Johanna H. van Belle

and the

Samobistus
Matthew:
A Study Guide

Johanna H. van Belle and the Samobistus

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Photographs by Gerald van Belle
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A Study of the Gospel of Matthew

For more than three decades a group of people from the Seattle First Christian Reformed Church has come together at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning to pray, eat, and study the Bible. They say “goodbye” promptly at 8:30 a.m. and go off to do their duties for the day. Lately the time has shifted to 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. in favor of those who are getting on in age.

Different people have attended at different times, but there was always a kernel that showed up throughout the years, week after week. John Tibbits was one of those people. He made many lessons and always gladly shared his faith, his love for Jesus, and his wisdom. David Gronlund was another person who shared his insights and put together questions. He studied the commentaries of Matthew Henry and made everyone think. Both John and David were called home by the Lord in July 2011.

They made their own lessons. Their discussions would go deep. They enjoyed fellowship and shared their joys and sorrows. This book is a collection of questions and comments by the group. The questions were most useful if studied before the meeting but—we must confess—we often saw the questions for the first time during the meeting. The questions and comments were compiled by Johanna van Belle.

We had to think of a name for the group and came up with SAMOBISTUS (Saturday Morning Bible Students); the name coined at the time that the Sandinistas were active in Central America.

Ordinarily we used the New International Version (N.I.V.) of the Bible but had access to many other translations that were sometimes helpful in making a passage clearer. We tended not to use commentaries when developing the questions.

You can print the material one lesson at a time or print the whole book. We have left spaces between the questions so that you can write your answers in them. The nice thing is that if you don’t like your answers you can just print a new page. The book will be useful for both individual and group study.

This study of Matthew is free for anyone to use. If you use this material and feel so inclined, we would suggest you make a contribution of $5.00 per person in memory of John Tibbits and David Gronlund to the Tuition Help Fund of Shoreline Christian School (2400 Northeast 147th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155-7324; www.shorelinechristian.org ).

If you have comments, suggestions, or edits please contact me at vanbelle@seanet.com

On behalf of the SAMOBISTUS,

Johanna H. van Belle
Matthew  
Introduction

The Gospel of Matthew was written in Greek. Matthew is concerned with the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Matthew’s main theme is “the messianic position of Jesus, who is seen as the fulfillment of Old Testament predictions with special emphasis on His kingship.” (The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church, J. D. Douglas, Editor, page 948. (NIDCC))

Matthew is especially concerned with the Law (i.e. The Old Testament). In the gospel of Matthew Jesus did not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it and “moreover He went beyond it to bring out the true spiritual implications of the Law... ‘Moses said,..., but I say.’” (NIDCC, page 948).

Although Matthew’s readers were mainly Jews he does not restrict his gospel to Jews. For example, he records the visit of the Magi and he gives a full statement of the Great Commission.

Matthew was a tax collector. In Mark and Luke he is called by the name of Levi. He was one of the 12 disciples.

The Gospel of Matthew contains five great discourses of Jesus. Each discourse is concluded with the words: “When Jesus finished these words...” (Note: Verses and chapters were not introduced until 1200 A.D.)

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The books of the New Testament are not arranged in chronological order. In general, the letters of Paul are the earliest written documents available to the young church (beside the Old Testament). If you were to arrange the N.T. material in order (somewhat of a guess) you would get the following order according to the N.I.V.

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The NIV has a very wide range of dates for the gospel of Matthew, considering either the early 50’s or late 60’s depending on the view whether Matthew had the gospel of Mark in front of him. (Matthew and Luke share large sections with Mark). The consensus is that Matthew and Luke were written after Mark thus pointing to a later date.
I. INFANCY NARRATIVE

Matthew 1:1-2:23
Matthew 1

Read Matthew 1

Background
Matthew focuses on Joseph in Chapter 1, while Luke focuses on Mary in his first two chapters.

1. Genealogy.
   Read Luke 3:21-38 and compare with Matthew 1:1-17
   Which two prominent people are mentioned in Matt.1:17?

2. What was the promise to Abraham?—read Gen. 12:3; 28:18.

3. What was the promise to David?—see II Sam. 7:12; Ps. 89:3, 4.

4. What is the point that Matthew is trying to make?

5. What event precedes the genealogy of Jesus in Luke?


7. Why, in your opinion, is it important to mention both aspects?

8. Verses 1-17
   Name the “outsiders” mentioned in Matthew’s list.

9. How significant was Manasseh’s reign(verse 10); read II Kings 24: 3-4.
10. Verses 18-19  
What was Joseph’s right under the Mosaic/Levitical law?; see Deut. 22:23, 24.

11. What was Joseph’s plan?

12. What does that tell us about the adopting father of Jesus?

13. Does God still speak through dreams?

14. How would we know that it is God speaking, and not our own psyche going wild?

Look back at verse 18. How do we connect the two names: Jesus and Christ? What do they mean?

Who prophesied, to which king, about a virgin conceiving?

17. What would be the name of the son? What does it mean?

18. Who was the final fulfillment of this prophesy? Read also Isa. 9:6, 7.

19. The name Mary is the Greek version of the Hebrew, Miriam. Who was a famous Miriam in the Old Testament?
20. Did Mary have other children? See Mark 6:3.

21. Some branches of Christianity celebrate the Annunciation on March 25. Should Mary have a special place of honor in the Christian calendar?

Notes

1. Matthew focused on God’s faithfulness. Fulfillment sometimes takes a long time.
2. Luke emphasizes Jesus’ relationship with the human race.
3. Matthew follows the line of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus; Luke follows the line of Mary, the blood relative of Jesus.
4. Tamar—read Gen. 38; Rahab—read Joshua 2; 6:22–25; Ruth, the Moabite—read the story of Ruth.
5. Jesus—“because He will save His people from their sins” Christ means, “The anointed one.”
Matthew 2

Read Matthew 2
Background
King Herod the Great reigned from 37-4 B.C. He was appointed by the Roman Senate. He was ruthless, a murderer and yet he was brilliant. He killed his wife, three of his sons, his mother-in-law, his brother-in-law, the innocent boys in Bethlehem, and numerous others. He was an architect. He erected theaters, monuments, pagan altars, fortresses, and rebuilt the temple for the Jews. This last project was started in 19 B.C. and was finished 68 years after his death.

1. Verses 1-8
   The O.T. foretold the birth of the Christ in Bethlehem.
   Read: Ruth 1: 1-2; 1:19, 22; 4:16-22; I Sam. 16:1; Micah 5: 1-2.
   This expectation was verbalized in John 7: 42-44.
   What is the importance of establishing Jesus’ birth in a geographical place (Bethlehem) and in historical time (King Herod the Great)?

2. Who are the Magi? Do we know how many there were? Why did they come?

3. Why would King Herod be “disturbed” by their questions?

4. How does Herod the Great go about to find out if there is any truth to their story?

5. How did they get their information?

6. King Herod evidently puts more faith in the O.T, prophesies than the chief priests and the teachers of the law. What is his plan? Why the secrecy (verse 7)?

7. In a similar vein—why is it that those who hear the Good News for the first time often trust and expect more than those who have been Christians for a long time?
8. Verses 9-12
   How did the Magi find the child and where?

9. How old do you think Jesus must have been by now?

10. Discuss the manner of worship of the magi. What is your idea of worshiping God?

11. Why did they not report back to Herod?


13. Verses 15-18
   In verse 15 Matthew quotes the prophet Hosea 1:1. Explain how Matthew applies this prophesy to Jesus.

14. In verse 17 and 18 Matthew quotes the prophet Jeremiah 31:15. How was this prophesy fulfilled?

15. Verses 19-23.
   How did Jesus end up in Nazareth?

16. What was the opinion of people about Nazareth? See John 1: 45-46.
17. How is this the fulfillment of another prophesy? See Ps 22:6 and Isa 53:3.

Notes

Question 2
The story of the Magi is not found in the other three gospels. Three gifts were brought. This often gives the notion that there were three magi. Actually, we do not know how many magi there were.

Question 8
The magi came from the East and must have travelled 1-2 years before arriving in Jerusalem.

Question 9
They worshiped Jesus in a house, not in a stable or manger.
II. PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

Discourse 1: The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 3:1-7:28
Matthew 3

Read Matthew 3

1. Verse 2
   “The Kingdom of Heaven is here.” This phrase is found in Matthew. Luke and Mark refer to the “Kingdom of God”. “Heaven is a substitute for the name of “God”. Jews avoided the use of the name of God out of reverence.
   Christianity Today (October 2008) contains a news item, entitled, “The Vatican gives orders to excise the name of Yahweh from worship.” Should we avoid the name of God?

2. The idea of God’s Kingdom is central to the teaching of Jesus and is mentioned 50 times in Matthew alone. What did it mean to those who heard it at that time? What do you understand it to be? How is God’s rule evident today?

3. Read the accounts in Mark 1:1-11 and Luke 3:1-22 and compare with Matthew. What are some similarities and some differences between recordings?

4. John the Baptist was another fulfillment of a prophecy in the O.T. (See Isaiah 40:3). How did John the Baptist “prepare the way for the Lord?” and “make straight paths for him”?

5. Who was supposed to come before the Messiah? – see Malachi 4: 5,


8. How do you reconcile the above two statements?

Here Jesus summarizes John’s pre-eminent position. What did he tell the crowd?

11. How does John the Baptist mark the end of an era? What is the new era?

12. What was the O.T. basis for the baptism of John? See Num. 19:18, Ex 30: 19-20; Ez. 36: 25, 26.

13. Who were the Pharisees and who were the Sadducees?


16. Why did Jesus want to be baptized by John, since John’s baptism was for the repentance of sins? See II Corinthians 5:21.

17. Verse 16. Jesus was equipped for his ministry with the Holy Spirit. Did Jesus not have the Holy Spirit before this event?
Notes

Question 11
John the Baptist marks the end of the era of the Law and the Prophets. With Jesus comes the new era of the Kingdom of God.

Question 13
Pharisees were a legalistic and separatist group. They strictly kept the Law of Moses and the unwritten “tradition of the elders.” Sadducees were politically minded and theologically unorthodox. They denied the resurrection, angels, and spirits.
Matthew 4

Read Matthew 4
1. For background read Deut. 8: 1-5. Summarize this passage.

2. Verse 1. Why did God lead the Israelites into the desert for forty years?

3. Read James 1:13, Gen. 22:1. What is the difference between testing and tempting?


5. Read 1 John 3:8. Why did Jesus come?

6. Read Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15. Why was Jesus led into the desert and why was He tempted?

7. Fasting. Read Matthew 4:2; Ex. 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8 Besides the Lord Jesus two people are mentioned in the Old Testament who fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. Who were they? Where do you meet them in the New Testament?

8. Is it humanly possible to fast for 40 days and 40 nights? (There is a saying in the Talmudists: “Is it possible that any man can fast forty days and forty nights? To which the Rabbi Meir answered, When thou takest up thy abode in any particular city, thou must live according to its customs. Moses ascended to heaven, where they neither eat nor drink; and when angels descend to us they eat and drink also.” Moses, Elijah and our Lord could fast forty days and nights, because they were in communion with God and living a heavenly life.)
9. Read Matthew 3: 16 and 17. In Matthew 4:3 and 4:6 the tempter challenges this statement. How does Jesus respond to these first two temptations?

10. Verse 6. Satan knows Scripture! How can we protect ourselves?

11. Verse 8-10. The third temptation. What does it deal with?

12. Give examples how we easily could fall into this trap?

13. Verse 11 Why did the devil leave Jesus?

14. Verse 12-17. Why did Jesus return to Galilee? How was this a fulfillment of an O.T. prophesy? (See Isa. 9:1, 2).

15. Why did Jesus not visit John in prison?

16. Why were the people to ‘Repent’?

17. What did Jesus mean with ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’?

18. The calling of the first disciples. Read John 1:35-42; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:16-20 and Matthew 4:18-22. What would persuade people like Peter and Andrew and then James and John to follow Jesus? (Read the four Gospels. It may give you some insight into the credentials of Jesus as Rabbi).
19. Verse 23-25. Look on the map to get an idea how far Jesus’ ministry spread.

20. Jesus’ ministry was three fold. Can you name them?

Notes

First Temptation—Jesus did not use his supernatural powers for his own needs.
Second Temptation—Jesus did not use His power to win a large following by miracles or magic.
Third Temptation—Jesus did not use an easy short-cut to obtain world dominion, wealth, power and avoid suffering.

In all three temptations Jesus answers the devil with Scripture.
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5, 6, 7

Background
Matthew’s main purpose is to prove to his Jewish readers that Jesus is the Messiah. He does this primarily by showing how Jesus in his life and ministry fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures (the Jewish Bible). Please keep this in mind in today’s lesson.

In the introduction we were told that the book of Matthew contains 5 discourses. Today we start with the first one: The Sermon on the Mount. It deals with 3 main topics:

i) Beatitudes – declarations of blessedness Matthew 5: 1-20
iii) Contrast between Jesus’ ethical and Jewish legalistic traditions – Matthew 5: 21-48

Reference used: Sermon on the Mount (by Martyn Lloyd-Jones)


Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. Matthew 5:1-2
   a. Who did Matthew remind people of when he wrote “he went up on a mountainside” (see Exodus 24:15).

   b. Why did this person go up the mountainside?


   d. Who is the audience? Would it be meaningful for a non-believer?

2. Matthew 5:3  *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

   b. Why put this as the first beatitude?
c. The promise is the Kingdom of heaven. When does this start; is there a past, present, and future? Explain.

d. What would be different about my life and prayer if I were truly “poor in spirit”? Question asked by Oswald Chambers (Prayer a Holy Occupation).

3. Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted.*
   a. What is the meaning of mourning; does it mean that you have to have to be pious, have a long face, and be without joy? Example: Paul in Romans 7:21-25; 8:23. How does Paul start his letters (e.g. Galatians 1: 3)? Explain.

b. How is this a logical sequence to being “poor in spirit”? Do we only mourn for ourselves?


e. Why should you be glad? (2 Cor. 5: 10, 11; 1 Cor. 3: 10-15).

4. Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*
   a. What is meekness? Notice how it follows the previous two conditions (verse 3 and 4). The supreme example is Jesus – Read Phil. 2:8.

b. Give another word for meekness. The great John Bunyan said: “He that is down needs fear no fall”. How do we express this in relationships with others?
c. *...for they will inherit the earth.*
   When does that take place? Read I Cor. 6:2, 3; Romans 8:17.

5. Matthew 5:6  *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*
   a. In the light of the previous statements what exactly is the desire of those who want righteousness?

   b. The promise is to be filled. What does that mean and when does it take place?

   c. How can we be sure it has happened, how do we experience it? (Hint – Galatians 5:22; I John 2:3-6; I John 3:18).

   d. Hungering and thirsting has an active element in it. What is required of us?

(The next verses of the Beatitude are the application, if you wish, of the previous verses.)

6. Matthew 5:7  *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
   a. Contrast grace and mercy (see Notes).

   b. What does that mean for you to be merciful and how is it possible to live this way (Rom. 8:1, 2)?
c. **Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** Does that mean I am forgiven by God only if I forgive others and to the extent that I forgive others?

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

   b. What does the Bible say about our heart?


   d. **See God.** What does that mean? (John 14:9).

8. Matthew 5:9. **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.**
   a. What are peacemakers? What is their main concern?

   b. What does this mean in practice? Does it have anything to do with your worldview?

   c. Who is the Prince of Peace and how was He treated? What can you expect for yourself?

9. Matthew 5:10. **Blessed are those who are persecuted, because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**
   a. Someone said:
      “Imitate Christ and the world will praise you,“
      “Become Christ-like and the world will hate you.”
   Do you agree with this statement? What does this mean to you in reality?
What does Christ promise us? John 15:18-20

b. Why should one be happy when persecuted for righteousness’ sake?

10. Matthew 5:11-12.  *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
   a. Verses 11 and 12 are an extension of verse 10 and draw attention to Christian behavior in the face of persecution. Could you name some principles? (Hint – our example is Jesus. Read Hebrews 12:2, 3.)

b. Why should you be glad? (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15).

c. What kind of reward do YOU expect?

Notes

Question 1
   a. Moses went up the mountainside to receive the law.
   b. The “new” law was also given from a mountainside.
   c. “Sat down” – it was custom for the Jewish rabbis to sit down when teaching.
   d. Audience – the disciples (the Jewish people).

Question 2, “Poor in spirit”
   b. Conviction precedes conversion. This is the fundamental characteristic of Christian.
      Everything else follows.
   c. Past—Jesus,
      Present—The presence of the Holy Spirit in all the believers,
Future—Jesus’ return.

Question 3b
We have to be “poor in spirit” in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Question 4b
Humility. We can express this by an attitude of respect for others, building relationships. It implies a teachable spirit.

Question 4c
A “meek” (humble) person is always satisfied.

Question 5a
Desire to be like Jesus:
  To be free from sin and to be right with God,
  Free from the very desire to sin.

Question 5b
This takes place immediately plus it is an ongoing process called sanctification.

Question 5c
Walk as Jesus did:
  Love in word and deed,
  Exhibit the fruits of the Spirit,
  Experience peace with God.

Question 5d
Intentional living:
  Avoid everything that opposes righteousness, seek out godly company, pray, meditate, read the bible.

Question 6a
  Grace deals with **people** and their sin.
  Mercy deals with the consequences of sin.
  Grace = you get what you don’t deserve
  Mercy = you don’t get what you deserve

Question 6b
Pity and action. Relieve the situation. Supreme example: God send His Son.
Mercy is Christ on the cross saying:
  “Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”

Question 6c
Answer: If you believe that, you cancel out grace! We are truly forgiven if we truly repent
Question 7a
The center of one personality.

Question 7c
Keep the great commandment – Live to the glory of God, love your neighbor as yourself.

Question 8 a and b
This involves a new nature. Actively seeking peace, control your tongue, respect each other.
As image bearers of God, do what God has done for you, live for the glory of God.
He is the Prince of Peace.

Question 9b
Final proof that you are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
Application of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5:13-7:28

1. Matthew 5:3-12 dealt with the Christian character. Matthew 5:13 through the end of the Sermon on the Mount is an application. How does the Christian manifest him/herself? (See 1 Peter 2:9).

Read Matthew 5:13. You are the salt of the earth.

Background
The sodium ion combines with the chloride ion to make salt. It is one of the most basic molecules of the earth. Life itself would be impossible without it. The human body requires salt to function properly. Roman legionnaires were paid in salt—a salarium. This is the Latin origin of the word “salary.” Greek slave traders often bartered salt for slaves, giving rise to the expression that someone is “not worth his salt.”

2. You are the salt of the world.
   a. What does that statement imply about the world?

   b. Can you give some examples from the Bible that indicate that the world is very sinful?

3. What is the function of salt? Notice the use of salt in the O.T.—see Leviticus 2:13
   a. What do we do with salt when it loses its effectiveness?—see Luke 14: 34, 35.

   b. Given your knowledge of salt, why is it important to be “salty” Christians?—see Psalm 34:8.

   c. What should the influence of a Christian be upon the world?—see Col. 4:5-6.
Matthew 5:14-16. *You are the light of the world.*
Read also Luke 8:16-18.
4. Verse 14: “You are the light of the world.” To whom is Jesus speaking?

5. It implies darkness for the world. We have come a long way baby; we have conquered diseases, put man on the moon, made computers, and use cell phones. How is there darkness in the world? Give examples.

6. Read John 8:12.
   a. What does Jesus say about us in Matthew 5:14?

   a. In what way are we special?—see 1 Peter 2:9.

   b. What is required of us?—See Eph. 5:8-11.

   c. How can this possibly happen?—see John 14:16-18.

   a. What is a useless Christian and where does he end up?

   b. How do we avoid being useless?

   c. What should we do and what should we avoid doing?—see Romans 13:12-14.
Read Matthew 5:17-20

Introduction

Christ and the Old Testament
1. Everything Jesus teaches is in harmony with the Old Testament.
2. Everything Jesus teaches is in complete disharmony with the teaching of the Pharisees and the Scribes.
3. In the Old Testament there were three categories of Law
   a. The Moral Law = the Ten Commandments
   b. The Judicial Law = The Legislative Law given to the Nation of Israel. Their real ruler was God. They were a theocratic society. This even held when they had a king such as e.g. David. He was a steward and God Himself was the Supreme Ruler.
   c. Ceremonial Laws concerning offerings and sacrifices. They can be found in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. These laws were shadows and types of what was to come.

8. Verse 17—What was meant by the Law and the Prophets?

9. Jesus said of the laws: “I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them.” What did He mean with that?

10. How did Jesus fulfill the Prophecies?

11. Read, Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53; Isaiah 49:6 and 49:22, 23; Psalm 22; Joel 2:28. There are many more passages in the Old Testament that point to Jesus. What are your favorites? Share them with your friends.

12. How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

13. The Ceremonial Law
b. What was the punishment for capital offence? Read Deut. 21:22, 23 and Gal. 3:13.

c. Why was Jesus offering acceptable? Read Hebrews 5:7-10.

d. How does He also fulfill the Law in us? Read Rom. 8:2-4.

14. The Judicial Law was given to Israel as a theocratic society. Is it still valid today? Why or why not? Read I Peter 2: 9, 10.


   b. What was wrong with this picture? Read Matthew 23—the seven woes.


   d. How does that point back to the Beatitudes?
18. Relationship of the Christian to the Law. Jesus introduces 6 statements with: “You have heard...”
   a. What were the principles He taught? (One we have mentioned repeatedly.)

   b. Can you mention some other ones? Read 2 Cor. 3:6, Luke 16:15. What is the purpose of the Law?

   c. What is the objective of the Law?

Read Matthew 5:21-26. You shall not murder
19. What does the Law of Moses says? Read Exodus 20:13? (The Pharisees would explain this law by adding the statement found in Numbers 35:30, 31) How does this weaken the Law given by Moses?

20. What did Jesus teach? Is there more to the Law than the Letter of the law?

21. Verse 22. What kind of feelings does anger provoke?
   What is so bad about Raca (= worthless fellow)? ‘Thou Fool’ goes one step further – how? What are the Spiritual consequences of these feelings?


23. There is a saying, “Be angry about the sin, but not with the sinner.” Do you agree?

25. How do personal dislikes and problems with your brother, friend, neighbor, affect your worship? What does Jesus command us to do?

26. Verse 25, 26. What is so urgent about settling your problem quickly?

Read Matthew 5:27-30. **You shall not commit adultery**

a. Definition of adultery: Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man/woman and someone other than his/her wife/husband.

b. Remember the principle. The Pharisees reduced the Law to the physical act (in this case adultery), the Letter of the Law and did not apply the Spirit of the Law.


28. Verse 29, 30. Did Jesus promote self mutilation?

Read Matthew 5:31, 32

**Divorce**

29. Read Malachi 2:16. How does God feel about divorce?


31. Read Matthew 19:1-12. What did Jesus teach?
32. Read 1 Cor. 7:12-16. Mixed marriages. What to do when one partner becomes a Christian and the other is not?

33. Read Eph. 5:31-33. What makes marriage so special? What is it a symbol of?

34. What is the only reason for divorce? Is unfaithfulness a physical act or are there different ways to break the unity of marriage?

Read Matthew 5:33-37
Taking an oath
   a. What did the Pharisees teach? What was wrong with their legalistic interpretation?

   b. Do we make the same mistakes sometimes? Can you give some examples?


37. What does our Lord forbid?

Read Matthew 5: 38-42. *An eye for an eye*
38. *You have heard that it was said:* Read: Ex. 21:22-25; Lev. 24: 19-20; Deut.19:15-21.
   a. What was the purpose of these laws?
b. What did the Pharisees teach?

   a. What did Jesus teach? Read Matthew 16:24. What does our Lord require of us?

   b. What is the principle taught here?


   
Read Matthew 5:43-48. Love your enemies

41. Verse 43.
   a. What did the Pharisees and the Scribes teach?

   b. What can we find in the O.T. to support their teaching?

   c. What were the Israelites supposed to do to the Canaanites after they entered the Promised Land?

   d. 1 Sam.15:3-What was Saul their first king commended to do with the Amalekites?

   e. Numbers 35:26-28 – What was the relative of a murdered (or killed) person allowed to do without being guilty before the law?

42. How do you reconcile the above with verse 44?
43. Matthew 22:37-40. What is the great principle of the Law?

44. Verse 45. How are we to behave? Who set the example?

45. Read II Cor. 5:17; Psalm 119:70 and Matthew 5:6.
   a. How is a Christian unique and different from a non-Christian?

   b. How would you react to a non-Christian who says: “I lived a good life and I deserve heaven?”

   c. How can we reflect the Grace of the Father on another person?

Notes

Question 5
Examples are: broken relationships, bad conduct, immorality, putting self first.

Question 7
Avoid being useless by example, building relationships, seeking out the fellowship of the saints, prayer, bible study, showing love.

Question 8
The whole of the Old Testament.

Question 9
Jesus did NOT do away with the O.T., but rather with this statement affirms the O.T. as the Word of God. St. Augustine said: “The N.T. is latent in the O.T. and the O.T. is patent in the N.T.” What did he mean with that?

Question 13
Ceremonial Law—Confirmation of the fulfillment of the Ceremonial Law happened in 70 A.D. with the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

Judicial Law – This Law was given to the Nation of Israel as a theocratic society. In its place has come the Church. Christ is our King. The Judicial Laws are no longer valid today.
Questions 13-18
Pharisees and scribes were concerned with:
1. Ceremonial Law (rather than the moral Law)
2. Traditions i.e. man made rules, evading the true demands of the Law.
4. No evidence of love for one another; very concerned to promote self.

iv) The character of the Christian as taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

The Law of Moses was written in Hebrew. The people, upon return from exile, spoke Aramaic. They depended upon the Pharisees and Scribes to teach them the Law. They were taught interpretations and traditions. Jesus now makes clear to them what the Law has to say.

Jesus was not correcting the Law of Moses. Rather He interprets the Law and He spoke with the authority of God, since He was God.

Principles taught by Jesus:
1. Love one another.
2. The Letter kills but the Spirit gives life.
3. Thoughts, motives and desires are equally important to action.
4. The purpose of the Law is to promote the free development of our spiritual character.
5. The objective of the law is that we come to know God.

Question 19, 20
Jesus taught the spirit of the Law; the Pharisees taught the letter of the Law.

Question 21
Raca = worthless fellow. Contempt, deliberate fault finding may destroy someone’s reputation. The commandment means more than physical killing; it includes destroying the spirit and the soul.
Fool—expression of abuse, vilifying a person.

Question 22
Example of the N.T. Jesus calls the Pharisees ‘blind’, ‘hypocrites’. He denounces self-righteousness that rejects the grace of God. In this instance Jesus pronounces judgment.
Another example is the imprecatory Psalms.
Again judgment is pronounced under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Question 23
Anger should focus on the sin. Have compassion with the sinner.

Question 24
“To obey is better than sacrifice...”

Question 25
The ultimate problem is your personal relationship with God.

Question 28
Jesus did not teach self-mutilation. The NIV explains it this way: Even a blind man can lust. The point is we should deal as drastically as possible with sin if necessary.

Questions 29-34
The purpose of Moses’ instructions was to control a situation that was out of hand. When a man was displeased with his wife for some frivolous reason (e.g. she could not cook; she was overweight etc) he could just dispose of her. To protect the women Moses ordered the men to provide her with a legal document. The Pharisees taught that all you had to do was give a document of divorce and it would be legal and fine to marry someone else. Again they taught the letter of the Law instead of the spirit of the Law.

Question 35a
The Pharisees taught that as long as you did not commit perjury you were not guilty before the Law.

Question 35b
If you don’t drink and smoke you are holy. Again remember the real problem is our heart.

Question 36
Based on Scripture there is a place for oath taking.

Question 37
Our Lord teaches us:
- Do not swear or curse,
- Do not swear by an object,
- Do not lie,
- Do not take an oath when you have an argument,
- Your “yes” should be “yes,”
- Your “no” should be “no.”

Question 38
Moses gave these laws to establish order. It was not unusual for people to take justice in their own hands and kill in response to a minor offense. The Pharisees taught the Letter of the Law—the literal interpretation as something physical and material—without showing mercy.

Question 39
Our Lord is concerned with who we are spiritually. What is our attitude toward our neighbor and foremost where are we spiritually? If you are truly Christian you must become dead to yourself and be reborn by the Spirit.
Deal with:

- The desire for revenge
- The spirit of retaliation
- The demands placed upon me by the community and State
- What is my attitude to personal possessions?

Question 40
A Christian believes in Law and Order. This passage has nothing to do with pacifism. It deals with the human heart, with self and not with authority; Matthew 5:43-48.

Question 42
Here we have to contrast the judicial versus the individual. Is it wrong to take the law into your own hands?

Question 45
A Christian delights in the Law. A non-Christian does not necessarily want to be unjust, immoral, but a Christian goes beyond that, “he hungers and thirsts for righteousness.”

- Sin—a natural person thinks in terms of action. A Christian is interested in the heart.
- Attitude—a natural person is tolerant at the very best. A Christian sees sinners as a dupe of Satan.

Answer to the righteous non-Christian: “If it were not for the death of Jesus, I would have no hope of seeing God.”
Matthew 6

Read Matthew 6: 1-8
Righteous living
Jesus illustrated righteous living with three examples.
1. Giving to the needy
2. Prayer
3. Fasting

   a. Are concerns about rewards legitimate?

   b. What does Jesus say about those who seek to be rewarded by men?

   a. What is prayer?

   b. Verse 6. What does it mean to “enter the closet” or as the NIV puts it “go into your room, close the door”?

   c. Does it prohibit prayer meetings? Read Hebr. 4:11.

   d. Should we be scared to come into the presence of God?

   e. Read Eph. 3:20. What does this verse tell us about the ability of God?

   f. Read Matthew 6:7. Does it make any difference how long we pray?
3. Fasting – Matthew 6: 16-18 (We’ll come back to verse 9-13 below).

   b. What is fasting?

   c. What is so exceptional about washing your face and anointing your head?

The Lord’s prayer
(The first three petitions look at God and His glory).

4. Our Father. The essence of prayer is found in those two words.
   a. Please comment.

   b. Also read John 17:9. Who are God’s children?

5. Which art in heaven. Read Eph.1:3.
   Who are we talking to?

6. Hallowed be Thy name
   Heidelberg Catechism Q and A 122 reads: “Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us, but always be honored and praised.”
   a. What are some names of God you can find in the Bible?

   b. What’s the importance of a name?
c. How are we to conduct ourselves in our daily living? Read John 17:4, 5 and Psalm 34:3.

7. **Thy Kingdom come.** The Law and Rule of God.
   a. What do we read in the OT and what do we find in the NT (Read Matt. 3:2 and Matt. 4:17)?

   b. When did the Kingdom of God come? In the past, is it here now or still in the future? What do you think?

(The next three petitions concern the believer. It deals with the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the Christian and well in that particular order.) Read verse 11-15.

8. **Thy will be done.**
   Why does the petition ask this? Can God’s will be thwarted?

9. **Our daily bread.**
   What does this request deal with? Is it right to ask God about that? Why?

10. **Forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors.** Read I John 1:9, 10; Matt. 18:21-35.
    How should we deal with those who mistreat us?

11. **Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**
    This is a call for help. Why do we need that? See I Peter 5:8 and Eph. 6:10-13.
Read Matthew 6:19-34

The theme for this section of the Sermon on the Mount:

*Relationship of the Christian to God as his/her Father.*

Temptation comes in two forms:
2. Anxiety (verses 25-34).

**Love for the world.**

Injunction: *Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth..., but store up for yourself treasures in heaven.*

12. Treasures on earth
   a. How is this a warning for the poor as well as the rich?

   b. Name some treasures we have besides money?

   c. How do we store up treasures on earth?

   d. What is the principle of the matter?

13. Treasures in Heaven
   a. How would you answer someone who states that Jesus is teaching here that a man can earn his own salvation? (Read Romans 3:28, 5:1 and Galatians 3:6-8).


14. Jesus approaches the issue with two arguments
A. Common sense.

...where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.
What does this mean spiritually? (Read 2 Peter 1:4). Contrast this with “...where moth and rust do not destroy and thieves do not brake in and steal...” (Read Romans 8:38,39 and 1 Peter 1:4).

B. Jesus illustrates how treasures grip our entire personality.
   a. Verse 21. What is meant by “the heart”? 
   
   b. Verse 22, 23. What is meant by “the eye”? 
   
   c. Verse 24. How does “serving” go still one step further? 

15. Our relationship with God.
   Verse 24: ...You cannot serve both God and Mammon...
   a. What is God’s commandment? (Read Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 10: 37 and 38)
   
   b. Reading in above context, what do you think about the statement that Materialism = Atheism. Is this a Biblical statement?

Read Matthew 6: 25-34.

Anxiety: Obsession with things that are seen
16. Verse 26. ...your heavenly Father feeds them...
   To what basic fact is Jesus drawing our attention? (Read 1 John 3:1)

17. Verse 26 ...are you not much more valuable than they?...
   Why are you more valuable? (Read Gen. 1:26)
18. Verse 28-30. How do we differ from the grass and flowers?

19. Verse 30. ...Oh ye of little faith...
   a. What sort of faith is “...little faith...”?

   b. Comment on the next two sayings:
      “Many Christians believe on the Lord Jesus but do not believe Him.”

   c. “Little faith has to do with the fact that we don’t apply our faith.”

20. Verse 31-34.
   a. How can we increase our faith?

   b. Verse 33: ...Seek ye first the Kingdom of heaven... Take note of the fact that this is how Jesus starts out his sermon. There is also the promise ...Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they will be filled...
      What is the Lord teaching here?

   c. How can we go about doing this? (Read Heb. 11:6 and 2 Cor. 4:17, 18)


21. Verse 34. ...Do not worry about tomorrow...
   a. Why the emphasis on “...tomorrow...”? What is our natural tendency?
b. What does God tell us? (Read Hebr. 13:8).

c. Reading this some people refuse to buy insurance, to get vaccinated or to safe for the future. What would be your answer to them?

Notes

Question 1
Concerns about rewards are legitimate. Understand from the passages indicated that Jesus also desired this.

I Corinthians indicates rewards of wood, hay, silver and gold.
Matthew 25 ... ‘When I was in prison you visited me...’
There is no reward from God for those who seek it from men.

Question 2
Prayer indicates a relationship. It means communication and fellowship with God. Verse 6 does not prohibit prayer meetings. Rather it emphasizes that when you pray you shut out certain things:

Forget about other people,
Forget about yourself and realize that you are in the presence of God.

Question 3
Fasting is the abstinence of food for spiritual purposes.
As far as “washing your face...” is concerned, there is nothing exceptional about it. It means basically act your normal self.

Question 4b
John 17:9 tells us that only those who are in the Lord Jesus are God’s children.

Question 5
Eph.1:3 We are talking to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Question 6a and 6b
The name stands for all that is true about God—his attributes.
Some names are

• Prince of Peace,
• Immanuel,
Counselor,
I am who I am,
El or Elohim (his strength or his power),
Jehovah-Jireh (the Lord will provide),
Jehovah Rapha (The Lord that heals),
Jehovah Shammah (the Lord is present),
Show by word and action how great the God is you serve. Reflect his greatness and glory so the world will see. Always begin any prayer with this petition. The OT puts it this way: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 1:7)

Question 7
In the OT we find promises and prophesies concerning the coming of the Kingdom. In the NT John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2) urges people, “repent the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Jesus (Matt. 4:17) tells people the Kingdom is here. Picture it this way:
1. The Kingdom came when Jesus was here,
2. Is now—in the heart of the believers,
3. Is coming in its full glory when Jesus returns.

Question 8
This is a missionary prayer. Pray for the return of Jesus. Maranatha (Revelations)

Question 9
A prayer for necessities. There are two aspects:
First, God likes us to ask and communicate with Him,
Second, we are dependent on God’s mercy and grace.

Question 10
“As we forgive our debtors,” this is said by the Christian who already has the right to say “Our Father.” In other words, he is in Jesus Christ and lives by grace.

Question 12
Treasures we have in addition to money: Family, home, honor, position etc. The principle of the matter is attitude.

Question 13
Here we are reminded of the fact that we are pilgrims, caretakers and stewards.

Question 14
A. Treasures on earth give no satisfaction, we tire of them. Ultimately death awaits us.
B. a. The heart deals with affections, feelings, sensibility,
   b. The eye reveals how we look at things, the ethical outlook,
   c. Serving still goes one step further. It includes our will.
Question 17
Our value lies in the fact that we are made in the image of God.

Question 18
We differ from the grass and flowers profoundly. We are bound for eternity.

Question 19
People with little faith are confined to the salvation of their souls.

Question 20
Promises that are found in Scripture for God’s children: food, clothing, the Holy Spirit, eternal life.

Question 21
By focusing on tomorrow our efficiency is lessened. Those who seek the kingdom of heaven have fellowship together, read the Bible, pray, serve others in the name of Jesus.

Summary
1. The promises are for the righteous only.
2. Worry is a failure to apply and grasp faith.
3. You have to work at it (Pray, read the Bible, talk with other Christians).
4. Refuse anxious thoughts.
Matthew 7

Read Matthew 7:1-6

Judging

1. Verse 1. Do not judge ...
   a. What it does not mean. There are at least 3 areas where the Bible instructs us to judge.
      i. Rom. 13:4 – Why should authorities judge?
         ii. What are the three distinguishing marks of the true church?
             Gal.: 6:1, 2—Is church discipline biblical and should it be exercised?
         iii. 2 John 10; Gal. 1:9 – What does the Bible teach about false prophets?

b. What did Jesus have in mind and how does it fit in with the Sermon on the Mount?

c. What is the principle taught here? Romans 14:17 – if necessary read the whole passage.

d. “or you too will be judged…”
   Why it is dangerous to judge?


f. Does it matter how we live and what we do? Read I Cor. 12-15.
2. Verse 2. …*For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you*…
   
   b. What is the underlying principle taught by the Lord and what does He condemn?

3. Verse 3-5.
   a. What is the Lord saying about the man who judges his Christian brother?
   
   b. Why does He call him a hypocrite? How should we help our Christian fellow traveler?

4. Verse 6
   a. Who are the “dogs” and the “pigs”?
   
   b. What is the “sacred” thing Jesus is referring to?
   
   c. After having answered above two questions, do you understand how this verse follows verses 3-5?
   
   d. How should we approach an unbeliever?
   
   e. Did Jesus always use the same method? Compare His approach to Nathaniel, with that to His approach to Nicodemus or to the woman at the well. What was His main
concern? How did Paul put it? Read I Cor. 9:20-23?

f. Should we approach people with the question, “Are you saved?”, should we discuss doctrine or could any of this result in blasphemy? How than should we spread the gospel?

g. Is indiscriminate distribution of the Scripture ever wrong, or could this also lead to blasphemy?

Read: Matthew 7:7-11.
Ask, seek, knock
5. In what condition are we when we ...ask, seek, and knock...?

6. How does that fit in with the previous passage?

7. What is the point our Lord is emphasizing here?
   (The parable found in Luke 11: 5-8 and Luke 18:1-5 may help you.)

8. Verse 11 ...though you are evil ...
   Who does Jesus exclude in this injunction? What did He emphasize with this phrase?
   Read John 1:11-13. How does God become our Father? What has to take place?

9. ...how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him...?
   Unpleasant things happen to us in spite of prayer. Does that mean He does not keep His promise? Luke 11:13 gives us an added promise; what is it?
What are those “good gifts” mentioned in Matt. 7:11?

**Read: Matthew 7:12**
The golden rule for life and living
10. *...this sums up the law and the prophets...*  
    What was Jesus telling his audience?

11. What is our problem? Read Rom. 8:7, 8. Who is number one on our agenda?

12. Where to start to implement the Golden Rule. Please notice the order. What is the first commandment? What did we just learn has to take place to keep this commandment?  
    What is the commandment that follows?

**Read: Matthew 7:13, 14.**
The narrow and the wide gates
13. Are there many roads that lead to heaven? If only one, describe it.

14. What is meant by the fact that it is narrow? What does it demand from us and who goes before us?

15. Where does the broad way lead? Read Romans 6:21-23.

**Read: Matthew 7:15-23.**
The tree and its fruit
17. What would be an example of a false prophet today?

18. What fruit would you expect from a Christian? Read Matthew 5: 3-12 and Gal. 5:22.


   b. Name some people in the O.T. who prophesied in God’s name and yet did not know Him.

   c. From the N.T. read Phil.1:15 and I Cor. 13:1-3. What does this tell you?

   d. Who cast out devils in Jesus’ name and yet was lost?

   e. What is the name given to Satan in ll Cor. 11:14?

20. What was the missing ingredient? What is the chief end of men?

   Read: Matthew 7: 24-27.
   The wise and the foolish builders
   21. What is the most important part when you build a house?

22. Who is the foundation for a Christian? Read I Cor. 3:11.
Read: Matthew 7:28, 29.

End of Discourse One

23. How did Jesus teach?

24. What was the effect on the crowd?

Notes

Question 1a.ii
The 3 distinguishing marks of the Church are:
1. Preaching the Word,
2. Administration of the Sacraments,
3. Church discipline

Question 1c
The principle Jesus is teaching here is the principle of love. “..Love you neighbor as yourself…”

Question 2b
The Lord condemns a self-righteous spirit.

Question 3
Be conscious of your own unworthiness and act with humility.

Question 4a
The unbelievers are the “dog” and the “pigs.” The “sacred” thing is the gospel.

Question 5
When we “ask, seek and knock” it implies that we need help.
The Lord emphasizes that God is more than willing to come to our aid and tells us to be persistent.

Question 8
In verse 11 the Lord excludes Himself and refers to our sinful fallen nature. We have to be born again and God will be our Father.

Question 10-12
In verse 12 Jesus once again points to the Spirit of the Law. We can only function in relationship with God. We have to see ourselves as sinners, on the same level as our neighbors. God deals with us in grace. Understanding this we can now apply the Golden Rule.

Question 13
The road that leads to heaven is narrow. We have to leave self behind—no room for baggage. We have to become “poor in spirit” and fix our eyes on Jesus, who goes before us.

Question 17
An example of a false prophet today would be one that only preaches the love of God and leaves out the wrath of God.

Question 19b
Some people in the OT who prophesied were Saul, Balaam

Question 19c
Judas cast out devils in the name of Jesus when he was sent out with the twelve. Satan is also known as an ‘angel of light’.

Question 20
The missing ingredient is the test of the Beatitudes = test of character. The only thing that matters is our relationship with Jesus. He wants our heart. The chief end of men is: To Glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Focus of Discourse One: Character of a Christian
MINISTRY AND MISSION IN GALILEE

Discourse 2:
Missionary Discourse

Matthew 8:1-11:1
Matthew 8

Read Matthew 8:1-4.
The man with leprosy.

Introduction
Leprosy is also known as Hansen’s disease. Dr. Gerhard Hansen was the first to identify the germ that causes the disorder. It is a chronic disease that attacks the peripheral nervous system. It often leads to disability and disfigurement.

1. The OT gives instructions how to deal with the disease and gives us some insight as to how people were treated. Read Numbers 5:1-4; Lev.13: 45,46; 2 Chron.26:16-23. Summarize the instructions in one or two sentences.

   a. How bad was the man’s condition?

   b. What did Jesus do?

3. What did Jesus tell him to do? Why?

4. Why did Jesus ask him not to tell anyone?

Read Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10.
The faith of the centurion

5. How would you describe the centurion?

6. What did he believe regarding Jesus’ authority?

7. What is Jesus’ response? How does Jesus compare his faith with that of Israel?
8. How is this a response to the OT prophesy Isaiah 42:6-7? 
   (See also the prophecy of Simeon in Luke 2:32.)

**Read Matthew 8:14-17.**
**Jesus heals many**
   Also found in Luke 4:38-41 and Mark 1:29-34.
9. How was this another fulfillment of an OT prophesy? Read Isaiah 53:4

10. Why did the people wait for the evening before bringing their sick to Jesus?

**Read Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62.**
**The cost of following Jesus**
11. Was the teacher of the Law sincere in his commitment of wanting to follow Jesus?

12. Comment on Jesus’ statement to him. See Phil. 2:7 and 2 Cor. 8:8-9.

13. ...let the dead bury the dead...
   a. What was Jesus getting at?


**Read Matthew 8:23-27.**
**Calming the storm**
14. Have you ever been in a situation so terrible that you thought you were going to die?
15. What was your first reaction?


17. What did this miracle prove to the disciples? What was the answer their rhetorical question?

Read Matthew 8: 28-34; Luke 8:26-37; Mark 5:1-17.
Demon possessed men
18. Why did the demons acknowledge the authority of Jesus?

19. What was the appointed time they were so afraid of?

20. Why did the town people plead with Jesus to leave?

21. In Luke we read that the healed man wanted to come with Jesus, but Jesus send him home and “tell how much God has done for you.” This is in contrast with what He told the person healed of leprosy. Why the difference?

22. Are there such things as demons in our modern world? What is your view of mental illness, psychotic behavior, personality disorders etc.? Do demons present in other ways?

23. What is the point of this story? Read Matthew 12:22 – 32.
Notes

Question 1
The man was ceremonial unclean as well as physically afflicted.

Question 2
Jesus touched him and made him well.

Question 3
He had to show himself to the priest for ceremonial cleansing and the offering of
  • A gift as instructed in Lev. 14:1-3; 14:8-11.
  • This was to testify to the fact that the cure was real; and that Jesus respected the Law.

Question 4
There lived a false concept about the Messiah among the people. They looked for a political leader.

Question 5
The centurion was loved and respected by the town. He was concerned for his servant. He was humble enough to send for Jesus.

Question 10
It was the Sabbath Day. Jews could not travel more than 2/3 of a mile or carry a burden.

Question 17
This miracle proved that Jesus is Lord over all creation. He is the Son of God. Read Psalm 107:25-3

Question 18
The demons acknowledged the authority of Jesus because they knew He was the Son of God.

Question 19
They were afraid of the Judgment Day.

Question 20
It was probably for financial reasons that the people pleaded with Jesus to leave.

Question 21
The region of the Gerasenes was largely populated by Gentiles. Jews did not raise pigs. Pigs were the most unclean of all animals. The cured man was directed to make the
miracle known in his own native territory. Here there was no Messianic expectation and no danger of interference with the ministry of Jesus.

Question 23
The point is that “the Kingdom of God is here.”
Matthew 9


Healing of the paralytic
1. *When Jesus saw their faith...*—this phrase is used in all three gospels.
   What made their faith so visible? What has to happen before you believe a person is genuine?

2. What is blasphemy and what was the punishment for it? (Read Leviticus 24:10-16)

3. What was Jesus’ response to their accusation? Would it have convinced you?

4. What was the reaction of the crowd?


Calling of Matthew
Also found in Mark 2:14-17 and Luke 5:2-32
5. Why do you think Matthew places his calling at this point in his gospel?

6. Verse 10 and 11 indicate that Matthew (also called Levi) celebrated his calling with a dinner.
   a. What do the Pharisees have to say when Jesus goes to the dinner?

   b. Would you regard people highly who eat with traitors?

8. What does it all imply about Matthew at the time of his calling?

Read Matthew 9:14-17.  
Questions about fasting

10. Where the Jews ever required to fast?

11. What was Jesus’ response to those who questioned his disciples about fasting?

12. Do you fast and why?

Read Matthew 9:18-34.  
A sick woman and a dead girl  
Also found in Mark 5:22-43 and Luke 8:41-56.  
A sick woman
   a. Comment on the suffering the woman had endured.
   
   b. Do you understand why she really did not want to be noticed in the crowd?

14. How did the woman benefit from the fact that Jesus called her to come forward?

The dead girl  
Compare the story with that in Mark and Luke.
15. What does it tell us about the ruler? Who is he and where does he rule?

16. Does he listen to his advisers or to Jesus when he is told his daughter is dead?

17. What is the first thing Jesus tells the parents to do after the girl is raised from the dead?

18. What do you take away from this lesson?

Read Matthew 9:27-34.
The blind and mute men
19. What did the blind men express by calling Jesus the “Son of David”?

20. Verse 29.—Could we expect more if our faith was greater?

21. Verse 34.—How did the Pharisees react to Jesus’ healing power? Why? How can we avoid the same mistake?

Notes

Question 2
Blasphemy = reviling God’s Name. Here it was use of God’s prerogative to forgive sins.

Question 8
Matthew was repentant, believed in Jesus and was “poor in Spirit.”

Question 9
When Jesus fasted it was for spiritual benefits, and he fasted in private. Pharisees were fasting twice a week.
Question 10
Jews were required to fast 1 day a year on the Day of Atonement. (Lev. 16:29, 31 and 23:27-32; Nu. 29:7.)

Question 13
The woman was ceremonially unclean. Anyone who touched her would also be ceremonially unclean. She could not enter the temple.

Question 14
Jesus made sure there was complete and permanent healing by acknowledging her publicly. He said ‘go in peace, be freed from your suffering’ assuring spiritual as well as physical healing.

Question 18
Bring your burdens to Jesus, trust Him. He will take care of our physical as well as our spiritual needs. He is able to raise us from the dead.

Question 19
The title ‘Son of David’ was a popular Jewish title for the Messiah. Read Isaiah 9:6 and 7.
Matthew 10

Read Matthew 10:1-42.
Calling of the twelve disciples
1. What did Jesus do before he called the 12—see Luke 6:12.

2. Verse 1.
   What authority did He give them before He sent the apostles out?

   a. This is the only place where the word “apostle” is used. How is an apostle different from a disciple? Are you, I, an apostle or a disciple?

   b. Do the instructions Jesus gives here apply only to the apostles? If so, what is the relevance of this passage for us today?

4. Verse 5, 6.
   Where did He send them? Why to the Jews only? Did this change after His death and resurrection? (See 28:19 and also 21:43).

5. Verse 7, 8.
   a. What was their message?

   b. How would you answer the question: Why did Jesus come?

   a. What kind of preparations were they to make before going?
b. Read Mark 6:8-9. How are the accounts different? How similar? What do you conclude?

c. How do these instructions and the power they were given reflect the coming of the Kingdom of God?

   a. What does it mean to “search for some worthy person”?

   b. What does it mean to let “your peace rest” on the house? What would be a modern equivalent?

   c. Why would the whole town be condemned? Could there have been ten righteous people in the town?

   a. Could they always expect a welcome?

   b. How would God assist them? Would you be afraid if God called you to do something like that?

   a. Will God ever stop calling the Jews?

   b. Verse 23a.
      Would you advise Christians in, say Iran, to get out because of persecution? What
kind of witness would that be? (One criticism of the missionaries in China was that
they fled the country when the communists took over.

c. How do you interpret verse 23b? Has it happened, or is it still going to happen?

10. Verse 24-42.
These verses describe the characteristics of a missionary disciple.
a. List at least five characteristics of such a disciple from this passage.

b. What can a Christian expect in this life?

c. Verse 34. Read Math 13:53-58; Mark 3:21; John 7:3-5. How would you characterize
the family’s attitude to Jesus?

d. Does this passage conflict with the fact that Jesus is the Prince of Peace?

e. What is the reward for those who receive the bringer of Good News?

f. Verse 42b
“These little ones...” Who is Jesus referring to?

Notes

Question 5b
Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil: I John 3: 8b—and proclaim the coming of the
Kingdom of God.

Question 7b
The Jews would shake the dust from their feet when they returned from a Gentile region.

This is the end of the second discourse.

Focus: Who is Jesus?
Summary:
   a. Healed the sick
   b. Recognized and re-instated a woman in society
   c. Lord of creation
   d. Demons obeyed Him and shuddered
   e. Raised a girl from the dead
   f. Forgave sins
Conclusion: He is the Son of God
IV. OPPOSITION FROM ISRAEL

Discourse 3:
Parables Discourse

Matthew 11:2-13:53
Matthew 11

Read Matt. 11:1-6.

Jesus and John the Baptist
1. What testimony had John given before he was imprisoned? Read John 1:29-34.

2. Why does John doubt now?

3. How does Jesus answer the disciples of John? Read Isaiah 35:4-6 and 61:1; Luke 4:18, 19.

   What did Jesus mean with this saying?

Read Matt. 11: 7-19.
   a. How is John “more than a prophet”?

   b. How is he “great” (verse 11)?

   c. How is ‘the least in the kingdom’ (verse 11) greater than John?

6. How do men take “forcefully” hold of the kingdom of heaven (verse 12)?

   a. What did Moses mean with the fact that God would raise “up a prophet like me, listen to him”?
b. Isa. 40:3, John 1:21-23 Who did John say he was? Why did he deny being Elijah?

c. Matt. 17:10-13. Who did Jesus say John was? How do you balance both statements?
d. What does this tell you about reading and understanding the Bible?

a. How did the ministries of John and Jesus differ, yet both glorified God?

b. Should this make us cautious when we talk about various preachers? What should be the standard?

c. Matthew puts it this way: “Wisdom is proved right by her action.”


10. Does this account suggest levels of torment in hell?

a. If so, what determines the level of torment?

b. Why was the condemnation of Capernaum so great? Read Matt. 11:25-30

11. Verse 27 What does this verse say about election?
12. Verse 28  
   a. Who is invited and what is the promise? See also Isaiah 55:1-3.
   
   b. Is Jesus’ yoke easy? Why don’t we see it that way? How is the yoke of the world hard?

Notes

Question 2
John the Baptist was very much a child of his time. The expectation of the people was for a Messiah who would restore the throne of David.

Question 3
Jesus refers him back to Scripture and quotes Isaiah. With verse 6 Jesus basically said: “Do not doubt.”

Question 6
People take “forcefully” hold of the kingdom of heaven with spiritual courage and determination. It will not always be easy. For many Christians, persecution is a sure thing.

Question 7
In Deut. 18 Moses refers to other spokesmen who would give Israelites the message of God. Their unique fulfillment is in Jesus Christ. When John the Baptist denied being Elijah, he responded to the expectation of the crowd. They knew that Elijah had not died (2 Kings 2:11) and expected him to return. When Jesus said that John the Baptist was the expected Elijah, He referred to the prophecy found in Malachi 4:5

Question 10
The condemnation of Capernaum was so great because the headquarters of Jesus were there. They saw daily wonders and miracles.

Question 12a
The invitation is to all who are “poor in spirit.”
Matthew 12

Read Matthew 12:1-14.

Lord of the Sabbath
Also found in Mark 2:23-28 and Luke 6:1-5.

Question to ponder: Why does Matthew relate this particular story?

The Story
1. Compare the three gospels? Any additional information?

2. Read Ex. 20: 8-11; 23:12 and Deut.:23:24,25. Why did the Pharisees complain? What was the issue?

3. The story of David.
   a. Why bring up the story of David (found in 1 Sam.21:1-6)?

   b. What is the point Jesus is teaching here?

The Sabbath

4. What was Jeremiah talking about?

5. How do you reconcile Jeremiah with Hosea, Mica or with Jesus’ actions?

6. When did the seventh day start?

7. How do we enter His rest?
8. What do you think of a 10 day working cycle?

9. If you had a store would you close it on Sunday? Why or why not?

10. In Matthew 12:8 Jesus states that “the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” What did He mean with that, and how did He illustrate that?

11. Matthew 12:14. Why did this issue start a murder plot?


Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
13. Name some character traits of Satan. Job 1:9-11, Zech. 3:1; Mark 4:15; 2 Cor. 11:14, 15.
Try to give an example of this; John 8:44 - What does Jesus call him?

14. Rev. 12:10-12 - What happened to Satan?

   a. How was Jesus accredited by God?

   b. Matthew 11:4 - What was His answer to John the Baptist?
c. How was this a fulfillment of OT prophesies (Isaiah 29:18-21; 35:5,6; 61:1,2)

d. How had He shown His authority over disease, demons and nature? (Matt. 8:1-15; 8:16, 17, 28-34 and 8:23-27)


**Read Hebrews 6:4-6.**

16. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

17. Did the Pharisees commit this sin?

18. Why is it worse to commit blasphemy against the Holy Spirit than against the Son of Man?

   a. Do you think that the sign of Jonah was a last attempt to redeem the Pharisees?
   
   b. Did they understand what Jesus was talking about? (Read Matthew 27:63).
   
   c. How did they twist it? (Read Matthew 28:11-15).
   a. What is meant by an adulterous generation?

   b. Does this only apply to Jews?

   a. Does this comment apply to the Jewish Nation?

   b. If so, how is the Jewish Nation worse off now than when Jesus lived on earth?

22. Verse 46-50 - Also read Mark 3:21
   a. Why did His family come to see him? What does Jesus reply? Was he rude?

   b. Who should come first your fellow believer or your biological family?

Notes

Question 3a and b
Relationship with the OT incidence stems from the fact that both David and the disciples were doing something that was forbidden. However since it is lawful to do good and save life (even on the Sabbath) both were within the Spirit of the Law.

Question 4
The Jeremiah passage illustrates a Sabbath violation as a sign of idolatry. Again the focus of this passage is the Spirit of the Law in contrast to the Pharisees who taught the Letter of the Law.
Matthew 13

Read Matthew 13:1-23
   a. What are parables?
   b. Why did Jesus speak in parables? What was His answer?
   c. How did this fulfill an OT prophecy – See Isaiah 6:9, 10 and Jer. 5:21


The Parable of the Sower.
The story: verse 3-8; Interpretation: verse 10-23
3. What does the following mean in terms of the Kingdom of God?
   a. The seed fell on the path.
   b. The seed fell on rocky places.
   c. The seed fell among thorns
   d. The seed fell on good soil.

4. In verse 4 the word “scattering” is used. What does that imply about God and His Word?
5. Verse 11. Perhaps a troubling verse to many.

   a. What is the “secret of the Kingdom of heaven”?

   b. Have you been given “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven”? If so, why; if not, why not?

6. Verse 16. How are you blessed, what do you see that many prophets longed to see, but did not?

7. Should the established church modify its services to accommodate seekers?

Read Matt. 13:24-30 and 36-43.

The parable of the weeds
8. What is the field a symbol of? (verse 38).

9. Who are the weeds? What does that imply for the present day situation of the Church and its believers?

The parable of the mustard seed and of the yeast
10. In what way is the Kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed?

11. To what conclusion would a believing Jew have to come?
   a. What is yeast a symbol of?

   b. Was it allowed during the Passover feast? Why not?

   c. How does Jesus use its property of growth here?

13. Jesus followed the parable of the weeds with that of the mustard seed and the yeast. Why does He do that in your opinion?

14. Why was He teaching these particular parables to his disciples and followers?

The parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl.
15. How valuable is the Kingdom of Heaven to you. Share why?

The parable of the net.
16. This is the basically the same as the parable of the weeds. Who separates the righteous from the unrighteous?

17. Why wedge the previous two parables between the parable of the weeds and the net?

18. What are new and old treasures that instructors bring out?
Read Matt. 13:53-58
19. Why did the people from Jesus’ hometown take offense?

20. Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?

   a. What is the result of lack of faith?
   b. Have you ever experience miracles or do you believe this only happened at the time of Jesus and his apostles? Please share.

Notes

No parables are recorded in the gospel of John.

Question 1
Parables: Stories taken from ordinary life circumstances that illustrate a moral or spiritual truth. Jesus used them as a means of teaching. Their hidden meaning challenged those who were sincerely interested.

Question 3
The parable of the sower is found in each of the synoptic gospels.
   a. The seed on the path – The Word does not penetrate
   b. The seed on rocky places – The Word is received in a very superficial way.
   c. The seed among thorns – People have the wrong focus. Wealth, power is more important than the Word.
   d. The seed on good soil – There is understanding and acceptance of the Word through the Holy Spirit.

Question 5
The secret = the Kingdom of heaven has come in Jesus Christ.

Question 6
What do you see, what many prophets longed to see – read Matthew 16:16 and 17
Question 10-14

The parable of the mustard seed – The Kingdom of Heaven will expand throughout the world. All people from all nations will find rest in it. Read Daniel 7:27 and Revelations 11:15.

The parable of the yeast – Yeast expands and spreads. When celebrating Passover it was and is a symbol of sin. Israelites were instructed to removed yeast from their homes and eat unleavened bread (Exodus 12:15). Here Jesus uses the same ability to expand, to explain the spread of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast encourage the believer that in spite of the unbelief around them the Kingdom of God is irresistible and spreading.

Opposition to Jesus was broiling and there were plans to murder Him. The parables taught the disciples (as well as the present-day believer) what they could expect.

This is the end of the Third discourse.

Focus Points:

Opposition, plots to murder Jesus
Jesus starts to teach His disciples in parables so they will know what to expect when preaching the Kingdom of Heaven.
V. JESUS, THE KINGDOM, AND THE CHURCH

Discourse 4:
The “Church Order” Discourse

Matthew 13:54-18:35
Matthew 14


John the Baptist beheaded
1. Verse 1-12.
   a. What do we know about Herod the Tetrarch?
   b. What kept him from killing John the Baptist (Mark 6:19, 20), but then what happened?


3. Verse 12. Why do you suppose John’s disciples told Jesus about the killing of John the Baptist?


Feeding of the 5000

5. Verse 14. What was His reaction when he saw the crowd?

6. It became late and the disciples became concerned for the people.
   a. What did they want Jesus to do?
   b. What was His response? Was that reasonable?
7. Capernaum and Bethsaida had a population of about 2-3000 each.
   a. How many people were approximately fed? (Don’t forget to count in the women and children).

   b. What does this event say about the popularity of Jesus?

8. Read John 6:26-27. What warning did Jesus give concerning this miracle?

**Walking on water**

9. Read John 6:14-15. What did the crowd want to do?

10. How did Jesus react? What were His instructions to his disciples and what did He do Himself?

11. What time is the fourth watch of the night?

12. How did Jesus identify Himself to the disciples?

13. Peter’s action.
   a. What do you think about Peter’s faith?

   b. How did Jesus help Peter and what did he say (verse 31)?
c. Is this a comfort to us when we face a crisis?

d. Does this remind you of the Sermon on the Mount? (Matt. 6 start with verse 30)

Matthew 15

Read Matthew 15:1-20 and Mark 7:1-23.

Clean and unclean
1. What was the transgression of the disciples according to the Pharisees and Scribes?

2. Tradition versus commandment, or Men versus God
   a. What does the fifth commandment state?

   b. What do you read in Numbers 30:1-2?

   c. Can one biblical teaching ever nullify another? So what are we talking about?

3. Given you have a limited amount of money - the question before you is: Should you use this money to support your parents who suffer from Alzheimer or should you use your money to support Industrial schools for the poor in Africa? Suppose you had pledged the money already to the mission in question, what are you supposed to do?

4. What is the place of tradition? Is it ever valid or useful?


6. Lev.11 and Deut. 4:3-21 give instructions regarding unclean food. What might God teach about Food Laws? Does this contradict with Jesus teaching?

Read Matt. 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30.

The faith of the Canaanite woman
7. How does the woman address Jesus? Who does she think she is?
8. What is her request and how does this show her faith?

9. How does Jesus address her and how does this test her faith?

10. Why did Jesus respond to her the way He did? Was this helpful to the disciples?

Read Matt. 15:29-39 and Mark 8:1-10
Feeding of the 4000
11. Jesus fed people twice. See Mark 8: 18-20. Verse 29-31 - What did Jesus do as He went along the Sea of Galilee? How did the people respond?

12. Verse 32 - How long were they there before Jesus fed them?

13. How did He display His compassion?

14. There were 7 basketfuls of ‘leftovers’. What does this show us about God?

15. Have you ever experienced His care and generosity for you in a similar way? Please share.

Notes

Question 2
Jesus talks about the “Spirit of the Law” and condemns the “Letter of the Law” interpretation. Once again Matthew brings us back to the Sermon on the Mount.
Question 7-10
This was a demonstration of being “poor in spirit and mourning.” She surely was comforted.
Matthew 16

Read Matthew 16: 1-12 and Mark 8:11-21.
The demand for a sign

1. Note the similarities and the differences

2. Pharisees and Sadducees.
   a. What do we know about the Pharisees?

   b. Who are the Sadducees?

   c. What united them in this case?

3. They asked for a ‘sign from heaven’? What did they mean with that?

4. Reply.
   a. What is the response of Jesus?


   c. Did they understand and remember this? Read Matt. 27: 62, 63.

5. Verse 5-12.
   a. What was yeast a symbol of in the OT? Read Ex. 12:15.
b. What did Jesus mean with the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees?

**Peter’s confession**

6. Verse 15. Why should Jesus ask this question when they go into the region of Caesarea Philippi?

7. Verse 16 Peter’s answer is considered the center of the Gospel of Matthew. Why was his answer so special?

8. Verse 18, 19. The first time the term “Church” is used.
   a. Can you define Church? Look up Heidelberg Catechisms Question and Answer 54.

   b. What is the foundation of the Church? Read Eph. 2:20

9. The Roman Catholic Church holds this as a key verse for the authority of the pope. Do you agree? How did the reformers interpret this verse?

10. The keys.
    a. What is meant by the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. (Read Matt. 18:18. Here we find the same expression.)

    b. Do the keys of the Kingdom of heaven refer to church discipline?

11. Why not tell anyone?

12.
Jesus predicts His death
Read verses 21-28. The beginning of a new emphasis in Jesus ministry

13. Verse 21. What does He start to teach his disciples?


15. Verse 22, 23. What is Peter’s response and how does Jesus react?

16. Do you see a parallel with Jesus temptation in the wilderness? Read Matt. 4:8-11.

17. Verse 28 – Read 2 Peter 1:16-19. What is meant by this saying?

Notes

Question 2
The Pharisees sought to protect the Jewish people from foreign contamination (like Ezra and Nehemiah). They promoted strict loyalty to the Law and Scripture. They tended to be associated with the synagogues rather than the temple. The Sadducees and Pharisees made strange bedfellows.
The Sadducees and Pharisees usually did not get along. The Sadducees were aristocratic priests (they descended from Zadok) and associated with the temple. They denied the resurrection. The zealots viewed them as collaborators with the Romans.

Question 3
The feeding of the 4000 was a sign from heaven. The Jews believed that when the Messiah came the manna would come with Him. This is exactly what Jesus had done. The problem of the Pharisees and the Sadducees was their unbelief.

Question 5
The yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees = their teaching.
Question 6
Caesarea Philippi was the center of the worship of the god Pan—a sex cult. (The word Pandemonium comes to mind). A spring flows here—one of the sources of the river Jordan. Right above the spring is the temple for the god Pan.

Question 7
Peter’s answer is so special because he states, “You are the Son of the living God.”

Question 8
Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer 54.
Question: What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church?
Answer:
I believe that the Son of God
through His Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects and preserves for Himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am, and always will be
a living member.

Question 16
Verse 28—The most common interpretation is that this is a prediction of the transfiguration, which took place 6 days later. This demonstrated that Jesus would return to His Father’s glory.
Matthew 17

The transfiguration
1. Compare the descriptions found in Mark and Luke with that of Matthew.

2. What does it mean to be transfigured?

3. Moses and Elijah.
   a. Who did Moses and Elijah represent?


4. What did Peter want to do? Why do you think he was so eager to do so?

5. What is the cloud a sign of? Read Ex. 16:10; 24:15-18; 33:9-10.

6. What did the voice say? Where did we read about that before and what does this imply?

7. Instructions.
   a. What were the instructions of Jesus concerning this event?

   b. Were these instructions followed? Read 2 Peter 1:17, 18.

   a. What did the OT teach about Elijah? Read Mal. 4:5-6.
b. Jesus teaches his disciples that this was already fulfilled in John the Baptist.

c. How does this make sense when you read John 1:21?

**Read Matthew 17:14-23; Mark 9:14-28; Luke 9:37-42.**

**Healing of a boy with a demon**

9. Why would an evil spirit try to kill the boy?

10. Why could the disciples not cast out the demon? Read Mark 9:29

11. Healing and faith; faith and healing.

   b. Have you ever experienced true faith healing? What happened?

   c. Does the Lord always grant healing? Why not? Read 2 Cor. 12:9, 10

12. Coming events.
   a. What does Jesus emphasize after they left and went through Galilee?

   b. How does this affect the disciples?
Read Matthew 17:24-27. ; Ex. 30:11-16.

Temple tax
13. What was the temple tax?

14. Why should Jesus and the disciples be exempted?

Notes

Question 2
Jesus was transfigured. This means that his appearance was changed.

Question 3
Moses represented the Law, while Elijah was the great prophet.

Question 4
Was Peter still eager to avoid the suffering and death predicted by Jesus?

Question 5
Cloud – This is frequently a sign of the presence of God.

Question 6
The same words were heard at the time of Jesus baptism.
   This implied that the very Son of God was transfigured.

Question 8
When the Jews asked John the Baptist if he was Elijah he said he was not. The Jews knew that Elijah had not died and expected his physical return to this earth. Jesus points out that John the Baptist is the fulfillment of the OT prophecy found in Malachi.

Question 9
The demon is referred to as “it.” In other words, an impersonal entity. He(?) wants to kill the boy to destroy his divine image.

Question 12
Once again the disciples grieve because they do not understand what Jesus is saying. This is the first time that betrayal is mentioned.
Question 13
The temple tax was an annual tax required of all males 20 years and older.
    ½ a shekel is about a two days worth of wages,
    It was used for the maintenance of the temple.
Matthew 18

The greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven
1. What prompted the question?

2. Verse 2-5.
   a. Why use a child as a model?

   b. Who is our greatest example of humbleness? Read Phil. 2:3-11

3. Why is causing a child to sin such a great offense?


The parable of the lost sheep
5. Children, again.
   a. What importance does Jesus place on children? Why?

   b. What do the Psalms say about children? See Ps. 127:3

   a. Do you believe in guardian angels? Read Ps. 34:7; 91:11 and Hebrews 1:14.

   b. Do you have any experience with them? Please share.
7. The Shepherd theme is used many times in the OT. Read Ps.23; Isaiah 40:11; Ez. 34:11-16. Do you think that this parable gave the people a better understanding of the OT passages and God’s love for the sinner?

**Read Matthew 18: 15-20.**

**A brother who sins against you**

8. What process should be followed when you have a problem with a fellow Christian?

9. Sinner and tax collectors.
   a. Who in your opinion are the ‘sinners and the tax collectors’?

   b. What are contemporary equivalents?

   c. How would you treat them?

    What is the purpose of excommunication? Example: 1 Cor.5:1-5

    a. What is the promise of Christ to us? Also see Matt. 28:20.

    b. Can we ask for anything we desire, or, what exactly did Jesus have in mind?

**Read Matthew 18:21-35; also read Matthew 6:9-15.**

**The parable of the unmerciful servant**
12. Ponder the question asked in the book, *The Sunflower*, by Simon Wiesenthal, a Jew who is a prisoner in a concentration camp. A dying Nazi soldier asks for forgiveness. Simon describes his response and asks the question:
   a. “What would you do?”
   b. What does Jesus’ answer say about forgiveness in the Kingdom of Heaven?

13. The unmerciful servant was extended forgiveness by the king. Should we try to forgive and help those outside the church community?

   a. Does the response of the unbeliever in need determine the extent of our obligations?
   b. Can you come up with any examples?

15. Consequences.
   a. What do we deny for ourselves by refusing to be merciful to others?
   b. Compare verse 35 with Matthew 6:12.

Notes

**Question 4**
The point is that we should deal as drastically as necessary with sin.
“A parable is an assault on the conventional way of viewing the world. It seeks to break the grip of the tradition on our understanding of viewing the world in order to allow us a glimpse of God’s world.”

*The Four-Dimensional Jesus.* John Timmer

Chapter 18 describes the life in the Kingdom of Heaven:

The humble person is the greatest. Our example is Jesus Christ, the King—see Phil. 2,
Forgiveness is the norm,
God seeks to redeem the lost.

*This ends the Fourth Discourse*

*Focus Points:*

*The Center of the Gospel is found in Peter’s confession:*
   “You are the Christ, the Son of the *living* God”

*Transfiguration of Jesus*

This implied that He is the very Son of God.

*Life in the Kingdom is described and points us back to the Sermon on the Mount.*
VI.MINISTRY IN JUDEA AND JERUSALEM

Discourse 5:
Eschatology Discourse

Matthew 19:1-25:46
Matthew 19

Read Matthew 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12.

Divorce
1. Jesus left Galilee.
   a. Where did He go?

   b. Whose territory was this? What do we know about him? Read Mark 6:17-18.

2. Why did the Pharisees come up with this particular (hostile) question?

   a. Why did Moses give these instructions?

   b. What did the Pharisees teach the people?

4. What does God think about divorce? Read Malachi 2:16

5. Jesus pointed back to God’s ideal for marriage. What was it? See Genesis 1:27; 2:24

6. Divorce.
   a. What is the only acceptable reason for divorce?

   b. Is unfaithfulness a physical act only or are there more ways to break the unity of marriage?
7. What is marriage a symbol of? Read Eph. 5:31, 32.

8. What is one to do when one partner becomes a Christian and the other is not? Read 1 Cor. 7:12-16.

**Read Matthew 19: 13, 14; Mark 10: 13-16: Luke 18:15-17.**

**Little children and Jesus**

9. What is so special about little children? Read Also Matthew 18: 3, 4.

**Read Matthew 19:16-29; Mark 10: 17-30; Luke 18:18-30**

**The rich young man**

10. Eternal life
   a. How did the young man think he could earn eternal life?

   b. Paul had a similar problem before he met Christ – Read Phil. 3:6.

   c. What was his misunderstanding?

11. What did Jesus instruct the man to do? Why?

12. Riches.
   a. Is being rich sinful? Are all rich people told to give away their property?

   b. What can be the problem with wealth? Read Deut. 8:17-18; Ecc. 2:4-11; James 5:1-6.


14. Promise.
   a. What was Jesus’ promise to Peter and all who follow Him?

   b. Can you give some examples of people who do just that?

15. Verse 30. What is meant by this verse?

Notes

**Question 1**
Jesus was now on the other side of the Jordan, in Judea, the territory of Herod Antipas. Herod was the one who imprisoned John the Baptist and later beheaded him, because John rebuked him for taking his brother’s wife.

**Question 2**
Did the Pharisees hope to get Jesus imprisoned just like John?

**Question 3**
Deut. 24:1-4 sparked a dispute between two schools of thought. Shimmai taught that “something indecent” meant unfaithfulness. The school of Hillel emphasized “who becomes unpleasing to him” and allowed a man to divorce his wife for anything he disliked. The purpose of Moses law was to protect the women and ordered the men to give her a legal document. The Pharisees had twisted this around and taught that this is all you had to do: to give a legal document and you could divorce your wife. They taught the Letter of the Law instead of the Spirit of the Law.

**Question 9**
Little children are trusting, unpretentious and have faith.
Question 10
The young man was under the impression that he could earn his salvation by keeping the Law. He was externally obedient, but did not understand that God requires the heart and asks for internal, spiritual obedience.

Question 11
Wealth was his main obstacle. This is why Jesus challenged him to sell everything.

Question 12
Wealth in itself is not a sin and does not necessarily result in a spiritual problem. It can give a false sense of security.

Question 15
Verse 30 is a warning against pride in sacrificial accomplishments.
Matthew 20

Read Matthew 20: 1-16.
The parable of the workers in the vineyard
Note that the last sentence of the parable is the same as the last sentence of chapter 19.
I guess Jesus knew that we had a little trouble explaining that verse and so He give us a parable.
1. Does it make any difference if we come to know Jesus early in life or just before we die?

2. What is the reward?

3. What can we compare the generosity of the landowner with?

Jesus predicts his death
This is the third prediction of Jesus’ death in the gospel of Matthew - see Matt.16:21; 17:23.
4. What is the additional statement in this section about the coming death?

5. What is the implication of this?

6. Did the disciples understand what Jesus was talking about? Read Luke 18:34.

Read Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45. Note also the parallel with Matthew 18:1-4.
A mother’s request
7. What do you think about the spiritual state of the disciples at this point in history?

8. What is meant by ‘the cup I drink’ and ‘the baptism I am baptized with’?
9. Why were the disciples so upset?

10. Verse 25-28. What does Jesus teach his disciples in response and who will be their great example? Read Ph. 2:7 and 2Cor. 8:9.

Two blind men receive their sight
Note that the other 2 Synoptic Gospels only mention one blind man.
11. How do they address Jesus, and what is the significance of that?

12. What does Jesus do and what is the result both physically and spiritually?

Notes

Question 2
The reward is the same. It is GRACE.

Question 4
Jesus makes it clear that He will be killed by the Gentiles, meaning in this case the Romans.

Question 5
Jews killed their victims by stoning. Romans frequently killed non-Romans by crucifixion. All this will be a fulfillment of the OT prophesies—see Psalm 22; Isaiah 53

Question 8
“The cup I drink” and “the baptism I am baptized with” mean the same thing. It refers to Jesus’ suffering, the divine punishment He bore for our sins.

Question 9
The other disciples were upset, because they desired the same thing for themselves.
Question 11
“Son of David” is the Messianic title. The way they addressed Jesus and their request shows that they believed Jesus could do anything.
Matthew 21


The triumphal entry
1. Read Zechariah 9:9, 10.
   a. How is the way Jesus enters Jerusalem a deliberate Messianic Act?
   
      b. What was the purpose?

   a. What is the donkey a symbol of?

      b. Why a colt, or as Mark and Luke both point out “which no one has ever ridden”?

3. Verse 7. What did Jesus sit on?

4. Why was there such a large crowd?

5. Read Psalm 118:25, 26?
   a. What does the crowd shout?

      b. What does Hosanna mean?

   c. What was their expectation?
Read Matthew 21: 12-16; Mark 11: 15-18; Luke 19: 45-47.

Jesus at the temple
Note: Matthew’s Gospel is a compressed gospel. Mark indicates that this event took place on Monday.

6. Read Isaiah 56: 6, 7.
   How did the present condition of the temple make it hard for the Gentiles to worship?

7. Why did Jesus call it “a den of robbers”?

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

9. Read Psalm 8: 2. How does Jesus answer them? Do you see another fulfillment of an OT prophesy?

Read Matthew 21: 18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24.

The fig tree withers
10. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

11. Jesus uses the fig tree as an illustration to teach his disciples.
   Read James 1: 5-8; 1 John 3:22 and 5:14, 15.
   a. How are praying and receiving connected?

   b. Do you have personal experience with this? Please share.


Authority of Jesus
12. Verse 23. Why ask this question? Was it a reasonable one?

He also gives them a parable:

Read Matthew 21: 28-32.

The parable of the two sons

14. John the Baptist.
   a. What did John the Baptist show people?

   b. Who believed him?

   c. Who were witness to this and what was their response?

15. In the parable who does each son represent?

16. What is required for justification?

17. How does this apply to us?


Parable of the tenants
This parable is based on Isaiah 5: 1-7.
Also read Jeremiah 7: 25, 26.
   a. Who is the land owner?

   b. Who are the tenants?
c. Who are the servants?

d. Who is the son?

**Read Acts 13:46; 18:6**
19. Verse 41. Who are “the other tenants”?

20. Read Psalm 118: 22; Isaiah 28:16; Romans 9: 30-33; 1 Peter 2: 4-8. Who is the capstone?

21. In what way has the Church replaced Israel?..In what way has it not?

**Notes**

Riding on a donkey was an allusion to nobility, wealth and royalty.

**Question 1**
Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey Jesus publicly proclaimed that he was the chosen Son of David, the on the prophets spoke about. It was also an open confrontation with the leaders of the Jews.

**Question 2**
The donkey is a symbol of peace and humility.

**Question 3**
The fact that it had not been put to secular use points to religious symbol.

**Question 4**
Many had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They had heard about he miracles the healing of the blind man, the raising of Lazarus—and wanted to see this man Jesus.
Question 5
Hosanna is a Hebrew word. It means: please save or save now. They expected the restoration of the Davidic kingdom. For Christianity it is: a cry of praise or adoration shouted in recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem.

Question 6
The “buying and selling” took place in the outer court. It was several acres in size. This was the only place where Gentiles could worship. Animal pens and money tables were set up. It was noisy and smelly.

Question 7
The temple was robbed of its sanctity.

Question 8
Jesus was a threat to their way of living.

Question 9
Fig trees usually have leaves in June. This tree had leaves but no fruit at Passover time.

Question 11
James exhorts us to believe when we pray. John reminds us to “ask according to His will.”

Question 12
The reference is to the cleansing of the temple. They ask the question to discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people.

Question 13
His answer implied that his authority, like that of John the Baptist, came from God.

Question 14
a. John the Baptist showed the people a way of righteousness,
   b. The prostitutes and tax collectors believed him,
   c. The Pharisees and the scribes witnessed all this and did not believe.

Question 16
Repentance is required for justification.

Question 17
We also need to repent in order to be justified. Secondly: Do not judge by outward appearance.

Question 18
a. God,
b. The Jews and their leaders,
c. The OT prophets,
d. Jesus Christ.

Question 19
The other tenants are the Gentiles.

*Overall theme of Chapter 21*

*Triumphant Entry:* Jesus publicly announces Himself to be the Messiah and cleanses the Temple;
*He, the capstone, is rejected by the leaders;*
*Jesus warns them and reminds them of the OT prophesies;*
*Replacement of Israel by the Church.*
Matthew 22

The parable of the wedding banquet
This is actually two parables:
Parable A: 1-10, Parable B: 11-14

Verse 1-10.
Parable A. The invitation
1. Who were the guests who refused to come?

2. Who did the people in the highways and byways represent?


4. The nature of a wedding feast. Is a Christian supposed to be a gloomy, somber person?

5. What is it that makes one deaf to the invitation of Christ?

6. What is the appeal of the invitation? Is it no punishment or something else?

7. What is made clear by the invitation to sinners and gentiles?

Verse 11-14.
Parable B: The scrutiny of the King
8. What do the wedding clothes stand for?
   a. How should we enter the house of God?

   b. Do you prepare for worship?


Paying taxes to Caesar
10. The Herodians supported the Roman rule, the Pharisees were nationalists.
    How would a “yes” as well as a “no” put Jesus in a bad light?

11. Why did his answer silence, as well as, amaze them?


Marriage at the resurrection
12. What do we know about the Sadducees?

13. Read Deut. 25: 5-6. Why was such a law given?


15. Why do you believe in the resurrection of the dead?
Read Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31.
The greatest commandment
16. Why the question?

17. What should be our core value?

Whose son is the Christ?
18. Why is Jesus asking the question?

19. Why quote Psalm 110:1?

Notes

Jewish wedding invitations were sent out without stating an actual time. When everything was ready the servants were sent out again with the final summons. In other words, this king had sent out his invitations long ago.

Question 1
The Jews

Question 2
The sinners and gentiles, who did not expect an invitation.

Question 3
Matthew composed his gospel between A.D. 80 and 90. Between the actual life of Jesus and the composing of the gospel is the destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Rome.

Question 4
When you go to a wedding feast you expect laughter. A Christian should radiate joy.

Question 5
We could be too busy, to occupied with every day affairs and miss the invitation of Christ.
Question 6
The appeal of the invitation is not so much punishment that would wait us as the fact that we will miss out on precious things due to our own fault.

Question 7
God’s invitation is an invitation of Grace.

Question 8
Grace is a gift, but also a grave responsibility. The door is open to sinners, but the sinner must become a saint. Those who come must lead a life that fits the love given to them.

Question 9
It has nothing to do with the clothes we wear, but everything with the spirit in which we go to God’s house. We should clothe ourselves with garments of faith, reverence, humility, repentance, etc.

Question 10
A “no” from Jesus and the Herodians would report Him to the authorities. A “yes” from Jesus and the Pharisees would denounce Him to the people as being disloyal to the nation.

Question 11
A denarius was the coin used for paying the tax to Caesar. On one side was the portrait of the emperor, on the other side the inscription in Latin read: “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the divine Augustus”. By His answer Jesus protested the false, idolatrous claim of the coin.

Question 12
Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection. They only accepted the five books of Moses as authoritative. They rejected the oral tradition.

Question 13
To protect the widows and guarantee continuance of the family line.

Question 16 and 17
Jesus joined Deut. 6:4 (the Shema) with Lev. 19:18. Jewish rabbis counted 613 individual statutes in the law. To love God and our neighbor should be at the core.

Question 18
The Messiah besides being a descendent of David was also the divine Son of God. The purpose of the quotation is to show that He was David’s Lord.
Matthew 23

Read Matthew23: 1-12.
1. Verse 2, 3.
   Why were the people instructed to obey the ‘Teachers of the law and the Pharisees’?

2. Verse 3, 4. Did obeying mean that they had to follow their example?

3. Verse 5-7. Name 4 things Jesus charged them with.

4. What are phylacteries? What was the purpose of tassels? (Read Numbers 15: 37 and 38.)

5. Verses 8-12.
   What does Jesus have to say about theological titles?

The seven woes – Read verses 13-51.
6. What is meant by the word “Woe”?

7. Note the repeated use of the phrase “Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites”. What is a hypocrite?

8. As you read these verses meditate on its meaning.
   a. How does it affect the core of your being?
   b. Are you a hypocrite?
9. List the seven woes.

10. Ask yourselves the following questions:
   a. Legalism: Do you turn people off by insisting on a literal interpretation of Scripture. Do you require people to go to church twice on Sunday? Do you require people to believe in a young earth?
   b. Earning salvation by works and bringing the wrong message: Do you neglect to bring the message of salvation by Grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Do you emphasize works instead of compassion and love?
   c. Swearing: Do you remind yourselves of the fact that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Do we respect other people as made in the image of God?
   d. Tithing: Do you belief money can take the place of justice, mercy and faithfulness?
   e. Outward appearance: Do you watch out for yourself as #1 or do you consider yourself a steward of all you have been given with accountability to Jesus Christ?
   f. Are you dead inside or have you experienced the life giving presence of the Holy Spirit? Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ, our Redeemer?
   g. Are you ready to give your life to Christ, our Redeemer?

   What is a good shepherd? (Read John 10: 11-13.)

   a. What happened to Zechariah?

   b. Why did Jesus use the expression “from the righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berekiah”?

   Despite Jesus’ condemnation what do you notice about His attitude toward Jerusalem?
Notes

Question 1
The teachers of the law and the Pharisees were the \textit{authorized} successors of Moses.

Question 3
\begin{itemize}
  \item a. Say, but do not,
  \item b. Require of others, but do not do so themselves,
  \item c. Much show, but no substance,
  \item d. Pride.
\end{itemize}

Question 4
Phylacteries are boxes containing Scripture verses worn on the forehead and left arm (See Ex. 13:1-10 and 11-16.)

Question 6
“Woe” means ruinous trouble, calamity, deep suffering and grief. In this context HELL is meant.

Question 7
Note on “whitewashed tombs”—Numbers 19:16 tells us that stepping on a grave made people ceremonially unclean. Graves were whitewashed to make them easily visible especially at night.

Question 12b
This expression is somewhat like our “from Genesis to Revelation”. Jesus was summing up the history of martyrdom in the Old Testament.
Matthew 24

Matthew 24:1-25:46 is called the Olivet discourse. It is the fifth of 5 discourses in the book of Matthew. The others are found in Matthew 5-7, 10, 13 and 18.

1. Verse 1. Who built this temple?

2. Verse 2. What did Jesus say and when was this fulfilled?

3. Where was the mount of Olive? What view did it offer?

4. Verse 3. Why did the disciples ask this question? What did they mean by “the end of the age”?

5. Verse 4. What “age” is Jesus talking about when he answers his disciples: immediate, future or both?

Read verses 4-14.

6. Name some of the signs that indicate that the end is near?

7. Verse 14. When does Jesus say the end will come?


8. Verses 16-18. What does Jesus instruct his followers to do when they see that Jerusalem is surrounded by the enemy?

9. Verse 19 – 22. Why the reference to pregnant and nursing women, the winter and the Sabbath?
10. 10 Verse 22. Who are the “elect”?

Read verses 23-31.
11. Many impersonators have come and are gone. How do we as Christians know they are impersonators?

12. Verse 28. What is meant by this saying?

   a. What can we expect to happen to the sun, the moon and stars before Christ’s return?

   b. What should be the reaction of the elect (Luke 21:28).

   c. What will be the reaction of the nations of the earth (see Revelations 18: 9-11)?

14. Verse 30-31 – What is the “sign” of the Son of Man? (See Rev. 1:7.)

15. Verses 32-34 – The Lesson of the Fig Tree.
   What is the lesson? Is Jesus referring to the past, present or future?

Read verses 36-51
16. Verse 36. This verse has been used against the deity of Christ.
   a. How do you respond to that?
b. How could it be used for accepting 3 distinct persons of the Trinity?

17. Verse 40. Who will be taken and who will be left?

18. Verse 44. How does one accomplish being “ready”? What must we be ready for?

19. Verse 45.
   a. Jesus gives a parable of what it means to be ready.

   b. How does this apply to us today?

   a. What is the relation (if any) between the man who is ready for the thief entering his house and the faithful servant anticipating the return of his master?

   b. What does that mean for us today?

   c. Put it in your own language; what are we instructed to do?

Notes

Question 1
After their return from Babylonian Exile the people rebuilt the temple on the invitation of governor Zerubbabel. It was ready for consecration in 516 BCE. Herod’s temple in Jerusalem was a massive expansion of the temple mount platform and a major expansion of the Jewish Temple by King Herod the Great around 19 BCE. It was completed by his
grandson in 63 CE. Archaeological excavations have revealed some of the splendor of the Temple. Josephus states in Jewish War, “Whatever was not overlaid with gold was purest white.” Herod gave a golden vine for one of its decorations. Its grape clusters were as tall as men.

Question 2
Literally fulfilled in 70 CE. The Romans completely destroyed Jerusalem and the temple buildings.

Question 3
The Mount of Olives is directly east of Jerusalem. It is 2700 feet high—some 200 feet higher than Mount of Zion. It offers a magnificent view of the city and especially of the temple.

Question 4
The disciples thought that the destruction of the temple was one of the events that ushered in the end of times. Note the same expression can be found in Matthew 28:20.

Question 5
Verse 4-14 : description fitting both bills,
Verse 15-22 : deals with the destruction of Jerusalem,
Verse 23-31 : Speaks of Christ’s return.

Question 7
When the gospel of the kingdom “is preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.”

Question 9
Pregnant and nursing women represent those fleeing under especially difficult circumstances. Matthew includes the Sabbath because he is writing to the Jews. They were forbidden to travel more than a ½ mile on the Sabbath.

Question 12
This is a proverb. The coming of Christ will be as obvious as the gathering of vultures around a carcass.

Question 15
Spring is announced by the greening of the trees. In a similar way the signs mentioned announce the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Verse 34 seems to refer to the destruction of Jerusalem. The passage as a whole also refers to the end of time and the second coming of Jesus Christ.
Question 16
Jesus was fully human. While on earth Jesus lived by faith. Obedience was the hallmark of his ministry.
Matthew 25

Introduction
Matthew 25 is the application of Jesus’ Discourse: Be ready for the second coming of Christ.
   a. The parable of the 10 virgins: Be ready to attend to Him,
   b. The parable of the 3 servants: Be ready to give account to Him,
   c. The parable of the final judgment: Be ready to receive Him.


The parable of the ten virgins
1. What is the point of the parable? See also Matthew 24: 42

2. The wedding party.
   a. Who is the Bridegroom?

   b. Who are the Virgins and what is their task?

   c. Who is the spouse?

3. Do you know what the Jewish customs was at the time of a wedding? If not see your notes.

4. Why were there 10 virgins?

5. In Matthew 24 (see also Matthew 13) we read about the signs at the end the age. Jesus warns his disciples to “be alert”, ‘watch out’, “be on your guard”. Why?
6. Interpretation.
   a. How do these same words apply to us today?

   b. Was it different for the disciples of the first century? In what sense?

7. How can we be more prepared, alert and ready for His coming?

8. What stands in your way?


Read Matthew 25: 14-30.
The parable of the talents
10. What is the point of the parable?

11. Who does the Master represent; the journey; the talents; the servants?

12. How are talents (gifts) distributed?

13. Do you think it fair that some people get more than other people?

14. What do you think the treatment of the servant with one talent was fair?
Read Matthew 25: 31-46.
The parable of the goats and sheep
15. What is the point of the parable?

16. Who is the ‘Son of Man’?

17. How will He appear?

18. When will this take place? (Read Rev. 20:11-15)

19. What is the purpose of the judgment?

20. List 6 actions Jesus will use as basis for His judgment? (Read 1John 3:14-15)

21. Where do you find yourself serving most naturally?

22. Where do you have the most trouble reaching out?

Notes

Question 2
The Bridegroom = Jesus (so represented in Psalm 45)
   His Spouse = the Church. Solemnizing of the wedding is reserved for the great Day
   (Rev. 19: 7-9)
   The Virgins = the members of the Church. Their chief task is to have the light in their hands
   i.e. to hold out the Word of Life. (Phil 2: 14-16).
Question 3
Jewish Wedding Custom
The bridegroom came, attended with his friends, late at night, to the house of the bride. The bride, attended with her bridesmaids, expected him. Upon his approach they were to go out with lamps in their hands to bring him into the house with ceremony and formality.

Question 4
For any special occasion e.g. circumcision, Passover, marriage at least ten people had to be present.

Question 12
No one is given more than he can handle. However keep in mind that every one receives at least one gift.

Question 13
Wrong question to ask. This is a parable about accountability. Every one receives at least one gift and is expected to work with that.

Question 16
The Son of Man = Christ

Question 17
He will appear as a judge in great splendor with all his angels.

Question 19
The purpose of the judgment is to separate the righteous from the wicked.

This ends the fifth discourse
Focus points:

The end of times
Destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem
Persecution before Christ’s second coming
Prepare and be ready for the second coming of Christ.
VII. PASSION AND RESURRECTION

Matthew 26:1-28:40
Matthew 26


The plot against Jesus
1. Commemoration of the Passover
   a. What did the Jews commemorate on Passover? (You can find the story in Exodus 12).

   b. What is the feast of unleavened Bread?

2. What significance do you attach to the statement made by Jesus. Remember He just finished his discourse, as narrated in chapter 23-25. Also see John 1:29.

3. Verses 3-5.
   a. Who were involved in the plot against Jesus?

   b. What does that say about the leadership in Jerusalem?

4. Why were they afraid to kill Jesus during the feast?

Read Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12: 1-8

Jesus anointed at Bethany
5. Given that all 3 accounts refer to the same story, what motivated the woman (Mary)?

6. Who objected to the anointment and why?

7. The response.
   a. What is Jesus’ response to this?
b. Do we still talk about Mary and her devotion?

c. How do we show our devotion to Jesus?

**Read Matthew 26:14-16; Luke 22:1-5; Mark 14: 10-11**

**The betrayal by Judas**

8. What happens to Judas at this point (Luke 22:3)? What did he do next?

   a. What kinds of things open us up to Satan’s control?

   b. How can we avoid this?


11. Was Judas’ betrayal impulsive or premeditated?

**Read Matthew 26: 17-19; Mark 14: 12-16; Luke 22: 7-13**

**The Lord’s Supper**

**Preparation**

12. The Passover meal.
   a. What was being passed over?

   b. Who did Jesus sent to prepare the Passover meal? (Found in Luke 22:8).
c. What were His instructions?

d. It almost sounds like a coded message. What was the motive behind that?

Read Matthew 26: 20-25; Mark 14: 17-21; John 13:21-27
The Betrayal of Judas-II
13. Verse 23 (see also Mark 14:20 and John 13:26). What was the cultural significance of eating with someone?

14. Did Judas participate in the Lord’s Supper?

The Supper
An account of the Lord’s Supper is found in all four gospels. Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-23 and John 13:1-17:26
The section in John is very long. It centers mainly on the promise of the Holy Spirit. It leaves out the installation of the Lord’s Supper.
Read Matthew 26: 26-30 and I Cor. 11:23-26
15. What is a covenant? What is the difference between a covenant and a contract?


17. What is the new covenant? What is the connection with Jeremiah 31:31- 34.

Prediction of Peter’s denial
18. What is Jesus telling his disciples? What does He mean with the saying that “all will fall away”? (Note, Jesus is quoting Zech. 13:7.)
   a. Who objects?

   b. Verse 33.
      How does this show pride?

   c. What is the contrast between Peter’s actions and words?

   d. What can we learn from this?

Gethsemane
Gethsemane means “oil press.” It was a place where olives were squeezed. Jesus often went there with his disciples and the place was well known to Judas Iscariot. (See John 18:2).

   a. What did Jesus want to do?

   b. Who did He take with Him?

   a. Why do you think Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow?

   b. What did He ask Peter, James and John to do? Were they able?
22. The prayer.
   a. What did Jesus pray? What is His desire?

   b. How does this comfort us?

   c. What is the cup a symbol of?

23. Luke 22:44 tells us a bit more about the anguish of Jesus. What does this tell us about the human nature of Jesus?

   Jesus arrested.
   24. How does Judas identify Jesus?

25. Companions.
   a. Who were with him?

   b. Why do you think they were armed? What was the expectation?

   a. Do the disciples try to defend Jesus?

   b. What happens and what is the reaction of Jesus?

27. Jesus’ reaction.
a. How does Jesus address the crowd that came to arrest Him?

b. Why did He not put up a struggle?

28. What did the disciples do?

Read Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:12, 13, 19-24.

Before the Sanhedrin

29. What is the Sanhedrin?

30. Verse 58. Who followed Jesus? Why?

   a. What was the Sanhedrin looking for?

   b. Were they successful? What did two of them finally come up with?

   c. How did this distort the words of Jesus? (Read John 2:19)

32. Verse 62, 63a. How does Jesus respond to all of this?

33. Verse 63b.
   a. When does Jesus speak and why?
b. Verse 64. What is His response?

34. Verse 65-68.
   a. How does the high priest react to this?

   b. How does the rest of the Sanhedrin respond.

Peter disowns Jesus
35. Verse 69-75.
   a. What is happening to Peter during Jesus’ trial?

   b. Can you identify with his fear? What would you have done?

   c. How is the sin of Peter different from that of Judas?

Notes

Question 1
On Passover the Jews celebrate the fact that the angel of the Lord passed over their homes if the doorposts of their homes were marked by the blood of a lamb. The first-born of the Egyptians were killed. The Passover meal was eaten between sundown and midnight. The Festival of unleavened bread followed and lasted for 7 days.

Question 4
During the festival of unleavened bread the population in Jerusalem rose from roughly 50,000 to several hundred thousands. Riots were common.

Question 5
All three accounts refer to the same occasion. The time placement is different in Matthew and Mark. It could be that both Matthew and Mark contrast the anointment with the hatred of the religious leaders and the betrayal of Judas.

Question 7
Mary wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair (See John 12:3). This showed great humility. No respectable woman would unbind her hair in public. To attend to feet was the task of a servant.

Question 10
A slave.

Question 12
Peter and John. It would be easy to identify a man carrying a water jar. As a norm only women carried water jars. The instructions left Judas out of the loop. He would be unable to inform the enemy. The eating of the meal would not be interrupted.

Question 13
Among Arabs to eat with someone is equivalent to stating “I am your friend.”

Question 14
The Gospel of John seems to indicate that Judas left before the Lord’s Supper. Interestingly, note that most likely Jesus washed his feet just before this event. So Jesus gave him two opportunities to turn about and repent of what he was planning to do: washing his feet and offering him bread.

Question 15
A covenant is a formal, solemn, binding agreement, a contract, a pledge.

Question 16.
The Old Covenant was made with:
   a. Abraham. God made a divine pledge to Abraham to be his God and the God of his descendants. The condition was: total consecration to the Lord as symbolized by circumcision.
   b. Israel as the descendants of Abraham. God made a divine pledge at Mount Sinai (Read Exodus 24:3-11.) The condition was: total consecration to the Lord, to live by His rules, and serve His purpose.

Question 17.
The New covenant is a fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:31-34 and the promise of the Holy Spirit. I Cor. 11:23-26 spells it out. The breaking of the bread: “This is my body broken for you.” The cup: “…is the New Covenant in my blood…” , “…poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Question 22.
a. The cup symbolizes the chalice of death and God’s wrath.
   It is a symbol of deep sorrow and suffering.
   Jesus dreaded not so much physical death, as the fact of separation from God the Father.

b. “He who had no sin was made sin for us” (2 Cor. 5:21).

Question 29.
The Sanhedrin was the high court of the Jews. It was made up of the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law. Total membership was 71. It had a great deal of authority, but could not impose capital punishment.

Question 33.
The high priest charges Jesus “under oath by the living God.”
Jesus was legally obliged to speak.
Matthew 27

Read Matthew 27: 3-10 and Acts 1: 15-20.

Judas hangs himself
1. When Judas betrayed Jesus what might he have been thinking betrayal would accomplish?

2. Kinds of change.
   a. Comment on, remorse versus repentance.
   b. A person says: “I have sinned...”, wouldn’t that result in salvation?

   a. Why do people commit suicide?
   b. Do all people who commit suicide end up in hell?

   a. How can you tell a passage of the O.T. is prophetic?
   b. Did what these prophets said take place during their lifetime?

5. The Sanhedrin could not have a legal session at night. Therefore the death sentence was not made official till early morning. Do you think that God in His mercy gave them a little bit of time to think about it?
   a. Why did the Sanhedrin decide Jesus was “worthy of death”?

   b. What did they charge Jesus with before Pilate? (See the passage in Luke).
7. What is Pilate’s conclusion x 3? (Luke 23:4, 14 and 15, 22.)


Jesus before Pilate
   a. What is Jesus response?

   b. Read the more elaborate response in John 18: 33-38. Why did Jesus ask Pilate: “Is this your own idea or did others talk to you about me?”


9. Verse 12-14. Why the change in Jesus’ responding?

10. Verse 15 – 21. What was the governor’s custom to do at the feast?

11. What does the name Barabbas mean?

12. God sends Pilate a warning via his wife.
   a. Do you have any experience of people close to you used by God to give you a warning? Could you share?
b. Do you know of people who have dreams with messages from God? Again, please share.

a. What were the chief priests and elders doing in the meantime?

b. Any idea how they persuaded the crowd? Do you think that these people were the same ones who shouted ‘Hosanna’ just a few days ago?

14. Who did the crowd want to release and what did they demand Pilate to do?

15. Read Matthew 27:24 and John 19:12. Why did Pilate give in to the crowd?

16. Verse 24. Did washing his hands really let Pilate off the hook?

17. Verse 25.
a. Can parents place responsibility of their action on their children?

b. Do you believe that this action has anything to do with the way Jews have been treated over the past centuries?

Read Matthew 27: 27-31; Mark 15:16-20.
The soldiers mock Jesus
18. When it was time for a Roman execution the Roman soldiers were allowed a brief time of fun and sports with the condemned.
a. What type of person would it take to be such an executioner?

b. Could you be such a person?

c. What does it tell us about our depraved human nature?


The crucifixion

19. Read Matthew 27:33-44
   a. Why did Simon have to carry the cross?

   b. Who was he? Read Mark 15:21.

   c. What does Romans 16:13 suggests?

20. Why did Jesus refuse to drink the wine mixed with gall?

   a. How did the soldiers fulfill the Scriptures?

   b. Does this give us a glimpse how our actions are guided by a higher authority?

   c. Does this urge you to ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your daily living?
   a. What was the charge against Jesus?

   b. Do you think God made a statement as well as Pilate?


24. Verse 40. Evidently some people were at the hearing of Jesus before the Sanhedrin. Read Matthew 26: 60-61. What did these false witnesses say and how did they twist Jesus’ words? See John 2:19.

25. Verse 41-44.
   a. Is this a final temptation of Jesus?

   b. How would you have reacted to these insults if you had the power to do so?

   c. What does that tell us about the obedience of Jesus to the Father and His sacrificial love for us?


The death of Jesus
26. Verse 45. Read Amos 8:9 (For better understanding you may want to read the whole passage).
   a. What time are we speaking about in our terms?
b. Why do you think the “sun went down at noon and darkened the earth in broad daylight”?

27. Verse 46. What did Jesus experience during this time?

28. What Jewish ritual took place that day at 3 p.m.?

29. Verse 47, 48. Why might those standing by think that Jesus was calling Elijah?

30. There are a total of 7 utterances of Jesus during the crucifixion. They are not all in Matthew. Here are the references:
   - Luke 23: 43, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”
   - John 19: 26, 27, “Behold your son…”
   - John 19: 28, “I am thirsty…”
   - John 19: 30, “It is finished…”
   - Matthew 27: 46, “Eloi…”

31. Verse 50 (Also, John 19:30). What is significant about the last half of verse 50?

32. Verse 51 Read Hebrews 9:1-14 and 10:14-22. What did the tearing symbolize? Any idea how thick the curtain was?

33. Verse 52-53. This is only recorded in Matthew. What questions come to your mind when you read this?

34. Verse 54. What was the significance of the exclamation of the centurion?
35. Verse 55, 56. What must have been the emotions of the women who watched and had taken care of Him?


Burial of Jesus
36. What do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?

37. Verse 58. Why did he need permission from Pilate?

38. Verse 59. Who would be able to locate the tomb where Jesus was laid beside Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus?


The guards at the tomb
39. Verse 62. Matthew was the only one who records the sealing of the tomb and the presence of guards. Why was this important for the Jews to know?

40. Verse 63.
   a. What did the chief priests and Pharisees remember?
   
   b. How does the sealing of the tomb and the presence of the guards add credence to the fact of resurrection.

Notes

Question 6a
The Sanhedrin charged Jesus with blasphemy.
Question 6b
Before Pilate he was charged with treason.

Question 8a
If this was Pilate’s own idea the question was really, “Are you a rebel?” If the question originated with the Jews it meant, “Are you the Messianic King?”

Question 8b
Jesus always referred to Himself as “The Son of Man.”

Question 11
Barabbas means “son of the father.” In place of Barabbas the Son of the Father died!

Question 19.
A cross weighed 30-40 lbs. Jesus was so weakened by the flogging that he had problems carrying it. Cyrene was an important city in Libya, in North Africa. It had a large Jewish population. Simon was probably a Jew visiting Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The passage in Romans suggests that his sons, Rufus and Alexander, were Christians.

Question 20
Tradition tells us that the women in Jerusalem prepared this pain-killing narcotic for prisoners who were condemned to die by crucifixion. Jesus refused to drink because He wanted to be fully conscious until His death.

Question 21
The charge against Jesus, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”
This was written in,
- Aramaic: all the Jews could read it,
- Greek: the common language of communication,
- Latin: official language of Rome,
It gave Pilate a sufficient reason for executing Jesus plus a way to mock the Jews. The Apostle John underscores in addition that Jesus’ kingship is final and unalterable.

Question 23
Isaiah states: “He was numbered with the transgressors”

Question 26
Darkness was from noon till 3 p.m.

Question 27
Scripture differentiates 3 types of death,
- Physical: separation of the body from the soul and spirit,
Spiritual: separation of the soul from God,  
Eternal: spiritual death made permanent. This is the second death.  
On the cross Jesus suffered Spiritual death; He was forsaken by the Father. He took upon Himself the crushing weight of the sins of the world. (Taken from: Heaven: Better by far, by J. Oswald Sanders.) Put in another way, in a sermon by Pastor Harry Weidenaar, “The Trinity was torn.”

Question 28  
The Passover lamb was slaughtered at 3 p.m. at the temple.

Question 29  
The bystanders took the words of Jesus, “Eloi,” to be a cry for Elijah. It was believed that Elijah would come in times of critical need to protect the innocent and righteous.

Question 31  
“He gave up His Spirit” : This seems to indicate an act of will; “in a loud voice”: Jesus did not die the ordinary death of those crucified. Ordinary those so condemned, suffered long periods of agony, exhaustion followed by unconsciousness before dying.

Question 32  
The curtain was 2 inches thick according to Ray Vander Laan.

Question 34  
The centurion was in charge of the crucifixion. His testimony is seen as a declaration of Jesus’ innocence.

Question 36  
Arimathea is about 20 miles NW of Jerusalem. Joseph is described by,  
Matthew: Joseph was a rich man from Arimathea, who had become a disciple of Jesus. He placed Jesus in his own new tomb.  
Mark: He was a prominent member of the Council (The Sanhedrin). He was waiting for the kingdom of God.  
Luke: A good and upright man. A disciple of Jesus. He was a member of the Council and had not consented to their decision and action.  
John: A secret disciple of Jesus, because he feared the Jews. Accompanied by Nicodemus (the one who had visited Jesus by night).  
Nicodemus brought 75 pounds of aloe and myrrh. Such large amounts were used for the burial of kings. This was a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:9b, “…and with the rich in His death.”

Question 37  
Permission from authority was needed; otherwise friends could take away the crucified bodies before they died and try to revive them.
Matthew 28


The resurrection
1. Each of the four gospels gives us a slightly different account of what happened. For example: the number of women that went to the tomb, the description of the angels, the telling of the event. Does this bother you?

2. Luke 23: 56 – 24; 1; Mark 16: 1. Why did the women go to the tomb?

3. Verse 2-3. Only Matthew mentions this earthquake and the one at the time of Jesus’ death. What is the significance of the earthquake? What took place?

4. Verse 4-5. Contrast the reaction of the guards with that of the women.

5. Verse 5-7. What message did the angels give the women?

6. Verse 8-10. What did the women do?

7. Verse 7. The women were instructed to tell the disciples. Why not go and tell the chief priests, Pharisees and the teachers of the law?

8. Verse 11-15. Only recorded in Matthew. The guards did report to the chief priests. Why did they not report to the governor?

9. Verse 12-15. What was the action of the chief priests and why did the soldiers comply?
10. Verse 15b. Who have been the victims?

11. Besides Jesus there are several Biblical figures who rose from the dead. Name at least 5. 
   See I Kings 17; II Kings 4; II Kings 13:21; Luke 7; Mark 5; John 11; Acts 9; Acts 20; 
   Matthew 27: 52

   b. The first eyewitnesses to the resurrection were women. There was no possible 
      advantage to the church to recount that all the first witnesses were women. 
   c. The Christian view of resurrection, absolutely unprecedented in history, sprang up 
      full-blown immediately after the death of Jesus. There was no process or 
      development. 
   d. Hundreds of Jews began worshipping Jesus literally overnight. What changed their 
      worldview overnight? 
   e. As Pascal put it, “I believe those witnesses that get their throat cut.” Virtually all the 
      apostles and early Christian leaders died for their faith, and it is hard to believe that 
      this kind of powerful self-sacrifice would be done to support a hoax. 
      Can you add to this list?

   First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in 
   the righteousness he won by His death. (Rom. 4:25; I Cor. 15:16-20; I Peter 1:3-5.) 
   Second, by His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life. (Rom. 6:5-11; 
   Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4.) 
   Third, Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection (Rom. 8:11; I 
   Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21.)

Read Matthew 28:16-20. 
The Great Commission 
14. Verse 16. Who were the disciples reminded of when they “…went to Galilee, to the 
    mountain …”? See Ex. 3:12 and Deut. 18:17.
15. Verse 17. How were the disciples affected by Jesus’ appearance?

16. How does Jesus’ commission here differ from His earlier one recorded in Matthew 10: 5-7?

17. Authority.
   a. What was the authority that Jesus was given? (See John 17:2).
   b. How far does it extend? (See Phil. 2:9-11)

   a. Discuss the mission given to the disciples.
   b. How does Jesus encourage them?
   c. What does it mean for us today?

Notes

Question 1
Every person reports from his own perspective. Everyone sees it just a bit different. Rather than causing doubt it gives more credence to the story.

Question 11
a. The son of the widow at Zarephath
b. The Shunammite’s son
c. Dead man to be buried. He was thrown into Elisha’s tomb.
d. Jesus raises the widow’s son.
e. The daughter of Jairus
f. Lazarus
g. Dorcas
h. Eutychus
i. Holy people at the time of Jesus’ death
(Read article found in the May issue of Christianity Today, 2010)

Question 14.
Moses was a type of Jesus.
Epilogue
What is the message of the Gospel?
What is the Good News?

The Kingdom of God has come!

Notes on the Kingdom of God
1. The kingdom of God is
   a. The sphere of God’s rule Psalm 22:28; Rom. 13:1,
   b. The sphere where his rule is acknowledged Dan 2:44; I Cor. 15:24, 25.
2. Characteristics of the Kingdom
   a. Does not come in the range of natural powers – Mark 4:11,
3. Two aspects of the Kingdom
   a. Present and involving suffering for those who enter it – II Thess. 1:5,
4. The fundamental principle: where the King is, there is the Kingdom – Luke 17:21. Thus, first of all in the heart of the believer – Acts 4:19; Eph. 3:17; I Peter 3:15.
5. Entrance into the Kingdom is by new birth – Matthew 18:3; John 3:5; Matthew 7:21
8. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are at times identical, but not always. “The Kingdom of Heaven is always the Kingdom of God, but the Kingdom of God is not limited to the Kingdom of Heaven, until in their final form they become identical.” Rev. 11:15, John 3:5, Rev. 12:10. (Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words).