable things are no longer stable
 - Future to us
6. What source of truth do you rely on for your present and future? Explain why? See John 1:1-14.
 - Jesus has given us our present and tells us our future
 - Bible is the book about Jesus
 - Internet and politicians seem to have little truth

Lesson: God's Word is the certain defense against deception.

Signs Accompanying Christ's Return

Read Matthew 24:30-35. See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-19 and Revelation 19:11-16.

7. What are the signs that will accompany Christ's return and how do you understand them?
 - Sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky and all nations will mourn
 - Everyone will see Him on clouds of of sky with power and great glory
 - Some will mourn at His coming
 - Will send His angels with loud trumpet call to gather the elect from four corners and from one end of heaven to another
 - His coming will be visible, glorious, powerful
8. Explain the parable of the fig tree in verses 32-34.
 - Jesus is telling us to look for the signs of the times
 - When you see these things He told us about in previous verses we will know that the end is near
 - But in the next section He will tell us we don't know the hour or the day
 - It is ok to look for the signs He told us about.

Matthew Lesson 24

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 1

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Jesus tells us these things will certainly happen in this generation
- The stability of heaven and earth will pass away (not the third heaven) but Jesus' words will never pass away
- Trust in Jesus not the world, He is the only one that can meet your need

Lesson: Trust in Jesus' Word and not the World.

Significance for Today

Read Matthew 24:36-51.

9. Do you look for the time of the end? Why or why not?
 - Jesus gave us some clues in the previous verses
 - No one knows the hour or the day
 - It appears that we need to wait until the full number of Gentiles come in
 - When will that be? No one knows except the Father
 - Note about “taken”: Could be taken to heaven or to judgment
10. How are you to live as you wait for Jesus' coming? See 1 Peter 1:3-9.
 - Keep watch = live in the hope of Christ's return
 - Faith in the hope or surety of Jesus' return
 - Jesus could come at any time
 - What will you be doing when He comes
 - Be a wise and faithful servant and serve others as you would like to be served
 - Don't do wicked things because Jesus is a long time coming
 - Live expectantly
 - Be a servant for Jesus doing the good works He prepared in advance for you to do.
 - Peter says it best (read)
 - Tell others about this good news (See Matthew 28:18-20)

Lesson: Live as Jesus' servant in this world with great joy and purpose.

Challenge: How will you joyfully go and make disciples until Jesus comes for you?

Matthew
Lesson 25
Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we began our two-part series about Jesus’ **Mount of Olives Discourse**, known as the Olivet Discourse. We saw **Signs Preceding Jerusalem’s Destruction, Signs Preceding Christ’s Return, Signs Accompanying Christ’s Return, and Significance for Today**. As we study Part 2, Jesus will teach us to be ready in three ways: **Ready in Relationship, Ready in Responsibility, and Ready in Righteousness**.*

Ready in Relationship

Parable of 10 Virgins

Read Matthew 25:1-13.

1. What is represented by the following in this parable?
 - a. Bridegroom
 - Jesus Christ
 - b. Wise Virgins
 - Believing Christian Church
 - c. Foolish Virgins
 - Unbelievers that may look like Christians
 - d. Lamps
 - Their Faith
 - e. Oil
 - Holy Spirit
 - f. Wedding banquet
 - Kingdom of Heaven or Wedding Supper of the lamb (Revelation)
2. Were the wise virgins selfish by not giving oil to the foolish ones? Explain why or why not.
 - The oil represents the Holy Spirit
 - They were not selfish because they could not give the Holy Spirit to them
 - The foolish had to “buy” or receive the Holy Spirit themselves and couldn’t just borrow it
 - Each person is responsible for receiving the Holy Spirit by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior
 - Believers are responsible for sharing the gospel but others have to accept it themselves
3. What made all of the difference between the wise and the foolish virgins? What does that mean for you? See Ephesians 1:11-14.
 - Accepting Jesus by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) is the only way of receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - It is all by God’s grace but you have to accept
 - Notice in Ephesians the Holy Spirit is a “deposit guaranteeing our inheritance”
4. What is the main point of this parable?
 - Don’t wait until the last minute to accept Jesus
 - Be ready for Him as we discussed last time
 - Jesus can come anytime
 - Or you can die anytime

Matthew Lesson 25

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson: Bible prophecy isn't given to satisfy our curiosity, but to make us ready for Jesus' coming.

Ready in Responsibility

Parable of Talents

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

5. In Jesus' time a "talent" was a measure of weight and between 58 to 80 pounds of copper, silver, or gold. Today talent can mean gift or ability, but in this passage it means wealth. What wealth is Jesus talking about in this parable?
 - Wealth of spiritual gifts
 - Knowledge of Christ and Bible
 - Time and opportunity to serve
 - Life, intellect, time
 - Notice that the man on the journey entrusted property to the man
 - Everything we have is given by God and entrusted to us
6. What did the first two servants do with their talents? What was their reward when the man came back after a long time for the accounting?
 - They put the money to work and both doubled it
 - Reward, well done good and faithful servant
 - Faithful with a few things I will put you in charge of many
 - Come and share in your master's happiness
 - Notice that they both got the same reward even though they had different amounts
7. Why did the third servant bury his talent in the ground? What happened to him on accounting day?
 - Buried
 - New that the master was a hard man
 - Harvesting where you have not sown
 - In other words letting the weeds grow up with the tares
 - So I was afraid and giving back you talent
 - What happened
 - Talent was taken from him and given to others
 - Then thrown outside of the kingdom where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth
8. How do you interpret this parable and how does it make you ready for Jesus coming for you? See Ephesians 2:8-9 and then 10.
 - God provided everything for us and saved us through faith without Him we are lost
 - God prepared good works for us to do and gave us the gifts to do those works
 - We should do the good works He called us to do
 - We should be ready right away to do the good works
 - But if we haven't accepted Jesus, then we are fearful, afraid and even angry and we will not see the kingdom of heaven
 - Another interpretation sees all three as believers
 - The third servant did not use his gifts did not lose his salvation but got no reward
 - From Paul's writing we can think of

Matthew Lesson 25

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Judgment seat of Christ which is a judgment for rewards (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- Man is saved but suffers loss (1 Corinthians 3:14-15)

Lesson: The greater our spiritual privileges and opportunities the greater our accountability.

Ready in Righteousness

Sheep and Goats

Read Matthew 25:31-46

9. These verses are not strictly a parable because it tells about a real event future to us. Who is being judged and by whom? See Psalm 110:1.
- It says the nations
 - But then He will separate the people
 - Kings and subjects
 - Master and servants
 - Rich, poor, male, female
 - Heritage, ethnic background
 - Who
 - Each person will stand before the Son of Man
 - Each is being separated according to their relationship with Jesus
 - They are righteous already because of their belief in Jesus
10. What are the destinations of the sheep and of the goats? What do you learn from this?
- Sheep (believers)
 - Jesus says blessed by my Father
 - Take your inheritance for since creation of the world
 - See John 14:1-6.
 - This is eternal life (46)
 - Goats (unbelievers)
 - Depart from me
 - Cursed into eternal fire prepared for devil and his angels
 - Some don't believe in Hell as a place
 - But here Jesus tells us it is real
 - See Revelation 20:11-15 talks about this
 - This is eternal punishment (46)
 - This is a prophecy of a future event for everyone for eternal life or eternal punishment
11. Notice that both the sheep and the goats are surprised by what they did or didn't do? Are these works or lack of works the basis of salvation? What do you think Jesus means? See Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:26.
- Not a basis for salvation
 - Notice that the sheep and goats are already separated before talking about works or lack of works
 - Notice that the sheep are humble and don't even remember doing good deeds and having compassion
 - The goats didn't have compassion so they didn't realize the works they didn't do
 - We just read about the reward for believers in the previous section

Matthew
Lesson 25

Mount of Olives Discourse – Part 2

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Good works is evidence of a believer’s love for Jesus
12. How have you been made ready for righteousness?
- Faith in Jesus Christ and through His atoning blood to pay for my sins
 - John 14:1-6 and John 10:28-29
 - Jesus saved me and I will stay saved

Lesson: Good works and compassion for others are not the ground of salvation but the evidence of salvation.

Challenge: How are you ready for Christ’s return?

Matthew
Lesson 26
Jesus' Time with Disciples Before His Arrest
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time, Jesus finished the Mount of Olives Discourse. He taught His disciples to be ready for His return in three ways: **Ready in Relationship, Ready in Responsibility, and Ready in Righteousness.** Now, we will see **Jesus' Time with Disciples Before His Arrest.** We will see His **Anointing at Bethany, Betrayal by Judas, Last Passover Supper, and Prayer at Gethsemane.***

Anointing at Bethany

Read Matthew 26:1-13 and John 12:1-11.

1. As Jesus finishes His Mount of Olives Discourse, He predicts His death a fourth time and as Caiaphas and chief priests plot not if to kill Him but how to kill Him so there will be no riot from the people. From the John passage describe Jesus' anointing in Bethany.
 - At the home of Simon the leper. John says 6 days before the Passover.
 - Dinner in honor of Jesus
 - In attendance were Martha and Lazarus who was raised from dead
 - Mary anointed Jesus with pure nard, Matthew says anointed His head, John said whipped feet with her hair
 - Very expensive perfume
 - Could have been from Mary's dowery or for her funeral
 - Mary had obviously planned this
 - Mary poured away her future on Jesus
 - Have you sold out or poured away your future on Jesus like Mary did
 - Mary most likely had heard Jesus was going to be killed, but was also a witness to the resurrection Lazarus so she knew who Jesus was
2. What was Judas and the disciple's complaint about anointing Jesus with expensive perfume? Describe the contrast between Judas and Mary.
 - Complaint
 - Could have been sold and given to the poor
 - John says Judas started the objection and Matthew just says disciples
 - Matthew says the disciples were indignant at Mary for doing this
 - Contrast
 - Mary's love for Jesus: "What can I give Him"
 - Judas betrayal of Jesus: "What will you give me to betray Him? (next section)"
3. What does Jesus say about Mary's anointing?
 - Jesus wasn't disregarding the poor as that was an ongoing obligation they had and we have today
 - Beautiful in Greek means beautifully good and right
 - She is preparing me for burial
 - Her act will be remembered and indeed it is remembered by us today
4. Without sharing with the group what beautiful and sacrificial commitment have you made to Jesus?

Lesson: Jesus' sacrificial love for us requires a sacrificial commitment to Him

Betrayal by Judas

Matthew Lesson 26

Jesus' Time with Disciples Before His Arrest

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Read Matthew 26:14-16.

5. In verse 4, the Caiaphas and chief priests were trying to figure out a sly way of killing Jesus. What were they thinking when Judas came to them?
 - This is perfect one of His own is going to betray Him
 - Judas was picked by Jesus and with Him for three years
 - This is our solution
6. Why do you think Judas decided to betray Jesus?
 - Judas had been taking money for himself, just a little sin
 - Perhaps Judas was angry that he couldn't sell the expensive perfume and give to the poor and take a little cut for himself
 - In John 13:27 at the last supper, Satan entered him, WOW
 - Perhaps Judas thought he was doing the right thing
 - Some disciples had left Jesus
 - Chief priests are against Him
 - He is not going to defeat the Romans
 - Jesus was a losing cause

Lesson: Repeatedly yielding to sin deceives the mind and hardens the heart.

Last Passover Supper

Read Matthew 26:17-35.

7. What is Passover and interesting to you about Jesus' instructions for preparing the Passover meal? See Mark 14:12-16.
 - Passover
 - Passover was a time where death of the first born was passed over those who had the blood of the lamb on their door posts in Egypt.
 - Passover looked forward to Jesus' death on a cross and blood sacrifice for our sins so we have eternal life and death passes over us.
 - Jews always celebrated Passover each year and still do today
 - Instructions
 - My appointed time is near and will celebrate Passover with disciples
 - In Mark the instructions are very detailed
 - The disciples asked Jesus for instructions and they followed them
8. During the evening meal how were the disciples shocked by Jesus and what was their response? See John 13:18-30.
 - He announces that one of you will betray me
 - They all say not I.
 - Jesus separately says it is Judas in Matthew, but John gives the point that the disciples didn't know it was Judas
 - Judas was identified privately by Jesus
 - Satan entered him
 - Judas went out at it was night – out of the light and into darkness
 - In Matthew Jesus says woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man.
 - That is chilling
 - It would have been better if he had not been born
 - Jesus protected all of the except the one doomed to destruction (John 17:12)

Matthew Lesson 26

Jesus' Time with Disciples Before His Arrest

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Judas betrayal was planned from the beginning
 - God knew the plan of Satan
9. John tells us that Judas left. After Judas left what does Jesus teach His disciples? See Revelation 19:9.
- Took bread, gave thanks saying take and eat, this is my body
 - Took cup, gave thanks saying this is the blood of the covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins
 - Poured out for many, not all, goes along with Isaiah 53
 - We do this in remembrance of Him when we do communion
 - Notice that Jesus will not drink wine until He is with them in my Father's kingdom
 - See Revelation 19:9 = wedding supper of the lamb just before His second coming
10. After the Passover meal they sung a hymn and went out to the mount of Olives. What other shocking thing did Jesus tell them that night? What was Peter's response?
- You will all fall away because of Him to fulfill scripture
 - After I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee
 - Peter says he won't fall away
 - Jesus says Peter will deny Jesus three times before the rooster crows this very night
 - Peter denies it as do the other disciples
 - We will see in the next lesson how the disciples all do

Lesson: Our salvation is guaranteed, not by our promise to God but by His promise to us.

Prayer at Gethsemane

Read Matthew 26:36-46.

11. What do you think caused Jesus' soul to be overwhelmed to the point of death?
- Was it physical suffering, he had a human body
 - Was it humiliation and mocking by those He created and had loved
 - Was it bearing the sin of the world? He was going to bear infinite sin
 - Sins of many. Past, present and future sins since creation to the end of the age
 - Was it loss of fellowship with the Father? Jesus will bear the full wrath of God which we cannot comprehend. “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46.
12. What did Jesus pray for? What is the significance of that prayer?
- Father if it is possible may this cup be taken away, yet not as I will but as you will.
 - Father if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it may your will be done
 - Jesus was progressively submitting to the Father's will for Him.
 - Significance
 - Jesus did submit to His Father's will
 - And He will do His Father's will to go to the cross for us
 - Amazing that the battle was not with Judas or Caiaphas, but the battle was in the Garden and Jesus won the battle

Matthew
Lesson 26

Jesus' Time with Disciples Before His Arrest

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Lesson: A heart that knows Jesus' love will surrender to God's will, but perhaps with not a struggle.

Challenge: How will you constantly remember that Jesus is the lamb of God that takes away the sins of many?

Matthew Lesson 27 Jesus' Jury

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

*Jury trials consist of three parts: First an arrest with charges filed; second evidence is presented for evaluation; then a verdict is rendered. What if you were on a jury and went through all the stages, but at the end you are the one actually on trial. Your fate would be determined on how you judged the case and the verdict you rendered. And based on your verdict the one accused would pass judgment on you. That would be a chilling thought for a juror. But that is exactly what is facing **Jesus' Jury** as they participate in **Jesus' Arrest in the Garden, Charges by the Sanhedrin, Denial by Peter, and Condemnation by Pilate.***

Arrest in the Garden

Read Matthew 26:47-56 and John 18:1-11.

1. Remember from our last lesson that Jesus had been praying at Gethsemane, woke up His disciple and told them His betrayer was coming. Describe the arrest of Jesus.
 - Jesus was just walking up His disciples and large crowd came with clubs and swords
 - Crowd sent from the chief priests
 - They were led by Judas who identified Jesus with a kiss
 - From John, Jesus asks who are you looking for
 - Jesus says I am He and the drew back and fell to the ground
 - But then men stepped forward and arrested Jesus. He was probably bound
 - One of the companions (John says Peter), struck off the ear of the servant of the high priest (John says Malchus)
 - Luke says Jesus healed the servant's ear on the spot
 2. Why would Peter try defend Jesus with a sword? What is Jesus' reaction to Peter?
 - Defend Jesus
 - Peter was impulsive and meant to be a defender of Jesus
 - Remember in Matthew 26:33, Peter said he would defend Jesus
 - Peter forgot the power that Jesus until Jesus reminds him
 - Jesus' reaction
 - Put sword away
 - Jesus could call on Father to send 12 legions of angels
 - But scripture would not be fulfilled if it didn't happen this way
 - This is all in the plan
 3. What did Jesus say to the crowd? Why is that significant?
 - Am I leading a rebellion that you came with weapons
 - Every day I have been in temple courts teaching and you didn't arrest me
 - But this has taken place that the prophets might be fulfilled (see Isaiah 53)
 - But remember that Jesus prayed in Gethsemane to obey the Father's will that He be smitten (Isaiah 53:10)
 - Jesus bore the sins of many
 - This was God's will and no other way
 - Jesus is the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)
 - There is only one path to the Father and not many ways.
 - Notice that all the disciples fled, just as Jesus said they would
- Lesson: Jesus is bound so that you can be set free from sin.**

Matthew Lesson 27 Jesus' Jury

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Charges by the Sanhedrin

Read Matthew 26:57-68.

4. Now we seem to be at the trial stage at the house of Caiaphas. What is the evidence that is presented against Jesus so they can put Jesus to death?
 - They couldn't find any though many false witnesses came forward
 - One man said He was able to destroy the temple of God and rebuilt in three days
 - That is not what Jesus said though
 - See John 2:19-21 as Jesus was talking about His body and not the temple
 - Jesus didn't answer the lie which is interesting
5. Without any evidence, what does the high priest ask of Jesus and what is the high priest's reaction to Jesus' answer?
 - Finally, the High Priest charged Him under oath of the living God
 - Are you the Christ, the Son of God
 - Jesus not only said yes, but gave more information that we studied in Matthew 24-25.
 - He says to all there
 - In future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One coming on the clouds of heaven
 - Jesus is talking about His second coming
 - The high priest tore his clothes and accused Jesus of blasphemy
 - He asks the other, the jury what do you think
 - The jury renders the verdict of death
 - Then the jurors spit in his face struck Him and said prophecy who hit you
6. What was Jesus actually saying to Caiaphas? See Daniel 7:13-14. What is Jesus saying to you?
 - Caiaphas
 - Jesus is coming on the clouds of heaven
 - Came to God into His presence
 - He was given authority, glory and sovereign power of all peoples, nations and men
 - His dominion is everlasting
 - And His kingdom will never be destroyed
 - Jesus will judge Caiaphas and His jury
 - You as the jury
 - Judge wisely

Lesson: Jesus was falsely accused so you can be acquitted.

Denial by Peter

Read Matthew 26:69-27:10 and Luke 22:54-62.

7. Remember that Peter fled the arrest scene, but “followed Him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.” Describe Peter's progressive denials. What do you learn from that?
 - First to a servant girl, but said he didn't know what you are talking about
 - Second servant girl, this time he actually denied it with an oath

Matthew Lesson 27 Jesus' Jury

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Third time to a group of people standing there: he called down curses on himself and swore, I don't know the man
 - Then the rooster crows
 - In Luke, Jesus looked straight at Peter which pierced Peter's heart
 - Peter goes out to weep bitterly
 - Learn that sin and lies are progressively worse with time
8. In Matthew we see the failure of Judas with his betrayal and the failure of Peter with his denial. How are Peter and Judas the same in their failures? Why was their outcome different? See John 17:12 and Luke 22:31-32.
- Same
 - Both failed
 - Both realized it
 - Both were seized with remorse
 - Outcome
 - Perhaps Judas' fate was sealed. Satan entered him and he was doomed to destruction
 - Judas didn't repent
 - Peter Remember Jesus looked at him and cut into his heart
 - Also, Jesus had prayed for Peter as Luke describes
9. Have you had failures in your life? What has been the outcome? How does John 17:20-26 encourage you?
- Everyone has failures
 - Believers in Jesus are forgiven
 - Jesus has prayed for believers and is our advocate through the Holy Spirit

Lesson: Jesus was betrayed and rejected so you can be accepted and restored.

Condemnation by Pilate

Read Matthew 27:11-31 and John 18:28-40.

10. Describe Jesus' interaction with Pilate.
- Jesus did answer that He was King of the Jews and His kingdom was not of this world
 - Told Pilate He came to testify to the truth. Pilate answered what is truth
 - Jesus was accused of crimes by the chief priests and elders but gave no answer to those charges (Isaiah 53:7) kept silent like a lamb to the slaughter
 - Pilate was frustrated because he could find no fault with Jesus
11. As the trial is going on Pilate was sitting at the judge's seat. How did Pilate deal with the crowd knowing Jesus was innocent?
- His wife warned him about a dream that Jesus was innocent
 - Pilate is conflicted and listened to the crowd
 - Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' blood
 - Washing his did not relieve him of his sin
 - People say his blood will be on us and our children
 - Pilate released Barabbas had Jesus flogged and handed over to be crucified by the soldiers who mocked him then led him away to be crucified him
 - Hail king of the Jews

Matthew
Lesson 27
Jesus' Jury

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

12. Everyone present was on Jesus' Jury during that day standing before Jesus. As you stand before Jesus have you weighed the evidence. What is your verdict on Jesus?

- Verdict is He is our Judge and we are not his judge and jury
- Jesus is a friend of sinners like Peter
- Jesus is Lord and wants not only your words, but your mind, your heart and your life
- He isn't asking for perfection

Lesson: Jesus was condemned so that you can be pardoned.

Challenge: What is your evidence about Jesus? How has your verdict about Him allowed Him to judge you as not guilty?

Matthew

Lesson 28

Crucifixion, Death, and Burial

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

In the last lesson we saw Jesus' Arrest in the Garden, Charges by the Sanhedrin, Denial by Peter, and Condemnation by Pilate. In this lesson, we will see Jesus' Crucifixion, Death and Burial. Make sure you attend the next lesson to see the amazing conclusion to the story.

Jesus' Crucifixion

Read Matthew 27:32-44 and Psalm 22.

1. Why was Simon the Cyrene forced to carry the cross to Golgotha for Jesus? See Matthew 27:26-31 and Isaiah 52:13-14.
 - Jesus was up all night praying the night before
 - Pilate had him flogged, which killed many people
 - The Roman guards mocked Him
 - Crown of thorns
 - Spit at Him
 - Hit Him with the staff again and again on the head
 - After all of this His appearance disfigured beyond any man as Isaiah had said
 - Jesus was not physically able to carry 200 pound cross all the way to Golgotha
 - Mark says Simon had two sons who were friends of the early church
2. Describe the scene after they arrived at Golgotha. See Psalm 22:14-18.
 - They gave Him gall to drink (sedative). He wanted to experience all of the suffering
 - They cast lots for His clothes (Psalm 22)
 - Luke says Jesus forgave the soldiers since they didn't know what they were doing
 - Jesus is thirsty, and no bones will be broken we will see later
 - Sign above Him saying this is Jesus, King of the Jews
3. What was the reaction of the people around Him?
 - a. Two robbers. See Luke 23:39-43.
 - Matthew says robbers heaped insults but see Luke
 - One hurled insults, if you are the Christ save yourself and us
 - Other said don't you fear God, we are punished justly, this man is innocent
 - Will be with me in paradise
 - One rejects, the other accepts
 - b. Passers by. See Psalm 22:6-7.
 - Hurling insults, shaking their heads
 - You who were going to destroy the temple and build back in three days, come down from cross if you are Son of God
 - Mock and reject Jesus
 - c. Chief priests, teachers of the law and elders.
 - Mocked Him
 - He saved others but can't save Himself
 - He's king of Israel
 - Let Him come down now and we will believe
 - He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him, for He said He was Son of God

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Lesson 28
Crucifixion, Death, and Burial

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

4. What would have happened if Jesus had saved Himself and come down from the cross? See Isaiah 53:12b.
- No one would be saved
 - Jesus was going to bear the sins of many
 - He would have saved Himself the cup, and saved the two robbers temporarily
 - Would the chief priests have believed if he came down, probably not as they had already ignored the evidence and reached a guilty verdict

Lesson: Jesus hung on the cross to bear your utter weakness, shameful disgrace, and abject failure.

Jesus' Death

Read Matthew 27:45-56.

5. Darkness came over all the land from 6th hour (noon) until the 9th hour (3:00PM). What caused the darkness, what did it mean, and why did Jesus cry out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” See Psalm 22:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- Darkness cause
 - Some historians say eclipse, but no eclipse lasts for 3 hours
 - Also, Passover occurs during full moon and eclipse can't occur during full moon astronomically
 - Historians have written about this
 - But this seems to have been caused by God
 - Luke says the sun stopped shining
 - Darkness meaning
 - Darkness is a sign of God's judgment
 - Remember ninth plague of Egypt
 - Jesus is being judged for the past present and future sins
 - Forsaken me
 - My God = only time Jesus uses this term, everywhere else He uses Father
 - The work of atonement for sin was finished
 - Notice Psalm 22:19-30
 - This is a cry out for someone that actually trusts that God will deliver Him
 - Psalms say “But you O Lord are my strength”
6. Matthew says that Jesus cried out in a loud voice. What do John and Luke say about Jesus' last words? What do you learn?
- Luke says, “Father into your hands I commit my Spirit”
 - John says, After He took a drink, “it is finished”
 - Learn
 - Jesus drank from the cup His Father had given Him
 - Jesus' work is finished once and for all time for each person that believes in Him
 - No more work needs to be done
7. Did Jesus die of crucifixion? Explain your answer? See John 10:17-18.
- Jesus gave up His life of his own accord
 - Jesus had authority from the Father to do this

Matthew

Lesson 28

Crucifixion, Death, and Burial

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- And then to take up His life again
- 8. What amazing events occurred after Jesus gave up His spirit? What is the significance of each?
 - Temple curtain torn in two from top to bottom
 - God tore the curtain open
 - We know have access to God through the blood of Jesus
 - Earth shook
 - God got everyone’s attention
 - Tombs broke open, dead people rose and appeared after Jesus’ resurrection
 - Resurrection is true
 - Proof of resurrection
 - Witnesses
 - Centurion said surely, He is the Son of God
 - Many women: Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Joses, and mother of Zebedee
 - Mary was there as well as John according to John 19:25-27

Lesson: Jesus was forsaken by God on the cross so you will never be forsaken.

Jesus’ Burial

Read Matthew 27:57-66.

- 9. What do you know about Joseph of Arimathea from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?
 - Matthew: He was rich and became disciple of Jesus, could talk to Pilate
 - Mark: prominent member of Jewish council, and waiting for the Kingdom of God. Boldly went to Pilate, which would have been against the council or Sanhedrin
 - Luke: Member of council, good and upright man, not consenting to killing Jesus. Waiting for Kingdom of God, went to Pilate
 - John: Secretly a disciple of Jesus because of His fear of the Jews. Accompanied by Nicodemus
- 10. After going to Pilate what did Joseph and Nicodemus do? See John 19:38-42 and Isaiah 53:8-9.
 - Wrapped body in clean linen cloth
 - Placed in His own NEW tomb, cut out of the rock, rolled a stone at the entrance
 - Nicodemus brought 75 pounds of Myrr and aloe (very expensive)
 - John says laid Him in tomb where know one had been laid
 - They fulfilled Isaiah 53:9, which is amazing. This was always God’s plan
 - Mary and Mary watch sitting opposite the tomb
- 11. What were the Pharisees and chief priests concerned about? How did they deal with their concerns?
 - Remembered that Jesus (they call him the deceiver) would come and steal the body
 - Would tell everyone that Jesus had risen from the dead
 - That deception would be worse than the first
 - Solution
 - Put guards on the tomb
 - Put a seal on the stone
 - They wanted to make sure that Jesus stayed put and dead in the tomb

Matthew
Lesson 28

Crucifixion, Death, and Burial

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- We will see in the next lesson how their plan played out
 - Nothing could keep Jesus in the tomb
12. Do you or others believe the facts of Jesus’ crucifixion, death and burial?
- Some say Jesus just swooned and was not actually dead. Not sure where they get that

Lesson: Jesus lay in the tomb so you will never taste death.

Challenge: How will you thank God daily for Jesus’ death on the cross that saved you from past, present, and future sins?

Matthew
Lesson 29
Jesus' Resurrection and Commission

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

*Last time we studied the truth of Jesus' Crucifixion, Death and Burial. This time we study the truth of Jesus' Resurrection and Commission. In three divisions we will conclude Matthew with **A Great Truth, A Great Lie, and finally, A Great Commission.***

A Great Truth

Read Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-10, and John 20:1-8.

1. Who went to the tomb and why did they go?
 - Mary Magdalene and other Mary, went to look at tomb
 - Mark includes Salome and they bought spices to anoint Jesus' body, but wondering who would roll the stone away
 - They weren't looking for His resurrection as He promised
 - But, went to mourn
2. Describe what they found when they got to the tomb. What was inside? What were they told to do?
 - What they found
 - Violent earth quake had occurred
 - Angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled stone away and sat on it
 - Guards were afraid of angel they shook and became like dead men, they couldn't move, but they could see what was going on
 - What is inside
 - Angel told to go inside and that Jesus is not inside and has risen as He said
 - See where He lay
 - Luke: They looked in and didn't find the body
 - When they wondered about this, two men appeared SUDDENLY in gleaming white clothing
 - Women were frightened and bowed down
 - Men said why are you looking for the living among the dead
 - He is not here, remember He said He would rise on third day
 - What were they to do
 - Go quickly and tell the disciples
 - He is going ahead of you into Galilee and there you will see Him
 - Now I have told you. Angel did what he was told
 - Mark: go tell disciples and Peter
 - He is going ahead of you into Galilee just as He said
 - There you will see Him, just as He told you
 - Interesting that the women were first to know about the resurrection
 - They did as they were told and went back to disciples and were running
 - Then SUDDENLY Jesus met them: GREETINGS
 - Jesus says don't be afraid, go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee where they will see me
 - They clasped His feet and worshipped Him
 - Mark says they were trembling and bewildered and fled from the tomb
 - But Matthew says they saw Jesus who told them not to be afraid

Matthew Lesson 29

Jesus' Resurrection and Commission

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

- Not sure of the timing of this because Matthew doesn't always give His information in time order
- 3. How did Peter and John respond to the news the women told them? See John 20:1-9.
 - Peter and John ran to the tomb with John going first
 - John bent over and looked in but didn't go in. He saw strips of linen lying there
 - Peter arrives after and goes right in
 - Sees strips of linen as well as burial cloth that was around Jesus' head. It was folded by itself and separate from the linen
 - John goes in saw and believed
 - Luke says that Peter went away wondering to Himself what had happened
- 4. Who do you think was the first to see the resurrected Jesus? What do you learn from the event? See John 20:10-18.
 - Mary Magdalene goes back in and sees two angels in white where Jesus had been at head and foot
 - They asked why she was crying. Don't know where they have taken Him
 - Turns around and sees Jesus without recognizing Him.
 - Jesus asks Why are you crying
 - Thinking He was gardener, she says tell me where you have put Him
 - Then Jesus says her name “Mary”
 - She reaches for Him and says Don't hold on to me for I have not yet returned to my Father
 - Go and tell my brothers
 - Tell them I am returning to my Father and your Father, My God and your God
 - What do you learn
 - Jesus us call us by name
 - Jesus is alive and returning to the Father to sit at His right hand, just as He said
 - His Father is your Father, His God is your God. See John 10:28-29.
 - Jesus was not recognizable until He called Mary. Same as two on road to Emmaus
 - For us today, Jesus is invisible until He calls us and we respond
 - Have you been called and responded
- 5. Describe the scene later that evening in Jerusalem. What do you learn about Jesus? See John 20:19-21.
 - That evening of the first day in Jerusalem, disciples are together with doors locked because the were afraid of the Jews
 - Jesus appears through locked doors and said Peace be with you
 - Disciples are overjoyed
 - Jesus says as my Father sent me, I am sending you
 - Breathed the Holy Spirit on them
 - If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven
 - If you don't forgive their sins, they are not forgiven
 - Not sure what this means exactly
 - Only Jesus can forgive sins

Matthew Lesson 29

Jesus' Resurrection and Commission

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

6. What happened a week later? What do you learn? See John 20:24-29 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-32.
 - What happened
 - Thomas wasn't there the week before
 - Wouldn't believe unless He saw Jesus
 - Jesus appeared and told Thomas to stop doubting and believe
 - Thomas did
 - Then Jesus said those that have not seen me and believed are blessed
 - What do you learn
 - I have not seen Jesus, but yet I have believed
 - So I am blessed
 - Resurrection is absolutely true without a doubt
 - Resurrection is the greatest news ever since the original sin of Adam and Eve
 - God loves us John 3:16-18

Lesson: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest news the world has ever heard.

A Great Lie

Read Matthew 28:11-15.

7. What did the guards do that morning?
 - Went to the city and told chief priests everything that happened
 - They were obviously awake enough to see everything even though they were like dead men
8. What was the plan of the chief priests?
 - Conspired with elders
 - Gave soldiers a large sum of money, paid them off
 - Tell them the disciples came in the night and stole His body while you were asleep
 - We will satisfy the governor and keep you out of trouble for falling asleep on your watch
 - Soldiers did as they were instructed
9. Was the plan believable? Was it effective? What lies do you see today?
 - Believable
 - Not really
 - If they were asleep, how did they see what happened
 - How did they know the disciples came if they were asleep
 - Effective
 - Yes it seemed to be to cause people not to believe in resurrection
 - People still doubt the resurrection
 - Lies today
 - Jesus did not raise from the dead
 - God did not create the heavens and the earth
 - All people go to heaven
 - There is no life after death

Lesson: The resurrection of Jesus Christ demands a response.

Matthew
Lesson 29
Jesus' Resurrection and Commission
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

A Great Commission

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Note: Some think that this this mountain may have been where He preached the Beatitudes in chapter 5. Also, it may have occurred when He appeared to 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6). Perhaps Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were there. The Bible doesn't tell us, but interesting to speculate. The main thing is the plain thing: what did He tell His disciples and what is He telling you.

10. What authority was given to Jesus? What authority does He have over you?
 - The Father gave Jesus ALL authority in heaven and earth. Jesus is God Himself
 - Over all people, demons, Satan, stars, molecules, everything
 - Jesus is Lord, not just your Savior
 - Have you submitted to His authority or do you still claim authority for yourself
11. What did He call His disciples to do? What has He called you to do?
 - Go and make disciples of all nations
 - Don't stand still, but take action with people that you meet and see
 - I should share His good resurrection news with my friends, workers, church members, and others that I meet
12. How are you able to do what He has called you to do? See Ephesians 2:10.
 - I can only do that through the power of Jesus because He is with me
 - His Holy Spirit indwells in me and gives me the wisdom and guidance to do the work He has called me to do
 - God prepared good work of sharing His message before I was born
 - I should be obedient

Lesson: Jesus has all authority and enables you to carry out the great commission He has for you.

Challenge: If you believe in Jesus' resurrection, how will you go and make disciples this week and each week for the rest of your life?

3. How did Peter and John respond to the news the women told them? See John 20:1-9.