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**Adult
Bible Study
in
Simplified
English**

Study Guide



Matthew
HOPE IN THE LIVING CHRIST
INCLUDES BONUS CHRISTMAS LESSON

Marcia Miller

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH

Study Guide

Matthew:

Hope in the Living Christ

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Introduction

Matthew

Hope in the Living Christ

The Gospel of Matthew is the story of hope. The word *Gospel* means *good news*.

We watch the news on television. We read the news in the local and national newspapers. We discuss the day's events with our friends. Much of what we are hearing, reading, and saying is about things that are bad or sad. When we hear good news we smile. We become hopeful. We remember that good things do happen.

The story of Matthew is about good news. It is the Good News of Jesus.

The book of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. It tells us about the hope the past generations had for the coming Messiah. It tells about the hope found in the birth of a special child. It tells about the hope Jesus gave through His acts. It describes the hope He gave through His death and rising from the grave.

The man we know as Matthew was originally known as Levi. He was a Jew. He was a tax collector. No one likes the taxman. Levi collected taxes for the Roman government. The Jews considered the Romans to be invaders. They did not like paying taxes to the invaders. Jews despised men like Levi.

Jesus chose Levi to be one of His special followers. Jesus changed Levi's name to Matthew. Jesus gave Matthew a new life and a new name.

The story Matthew tells is important. It is the story of Jesus, as told by someone who was there. It is an eyewitness account. Matthew shows us that Jesus is the promised Son of God. The Old Testament gives us the promise of a son. The New Testament shows us how this promise was fulfilled.

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Matthew: Hope in the Living Christ

Word List

Unit 1

Lesson 1

ancestor: a family member who came before you

Messiah: expected deliverer; the Savior of the world

sin: any thing that keeps us from God

Trinity: the union of God the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Lesson 2

family values: a political and social idea; it shows the family to be the basic unit of culture

tradition: the way things have always been done

Lesson 3

astrologer: a person who studied the stars to tell the future on earth

astronomer: a scientist who studies the stars to tell what is happening in space

Magi: the wise men who came to worship Jesus

magician: a person who performs tricks or illusions

Unit 2

Lesson 4

the devil: the spirit of evil

Satan: another name for The Devil

tempt: to practice the method Satan uses to keep us from God

phrase: a group of words

Lesson 5

Gospel: the Good News of Christ

mercy: a sign of the kindness of Jesus

miracle: a supernatural event

mystery: an event that cannot be explained

Unit 3

Lesson 6

grace: the love and favor that God shows to people

humble: being selfless

pride: dignity of self

Lesson 7

blessing: a “Thank You, God” prayer

prayer: spending time with God

Lesson 8

goal: things desired, such as wealth, power, the American Dream

treasure: that which is highly valued

dedicated: the serious purpose for which a person lives

trust: total belief in

Lesson 9

discouraged: not having interest in or being eager for

encouraged: to find support for

parable: an everyday story about heavenly things

sower: a person who plants seeds; a farmer

Word List

Unit 4

Lesson 10

glory: honor

witness: a person who can say, "It happened because I saw it happen"

Lesson 11

Exodus: going out

remembrance: something recalled

Lesson 12

authority: power

Calvary: the place where Jesus died

commission: authority to act

not defiled: perfect; Jesus was not defiled because while he was a man, He did not sin.

triumphantly: with great happiness in winning

Bonus Lesson

eternal: forever

destination: the goal -- heaven

salvation: being saved from our wrong doings; the path to heaven

Numbers in the Bible

Numbers are important throughout the Bible. Matthew pays special attention to the numbers 3, 4, 7, 12, 14 and 40. These numbers have special meanings:

3: the number showing divine fullness, as in the Trinity

4: the creation number, showing earthly completeness; the earth was created on the fourth day of creation

7: spiritual perfection; it comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'to be satisfied' or 'to be full'

12: the number government perfection or rule, as in Jesus choosing 12 special followers

14: the number for deliverance

40: the number of testing or probation, as in Jesus' time spent in the desert was 40 days

Matthew



Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English

Hope in Jesus' Birth

Lesson 1

The Messiah for All
People
Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17

Lesson 2

Jesus—Savior—
God with Us
Matthew 1:18-25

Lesson 3

Looking for Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12

HOPE IN JESUS' BIRTH

God made a promise to His people. He said He would send His Son. This Son would be their Savior. He would save the world. He would be the Messiah.

Year after year the Jews waited. Some of the people gave up. They thought God had forgotten His promise. Other people decided that God didn't mean He would send a person. They decided He was going to make Israel a powerful nation. They thought their country would rule over others.

Some people did not give up on God. They continued to believe His promise. They knew that God's Word was true. They just didn't know why it was taking so long. "When, God, when?" they would pray.

At the right time, Jesus was born. He brought hope to those who believed He was coming.

Marcia Miller wrote the Bible Study lessons for this quarter. She is a graduate of the University of Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her mission experiences include helping with Vacation Bible Schools, working in an apartment ministry, teaching English to the Vietnam refugees, and writing and editing Bible Study materials for Caribbean Christian Publications. Marcia's home church is First Baptist, Dallas.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17

Memory Verse

“Then one will come from the family of Jesse. A branch will grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of wise words and strength, the spirit of much learning and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Word List

ancestor: a family member who came before you

Messiah: the expected deliverer; the Savior of the world

Trinity: the union of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

The Messiah for All People

“Who are your people?” This is an out-dated question. It is what people in the southern states used to ask. When people first meet you, they want to know who you are. Where do you come from? Who are you related to? Where do you belong? Asking these kinds of questions is important. It shows an interest in knowing who you are.

A family tree is a chart that helps link the present to the past. A family tree begins with your name and your spouse's name. Next you add the names of your children and grandchildren. Then you add the names of your grandparents. Aunts, uncles and cousins can be added. A family tree shows the names of the family **ancestors**. There are many branches to the family's tree.

You can learn many things when researching your family tree. Sometimes people find a connection to European royalty or a Nobel Prize winner. Looking at a family tree can be fun. Sometimes there are unpleasant surprises. Imagine learning you are related to a bank robber or a mass murderer. Sometimes it is best not to know who your people are.

A family's traditions tell many things about the family. How you celebrate holidays is probably based on family tradition. Some families celebrate Thanksgiving together. Some celebrate Christmas together. Some celebrate both holidays. Many times the same foods are served. The same games are played. Even the same family stories are told. It is a part of your family's tradition.

We cannot choose our family members. Children often fight with each other. Sometimes someone from outside the family

Things to
Think About

1. Where do you come from?
2. Where are you going?
3. Is God a part of your life plan?

may start a fight. When this happens, the same children will often stand up for each other.

We should remember that God gives us our families. He knows we need.

Jesus' People (Matthew 1:1-6)

Matthew begins his book with the family tree of Jesus. He begins with Abraham. Abraham was the head of the Hebrew family. Matthew connects all of the names of people from Abraham to Jesse. Jesse was King David's father. This shows that Jesus was from the royal family.

Matthew goes through the history of God's people. He starts with David, the second king of Israel. Next he lists David's son, Solomon. Matthew works through the list to Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph would become the earthly father of Jesus.

Matthew also introduces Mary. Mary would become the mother of Jesus.

Forty-two Families (Matthew 1:16-17)

Throughout the Bible numbers are important. Matthew divides Jesus' ancestors into three groups. Each group lists fourteen ancestors. Three is the number of God. It shows God to be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the **Trinity** of God. Three shows completion or perfection. Fourteen is the number for deliverance. It shows the salvation of the world.

Christians read the words of the Gospel of Matthew. They understand that he was writing to tell the story of Jesus. This

story shows how God keeps His promise. It shows how God works.

The prophets of the Old Testament told about the coming of Messiah. The Book of Isaiah tells how a child would be born (Isaiah 7:14). Angels would proclaim His birth. The child would be called Emmanuel. He would be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He would be worshipped at His birth. As an adult, He would call people to God (Isaiah 6:1-2). When His time on earth was finished, He would have a terrible death. He would be nailed to a tree (Isaiah 50:6; 53:10). The best part of Isaiah's message was that Jesus would rise from the grave (Isaiah 53:13).

Matthew connects the message of Isaiah to the story of Jesus.

Jesus descended from the king of Israel. This is important. It shows that Isaiah was telling the truth. Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. He would come to save the world from **sin**.

The story of Jesus is the story of the ages. This is the story of hope for the world.

Matthew 1:1-16, 16-17

1: These are the families which Jesus Christ came through. He came through David and Abraham.

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

3: Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Their mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Aram.

4: Aram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

5: Salmon was the father of Boaz. The mother of Boaz was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed. The mother of Obed was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse.

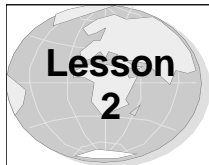
6: Jesse was the father of David the king. King David was the father of Solomon. His mother had been the wife of Uriah.

Matthew 1:16-17

16: Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. She was the mother of Jesus Who is called the Christ.

17: So the number of families from Abraham to David was fourteen. The

number of families from David to the time the people were taken to Babylon was fourteen. The number of families after they were taken to Babylon to the birth of Jesus Christ was fourteen.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Verse

“A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Word List

family values: a political and social idea; it states that families are the basic units of culture

tradition: the way things have always been done

Jesus—Savior—God with Us

Fiddler on the Roof is a musical play. It tells the story of Tevye, his wife and their daughters. This family lives in Russia in 1905. They are a traditional Jewish family. The play begins with the song “**Tradition.**”

The words to “Tradition” speak of traditional **family values**. The song says, “This is the way we do things because this is how things have always been done.”

The play then shows that things do change. Change is a part of life. Change can be a good thing. Change can be a bad thing. Either way, change happens.

There is an old saying: The more things change, the more they stay the same. This is an interesting saying to think about. Christians know that no matter what changes happen, things work out according to God’s plan.

A Baby Is on the Way (Matthew 1:18)

Two thousand years ago there was a girl named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph. Joseph was a good man. He wanted to give Mary the best life he could. They were committed to each other. They were a traditional couple who was waiting to be married.

An angel visited Mary. The angel was God’s messenger. The angel said, “Mary, you have been chosen by God. You will become the mother of God’s Son.”

This was a great surprise to Mary. Mary thought, “How can this be? How do I explain this to Joseph?”

Things to
Think About

1. Define your **family values**.
2. How can **traditions** be important to a family?
3. Should you consider tradition when making important decisions?

Support from the Father (Matthew 1:19-21)

God would take care of Mary's concerns. God always has a plan. God sent His angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that Mary was going to have a baby. Mary would have the baby by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Joseph wanted to do what was best for Mary. He thought they should cancel their plans to be married. The neighbors would gossip. Joseph thought Mary should go away. She should have the baby. The neighbors would soon forget about Mary and her baby. They would find other things to talk about. All of this would work itself out. Life would go on.

The angel told Joseph what God's plan was. God wanted Joseph to marry Mary. Joseph wanted to do what was right. Joseph wanted to obey God. The angel told Joseph he should name the child Jesus. This name means *God with us*. This is the same meaning of the name *Immanuel*.

It was a tradition to give the first born male his father's name. Naming the child Jesus would break that tradition. Joseph was the earthly father of Jesus. According to tradition, the baby should be named Joseph. The birth of Jesus was any thing but traditional.

Joseph understood that Mary needed him now more than ever. He had a choice. He could have said, "I cannot do this thing." He could have walked away. Joseph knew he had to do what God needed him to do.

The World Was Waiting

(Matthew 1:22-25)

The birth of Jesus fulfilled words of the prophets. They preached that God would send a special man. This man was the Son of God. This is the One who would save people. He would save them from the punishment for wrong things that people do. Every person sins. Jesus is willing to save all people from those sins. Jesus is the long expected Messiah.

All through the Old Testament, there are words about the birth of Jesus. The angel reminded Joseph about Isaiah's words: A child will be born. His mother will be a virgin. His name will be Immanuel which means *God with us*.

Jesus came to earth. His birth fulfilled the message of the Old Testament prophets. The birth of the Jesus brought new hope to the world.

Hope is found in the birth of the Christ Child. That same hope can be seen in the world today. It can be seen in the lives of people who follow Jesus' teaching.

Matthew 1:18-25

18: The birth of Jesus Christ was like this: Mary His mother had been promised in marriage to Joseph. Before they were married, it was learned that she was to have a baby by the Holy Spirit.

19: Joseph was her promised husband. He was a good man and did not want to make it hard for Mary in front of people. He thought it would be good to break the promised marriage without people knowing it.

20: While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is to become a mother by the Holy Spirit.

21: A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the punishment of their sins.”

22: This happened as the Lord said it would happen through the early preacher.

23: He said, “The young woman, who has never had a man, will give birth to a Son. They will give Him the name Immanuel. This means God with us.” (Isaiah 7:14)

24: Joseph awoke from his sleep. He did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. He took Mary as his wife.

25: But he did not have her, as a husband has a wife, until she gave birth to a Son. Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

Matthew 2:1-12

Memory Verse

“When they saw the star, they were filled with great joy. They went into the house and found Mary, His mother. They got down before Him and worshipped Him.”
(Matthew 2:10-11)

Word List

astrologer: a person who studies the stars to tell the future on earth

astronomer: a person who studies the stars and planets to tell what happens in space

Magi: the wise men who came to worship Jesus

magician: a person who performs tricks or illusions

Looking for Jesus

Henry Van Dyke was an American writer. He was born in 1852. He died in 1933. One of Van Dyke's best-known works is a short story. He called this story “The Other Wise Man.”

The story he told is about a man named Artaban. Artaban wanted to go with the **Magi** who were seeking the Christ child. He wanted to follow the star. He wanted to see the baby. He had three jewels to give to the Christ child.

Artaban and his servant, Orontes, set off to find the group of travelers. They were always one step behind the wise men. They searched and searched. They never did find the other travelers. They stopped looking for the other men. They began looking for the child.

As they were traveling, Artaban spent his money helping poor people. He spent his entire life in search of Jesus. At the end of his life, Artaban was a poor man. When he was about to die, Artaban finally arrived in Jerusalem. While he was there, he found Jesus. Much to his surprise, the One he sought was on trial as a criminal!

Artaban asked himself if he had wasted his life. Had it been a foolish thing to seek Jesus?

The story of the Magi, as told by Matthew, is true. The story of the other wise man, Artaban, is not a true story. Even so, the question Artaban asked is important. Is it a foolish thing to seek Jesus?

Things to Think**About**

1. What can you bring to Jesus?
2. How can you best honor Him?
3. Have you given Him your heart?

The Men Who Wanted to See Jesus (Matthew 2:1-8)

Jesus was born. A star appeared in the sky.

Many miles away from Bethlehem, a group of men saw the star. They were educated men. They were wise men. They were **astrologers**. They studied the stars and told what the future would be. They were not **astronomers**. Astronomers study to learn more about space. These men were in Persia. Today, Persia is the country of Iran.

The wise men saw that the star was shining over Judea. They knew this was a special event. They wanted to be a part of it. They wanted to see the One who made the star shine.

These men were called *Magi*. They were **magicians**.

The Magi set out to make the journey. They followed the star to Jerusalem. They thought this is where they would find the child.

The wise men searched Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child?" They did not ask if He had come; they asked where He was. But the people in Jerusalem did not know the special baby had been born. They did not know where He was.

During this time Herod was the ruler of Judea. He heard there were men looking for a child. He heard that this child would become a ruler. This was a threat to Herod.

Herod was an old man. He would not live long. He did not want to know who would replace him. He felt threatened by the child.

The leaders of the Jews told Herod that they knew a child would come. They told Herod what the prophets had said. A child would come from God. He would be found in Bethlehem. They

could not say if this was the child. They did not know Him.

When the Magi visited Herod on their journey, he sent them to Bethlehem. He wanted to know where the child was. He told the wise men to find the child. He told the Magi they should return to Jerusalem after they found the child. Herod wanted to know exactly where this child was. After all, no ruler likes to know he has a rival.

Jesus was about two years old when the wise men found Him. The wise men came and worshipped Jesus. It had been a long journey.

The Magi Worship the Child

(Matthew 2:9-12)

Tradition tells us there were three wise men. This tradition comes from Matthew's words. He says that the wise men brought three gifts. These gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold is a precious metal used as money. Frankincense and myrrh are the liquids from trees. These liquids are mixed with spices. These mixtures produce a special scent.

Myrrh was used to prepare a body for burial. Myrrh is a strange gift to honor a

small child. A baby's birth is celebrated as a new beginning. It is not the end of a life. This was another sign that Jesus was the One whom God sent. Myrrh was used in the burial of His body after His death.

Having worshipped Jesus, the wise men were ready to return to Persia. Again, God sent an angel to help carry out His plan. This time, an angel appeared to the Magi. They were told to return home another way. They were told not to return to Jerusalem. This way, Jesus would be safe from any of Herod's evil plans.

The Magi were wise enough to recognize Jesus' special birth. They honored him with gifts. We can all honor Jesus by giving Him our whole life.

A famous poem says this:

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would play my part.

Yet what can I give Him?

Give Him my heart.

- Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Those who seek Jesus will always find Him.

Matthew 2:1-12

1: Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in the country of Judea. It was the time when Herod was king of that part of the country. Soon after Jesus was born, some wise men who learned things from stars came to Jerusalem from the East.

2: They asked, “Where is the King of the Jews Who has been born? We have seen His star in the East. We have come to worship Him.”

3: King Herod heard this. He and all the people of Jerusalem were worried.

4: He called together all the religious leaders of the Jews and the teachers of the Law.

Herod asked them where Christ was to be born.

5: They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea. The early preacher wrote,

6: ‘You, Bethlehem of Judah, are not the least of the leaders of Judah. Out of you will come a King Who will lead My people, the Jews.’” (Micah 5:2)

7: Then Herod had a secret meeting with the men who learned things from stars. He asked them about what time the star had been seen.

8: He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and find the young Child. When you find Him, let me know. Then I can go and worship Him also.”

9: After the king had spoken, they went on their way. The star they had seen in the East went before them. It came and stopped over the place where the young Child was.

10: When they saw the star, they were filled with much joy.

11: They went into the house and found the young Child with Mary, His mother. Then they got down before Him and worshipped Him. They opened their bags of riches and gave Him gifts of gold and perfume and spices.

12: Then God spoke to them in a dream. He told them not to go back to Herod. So they went to their own country by another road.

Matthew



*Adult Bible Study
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Hope in Jesus' Life

Lesson 4

Being Faithful to God
Matthew 4:1-11

Lesson 5

Jesus Begins His Work
Matthew 4:12-25

HOPE IN JESUS' LIFE

The child Jesus grew up. He became a man. It was time for Him to begin His ministry. It was time for Him to do the work God sent Him to do. This was His purpose for coming to earth. It was His purpose to walk among people. He was to show us how to live. He was to give people hope.

Before Jesus could begin His work, He had to prepare Himself. He was to be tested by the devil. He had to show that He was stronger than the tempter.

Jesus would lead by example.

After proving Himself, Jesus began calling men to follow Him. In today's language we would say that He was "hiring His staff." He carefully chose the men He needed to support His ministry. He called four fishermen. These men would be with Jesus for three years. They would help Him tell others about God. They would then go throughout the world serving God. They would preach the message of the hope. They would tell of the hope that Jesus brought to the world.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

Matthew 4:1-11

Memory Verse

“Jesus said to the Devil, ‘Get away Satan. It is written, “You must worship the Lord your God. You must obey Him only.” ’ ”
(Matthew 4:10)

Word List

phrase: a group of words

the devil: the spirit of evil

Satan: another name for the devil

tempt: a test; it is the method Satan uses to keep us from God

Being Faithful to God

One of the top rated television shows of the 1970s was *The Flip Wilson Show*. Flip Wilson was a comedian. The show was a variety show. He introduced America to many characters. One of the favorite characters was Geraldine Jones. Geraldine could speak up for herself. She often had good intentions. She often found herself in trouble. Geraldine would try to explain her actions. She would say, “**The devil** made me do it.”

People laughed at this **phrase**. Soon many people around the country were repeating that phrase. It became a funny national expression.

That phrase was a good excuse for Geraldine. She was not a real person. That excuse usually does not work in real life.

Jesus Goes to the Desert (Matthew 4:1-2)

The Holy Spirit told Jesus it was time for Him to begin His work on earth. He sent Jesus to the desert. There Jesus would have a face to face meeting with **Satan**.

This was a test. Jesus had to prove His strength. Jesus had to show that he was a man. He was the Son of God, but He was also human. Humans encounter Satan daily. It was time for Jesus to show he was fully human.

Jesus stayed in the desert for forty days and forty nights. During this time Jesus did not eat any food. He had nothing to drink. He was very weak.

Things to
Think About

1. Have you ever been aware of **Satan's** presence in your life?
2. What steps did you take to do that which God wanted you to do?
3. Did you thank God for sending His angels to keep you safe?

The Temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:3-11)

Satan saw the weakness of Jesus. He took advantage of this weakness. Satan would **tempt** Jesus three separate times.

The devil offered Jesus food and drink. "Here are some stones," he said. "You have the power. You can turn the stones into bread." Satan tempted Jesus to use His power to get what He needed. He tempted Jesus to take the short cut.

Jesus said no. Jesus reminded Satan, "Man shall not live by bread alone." There are things more important than eating.

Next the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem. They went to the highest part of the house of God. The devil wanted Jesus to show off His power. He told Jesus, "You can jump down. The angels will take care of you. You will not be harmed."

The devil was saying words from the Bible to Jesus. But the devil quoting the Bible is still the devil! Jesus reminded the devil that God should not be tempted.

Finally, the two went to a very high mountain. They looked down on the land below. The devil said, "I will give all this land to you. All you must do is worship me."

Jesus said, "No." Jesus knew that Satan did not own the land. Satan could not give away something that was not his.

The Devil Is Defeated (Matthew 4:11)

Satan knew he had lost. Jesus was strong. Satan went away.

When it comes to people, Satan knows their behavior. He knows when to accept a loss. For him, there are too many battles to win. When he has lost, he goes away. Satan will return at another time for another battle on another day.

After He was tempted, angels came to Jesus. They cared for Him. This fulfilled a promise from the Old Testament: “God will send His angels to watch over you” (Psalm 91:11).

God sends His angels to watch over each of us. Angels are God’s messengers. The angels keep us from the temptations of Satan. They are sent to keep us safe.

Satan is real. He is evil. He tells us lies. He comes to steal. He will kill. He will destroy all that is good. He is our spiritual enemy.

The Devil does not make people sin. The Devil makes it possible for people to sin. People can choose to follow Satan. They choose to sin. Or, they can choose to obey God. People have the choice to do either right things or wrong things. This is called free will.

God gave people the power to think and reason. He expects us to use logic when we make decisions. This is the difference between humans and other animals.

People are tempted by the devil. When they turn from temptation they show their strength through God. We cannot resist Satan if God is not with us.

Satan tempted Jesus. Jesus passed the test. He was ready to begin His ministry.

Matthew 4:1-11

1: Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to a desert. There He was tempted by the devil.

2: Jesus went without food for forty days and forty nights. After that He was hungry.

3: The devil came tempting Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to be made into bread.”

4: But Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man is not to live on bread only. Man is to live by every word that God speaks.’”
(Deuteronomy 8:3)

5: Then the devil took Jesus up to Jerusalem, the holy city. He had Jesus stand on the highest part of the house of God.

6: The devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. It is written, ‘He has told His angels to look after You. In their hands they will hold You up. Then Your foot will not hit against a stone.’” (Psalm 91:11-12)

7: Jesus said to the devil, “It is written also, ‘You must not tempt the Lord your God.’” (Deuteronomy 6:16)

8: Again the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He had Jesus look at all the nations of the world to see how great they were.

9: He said to Jesus, “I will give You all these nations if You will get down at my feet and worship me.”

10: Jesus said to the devil, “Get away, Satan. It is written, ‘You must worship the Lord your God. You must obey Him only.’” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

11: Then the devil went away from Jesus. Angels came and cared for Him.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 4:12-25

Memory Verse

And from that time on Jesus went about preaching. He said, "Be sorry for your sins and turn from them. The holy nation is near."
(Matthew 4:17)

Word List

Gospel: the Good News of Christ
mercy: a sign of the kindness of Jesus
miracle: a supernatural event
mystery: something that cannot be explained

Jesus Begins His Work

Dr. Johnson is a cardiologist. He treats people with heart problems. He knows many things about the hearts of people. He knows how to make a sick heart work better. He uses all the latest equipment. He likes to say he helps mend broken hearts.

Dr. Johnson says, "I don't keep people alive. That is God's work. God uses me to help others."

Everyday Dr. Johnson goes into his office. He closes the door. He looks at the list of people he will see that day. Dr. Johnson prays for each person. He calls them by name. He asks God for wisdom.

Dr. Johnson gives God the glory when people are healed.

Preaching in Galilee (Matthew 4:12-17)

Jesus had a second cousin. The cousin was named John. John's mother was Elizabeth. Elizabeth was Mary's cousin.

Before John was born, an angel came to Elizabeth. The angel told Elizabeth she was having a son. This son would be a preacher. He would tell people, "The Son of God is coming." John would prepare the way for the coming of Jesus.

John began preaching. He was put into jail. Jesus learned that John was in jail. This was the end of John's preaching. It was the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

The Son of God is the Light to shine on a dark world!

Jesus went to live in Galilee. He lived in the city of Capernaum. Galilee was a remote part of Judea. The people were poor. They were not educated. They spoke in a very simple

Things to
Think About

1. Are you willing to leave everything and follow the call of Jesus?

2. Does Jesus heal sick people today?

language. They did not have the advantages of living in a big city.

Jesus did not preach to the wealthy. He did not preach to those with great power. Jesus preached to common people.

Calling Four Fishermen (Matthew 4:18-22)

As Jesus preached, many followed Him. He needed a group of men that would go everywhere He went. Jesus needed a full-time staff.

Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee. He went to pray. He saw two men fishing. They were Simon and Andrew. They were brothers. They were fishermen. Jesus talked to the men. He said, "Follow me. I will make you fishers of men." The two men got out of their boat. They left their fishing nets. They followed Jesus.

Jesus then found James and John. They were brothers. They were mending their nets. They were working with their father, Zebedee. Jesus said, "Follow me." James and John left their nets. They left their father. Jesus called to them. They chose to follow Him.

Those who come to Jesus must leave their old lives. They must leave everything to follow Him.

Spreading the Good News (Matthew 4:23-25)

The ministry of Jesus was simple. He taught. He preached. He healed the sick.

Jesus went to the local places of worship. He taught the people who came to learn more about God. They came willingly. They came with open hearts. Many believed the message of

Jesus. Jesus preached the Good News of the **Gospel**.

Jesus healed the sick. People came to Him. They wanted to be healed. They wanted healthy bodies. Jesus gave them good health. People stayed to hear Jesus preach. They were given healthy souls.

Healing the sick is a **miracle**. It is an act of God. Jesus is called the Great Physician. By healing the sick, He showed the **mercy** of God. Healing is an act of kindness. Healing is a **mystery**. People do not know how healing happens. It is God who heals people.

Not all sickness affects the body. Sin is a sickness. It is a sickness of the soul. It causes a sickness of the heart.

Jesus is called the Great Physician. He heals people. He heals people with physical diseases. He heals those who admit their sins. It is by admitting sin that people have the hope of forgiveness.

Matthew 4:1-25

12: When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been put in prison, He went to the country of Galilee.

13: He left Nazareth and went to live in the city of Capernaum. It is by the lake in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali.

14: This happened as the early preacher Isaiah said it would happen. He said,

15: “The land of Zebulun and Naphtali is along the road to the lake. It is on the other side of the Jordan River in Galilee. These people are not Jews.

16: The people who sat in darkness saw a great light. Light did shine on those in the land who were near death.” (Isaiah 9:1-2)

17: From that time on, Jesus went about preaching. He said, “Be sorry for your sins and turn from them. The holy nation of heaven is near.”

18: Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers. They were Simon (his other name was Peter) and Andrew, his brother. They were putting a net into the sea for they were fishermen.

19: Jesus said to them, “Follow Me. I will make you fish for men!”

20: At once they left their nets and followed

Him.

21: Going from there, Jesus saw two other brothers. They were James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were sitting in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus called them.

22: At once they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

23: Jesus went over all Galilee. He taught in their places of worship and preached the Good News of the holy nation. He healed all kinds of sickness and disease among the people.

24: The news about Him went over all the country of Syria. They brought all the sick people to Him with many kinds of diseases and pains. They brought to Him those who had demons. They brought those who at times lose the use of their minds. They brought those who could not use their hands and legs. He healed them.

25: Many people followed Him from Galilee and Judea. They followed Him from the cities of Decapolis and Jerusalem. They followed Him from Judea and from the other side of the Jordan River.

Matthew



Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English

Hope in Jesus' Teaching

Lesson 6

Learning How to Live
Matthew 5:1-12

Lesson 7

Learning How to Pray
Matthew 6:5-15

Lesson 8

Trusting Jesus
Matthew 6:19-34

Lesson 9

Being Encouraged
Matthew 13:1-23

HOPE IN JESUS' TEACHING

God sent His Son to earth. The message of Jesus was one of hope. Jesus came to call people to God. He preached that salvation was for everyone who would come. He came to teach people how to live. Jesus taught His followers how to tell others about God. Jesus came to heal the sick.

Matthew recorded the words and works of Jesus. Matthew was one of Jesus' chosen followers. He was with Jesus from the beginning until the end.

Jesus gave a special sermon. It is called the *Sermon on the Mount*. It tells us how to be happy. It tells us that God wants us to be happy.

Matthew wrote about how Jesus taught His followers to pray. Jesus said that we should talk to God. He gave us a model prayer. This is called the *Lord's Prayer*.

To have a fulfilled life a person must trust Jesus. In trusting Him, we learn to look forward to the future without fear.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 5:1-12

Memory Verse

“Be glad and full of joy because your pay will be much in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:12)

Word List

destination: a

location where you intend to arrive; a goal

grace: the love and favor that God shows to people

humble: being selfless

pride: dignity of self

Learning How to Live

There is a simple children's song with these words:

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it,

Then you're life will surely show it,

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

Singing this song can even lift a grown person's spirit. It seems silly, but it can be true. It is hard to sing this song without a smile on your face.

We all want to be happy. Jesus told people how to live if they wanted to be happy. This is the basic message of the *Sermon on the Mount*.

Going to the Mountain (Matthew 5:1-2)

Jesus and His followers went up into the mountains. There they sat down. Jesus began to teach them.

Up on the mountain they could relax. They got away from the everyday activities of life. They were not thinking about the things they should be doing. They were thinking about the words of Jesus.

Matthew recorded the words that Jesus spoke. These teachings are often called the *Sermon on the Mount*. This is the record of the words that Jesus spoke. These are words that teach the character of a true follower of Jesus. They are important words. We are often reminded that these are words that changed the world. These important words teach people how to live.

**Things to
Think About**

1. What makes you happy?
2. Have you found the happiness that Jesus gives to all who love Him?
3. How can you show others the happiness found in knowing Jesus?

Happiness Is ... (Matthew 5:3-6)

Jesus was talking to His followers. He wanted them to know how they should live. People who live as followers of Jesus will follow Him to heaven. Heaven is our **destination**.

Jesus says that happiness is found by those who know who they are. These are the people who know there is nothing good within them. Jesus teaches that being **humble** is the gate that leads to heaven. A truly humble person relies on God's **grace** during life. It is through grace that one finds the hope of heaven.

Even sad people can find true happiness. This goes against our reason and understand, but it is true. Jesus was speaking of a deep sadness. It is a sadness that overcomes everything in a person's life. Everyone suffers from sadness. It is not a matter of if a person becomes sad. It is a matter of when a person becomes sad. Joy can come if people will allow God to comfort them in their sadness.

Happiness is found by those who are gentle. Being gentle is not a sign of weakness. Those who are gentle have no **pride** in their hearts. These are the people who trust in God. They are living for the best of rewards. They are living to get to see God.

Happiness is found in those who want to be right with God. The desire to find grace with God is important. It is a hunger and thirst within the soul. Through God's grace we can be right with God and others.

Being Truly Happy (Matthew 5:7-12)

Happiness is for those who truly love mercy. They show a great kindness to others. They are the ones who quietly give to

the poor. They are the ones who put others first.

Happiness is for those who are pure in their heart. They are sincere and honest in the way they treat others. They seek God.

Happiness is for those who make peace. They unite people and nations. They help make the world safer. They help to make the people of the world happy. They are called the Sons of God.

Happiness is for those who do the right thing. They serve God in all they do. They lead others to God.

Happiness is for those who keep their eyes on the goal of heaven. They are not concerned about the gossip of others. They do not care about what others think of them.

People find happiness because they trust in Jesus. They have the hope of heaven. It is not our income that makes us happy. It is our personal faith and our relationship with Jesus.

The more a person is committed to faith in God, the happier they are. This is the happiness that only God can give.

Matthew 5:1-12

1: Jesus saw many people. He went up on the mountain and sat down. His followers came to Him.

2: He began to teach them, saying,

3: "Those who know there is nothing good in themselves are happy, because the holy nation of heaven is theirs.

4: Those who have sorrow are happy, because they will be comforted.

5: Those who have no pride in their hearts are happy, because the earth will be given to them.

6: Those who are hungry and thirsty to be right with God are happy, because they will be filled.

7: Those who show lovingkindness are happy, because they will have loving-kindness shown to them.

8: Those who have a pure heart are happy, because they will see God.

9: Those who make peace are happy, because they will be called the sons of God.

10: Those who have it very hard for doing right are happy, because the holy nation of heaven is theirs.

11: You are happy when people act and talk in a bad way to you and make it very hard

for you and tell bad things and lies about you because you trust in Me.

12: Be glad and full of joy because your reward will be much in heaven. They made it very hard for the early preachers who lived a long time before you.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 6:5-15

Memory Verse

“Tell your sins to each other. And pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a man right with God has much power.”
(James 5:16)

Word List

blessing: a “Thank You, God” prayer, often said at the beginning or ending of a meal; act of favor from God; God’s grace

prayer: spending time communicating with God

Learning to Pray

A child might pray this **prayer** as a bedtime prayer:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.*

A child might pray this prayer as a **blessing** at meals:

*God is great,
God is good,
Let us thank Him for our food.*

A child pray may also pray this **prayer**:

*Thank You for the world so sweet,
Thank You for the food we eat,
Thank You for the birds that sing,
Thank You, God, for everything.*

Prayers such as these help to teach young children how to pray. They serve as good models. From these models children grow in their understanding of prayer. They should be taught to pray from their own heart. Then they can say their own thoughts with their own words.

Praying before meals reminds us to thank God for all He has given us. Praying before going to sleep reminds us to ask God to keep us safe. Some religions demand followers to say prayers at a certain time. These followers must also pray in a certain place. These followers must memorize the words of their prayers.

Christians recognize that God is near us all the time. We can pray any time. We can pray in any place. We can pray the words

**Things to
Think About**

1. How does God always answer our prayers?
2. When did you last spend time with God?
3. Do you listen to God when you pray?
4. Tell about a time that God answered your prayers.

that come from our heart. We know that He will hear and answer our prayers.

What We Know about Prayer (Matthew 6:5-8)

Prayer is a conversation. It is a special time when a person talks to God. Prayer brings people to God.

God knows our needs before we do. He wants us to ask for what we need. He wants us talk to Him. He wants to talk to us. Prayer shows God that we depend on Him. It shows that we trust Him to hear our prayers. We must trust Him to answer our prayers. Prayer shows our need for Him. We are to depend on Him.

How We Know to Pray (Matthew 6:9-15)

Jesus teaches His followers to pray. He gives a model for us to follow. This is often referred to as *The Lord's Prayer*.

From the words of Jesus, we understand that there are two kinds of prayer. Some praying is done in private. Other praying is done in public.

Private prayer is a time just between you and God. These are words that we think or say in a quiet time. These words must be very definite. The words should be in your everyday language. There is no need for big words when speaking to God.

People should talk daily to God. Praying is a part of obeying God. Christians are urged to begin each day with a quiet time of prayer. Take time to tell God what you need. Take time to thank Him for His blessings. Take time to praise Him for the things He has done.

Private prayer is a good time to confess your sins to God. It is a good time to ask God to forgive your sins.

Most people feel best when praying in their native language. Be honest in your prayers. It does no good to falsely praise God. He knows your heart. He knows your mind.

Some prayers are offered in public. These are the words that are spoken in public places. These are the prayers said at church or in public meetings. These are general prayers. These prayers should be short.

The first part of a public prayer should speak about God's glory. Jesus' model prayer does three things:

It praises God His holy name.

It praises God for His perfect rule.

It praises God for His perfect will.

The second part of a public prayer should speak about our personal needs.

Jesus' model prayer speaks of three needs:

We need food daily.

We need forgiveness for our sins.

We need protection from Satan's temptations and his evil plans.

Jesus' model prayer reminds us that only

God can save us from sin. The only way to be saved is to pray. We must ask God for forgiveness.

Prayer is our way to talk to the Living God. It gives us hope that God will provide for our needs.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Matthew 6:5-15

9: “Pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven,
Your name is holy.

10: May Your holy nation come. What
You want done, may it be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

11: Give us the bread we need today.

12: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.

13: ‘Do not let us be tempted, but keep us
from sin. Your nation is holy. You have
power and shining-greatness forever. Let
it be so.’ ”

14: “If you forgive people their sins, your
Father in heaven will forgive your sins
also.

15: If you do not forgive people their sins,
your Father will not forgive your sins.”



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 6:19-34

Memory Verse

“Do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will have its own worries. The troubles we have in a day are enough for one day.” (Matthew 6:34)

Word List

dedicated: the serious purpose for which a person lives

goal: things desired, such as wealth, power, the American dream

treasure: that which is highly valued

trust: total belief in

Trusting Jesus

The question was asked of a politician, “How much money makes a person wealthy?”

Determining the wealth of a person depends on who you are. A young child might say, “If you have 100 cookies, you are rich.”

An older child might declare, “I need to have the latest game. That will show my friends that I get everything I want.”

A teenager might think, “If I had my own car, I would be rich.”

A homeless person might answer, “A home shows a person’s worth.”

A young businessman might decide, “When I get to be president of the company, I will have enough money to do everything I want to do.”

So the question remains. How much is too much? How little is not enough? Is a person’s earthly wealth a true measure of who that person is? The real question should be: What makes a person rich?

Jesus Teaches What Is Important (Matthew 9:19-24)

A person who **trusts** God has nothing to fear. If we trust someone or something, there is no worry. Trust gives us hope. If we trust God we have freedom. We are free not to worry about the future. We know our future is in heaven. We know that God will provide for our needs on earth.

Real **treasure** is found in heaven. The people of faith are totally devoted to God. They expect Him to provide for their

Things to
Think About

1. What do you treasure?
2. How do you spend your money?
3. How wealthy do you think you are?
4. How has God provided for your needs?

needs. God wants to provide the needs of those who love Him. By trusting God, a person looks toward heaven. The **goal** becomes gathering treasures in heaven.

God wants people to be happy. He knows that money does not ensure happiness. People should learn this, too. God knows that money is not a heavenly treasure. A person cannot buy a place in heaven. Your money is not good in heaven. Your reward in heaven will not be based on how many dollars you have. Your reward in heaven will be based on how you lived your life on earth.

Fear shows a lack of faith. Faith overcomes fear. A person **dedicated** to God has no fear. The goal is to become a citizen of heaven. This is secured by having faith in God during our earthly life..

This is a popular saying: You cannot take it with you. That saying is true. When you die, you must leave the things you own on earth. What good are they to you? Christians should remember what the preacher Isaiah asked. “Why do you spend your money for what is not bread?” (Isaiah 55:2).

Jesus Teaches about the Cares of Life (Matthew 6:25-34)

Jesus makes it clear: We should not worry. Worry wastes time. Worry wastes energy.

Do not worry. It is easy to say these words. It is harder to do what these words say. Some people always find something to worry about. They are not satisfied unless they have something to worry about. If they do not have anything to worry about, they look for something. They might create something to worry about.

There are other people who say, “No problem. Do not worry – be happy.” It is easy to say. It is more difficult to believe. Trusting God proves that we believe in Him. Trusting God proves that we accept His love.

There are three things a person needs in life: food, clothes and a place to live. God provides these things. If we have these three things, all else is an added benefit to life. If we do not have these three things, we must trust God to provide.

As God feeds the birds, He will feed His people. There is a hymn that says these words:

*Trusting Jesus everyday,
Trusting Jesus all the way,
Even when I should fall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

Trust God for your daily needs on earth. This is the path to having the hope of great rewards in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-34

19: “Do not gather together for yourselves riches of this earth. They will be eaten by bugs and become rusted. Men can break in and steal them.

20: Gather together riches in heaven where they will not be eaten by bugs or become rusted. Men cannot break in and steal them.

21: For wherever your riches are, your heart will be there also.

22: The eye is the light of the body. If your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

23: If your eye is bad, your whole body will be dark. If the light in you is dark, how dark it will be!

24: No one can have two bosses. He will hate the one and love the other. Or he will listen to the one and work against the other. You cannot have both God and riches as your boss at the same time.

25: “I tell you this: Do not worry about your life. Do not worry about what you are going to eat and drink. Do not worry about what you are going to wear. Is not life more important than food? Is not the body more important than clothes?

26: Look at the birds in the sky. They do not plant seeds. They do not gather grain. They

do not put grain into a building to keep. Yet your Father in heaven feeds them! Are you not more important than the birds?

27: Which of you can make himself a little taller by worrying?

28: Why should you worry about clothes? Think how the flowers grow. They do not work or make cloth.

29: But I tell you that Solomon in all his greatness was not dressed as well as one of these flowers.

30: God clothes the grass of the field. It lives today and is burned in the stove tomorrow. How much more will He give you clothes? You have so little faith!

31: Do not worry. Do not keep saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘What will we wear?’

32: The people who do not know God are looking for all these things. Your Father in heaven knows you need all these things.

33: First of all, look for the holy nation of God. Be right with Him. All these other things will be given to you also.

34: Do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will have its own worries. The troubles we have in a day are enough for one day.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 13:1-23

Memory Verse

“The seed which fell on good ground is like the one who hears the Word and understands it. He gives much grain.”

(Matthew 13:23a)

Word List

discouraged: not

having interest in or being eager for

encouraged: to find support for

parable: an everyday story about heavenly things

sower: a person who plants seeds; a farmer

Being Encouraged

Nancy was a newly married. She was learning to cook. One day she decided to bake a ham. As a child she had watched her mother prepare ham. Her mother cut the ham into two pieces. Then she would place it in two pans. She would place both pans into the oven.

Nancy had only one pan. She called her mother for advice. “Mom, I have only one pan. Can I place both ham pieces in the same pan?”

The mother thought for a moment. She was not sure why the ham was halved. It was something she learned from her mother. Mom suggested that Nancy should call Grandmother.

Nancy talked to her grandmother.

Grandmother laughed. She said, “I had to cut the ham into two pieces! My pan was not large enough for a whole ham. You do not have to cut the ham. Your pan is large enough.”

Learning to do new things is good. It is good to know why things are done in a certain way. It is good for a learner to ask questions. The followers of Jesus were learning to minister to others. They were **encouraged** to ask questions.

The Setting of the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-2)

Jesus was a celebrity. Everywhere He went people followed. Whenever He spoke, people listened. They crowded around Him. They wanted to get as close as they could to Him. They wanted to touch Him.

Jesus and His followers went to the seacoast. The people

**Things to
Think About**

1. Who was the first person to tell you about Jesus?
2. Have you thanked God that someone cared enough to plant the seed?
3. Is someone closer to God because of something you did or said?

stayed on shore. Jesus and his special followers got into a boat. This gave Jesus some distance from the people. It allowed people hear Him better.

Jesus began speaking. He began by telling a story. This form of story is called a **parable**. A parable is a picture story that teaches an important truth. Jesus often used parables as a teaching tool. Each story teaches a simple truth. This single message is the point of the lesson.

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9)

Parables were everyday stories for everyday people. They used language that everyone could understand.

People understood farming. They saw farmers in their fields. They knew that it was a difficult thing to plant seeds. They knew that not all seeds become plants. They knew that some plants die before they are ready. They knew that all plants do not become ripe.

In this parable, Jesus talks about the farmer. He plants his seed. Some of the seeds fall on the road. The birds come and eat these seeds. This is good for the birds. This is bad for the farmer.

Some of the seeds fall among rocks. These seeds cannot grow. These seeds do not have soil. They become dry. They do not become plants. Plants without soil will die.

Some seeds fall on the land that has been prepared. This is good soil. These seeds grow. They give the farmer his crop.

The Purpose of the Parable (Matthew 13:10-17)

The special followers of Jesus were learning how to

minister to others. They wanted to know why Jesus did the things He did.

They wanted to know why Jesus told this story. They asked, “Why did you use this form of teaching?”

Jesus had a simple answer, “So people will understand My words.” Jesus was instructing his special followers on how to spread His message.

We all come to Jesus with different levels of understanding. The person who has grown up going to church remembers the stories of Jesus they heard as a child. The adult who has just started attending church does not have the same knowledge.

Jesus spoke so that all could hear. He used words that all could understand.

The Message of the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23)

Jesus knew that some followers would become **discouraged**. He was preparing them for this to happen. He wanted them to know that it would happen. This was His way to encourage them.

Jesus knows what will happen. Some people will hear the Word, and they will believe. For some it will take more time.

The devil will keep them from the truth of the words. They will hear the message from one person. Then they will hear it from another. It might take many people to bring one person to Christ.

The message of Jesus grows like the seeds grow. One person may plant the seed. Another might weed and water the seed. It might be someone else who harvests the ripe plant.

We are told to tell others. We are not to be discouraged by their lack of understanding. Our job is to keep planting the seeds. We are to let God take care of gathering His harvest. It is enough that we did what we could do.

Our hope comes when we know we do what God calls us to do.

Matthew 13:1-23

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the shore of the lake.

2 Then He got in a boat and sat down because so many people had gathered around Him. Many people were standing on the shore.

3: Jesus taught them many things by using

picture-stories. He said, "A man went out to plant seeds.

4: As he planted the seeds, some fell by the side of the road. The birds came and ate the seeds.

5: Some seeds fell between rocks. The seeds came up at once because there was so little ground.

6: When the sun was high in the sky, they dried up and died because they had no root.

7: Some seeds fell among thorns. The thorns grew and did not give the seeds room to grow.

8: Some seeds fell on good ground and gave much grain. Some gave one hundred times as much grain. Some gave sixty times as much grain. Some gave thirty times as much grain.

9: You have ears, then listen."

10: The followers of Jesus came to Him and said, "Why do You speak to them in picture stories?"

11: He said to the followers, "You were given the secrets about the holy nation of heaven. The secrets were not give to the others.

12: He who has will have more given to him. He will have even more than enough. But he who has little will have even that taken away from him.

13: "This is why I speak to them in picture stories. They have eyes but they do not see. They have ears but they do not hear and they do not understand.

14: It happened in their lives as Isaiah said it would happen. He said, 'You hear and hear but do not understand. You look and look but do not see.

15: The hearts of these people have become fat. They hear very little with their ears. They have

closed their eyes. If they did not do this, they would see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts. Then they would be changed in their ways, and I would heal them.' (Isaiah 6:9-10)

16: But how great are your eyes because they see. How great are your ears because they hear.

17: For sure, I tell you, that many early preachers and men right with God have wanted to see the things you see, but they did not see them. They wanted to hear the things you hear, but they did not hear them.

18: "Listen to the picture story of the man who planted seeds in the ground.

19: When anyone hears the Word about the holy nation and does not understand it, the devil comes and takes away what was put in his heart. He is like the seed that fell by the side of the road.

20: The seed which fell between rocks is like the person who receives the Word with joy as soon as he hears it.

21: Its root is not deep and it does not last long. When troubles and suffering come because of the Word, he gives up and falls away.

22: The seed which fell among thorns is like the person who hears the Word but the cares of this life, and the love for money let the thorns come up and do not give the seed room to grow and give grain.

23: The seed which fell on good ground is like the one who hears the Word and understands it. He gives much grain. Some seed gives one hundred times as much grain. Some gives sixty times as much grain. Some gives thirty times as much grain."

Matthew



Unit 4

*Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English*

Hope in Jesus' Death

Lesson 10

The Way of the Cross
Matthew 17:1-13

Lesson 11

Giving His Life
Matthew 26:26-30;
27:11-14, 35-40

Lesson 12

Jesus, the Hope of the
World
Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

HOPE IN JESUS' DEATH

Can hope be found in death?

At some point in life every person learns about death. For some it is a gradual thing to learn. For others, death comes like a train moving at full speed ahead. Each person learns that all living things must die.

It is a sad thing when a child must be told, "Daddy is not coming home." Or, when there is a call from a police officer who says, "There was an accident. I'm sorry for your loss."

How can there be hope in death?

For Christians that hope is found in Jesus.

Jesus prepared His followers for His death. They knew in their minds that it would happen. The Old Testament prophets had said it would happen. Still, they were not ready when the time came. Their hearts were not prepared for His death.

Jesus died so that we might live. That is our hope.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Matthew 17:1-13

Memory Verse

“A voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my much loved Son. I am happy with Him. Listen to Him.’ ”
(Matthew 17:5)

Word List:

glory: honor
witness: a person who can say, “It happened because I saw it happen.”

The Way of the Cross

There was a time when people could say, “I painted my bedroom white.” Then everyone knew exactly what the room looked like. White was white. That was before paint companies began selling paint called *antique white*. Antique white was a darker shade of white. Every paint company had a different formula for antique white. A person would say, “I painted the room antique white.” People could only guess at the color. They might have an idea of what the room looked like. The actual color depended on which company made the paint.

Paint companies began adding more whites to their choices. Now, one paint company offers 202 shades of white. These include *original white* and *classical white*. There is also *winter white*, *summer white* and *panda white*. There are many names for white.

Matthew says that Jesus appeared in clothes that were “whiter than white.” Even modern paint companies have not discovered a formula for that!

What Will Jesus Be Like? (Matthew 17:1-9)

Jesus, Peter, James and John walked up a mountain. They were alone. Suddenly, Jesus changed. His clothes became a bright white. They were whiter than white. Two men appeared before them. Peter, James and John knew these men. They knew that Moses and Elijah were there.

Elijah and Moses had lived thousands of years before that time. Moses lived fourteen centuries before Jesus. Elijah lived

Things to
Think About

1. Do you expect to see Jesus?
2. What do you think He will look like?
3. What important role did John the Baptist play in God's plan?

nine centuries before Jesus.

Elijah was the greatest prophet in the Old Testament. He spent his life preaching against the evil acts of people. He told the Hebrews not to worship idols. He urged people to turn away from their sins.

Moses was the greatest of all Hebrew leaders. He was known as "The Law Giver." He was the one who brought the Ten Commandments to the Hebrews. He led the Jews out of Egypt. He showed them the way to the Promised Land.

Peter, James and John did not know how to react. Throughout his life, Peter often acted before he thought. This time Peter wanted to build three altars. He wanted to honor this special moment by building these altars.

God had a different purpose in mind. Peter, James and John were not there to worship Jesus, Elijah and Moses. They were there to hear a message. They heard the voice of God say, "Jesus is My Son."

There was no confusion. God made it clear. The Son of God was on earth. God was affirming that Jesus was the Messiah.

Jesus changed. His white clothes showed how He will look in heaven. These white clothes showed Jesus in all His **glory**. His clothes were whiter than white. They were whiter than snow. Peter, James and John saw God's glory. They saw the unique character of Jesus.

There were three men who saw the glory of Jesus. They were **witnesses** to this special event. There were also three heavenly witnesses: Elijah, Moses and the voice of God.

Why Is Elijah Important?

(Matthew 17:10-13)

The followers of Jesus tried to understand: Why is Elijah important?

Someone always prepares the way for others. Elijah prepared the way for the Jesus. Others had prepared the way, too. One of these was John the Baptist.

John the Baptist is not the same John who was with Jesus on the mountain. John the Baptist's mother was Elizabeth. Elizabeth was the cousin of Jesus' mother, Mary. An angel told Elizabeth she would have a son. At the same time, an angel told Mary she would have a son.

John preached about the coming of God's Son. John baptized those who believed. John baptized Jesus. God spoke when Jesus was baptized. God said, "This is My Son. I am pleased with Him."

As people started listening to Jesus, John the Baptist was beheaded. This is a cruel way to die. Jesus would also have a cruel death.

Jesus was preparing His followers for the days to come. He wanted them to know He would die. He wanted them to know his death would be cruel.

Jesus came to earth as a man. He was God's gift to the world. Jesus would die so that others could live. Those who believe in Him are given the gift of eternal life.

This is the hope for all people.

Matthew 17:1-13

1: Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and his brother John. He led them up to a high mountain by themselves.

2: He was changed in looks before them. His face was as bright as the sun. His clothes looked as white as light.

3: Moses and Elijah were seen talking with Jesus.

4: Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You will let us, we will build three altars here. One will be for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

5: While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud came over them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is My much loved Son, I am very happy with Him. Listen to Him!”

6: When the followers heard this, they got down on the ground on their faces and were very much afraid.

7: Jesus came and put His hand on them. He said, “Get up! Do not be afraid.”

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

9: As they came down from the mountain, Jesus told them in strong words, saying, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man is raised from the

dead.”

10: The followers asked Jesus, “Then why do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah must come first?”

11: He said, “For sure, Elijah will come first and get things ready.

12: But I tell you, Elijah has already come and they did not know him. They did to him whatever they wanted to do. In the same way the Son of Man will suffer from them also.”

13: Then the followers understood He was talking about John the Baptist.



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Matthew 26:26-30;
27:11-14, 25-50

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

Whoever puts His trust in Him will have life that lasts forever.” (John 3:16)

Word List

Exodus: going out
remembrance: something recalled

Giving His Life

Passover is a special time for Jewish people. It is when they remember how God freed the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. For centuries they had been slaves. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh. Moses was to tell Pharaoh, “Let my people go.”

The night before they were to leave Egypt, God sent the angel of death. The angel killed all the Egyptian boy babies. The Hebrew boys were allowed to live. The angel passed over them. This was the beginning of the **Exodus** of the Hebrews from Egypt. The next day they began their journey to the Promised Land.

Each spring the Jews celebrate this event. They celebrate for eight days. The main part of the celebration is a supper. This supper is called a Seder. Seder brings families together. During the Seder the head of the family asks, “Why is tonight different from all other nights?”

The First Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26-30)

It was time for Passover. This Passover would be different from all other Passovers. This Passover would be the last meal before Jesus would die. This would be the last time Jesus and His twelve special followers would be together.

Jesus spoke. He was showing His followers what was to come. He wanted them to understand the things that they would need to do. He gave them special instructions. He said, “Take, eat the bread.” Next He said, “Take, drink the drink.” Then He reminded them, “Do this in **remembrance** of me.”

**Things to
Think About**

- 1.If you had seen Jesus on the cross would you have stayed to watch Him die?
- 2.Which side would you have taken?
- 3.Would you have been for Jesus or against Him?
4. How does your life reflect that choice?

The journey from Egypt was a difficult one for God's people. It took the Hebrews forty years to reach the Promised Land. Jesus wanted His followers to understand it would not be easy to follow Him. Their reward for continuing His work would be eternal life.

Jesus Stands Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11-14)

Soldiers came. They arrested Jesus. They took Him to the religious leaders. The religious leaders did not want Jesus to live.

The soldiers took Him to Pilate. Pilate was the ruler of Galilee. He was a Roman man. The people of Galilee did not like him. Pilate had made many bad decisions in the past. He was an evil ruler. He did not care what the people thought. He did whatever he wanted to do.

This one man had the power to determine Jesus' punishment. Pilate was the final authority. This was one time he listened to the local Jewish leaders. He said that Jesus should die.

Jesus was led away. He was nailed to a cross. Jesus would die.

Who Watched While Jesus Was on the Cross?**(Matthew 27:35-44)**

The soldiers put Jesus on the cross. They took His clothes. They gambled to see who would get the clothes. They were not keeping them as a reminder of the occasion. They wanted the clothes to wear. They knew the man on the cross would no longer need them. They watched Him suffer.

Two robbers were there. They were also being punished. They were also nailed to crosses. They were also dying.

Priests, rabbis, scribes and elders were there. They wanted to see Jesus die. They laughed at Jesus. They reminded Jesus of His words: "I am the Son of God." They did not believe Jesus was the Messiah.

There were others, too. These were just everyday people. They were there just to see someone die.

Many came to watch Jesus die. They said, "Come down from the cross. Then we will believe." They were making up their own rules. They placed a condition on their willingness to believe.

Jesus had to die. The prophets of the Old Testament said He would die. The death of Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets. Jesus had to die to save the world.

People cannot tell God how to save the world. God's plan must be obeyed. People must listen to Him.

The Last Hours (Matthew 27:45-50)

From 12:00 o'clock until 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon the world was dark. The sun was hidden. Only God could make the world dark in the middle of the day. This darkness showed the dark condition of the people's hearts.

After the darkness, the light always shines. The story of Jesus does not end with His death. The story continues with His resurrection. Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus is alive today! This is the hope of our salvation.

Matthew 26:26-30

26: As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread. He gave thanks and broke it in pieces. He gave it to His followers and said, "Take, eat, this is My body."

27: Then He took the cup and gave thanks. He gave it to them and said, "You must all drink from it."

28: This is My blood of the New Way of Worship which is given for many. It is given so the sins of many can be forgiven.

29: I tell you that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until that day when I will drink it new with you in the holy nation of My Father."

30: After they sang a song they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 27:11-14

11: Then Jesus stood in front of the leader of the country. The leader asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said

to him, “What you say is true.”

12: When the head religious leaders and the other leaders spoke against Him, He said nothing.

13: Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear all these things they are saying against You?”

14: Jesus did not say a word. The leader was much surprised and wondered about it.

Matthew 27:35-50

35: When they had nailed Him to the cross, they divided His clothes by drawing names.

*It happened as the early preacher said it would happen. He said, “They divided My clothes among them by drawing names to see who would get My coat.” (Psalm 22:18)

36: Then they sat down and watched Him.

37: Over His head they put in writing what they had against Him, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38: They nailed two robbers to crosses beside Him. One was on His right side. The other was on His left side.

39: Those who walked by shook their heads and laughed at Him.

40: They said, “You are the One Who could destroy the house of God and build it up again in three days. Now save Yourself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the

cross.”

41: The head religious leaders and the teachers of the Law and the other leaders made fun of Him also. They said,

42: “He saved others but He cannot save Himself. If He is the King of the Jews, let Him come down from the cross. Then we will believe in Him.

43: He trusts God. Let God save Him now, if God cares for Him. He has said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

44: And the robbers who were nailed to crosses beside Him made fun of Him the same way also.

45: From noon until three o’clock it was dark over all the land.

46: About three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have You left Me alone?”

47: When some of those who stood by heard that, they said, “This Man is calling for Elijah.”

48: At once one of them ran and took a sponge and filled it with sour wine. He put it on a stick and gave it to Him to drink.

49: The others said, “Let Him alone. Let us see if Elijah will come and save Him.”

50: Then Jesus gave another loud cry and gave up His spirit and died.



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Matthew 28: 1-10,
16-20

Memory Verse

“Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things that I told you. And I am with you always, even until the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Word List

authority: power

Calvary: the place where Jesus died

commission:

authority to act

not defiled: perfect; Jesus was not delided; while a man, He did not sin.

triumphantly: with great happiness in winning

Jesus, the Hope of the World

Every spring Christians celebrate Easter. Easter reminds us that Jesus died and rose from the grave. We know this happened during Passover. So Easter is celebrated at the same time that the Jews celebrate their holiday.

The date for Easter changes every year. It is not like Christmas, which is every December 25th. Easter comes on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. The earliest it can be is March 21. The latest it can be is April 25th.

Jesus Rises from the Dead (Matthew 28:1-10)

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to Jesus' grave. They wanted to mourn His death. They wanted to honor Him. They were surprised at what they saw. The stone to the entrance of the grave had been moved.

It was an angel who rolled away the stone to Jesus' grave. Angels are important in fulfilling God's plan for His world. An angel came to tell that Jesus would be born. Now an angel was announcing that Jesus lived again.

The two women were afraid. They had placed Jesus in a grave. Now they were standing in front of His grave. The grave was empty. The women were looking at an angel.

The angel said, “Do not be afraid.”

The two women were afraid. They began to understand what was happening. They were filled with joy. It was as Jesus had said it would be. It was as the preachers of old had preached. Jesus was alive!

Things to
Think About

1. What does God expect of you?
2. How can you obey the Great Commission?
3. Have you heard God's special call to obey the Great Commission?

They were excited. They ran to tell the other followers of Jesus. "He lives! He lives!"

This is the greatest story: Jesus is alive. Jesus lives today. These are the words of a famous hymn that many Christians sing to celebrate Easter:

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph over foes,
He arose, a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

-- Robert Lowery (1826-1899)

After He rose from the dead, Jesus stayed on earth for forty days. During those forty days Jesus appeared to His followers ten times. Each time He reminded His followers that He had died, but now he was alive. This could happen only because Jesus was who He said He was. Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus Gives His Final Commandment (Matthew 28:16-20)

At last, it was time for Jesus to return to heaven. His earthly ministry was over. He was to leave the world. His followers would be the ones to tell others about God's love.

The followers had been a part of the Jesus' ministry. They had been taught what to do. Now it was their time to share the story with others.

Sharing Jesus' story is not always easy. Jesus knew people would die because they followed Him. Jesus knew people would give up wealth or earthly treasures to follow Him. Jesus knew that some would choose not to follow Him.

Jesus gave His followers the **authority** to continue His work. He made it clear. Part of God's plan is to keep the message alive. This final message is often called The Great **Commission**.

Jesus reminded them, "Go and tell. Baptize those who believe. Teach them to do what you know to be true."

People telling people. This is how to share the Gospel. This is how the story of Jesus has come to us today. The Good News is our hope for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*Christ was born in Bethlehem,
Son of God, Son of Man.*

*He grew up an earthly Child,
Of the world but **not defiled**.*

*Jesus died at **Calvary**,*

*He arose **triumphantly**.*

He will cleanse us from our sin

If we put our trust in Him.

We will live with Him one day,

And forever with Him stay.

-- Author Unknown

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

1: The Day of Rest was over. The sun was coming up on the first day of the week.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the grave.

2: At once the earth shook and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He came and pushed back the stone from the door and sat on it.

3: His face was bright like lightning . His clothes were white as snow.

4: The soldiers were shaking with fear and became as dead men.

5: The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus Who was nailed to the cross.

6: He is not here! He has risen from the dead as He said He would. Come and see the place where the Lord lay.

7: Run fast and tell His followers that He is risen from the dead. He is going before you to the country of Galilee. You will see Him there as I Have told you.”

8: They went away from the grave in a hurry.

They were afraid and yet had much joy.

They ran to tell the news to His followers.

9: As they went to tell the followers, Jesus

met them and said hello to them. They came and held His feet and worshiped Him.

10: Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there.

Matthew 28:16-20

16: Then the eleven followers went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

17: When they saw Jesus, they worshiped Him. But some did not believe.

18: Jesus came and said to them, “All power has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19: Go and make followers of all the nations.

Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

20: Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English*

Bible Text

Matthew 25:31-46

Memory Verse

“O man, He has told you what is good. What does the Lord ask of you but to do what is fair and to love kindness, and to walk without pride with your God?”
(Micah 6:8)

Word List

eternal: forever

destination: the goal
—heaven

salvation: being
saved from our wrong
doings; the path to
heaven

Hope for People Who Hurt

In 2008, Hurricane Ike hit Southeast Texas. The winds and the rain did not last long. After the storm it was time to count the cost. Over 57 people died. People lost their houses. Everything in their houses was gone. Businesses closed forever. Many people lost their jobs. Lives were changed permanently.

When the winds died down, Texas Baptist Men were there. They provided meals for thousands of people. They came with water. They comforted those that needed to be encouraged.

There are times when a hug is the most needed thing. Texas Baptist Men showed God’s love to people who were hurting.

Texas Baptist Men (and women) were obeying Jesus. Jesus told His followers to feed, clothe, and comfort others. We are called to take care of those around us.

Are You a Sheep or a Goat? (Matthew 25:31-33)

Jesus talks of separating the sheep from the goats. If you are from the city, it may be hard to tell the difference. If you grew up in the country, you would be familiar with sheep and goats.

Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. A shepherd knows His sheep. Sheep prefer being outdoors. They love to roam about and eat the grass in the open fields. Goats want to be sheltered. They prefer warm barns.

Someday Jesus will return. Angels will be with Him. He will separate the sheep from the goats. The goats will be on the left of Jesus. These are the people who do not have faith in Him. The

Things to
Think About

1. How is your faith shown in your acts towards others?
2. What more can you do to show God's love for all?

sheep will be on the right side of Him. This will be the group of believers who trust and obey Jesus.

The sheep will be the people who believe in Jesus. They will be with Him in heaven. The reward will be come when we see Him. It will show how we treated others while we lived on the earth.

Six Kinds of People We Will Meet Along the Way
(Matthew 25:34-40)

Many people are hungry. It is easy to find people who we can help to feed. Some are hiding in plain sight. They appear to have food, but they are too ashamed to admit their need. We should be looking for people who need our food.

Many people are thirsty. We live in a country where water is available. Many people cannot pay their water bills. The water company has turned off their water. Also, there are areas of the world which do not have a fresh water supply. We should help provide water to those without water.

Many people are strangers. They are away from their families. They do not have friends. They have not met their neighbors. They are alone. They are lonely. We should offer our friendship to help them.

Many people are in need of clothes. When the new school year begins, children have grown over the summer months. Often their old clothes are too small. They need new clothes. We need to help provide clothes for these children.

Many people are sick. They need special care. They need medicine. They need someone to take them to their appointments.

They need someone to get their medicine for them.

Many people in jail need visitors. They need someone to listen. They need someone to care.

The Difference Between the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 26:41-46)

There is a difference between the group called sheep and the group called goats. The difference is how they treat others. The sheep are people who care for others because God has cared for them. They will be rewarded in heaven. The goats are those who have not cared for others. They have cared only for themselves. They will not see God.

Jesus tells us many things about heaven. We should listen to what he says. We can live on earth, looking forward to our **eternal** home. Heaven is our **eternal destination**. Earth is where we are for only a short period of time. God wants us to be with Him in heaven. God has planned a place for us.

The only way to heaven is by accepting God's gift of **salvation**. This gift is given to those who love Jesus. We are to take care of

those in need. This is to show the love of God to others. It is love for God that gets us to heaven. It is not our acts.

We are to obey God. We are to do His will. We must listen as He tells us what His plan is. We are not to tell Him what we will or will not do.

This is the way to heaven. This is the path to eternal life. This is our hope.

Matthew 25:31-46

31: “When the Son of Man comes in His shining-greatness, He will sit down on His throne of greatness. All the angels will be with Him.

32: All the nations of the earth will be gathered before Him. He will divide them from each other as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats.

33: He will put the sheep on His right side, but the goats He will put on His left side.

34: “Then the King will say to those on His right side, ‘Come, you who have been called by My Father. Come into the holy nation that has been made ready for you before the world was made.

35: For I was hungry and you gave Me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave Me water to drink. I was a stranger and you gave Me a room.

36: I had no clothes and you gave Me clothes to wear. I was sick and you cared for Me. I was in prison and you came to see Me.’

37: “Then those that are right with God will say, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed you? When did we see You thirsty and give You a drink?

38: When did we see You a stranger and

give You a room? When did we see You had no clothes and we gave You clothes?

39: And when did we see You sick or in prison and we came to You?’

40: Then the King will say, ‘For sure, I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me.’

41: “Then the King will say to those on His left side, ‘Go away from Me! You are guilty! Go into the fire that lasts forever. It has been made ready for the devil and his angels.

42: For I was hungry but you did not give Me food to eat. I was thirsty but you did not give Me water to drink.

43: I was a stranger but you did not give Me a room. I had no clothes but you did not give Me clothes. I was sick and in prison but you did not come to see Me.’

44: “Then they will ask, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger? When did we see You without clothes or sick or in prison and did not care for You?’

45: Then He will say to them, ‘For sure, I tell you, because you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

46: These will go to the place where they will be punished forever. But those right with God will have life that lasts forever.”