

Matthew

Bible Study

Part 2

"He is not here; for He is risen." (28:6)

Made for Gardendale church of Christ

2022

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Special thanks to Seth Pickle (Lessons 1-7). Andrew Smith wrote lessons 8 - 23.
 If you have any questions, please email andrew@gardendalechurchofchrist.com.

The Book of Matthew

Introduction

Lesson 1

This class utilizes a topic-based outline, which shows an alternating pattern of lengths of narrative followed by a discourse.

<u>Outline: Narrative & Discourse</u>
Narrative: The Messiah Introduced (1-4)
Discourse: Righteousness (5-7)
Narrative: The Messiah's Authority (8-9)
Discourse: Mission and Martyrdom (10)
Narrative: The Messiah is Accused and Doubted (11-12)
Discourse: Parables about the Kingdom (13:1-52)
Narrative: Jesus Is the Christ (13:53-17)
Discourse: Life and Discipline in the Kingdom (18)
Narrative: Teaching Towards Jerusalem (19-23)
Discourse: The Fall of Jerusalem and The Final Judgement (24-25)
Narrative: The Climactic Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission (26-28)

Attributes of Matthew's Gospel:

It is organized into a **narrative, discourse pattern**. There is a common identifier for them:

"when Jesus had finished... (these words, parables, instruction)"

Here are the markers: (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)

There are **five discourses**. Think about them as large and significant groupings of Jesus' teachings. This likely would have resonated with Jews because the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) contained a large and significant body of identity and law for Israel. Thus, five discourses may signify Jesus role as the "New Moses" (Deut. 18:15) for Israel.

"Fulfill"- Jesus' work and life in relation to Scripture/prophecies. Matthew's gospel is filled with instances of how Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy and Scripture. The Jews searched the Scriptures for life, and God through Matthew is revealing how they point to Jesus.

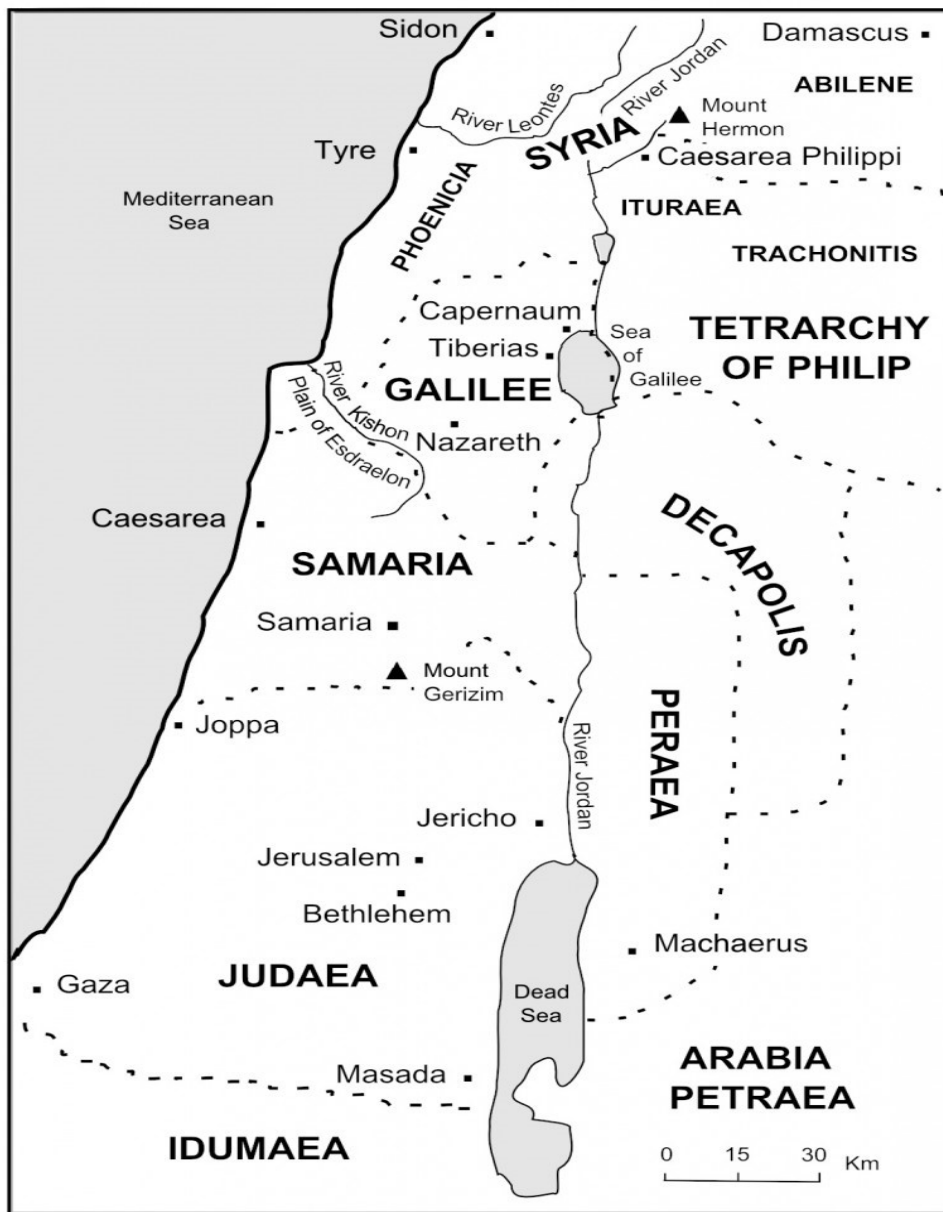
"Kingdom of heaven" - "of heaven" is unique to Matthew's gospel. There seems to be a lot of emphasis on how the Jews weren't prepared for that type of a kingdom.

The book also highlights that **unlikely candidates** (Gentiles, tax collectors, prostitutes; see 8:5–13, 28–34; 15:21–28) were getting ready for the kingdom. There were many Jews that would forfeit their opportunity to take part and so their place would be given to another (See 8:10-12, 21:43).

The intent of this study is to focus on the points that God made through Matthew, not to combine every detail with Mark, Luke, and John. Each book individually has significant points and messages to consider. Though Jesus has many powerful one-liners, there are also broad lessons seen through considering larger sections of the book. While we spend more time breaking down sections in these lessons, try to put the lessons back into the larger contexts.

Please share any suggestions, questions, comments, or feedback.

-Nathan Jones



Death of John the Baptist

Overview:

In chapter 14, we are given the account of John the Baptist's demise and Jesus' reaction to it, which leads into a very famous miracle—the feeding of the five thousand. We also see a great test of faith for Peter on the Sea of Chinnereth. This chapter contains little dialogue from Jesus as it is mostly narrative, but the information contained in these passages is quite powerful none the less.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Defining the Citizens of the Kingdom

- 1) What do we learn about John the Baptist from verse 2?

- 2) Why does Herod believe the Jesus is John, risen from the dead? Compare Luke 6:14-20.

- 3) Why had Herod imprisoned John according to verses 3-4?

- 4) For what reason was Herod unable to avoid executing John the Baptist? (v.6-10)

- 5) **Thought Question:** Why is it important that Matthew included the details of John's death in his gospel? What are some important lessons one can glean from this tale?

- 6) According to verse 13, what did Jesus do when He heard of John's death?

7) Who followed Jesus when He departed?

8) What was Jesus' reaction when He saw the multitudes, and why is that significant?

****Theme Question****

9) What does Jesus' reaction to the multitudes tell us about discipleship?

10) Why did the disciples want the multitude sent away, and what was Jesus' response?
(v.15-18)

11) Consider the wording of verse 21 carefully. How many people did Jesus feed?

12) Jesus had only five loaves and two fish with which to feed the multitude. What does this miracle show about God's abilities when using very little?

13) What did Jesus do immediately after the feeding of the multitude in verses 22-23?

14) What were the conditions the disciples found themselves in while crossing the sea in verse 24?

15) What was the reaction of the disciples when they saw Jesus walking on the water?

16) How did Peter respond once the disciples realized it was Jesus on the sea? What does it say about his faith?

17) When and why did Peter begin to sink? (v.29-32)

****Theme Question****

18) What can we, as Christians today, learn from Peter's failure? What should the kingdom citizen be focused on?

19) What happened when Christ entered the boat, and how did the occupants react?

20) What did the men of Gennesaret do when Jesus and His disciples arrived there?

The Inside, Not the Outside

Overview:

In the first half of chapter 15, Jesus has another conversation with the Pharisees. As you examine His responses to them, and later to the disciples, pay close attention to the words Jesus chooses as those words often carry a deeper meaning than what appears at first glance.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Fulfillment of Prophecy

- 1) What charge did the Pharisees bring against Jesus' disciples in verse 2?

- 2) What traditions were the Pharisees seemingly most concerned with?

- 3) What is significant about Jesus' wording in verse 3 as He begins His response?

- 4) In verses 4-6, what commandment did Jesus' reference, and what was the Pharisees' alternative doctrine?

- 5) What is the major problem with the Pharisees' doctrine according to verse 6?

- 6) Was Jesus saying that the Pharisees literally nullified the command of God? If not, what was He saying?

****Theme Question****

- 7) Research Question: What prophecy, referenced in verses 8-9, did the Pharisees fulfill?

- 8) In verses 10-11, Jesus directly answered the question posed to Him by the Pharisees back in verse 2. How was Jesus' statement both an answer and an accusation against the Pharisees?

- 9) What is the meaning of the words Jesus spoke in verse 13? (Hint: Refer to the words of Gamaliel in Acts 5:38-39 when considering your answer.)

****Theme Question****

- 10) Refer back to the prophecy that Jesus quoted in verse 8-9. Could Jesus' comments in verse 14 also be calling Isaiah's words to remembrance regarding the Pharisees? Consider Is. 29:9-10 specifically.

- 11) When Jesus further explained the statement He made in verse 11, what did He provide as the root cause of a man's defilement in verses 18-19?

- 12) **Thought Question:** Consider Jesus' rebuke in verse 16. Even though Jesus seemed disappointed by His disciples' lack of understanding, He went on to explain the parable with more detail. What does His attitude teach us about how we should handle legitimate questions about the truth?

Light to the Gentiles

Overview:

Moving through the second half of chapter 15, Jesus has a direct interaction with a Gentile woman and performs another miracle for a great multitude. As with the previous lesson, Jesus' choice of words in His statements carry special significance beyond what appears on the surface. Remember, as you read, that Jesus' desire was and is the salvation of all regardless of the specific words He chose to use.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Fulfillment of Prophecy

- 1) What does the statement of the Gentile woman in verse 22 say about her understanding?

Theme Question

- 2) What was significant about Jesus' statement in verse 24? Consider Is. 49:1-7.
- 3) **Thought Question:** Taking Jesus' statement in combination with Is. 49:6, was His answer to the Gentile contradictory with the prophecy that He would be a "light to the Gentiles"? If not, how can we reconcile the two passages?
- 4) After Jesus' remark, the Gentile woman persists. Explain Jesus' answer to her in verse 26. What was His meaning?

- 5) What does the woman's answer show us about her?
- 6) What was her reward in verse 28, and why was it given to her?

****Theme Question****

- 7) What can we learn from the Gentile woman's example as citizens of the kingdom?
- 8) **Thought Question:** How did Jesus' fulfillment of the woman's petition (and also the request of the centurion in Matt. 8) align with the woman's own words in verse 27? Did this miracle "take from the children to give to the dogs"? Explain your answer.
- 9) What wonders did Jesus do for the multitudes on the mountain in verses 29-30?
- 10) **Bonus Question:** Consider the differentiation between the word *lame* and the word *maimed* in verse 30 and compare with chapter 18:8-9. How does an understanding of these terms reflect the awesome power of God to heal these individuals?
- 11) What is the key takeaway from the miracles that Christ performed according to verse 31?
- 12) Why did Jesus choose to feed the multitude before sending them away according to verse 32?
- 13) Given what the disciples had seen, why would they question Jesus in verse 33?

The Rock

Overview:

In chapter 16, we see more hypocrisy from the Pharisees, the first confession of Jesus as the Christ, and the first warning of what Jesus had to suffer at Jerusalem. Take note of the way Jesus' disciples respond to His remarks and consider how that reflects their mindset.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Defining the Citizens of the Kingdom

- 1) In verse 1, the Pharisees once again ask Jesus for a sign as they did in chapter 12. Are they genuinely seeking a sign according to the text?

- 2) What illustration did Jesus use in verses 2-3 to show the Pharisees' ability to read and understand "signs"?

- 3) What did the Pharisees have available that should have explained to them the signs of the times?

- 4) What was Jesus' point to the Pharisees in verses 2-3?

- 5) As in chapter 12, what sign would be given to them according to verse 4?

- 6) Jesus gave His disciples a warning in verse 6. What was the warning, what did they think He was talking about, and why would they think that way?

- 7) What was Christ's purpose in bringing to remembrance the loaves and the multitudes in His response to them in verses 8-11?
- 8) According to verse 12, Jesus was referring to the false doctrine of the Pharisees as "leaven"? How is false doctrine like leaven?
- 9) In verse 15, Jesus asks His disciples who they say that He is. What answer does Simon give, and what was significant about it?
- 10) When Jesus said to Simon that His "Father who is in heaven" had revealed the knowledge of who Jesus was in verse 17, what did He mean? How did God reveal that truth to Simon?

****Theme Question****

- 11) Who or what is the "rock" upon which the church is built? Consider Eph. 2:19-22 and 1 Cor. 2:1-2; 3:10-11 before answering.
- 12) What does it mean that the "gates of Hades" would not prevail against the church?
- 13) What are the "keys of the kingdom," and to whom were they given?
- 14) Considering your answer to the previous question, what is the binding and loosing referred to in verse 19? (The NASV might help.)
- 15) What was Peter's reaction to Jesus' message of what awaited Him in Jerusalem, and how did Jesus respond?

16) Why were Peter's words an offense to Jesus? Why would Jesus equate him with Satan?

****Theme Question****

17) Given the context of verses 24-28, what was Jesus referring to when He used the phrase "deny self" in verse 24?

18) Is the cross in verse 24 a literal cross?

****Theme Question****

19) What do verses 25-26 mean? Explain in your own words.

20) Are verses 27 and 28 speaking of the same event? If not, how do we harmonize the two verses?

The Transfiguration

Overview:

In the first half of chapter 17, we read about the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. As you read through the text, think back to the prophecies concerning Jesus and His coming. Consider the one who was to come before. Also, consider carefully the exchanges between Christ and His disciples as the questions will focus on these things.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Fulfillment of Prophecy

- 1) Who appeared on the mountain with Jesus after His transfiguration?

- 2) **Thought Question:** Remember who the primary audience of Matthew's gospel was. Why is the appearance of these two people significant? Consider Mark 12:26-27.

- 3) What is significant about the two specific individuals that appeared and spoke with Jesus?

- 4) What did God confirm in verse 5?

- 5) What did Peter suggest in verse 4, and what did his statement reveal about his attitude?

- 6) Consider Peter's statement in verse 4. Why would God say "hear Him" in response?

- 7) When was Jesus' instruction to the disciples in verse 9 fulfilled?

8) **Research Question:** What prophecy/prophecies would the scribes have been using to support the statement that Elijah must come first?

9) What statements did Jesus make in verse 11 and 12 that confirm the scribe's belief?

Theme Question

10) According to verse 13, in whom was the prophecy concerning Elijah fulfilled?

11) **Thought Question:** In summary, what points were (and still are) made to the audience of this book in verses 1-8?

Theme Question

12) **Thought Question:** Consider Jesus' statements in Matt. 11:11-15 and Matt. 17:11-13 and compare them to Malachi 4, Luke 1:17, and John 1:19-23. Was John the Baptist literally Elijah? If not, harmonize the scriptures concerning his identity?

13) **Thought Question:** Why would Jesus not want the vision told to anyone until His resurrection in verse 9? Consider the exchange between Peter and Jesus in chapter 16:22-23 and Luke 24:44-49 when answering.

From Sons or Strangers?

Overview:

In the second half of chapter 17, we read of the healing of a possessed boy, the second prediction of Jesus' death, and an issue regarding taxes.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Defining the Citizens of the Kingdom

- 1) What condition did the man's son have according to verse 15, and why was it so dangerous?

- 2) According to verse 16, what had the man already done that had failed?

- 3) Why were the disciples unable to cast out the demon according to verse 20?

- 4) Considering verses 19 and 20, who was Jesus referring to as "faithless" in verse 17? Compare Mark's account of this story in Mark 9:14-29.

- 5) In chapter 13 verse 32, Jesus referred to the mustard seed as "the least of all seeds." What was His purpose in using the mustard seed as a measure of faith in verse 20?

- 6) **Thought Question:** Was Jesus contradicting His previous statement in verse 21? If not, what was His meaning? Consider James 1:5-8.

- 7) In verse 22, Jesus predicts His death and resurrection (not for the first or last time). Why would Jesus speak of His death so many times to the disciples?
- 8) What was Peter asked when they arrived in Capernaum?
- 9) What question did Jesus ask Peter in response, and how did Peter answer?
- 10) What did Jesus mean when He said “the sons were free”? Who were the “sons” He was talking about in reference to the temple tax?

Theme Question

- 11) **Thought Question:** Why would Jesus elect to pay the temple tax despite being under no real obligation to pay it, and what does His decision show us about the attitude of the kingdom citizen? Consider chapter 3:13-15, 1 Cor. 8:9-13, and Romans 12:17-18.
- 12) **Thought Question:** We know from other accounts that the disciples had a money box (Jn. 12:4-6). If they carried money, why have Peter catch a fish to find money? Was there some special significance to this act?

The Little Ones

Overview:

Chapter 18 focuses almost exclusively on Christian attitudes, and how we are to interact with each other. In the first half of the chapter, Jesus answers the question of who would be greatest in the kingdom and then proceeds to explain what a disciple's attitude should be toward sin. There are many passages in this section that can be misinterpreted or difficult to comprehend. But, if we pay attention to the context and examine all of the passages together as a whole, we will be able to discern the truth.

Theme(s) covered in this section:

Defining the Citizens of the Kingdom

- 1) What question was Jesus asked in verse 1 by His disciples?

Theme Question

- 2) **Thought Question:** In what ways is a child the perfect illustration of what a believer should be like?
- 3) Was Jesus still referring to literal children when He used the phrase "little ones" in verse 6 and after?
- 4) **Thought Question:** Verse 7 tells us that although offenses are going to come, "woe to that man by whom they come," which seems to suggest that it would be worse for the one who caused the sin than for the one led astray. Why would that be the case? Provide scriptural evidence to support your answer.
- 5) Was Jesus speaking literally in verses 9 and 10 when He referred to removing hands, feet, and eyes? If not, what was His meaning?

- 6) Why are we not to despise (look down on) our fellow believers according to verse 11?

- 7) **Thought Question:** Considering your answer to the previous question and the context of verses 10-14, answer the following question, What did Jesus mean when He said “their angels see the face” of the Father in heaven in verse 10?

- 8) How does the parable of the lost sheep in verses 12-14 illustrate the message of verses 10 and 11?

- 9) What is the first step taken toward reconciliation with a brother according to verse 15?

- 10) If a brother will not hear the individual or witnesses, what is the next course of action according to verse 17?

- 11) Are the steps listed in verse 15-17 intended to alienate or punish a brother? If not, what is the intention behind them?

- 12) Given your previous answers, is putting a brother away, as mentioned in verse 17, done with hatred or finality?

- 13) Considering the context of this passage, what was the binding and loosing of verse 18? (NASV)

14) Considering the context of verses 18 and 19, what was Christ's message regarding disciplining brethren in verse 20?

15) What question did Peter ask Jesus in verse 21 after Jesus gave His instructions concerning erring brethren?

16) What is the kingdom of heaven like according to verse 23?

17) What did the servant do when faced with his debt in verse 26, and how did the Master respond?

18) What did that same servant do to his fellow servant who owed him in verse 30?

19) How did the Master respond and why?

20) Considering the story of the unforgiving servant, why should we forgive "seventy times seven"?

Narrative: Teaching Towards Jerusalem (19-23)

Back to the Beginning

Sometimes we only visit Matthew 19 to talk about a marriage issue. However, we can visit Matthew 19 anytime to talk about the kingdom of God. As we read, let us be looking for Matthew's overall message about the kingdom by presenting Jesus' teaching on marriage.

1. What was the Pharisees' motivation to ask Jesus about divorce?
2. What authority did Jesus appeal to for His answer?
3. Looking at verse 6, why **can't** a man divorce his wife for any reason?
4. What authority did the Pharisees use to question Jesus' answer?
5. Why did Moses permit divorce?
6. Concerning the proposed situation in verse 9, who are all the people living in adultery?
7. What was the disciples' conclusion to Jesus' teaching?

8. In your own words, what was Jesus' point in verses 11-12? (Also, check 19:29)

9. Why did people bring their little children to Jesus?

10. Thought Question: Is there a spiritual way that we bring our little children to Jesus today?

11. Thought Question: The previous section was Jesus' teaching on marriage, and the next section is the "Rich Young Ruler's" story. Matthew puts this story about the children in the middle of them. Considering the overall message of these stories together, what is the message(s) of the story of the little children?

12. Who forbade the children of coming to Jesus?

13. Who is the only person that can forbid us from coming to Jesus?

Unwilling to Forsake

1. Outline the conversation between Jesus and the Young Ruler. You can summarize Jesus' points in your own words.
 - a. Young Man: "Good Teacher, what good things shall I do that I may have eternal life?"
 - b. **Jesus:**

 - c. Young Man: "Which ones?"
 - d. **Jesus:**

 - e. Young Man: "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"
 - f. **Jesus:**

 - g. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."
2. Why did the young man refuse Jesus' last command and follow Him?
3. Thought Question: Why did the man continue to press Jesus for more specific answers? Was Jesus' first answer not satisfactory?
4. What could have been the motivation for the young man to come to Jesus? Did he want help, wisdom, or something else entirely?
5. Looking at verse 24, what was Jesus' point by use of that analogy? Consider the disciples' response in verses 25-26.

6. Why is it hard for a rich man to go to Heaven?

7. Consider chapter 19's overall message with the teaching on marriage, the story of the little children, and now the "Rich Young Ruler." Answer the disciples' question: "Who can be saved?"

8. Research Question: Who is Jesus quoting in verse 26?

9. Peter asked what would they gain by forsaking all and following Jesus? Was it wrong for Peter to be thinking about Christ's rewards? (Heb. 10:34)

10. Is Jesus a king on a throne of glory today? (Acts 2:36)

11. Are the apostles issuing judgments today? If so, in what way? (Acts 2:42)

12. When did the "regeneration" begin? (NKJV)

13. Jesus made promises to the apostles for forsaking all and following Him. What does He promise us for forsaking all and following Him?

Lesson 10

Matthew 20:1-16

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a
Landowner Hiring Laborers

1. What did the landowner agree to with his first hired laborers?
2. What were the terms he came to with laborers hired at the 3rd hour?
3. What other times did the landowner go out to hire?
4. How is hiring laborers throughout the whole day like the kingdom of heaven?
5. The last group stood idle all day. What was their reason for doing so?
6. Based on your answer for question 5, how is that like the kingdom of heaven?
7. In what order were the laborers paid?
8. What did they all shockingly receive?
9. Who complained and why? Would we not complain if we were in a similar situation?

10. Was the work of the morning hired-laborers' more difficult than the eleventh-hour laborers?

11. Look at the landowner's response to the complaints. How was the landowner right in paying everyone a denarius?

12. Thought Question: How does God remain righteous in rewarding all His people the same even if others have served longer than others?

13. Is the landowner fair to his workers? How so? (Not "fair" in terms of righteousness, but "fair" in terms of wages earned.)

14. Is God fair to His people? How so? ("Fair" in the same terms as last question.)

15. Thought Question: As Christians, what should be our attitude about working in God's vineyard, concerning God's "fairness?" How should we view other workers in His vineyard?

16. What does Jesus mean by "the last will be first, and the first last?"

17. How does Jesus conclude this parable?

Not to be Served, but to Serve

1. What did Jesus prophesy as they traveled to Jerusalem?
2. Who would condemn Jesus to death?
3. Who would mock and crucify Jesus?
4. Thought Question: If Jesus spoke plainly about His crucifixion and resurrection then why were the disciples so shocked and surprised when these events occurred?
5. Who were the sons of Zebedee?
6. Their mother asked Jesus for her sons to sit on Jesus' right and left in His kingdom. Is this a random question or has Jesus recently told them something on this subject?
7. Why was it clear that the mother did not know what she asked for?
8. What was Jesus' cup and baptism?
9. In verse 22, James and John answer Jesus' question (instead of their mother), "We are able." Where were the sons probably located when their mother was making her request to Jesus?

Despite her misunderstanding, we can appreciate this mother as a true disciple of Jesus. She was one of the few women that stayed with Jesus all the way to the cross.
Matthew 27:55-56

10. Research Question: Jesus said it is the Father's role to give seats and glory in His kingdom. Where else do we see the Father have that role?

11. Research Question: Did the sons of Zebedee drink the cup? Were they baptized with what Jesus addressed here?

12. Thought Question: Why were the other disciples displeased with the two brothers? What might have they thought about Jesus extending His cup and baptism to James and John?

13. How would the apostles work as rulers in comparison to Gentile rulers?

14. Why would the apostles rule in this way? (v.28)

15. What did the two blind men call Jesus?

16. How did the blind men respond when the multitude told them to be quiet? Does this remind you of a previous account?

17. What did Jesus call back to them?

18. Thought Question: They ask for their eyes to be opened. Jesus heals them, and they follow Him. How does this story work well with the disciples asking for special ruling positions?

The Triumphant Entry

1. When they arrived at the Mount of Olives, what did Jesus command two disciples to do?
2. What were the disciples to say if someone tried to stop them from accomplishing their task?
3. Why did Jesus need to enter Jerusalem on a donkey?
4. We see the idea of the lowliness of the Messiah in Zechariah 9:9-10. However, did the multitude see this as a “lowly” event? Why or why not?
5. Research Question: What were the multitudes quoting as they cried out?
6. What was said about the city of Jerusalem that day? What does that mean? (v. 10)
7. Thought Question: Why was the Lord upset with money changers and the selling of doves in the temple? Were those things not convenient for people coming into Jerusalem to visit, worship, and make sacrifices? (Is. 56:7)
8. The priests saw the “wonderful things that He did” in the temple. The children began crying out “Hosanna.” The priests became “indignant”—annoyed, disgusted. How does Jesus answer their disgust? (Ps. 8:2)

9. What was Jesus' message to the disciples after withering the fig tree?

10. Jesus just demonstrated His authority over creation by withering the fig tree. When they enter the temple, Jesus is questioned by the chief priests about His authority. Jesus tells them He will not answer their question until they answer His. What was Jesus's question?

11. How did that question put the chief priests and the elders in an uncomfortable position?

12. Thought Question: Why did Jesus choose to respond to their authority question this way?

13. Using the parable of the two sons, why would tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before the priests and elders? (v.28-31)

14. Using the example of John's teaching, why would tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before the priest and elders? (v.32)

15. Thought Question: What kind of people enter the kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a
King's Wedding Feast

1. What do the vinedressers do to the servants that are sent from the landowner?
2. What was the landowner's solution since the vinedressers were beating and killing his servants?
3. Why did they kill the heir? Where did they kill the heir?
4. Answer Jesus' question in verse 40: What will the landowner do when he comes to his vineyard?
5. Who are the real people that Jesus is referring to in this parable?
 - a. The landowner –
 - b. The landowner's servants –
 - c. The heir –
 - d. The wicked vinedressers –
 - e. The new vinedressers that render fruit (v.43) –
6. Who are the builders and the stone that was rejected? What became of the rejected stone? Whose plan was it all along? (Ps. 118:22-23)
7. What did the chief priests and Pharisees want to do with Jesus then? Why did they choose not to?

8. What were the first guests' response to the invitation to wedding feast?
9. How does the King and his servants try the second time to invite their guests? (v.4)
10. How did the guests react to the second invite?
11. What did the King do next?
12. Finally, who all were invited to the wedding feast?
13. Why did the King punish the man who came to the feast?
14. Thought Question: Who all are invited to the kingdom of heaven? Who all actually enter the kingdom? (v.14)
15. Thought Question: Today, who are the type of people that **we expect** to answer the invite? But, in the end, who are the type of people who **accept** the invite?
16. Thought Question: We read of one man who accepted the invite and came to the wedding but was still thrown into outer darkness for not wearing a wedding garment. What should that teach us about God's expectations for His kingdom members?
 - a. What should the lack of a wedding garment teach us about salvation in the Kingdom?
 - b. What should that man's speechlessness teach us about the judgment?

Questions in the Temple

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus?
2. The Pharisees give Jesus a wonderful commendation in v.16. Do they believe those things?
3. What was so tricky about the Pharisees' question?
4. How did Jesus perfectly respond to their question?
5. Thought Question: What is liberating to disciples about Jesus' law about taxes?
6. What question did the Sadducees ask Jesus?
7. What was so tricky about the Sadducees' question?
8. How does Jesus perfectly answer their question?
9. Research Question: Why did Jesus prove the resurrection by using Exodus 3:6? Why not use a clear scripture like Ps. 16:10?

10. Do word tenses matter for our understanding of scripture? (Present tense, past tense, future tense/I AM, I WAS, I WILL BE)
11. Thought Question: What sect(s) among the Jews would have been happy with Jesus' silencing the Sadducees?
12. What did the lawyer ask Jesus?
13. What was Jesus' answer?
14. How does all the Law and the Prophets hang on those two commands?
15. What was Jesus' question?
16. What was Jesus' question about Psalm 110:1-2?
17. How did they answer?
18. Did anyone else have any more questions after Jesus' question?

“Woe to the Pharisees”

After having listened to the Pharisees’ ridiculous questions and comments for three years, Jesus finally tells the multitudes what He really thinks of them. Jesus did not hold anything back against this religious sect. They claimed they were servants of God but were only zealous for selfishness, money, and power. The Pharisees, once known for their love for the scriptures and for Israel’s restoration, have gone down in history as the prime example of hypocrisy—all because they resisted Jesus. They truly stumbled on the chief cornerstone.

1. What does Jesus instruct the people to do about the Pharisees and scribes?
2. Research Question: What is a phylactery? (v.5 NKJV)
3. In general, what do the Pharisees love?
4. What is Jesus’ law about our behavior in His kingdom? (v.11)
5. Thought Question: The Pharisees loved the title of teacher more that they loved the _____ of a teacher.
6. What did they do to the kingdom of heaven? (v.13)
7. What did they do when they won a proselyte?
8. Thought Question: What is so foolish about the Pharisees in v.16-22?

9. What were they doing with their tithes? Looking at verses 23-24, what should have they been doing?

10. How could the Pharisees repent in terms of “cups and dishes”?

11. How does that compare with “whitewashed tombs”?

12. What were they doing to the tombs of the prophets?

13. What do they say about the prophets? How was it obvious that they were liars?

14. Looking at v.34, what parable did Jesus just teach that speaks to this?

15. Who was going to pay for the murder of all the prophets from Abel to Zechariah?

16. Can you name some other messengers from God after Zechariah that also suffered persecution by the hands of the Jews, the synagogues, or Jerusalem?

17. Jesus says Jerusalem is the one who kills the prophets. What type of relationship did Jesus want to have with Jerusalem instead?

18. Research Question: Which ancestor(s) of Jesus is He quoting when referring to taking Jerusalem “under his wings”?

Discourse: The Fall of Jerusalem and the Final Judgement (24-25)

“The Abomination of Desolation”

Consider all that Jesus spoke about in the temple that day. He first spoke about Hell and the final judgment with the parable of the wedding feast. But, He also told the city of Jerusalem that their present generation would see a judgment for their treatment of God’s messengers. There were two judgments discussed. One on all men and the other specifically on Jerusalem and Judaism. Now that Jesus and His disciples are alone, they ask Him to speak in more detail about the things that He has taught. I believe that 24:1-35 is specifically talking about the destruction of Jerusalem due to Jesus’ last comment: “This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place”(v.34); for verses 36-44, I will let you make a decision on what He is talking about. For sure, by verse 51 Jesus has transitioned into a conversation about the final judgment. We will discuss that next class.

1. What does Jesus say while looking at the temple?
2. Looking at v.4-8, what are some of the signs of this judgment?
3. What will happen to Jesus’ disciples during this time?
4. Who will be the ones mostly responsible for this persecution? (1 Thess. 2:14-16) Will they succeed in forbidding the gospel of the kingdom to be preached to all nations? (24:14)
5. According to Daniel 12:7-11, the power of the holy people will be completely shattered. What other events will occur at that time?
6. When the Judean disciples see the “abomination of desolation” (Luke 21:20), what had Jesus instructed them to do to be saved?
7. For whose sake will these troubled days be shortened?
8. Thought question: If Jesus was talking about His final coming (to destroy the world—2nd Pet. 3:10), would any of the following things have helped? Flee to the mountains, don’t

go back to your house for something, hope you don't have babies to take care of, pray your flight will not be in winter...

9. Who else can fall prey to false christs and false prophets?
10. For this coming of the Son of Man, what will be "gathered together"?
11. Research Question: The allegory of the sun and moon darkening were often used by the prophets to signify judgment on a particular nation. (Isaiah 13:9-10) The powers of heaven shaking signify a change. (Hebrews 12:26-27) Who do the stars in heaven usually represent in the Old Testament?
12. When we read v.30-31, we see symbols of the final coming: the trumpet, the gathering by the angels, the son of Man coming. However, these symbols are also used to talk about the end of Judaism and the installing of Messianic Kingdom. (Daniel 7:2, 13-14; Zech. 9:14; Deut. 30:4, Is. 11:12, 27:13) Based on what Jesus says next in verse 34, what event is Jesus talking about in verses 30-31?

Jesus will use this symbolic language again to tell the High Priest that He is the Messiah. (Matt. 26:64)
13. Based on the parable of the fig tree, can these people know when these terrible events are about to take place?
14. When would those things take place?

Concerning 24:36-44

Evidence to support the Lord is addressing the Final Judgment Day.	Evidence to support the Lord is still addressing the Destruction of Jerusalem.
There are signs for the destruction of Jerusalem, but there are no signs the Final Judgment. Unlike the fig tree parable, this event will come like a thief in the night. (v.43)	The phrase, "But of that day." Which day? The day that Jesus has been discussing the whole chapter. (v.36)
In Luke 17:26-36, the analogy ends with the vultures or eagles gathered around the dead bodies. In Matthew 24, the analogy simply ends with people taken and others left to experience the destruction. That explanation fits well with the "caught up" from 1 st Thessalonians 4:17.	Jesus uses this similar analogy of the Flood in Luke 17:26-36. In Luke, He is obviously addressing the destruction of Jerusalem.

Parables about the Judgement

1. Why is the first servant blessed?
2. Why does the second servant beat the other servants and drink with the drunkards?
3. What will happen to the second servant?
4. What action separated the five wise virgins from the five foolish virgins?
5. Why did all the virgins fall asleep?
6. Did the foolish virgins want to be there for the wedding feast?
7. What was the bridegroom's response to the foolish five as they called through the door?
8. What was Jesus' central message from these two parables?
9. How did the lord decide how many talents each servant received? (A talent was considered a year's wages.)

10. What did the five-talent servant do?
11. What did the two-talent servant do?
12. What did the one-talent servant do?
13. When did the lord of those servants return?
14. To bring out a pattern from these three parables, when will the Lord return?
(2 Peter 3:8-9)
15. Did the two-talent servant receive less of a reward than the five-talent servant? What would be the application to God's people today?
16. What was the one-talent servant's excuse?
17. What did the lord call him?
18. What did the lord tell the servant he should have done with his talent? What would the application to God's people today?
19. Jesus repeats Himself in verse 29. He said this first in Matthew 13:12. What is Jesus' teaching here?

The Sheep and the Goats

1. When the Son of Man comes, all the nations will be gathered to Him. After looking at the whole reading, are these people judged by what they did as nation or what they did as individuals?
2. When was the kingdom prepared for the sheep?
3. When did the righteous give aid to the Lord?
4. Who is the everlasting fire prepared for?

Narrative: The Climactic Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission (26-28)

In Bethany

5. Research Question: How close is Bethany to Jerusalem?
6. Were the disciples aware that the Lord would be delivered up to be crucified over Passover?
7. Why did the chief priests, scribes, and elders delay in their plot to kill Jesus?
8. We are probably more familiar with the story in 26:6-13 from John's account in John 12. John identifies this woman to be Mary the sister of Martha. Matthew gives us just enough information to make his point. Why was this woman's gift a good work?

9. Unlike John, Matthew identifies this place to be owned by Simon the Leper. Considering Matthew's core messages, why would Jesus spend his last week at Simon the Leper's house?

10. What was Jesus' reasoning for not selling and giving the profits it to the poor?

11. How is this woman's good work going to be preserved as a memorial to her?

12. What did Judas Iscariot ask of the chief priests?

13. Within the context of Matthew, how did Judas know that there was a plot being hatched by the Jewish elite to capture Jesus? How did he know to approach the chief priests?

Matthew will give us more puzzle pieces to understand Judas as we move forward. It is difficult to comprehend how a man that spent all this time with Jesus would betray him for just thirty pieces of silver. As we go forward, we can consider the information that Judas knows about Jesus. He knows that Jesus is aware of His imminent capture. He knows that Jesus has been protected in public by the crowds. He also should know that people have tried to kill Jesus before, but Jesus could always escape. So why did he betray Him? I do not think the apostles ever give a clear answer.

Optional research question: What is a modern equivalent to thirty pieces of silver?

Passover Week

1. What did the disciples ask Jesus on the first day of the feast?
2. Like finding the colt for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Lord already knew where they are going to stay. What is the only thing the disciples needed to say to the owner of the house?
3. Who was sitting with Jesus during the evening Passover meal?
4. What was the disciples' reaction when Jesus announced that one of them was going to betray Him?
5. How did Jesus identify His betrayer?
6. How was the Son of Man going to do "just as it is written of Him"? (Psalm 22, Dan. 9:26)
7. Judas' decision was so terrible that it would have been better if...?
8. Thought Question: Why didn't the apostles grab Judas then and there, after Jesus identified him as the betrayer?
9. What did Jesus do to the bread He took?
10. What did He say about the bread?

11. What did Jesus do when He took the cup?

12. What did the drink represent?

13. Why was the blood shed?

14. Thought Question: Looking at v.27 - 29, is there something significant about the cup, or is the significance about what is inside the cup? Which phrases support your answer?

15. When would Jesus partake of the fruit of the vine again with them?

16. Does Jesus take the fruit of the vine with us today? Do we have communion with Jesus today?

17. What did the disciples do before they went to the Mount of Olives? This is the first time this word is used in the entire bible.

18. It was prophesied that they would all stumble that night when the Shepherd was struck. Concerned about this, what was the Lord's instruction after He had been raised?

19. What was Peter's bold response?

20. Jesus informed Peter that he would deny Him three times that night. What was Peter's next bold response?

In the Garden

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do when they arrived at Gethsemane?
2. What did He ask specifically of Peter and the two sons of Zebedee?
3. How did Jesus describe His soul?
4. What did Jesus ask the Father for?
5. What condition did Jesus put on His request?
6. When He found Peter asleep, what did Jesus tell him to do?
7. Thought Question: When He returned to the disciples after His final prayer, and they were all asleep, why did Jesus wish for them all to stay awake with Him?
8. How did Judas arrive at Gethsemane?
9. How did Judas identify Jesus?

10. Thought Question: Jesus asked Judas why he came? Did Jesus not know, or is Jesus asking something more with this question?

11. One of the disciples (Peter) drew out his sword and cut off the servant of the high priest's ear. What was Jesus' warning to that disciple?

12. How did Jesus explain that He did not need the help of a fisherman with a sword?

13. What reason did Jesus give for not saving Himself?

14. What did Jesus rebuke His captors about?

15. How many disciples forsook Jesus and fled?

The Trials

1. Where did the multitudes take Jesus first?
2. Who followed behind?
3. What did the council have difficulty finding?
4. Research Question: How did Jesus answer when asked if He is the Christ, the Son of God? How would Caiaphas see this hereafter? (Daniel 7:13-14)
5. Thought Question: Based on Caiaphas' dramatic response, was he familiar with the passage that Jesus referenced?
6. While Jesus was being tried, what was Peter doing in the courtyard?
7. Thought Question: Why was Peter denying Jesus?
8. What reminded Peter of Jesus' warning?
9. Where did chief priests and the elders take Jesus next?
10. Thought Question: Judas sees that Jesus is condemned and tries to return the money. Why does Judas feel guilty for betraying Jesus now? Were those not his intentions?
11. How did Judas handle his guilt? How does that compare to how Peter handled his?

12. What did the council do with the money? Why?
13. What did the governor ask Jesus? How did He respond?
14. When the accusations were made by the priests and elders, how did Jesus respond?
15. What did the governor marvel at?
16. Thought Question: Why did Pilate suddenly bring up the custom to free a prisoner during this early morning trial? Why did he offer up the notorious Barabbas as the other option to Jesus?
17. Whose idea was it to crucify Jesus?
18. When Pilate saw that he could not free Jesus, what did he say and do?
19. What did the people proclaim to Pilate in verse 25?
20. What else did Pilate do to Jesus?

The Crucifixion

1. What did the soldiers do to Jesus when he arrived at the Praetorium?
2. Though they were mocking Jesus with these actions, who else were these soldiers mocking?
3. Thought Question: Why did they have to compel Simon of Cyrene to carry Jesus' cross?
4. Research Question: What does Golgotha mean? What is the Latin word for Golgotha?
5. What did they do with Jesus' clothes?
6. What did they put on the sign above His head?
7. How did people blaspheme Him as they passed by?
8. How did the priests, scribes, and elders blaspheme Him?
9. Thought Question: If Jesus had come down from the cross, would the chief priest have believed in Him like they said?
10. How long did the sky become dark?
11. What did Jesus cry out around the ninth hour?

12. When the people heard this, what was their different reactions?

13. When Jesus cried out and died, what all happened in Jerusalem? (Notice verse 53 is tricky. I am not sure if Matthew is saying that the saints arose on the crucifixion but did not leave the graves until Sunday, or if the saints rose on Sunday with Jesus all at once.)

14. When the centurion saw these things, what did he exclaim? Does it remind you of another Gentile that made a similar statement?

15. All the disciples fled, but who was present for the crucifixion?

16. What did Joseph of Arimathea ask Pilate that evening?

17. What was special about Joseph's tomb? Why is that significant for Matthew's account?

18. Who was with Joseph as he laid Jesus' body there?

19. What did the priests and Pharisees do to ensure that the disciples could not steal the body and claim that He was risen?

The Resurrection

1. What day and time did Mary Magdalene come to see the tomb?
2. What did they see instead?
3. What did the angel tell the women to do first?
4. What did the angel tell the women to do next?
5. Where were the disciples to meet Jesus?
6. What were the guards doing during this event?
7. As they left, who did they meet?
8. What was the command they were to pass along to the disciples?
9. What did the guards tell the council? What did the council do to hide the story?
10. Why did the guards need security if the governor found out?
11. What does Matthew say about this “The guards fell asleep” story?
12. Where did Jesus and the eleven return to in Galilee?

13. Now that it has been proven that Jesus has conquered sin and death, what can He now boldly say?

14. What three core things were the apostles commanded to do?

15. How long was Jesus going to be with them, spiritually speaking?

16. In consideration of some of the key themes of Matthew, where all could the apostles go to make disciples of Jesus?