

PRAYER | PRAISE | PROCLAMATION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

The Kingdom of Heaven

TEN-WEEK
BIBLE STUDY

AUTHORED BY:
PASTOR WARREN JONES

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

Introduction

After 400 years of prophetic silence in Israel, when hope and relief from the oppressive Roman government was so needed, an exciting thing happened – The birth of a baby boy named Jesus, the first Israelite born to be king in nearly 600 years.

Matthew begins this profound and very important book with Jesus' O.T. genealogy through his earthly father Joseph. He confirms Jesus's legal right to the throne of his forefather David, the Hebrew king who was the standard by which all other Hebrew kings were compared.

Matthew gives to a Jewish audience, many proofs that this Jesus is their long-awaited Messiah and promised King. He was a friend of sinners, caring for the weak, respectful to women, and one who embraced foreigners. He showed forth kingdom power and authority through miracles and healings, casting out demons, calming storms, feeding multitudes and raising the dead. Of even greater importance is the heart of this king to forgive sins and dramatically change lives. He welcomed all peoples to be a part of God's invisible kingdom. Additionally, He provided end-time predictions and warnings to the disobedient, and precious promises to those who would believe and follow Him.

My prayer is that this study blesses our hearts as we watch God awaken a sleeping world to One who will rule the eternal Kingdom of God; One whose Kingdom rule begins in our hearts and minds.

Blessings,

Pastor W. Jones

Contents

Introduction	1
Lesson #1: Birth of The King	3
Matt. 1:18-25 & Matt. 2:1-12	3
Lesson #2: Jesus’s Ministry Begins.....	6
Matt. 3:1-3, 13-17 & Matt. 4:1- 11, 18-25	6
Lesson #3: Sermon on Mount: Part 1.....	9
Matt. 5:1-16, 27-29, 43- 48.....	9
Lesson #4: Sermon on Mount: Part 2.....	12
Matt. 6: 9-15, 25, 31-34 & Matt. 7: 1-6, 13-23	12
Lesson #5: The Power of The King	15
Matt. 8:1- 10, 13, 23-32 & Matt. 9: 1-8, 18- 26.....	15
Lesson #6: The King Reveals His Program	19
Matt. 16:13-28 & Matt. 17: 1-9	19
Lesson #7: End Times Trouble.....	22
Matt. 23:37-39 & Matt. 24:1-14, 23-31, 35-39	22
Lesson #8: The Passion of The King	25
Matt. 26: 1-16, 26-39, 44-46, 50-54	25
Lesson #9: The King is Crucified	29
Matt. 27:11-25, 45-56.....	29
Lesson #10: The Risen Savior and His Great Commission	32
Matt. 27:57-61 & Matt. 28:1-20	32

Lesson #1: Birth of The King

Matt. 1:18-25 & Matt. 2:1-12

Discussion Starter:

What would you say is one of the most amazing things about the birth of a child? Is there anything more precious than a bouncing baby boy or girl?

Jesus Early Years

Matt. 1:18

18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Question:

1. Why is Mary's story so significant?

Matt. 1:19-21

19 Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. 20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Discussion Question:

2. Why is Jesus being conceived by the Holy Spirit important to us?

Matt. 1:22-25

22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: 23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" 24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25 But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Discussion Question:

3. Why is fulfillment of this prophecy (from Isaiah 7:14), and other prophecies fulfilled in Christ so impressive in the study of the Bible?

Where is the One Born to Be King?

Matt. 2:1-2

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

Discussion Question:

4. Why do you think it was so important for foreigners to follow a star and travel from long distance to worship this Hebrew child?

Matt. 2:3-6

3 King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: 6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Discussion Question:

5. Why was this king so disturbed?

The Magi Worship the Heavenly King

Matt. 2:7-12

7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. 8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” 9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 11 They entered the house and saw

the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Discussion Question:

6. What prompts you to praise and worship the Lord?

For Your Consideration

After 400 years with no prophetic Word from God, it seemed as if Heaven had been asleep and suddenly awakened. Angels show up, a virgin becomes pregnant and conceives Jesus the Son of God, and O.T. prophecies are being fulfilled. This special child who was miraculously conceived, is born in a cave and worshipped by rich Magi from far-away lands. He changed history and continues to change men's hearts and lives. We certainly honor this Jesus our savior and King for the change He wrought in us all!

Memory Verse

Matt. 1:21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Lesson #2: Jesus's Ministry Begins

Matt. 3:1-3, 13-17 & Matt. 4:1- 11, 18-25

Discussion Starter:

What are some things that are most important in preparing for a specific task, project or journey?

Prepare The Way for The King

Matt. 3:1-3

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "

Discussion Question:

1. What does "the kingdom of Heaven is at hand" mean?
2. How do we "prepare the way of the Lord?"

Passing of The Torch

Matt. 3:13 -17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Discussion Question:

3. Why should Christians be baptized?

Jesus Is Prepared for Ministry

Matt. 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

Discussion Question:

4. Did Jesus need to be tempted by the devil?

Matt. 4:2-7

2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” 7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

CONSIDER: NOTICE HOW THE DEVIL MADE ADJUSTMENT IN THE 2ND TEMPTATION.

Matt. 4: 8-11

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Discussion Question:

5. Compare the temptation of Adam and Eve in Genesis with the temptation of Jesus.

Fishing For People

Matt. 4:18-22

18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.” 20

And they left their nets at once and followed him. 21 A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. 22 They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Discussion Question:

6. What are some of the tools or methods that should be used as we attempt to win souls for Christ? Have you ever had the privilege of leading someone to Christ?

Large Crowds Follow the Healer

Matt. 4:23-25

23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 24 News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. 25 Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

For Your Consideration

As with all of us who know Christ personally, our ministries were no doubt preceded by trials and tests. James 1:3 inform us that tests of our faith are vital, they bring endurance as well humility. They also become tools to teach us discipline, as we work at people-fishing .

Memory Verses

Matt. 3:17

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matt. 4:25

Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

Lesson #3: Sermon on Mount: Part 1

Matt. 5:1-16, 27-29, 43- 48

Discussion Starter:

If you had the power to change societal-cultural perspectives, what would you change or allow to stay the same? What would be your expected outcome?

Basic Kingdom Principles; The Beatitudes

Matt. 5:1-5

1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

CONSIDER: BEING BLESSED FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE DOESN’T ALWAYS MATCH THE WORLD’S VIEW.

Basic Christian Character

Matt. 5: 6-8

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Difficulties Come When Following Jesus

Matt. 5: 10-12

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Discussion Question:

1. Do these verses motivate you to continue following Christ?

Basic Kingdom Representation: The Similitudes (Similes)

Matt. 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Discussion Question:

2. What does flavorless salt or hidden light indicate?
3. How does letting our light shine differ from elevating our gifts?

Insightful Kingdom Leadership - But I Say

Matt. 5:27-29

27 “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery. 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Discussion Question:

4. Jesus says “But I say” to indicate what?

Matt. 5:43-48

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Discussion Question:

5. Why are we asked to love and pray for our enemies and how is it possible to do it?

For Your Consideration

The Israeli people Jesus ministered to were subjected to hostile and overbearing rule by Roman kings, and by legalistic and hypocritical religious leaders among their own people. Jesus spoke to crowds and taught God's truth to the outcast and ignored, the weak and the unloved, the oppressed and discounted. He provided them with a hope not found in money, power, or position but in the simplicity of His awesome love – inviting them and us to be part of this unseen Kingdom of love, peace and fairness.

Memory Verse

Matt. 5:1-3

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Lesson #4: Sermon on Mount: Part 2

Matt. 6: 9-15, 25, 31-34 & Matt. 7: 1-6, 13-23

Discussion Starter:

How has your prayer life evolved since your conversion?

Teach Us How to Pray the Kingdom Way

Matt. 6:9-15

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Discussion Question:

1. Is there any aspect of this prayer that is challenging for you?

Hakuna Matata

Matt. 6:25, 31-34

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Discussion Question:

2. Why do we tend to run to the Lord only when all else fails- as a last resort?

Judge Not Waste Not

Matt. 7: 1-6

1 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. 6 “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

Discussion Question:

3. What did Jesus mean by “don’t judge”?
4. What did Jesus mean by pearls and pigs?

Two Gates

Matt. 7: 13-14

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

CONSIDER: HOW DISHEARTENING THESE VERSES SEEM.

You Will Know Them by Their Fruits

Matt. 7:15-20

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Discussion Question:

5. With regard to people, describe bad fruit?

I Never Knew You

Matt. 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Discussion Question:

6. What is the emphasis in verse 22?

For Your Consideration

Jesus addresses a number of daily life applications in this second half of the Sermon on the mount. His awesome concern for us is seen as he inserts Himself, not just doctrinally but practically into our everyday affairs and concerns. Jesus’s desire is to be our constant companion, communing with us in prayer, helping us to develop greater understanding His heart, His will, and His ways as citizens of the Kingdom of God

Memory Verses

Matt. 6:9-10 & Matt. 7:14

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Lesson #5: The Power of The King

Matt. 8:1- 10, 13, 23-32 & Matt. 9: 1-8, 18- 26

Discussion Starter:

History records many people who make world changing discoveries in multiple areas and are never recognized. What is your take on those who seek fame and strive to be in the limelight?

A Leper Is Cleansed

Matt. 8:1-4

1 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. 2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." 3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Discussion Question:

1. The leper didn't question Jesus ability but why would he question Jesus's willingness?

A Centurion's Servant is Healed

Matt. 8:5-10, 13

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." 7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Discussion Question:

2. What does it imply when the centurion felt unworthy for Jesus to go to his house?

3. Why was Jesus so complementary of this man's faith?

What Manner of Man

Matt. 8:23-27

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Discussion Question:

4. What lessons have you learned from the storms of life?

Demons Are Cast Out

Matt. 8:28-32

28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" 30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." 32 And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Discussion Question:

5. Why were the demons perturbed by Jesus presence?

A Paralyzed Man is Made Whole

Matt. 9:1-8

1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of

good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’ 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house. 8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

CONSIDER: JESUS ADDRESSED SIN BEFORE HEALING THIS MAN.

A Woman Is Healed by Her Faith

Matt. 9:18-22

18 As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.” 19 So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. 20 Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, 21 for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” 22 Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

Discussion Question:

6. Why did the woman think she would be healed by touching Jesus garment?

Power to Raise the Dead

Matt. 9:23-26

23 When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. 24 “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. 25 After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! 26 The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

For Your Consideration

Jesus is recorded to have done a variety of awesome miracles. Who can fathom someone so great and awesome. One Psalmist asks “Who is man that you are mindful of him...” Matthew

shows proof that this Jesus is the Messiah/King by His power and authority. But we should never forget that His motive has always been love. This is why we follow Him.

Memory Verses

Matt. 8:27

So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Matt. 9:6

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Lesson #6: The King Reveals His Program

Matt. 16:13-28 & Matt. 17: 1-9

Discussion Starter:

Have you ever found that a person you met personally was completely different from what others had said about them? Describe the story.

Upon This Rock I Will Build

Matt. 16:13-15

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Discussion Question:

1. How has your understanding of Jesus evolved over the years?

Matt. 16:16-20

16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Discussion Question:

2. How is common knowledge different from God’s revelation knowledge?
3. Why do you think Jesus identity was kept secret?

Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

Matt. 16:21-23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Discussion Question:

4. Why do you think the devil would coerce Peter to dissuade Jesus from his purpose?

The King Requires Sacrifice of His Followers

Matt. 16:24-28

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. 28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Discussion Question:

5. What did Jesus mean by “take up his cross and follow me”?

The King Is Transfigured

Matt. 17:1-9

1 Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. 2 As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. 3 Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus. 4 Peter exclaimed, “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5 But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.” 6 The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground. 7 Then Jesus came over and touched them.

“Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus. 9 As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Discussion Question:

6. Why didn’t Jesus want the other disciples to know of the transfiguration?

For Your Consideration

After roughly two years of ministry, Jesus begins to present to His disciples His purpose for being there; not as the king over the nation to lead them in revolt against Rome, but to rule over their hearts and lives. He needed them (and He wants for us) to know that by following Him through suffering and letting go of the things in this world can produce great blessing and peace in the kingdom of God, both now and in world that is to come.

Memory Verse

Matt. 16:26

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Lesson #7: End Times Trouble

Matt. 23:37-39 & Matt. 24:1-14, 23-31, 35-39

Discussion Starter:

The consequences of cigarette smoking were known in the 1960s but purposely hidden until the 1980s. God has never hidden the consequences of sin and disobedience from us. He not only warns us continuously, but He waits - patiently. Speak to the failure of men to heed His warnings, the subsequent consequences, and the patience of God.

Jesus Grieves over Jerusalem

Matt. 23:37-39

37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. 38 And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. 39 For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’”

Discussion Question:

1. What do you think about Jesus’ final sermon to the crowds consisting of pronouncements of doom and destruction?

The King’s Grim Announcement

Matt. 24:1-3

1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. 2 But he responded, “Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!” 3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”

Discussion Question:

2. With these 3 questions what were the disciples focused on?

Signs of His Return

Matt. 24:4 -14

4 Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. 9 “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

Discussion Question:

3. Many would say that these signs are happening now. Do you agree? Explain.

False Christs

Matt. 24:23-31

23 “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. 25 See, I have warned you about this ahead of time. 26 “So if someone tells you, ‘Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,’ don’t bother to go and look. Or, ‘Look, he is hiding here,’ don’t believe it! 27 For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. 28 Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near. 29 “Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with the mighty

blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

Discussion Question:

4. How do the signs and wonders of these followers of false christ differ from those followers of The Christ?

When Will He Return, No One Knows

Matt. 24:35-39

35 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. 36 “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. 37 “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. 38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

Discussion Question:

5. How well have we prepared for Jesus return?

For Your Consideration

Before the end of His ministry, Jesus gave the Jewish people a very grim scenario of upcoming events; consequences of rejecting Him, the redeemer of all. He afforded them one last chance to ask the all- important question; “What must I do to be saved.” Dear saints, we know because of His Word that His return is imminent. So, what manner of people ought we to be?

Memory Verses

Matt. 23:14

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

Matt. 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “

Lesson #8: The Passion of The King

Matt. 26: 1-16, 26-39, 44-46, 50-54

Discussion Starter:

God in His foreknowledge planned that His Son Jesus would die on the Day of Atonement. If you knew the day you would leave this life, what would you do in the final weeks, days, hours and moments prior to your demise?

Jesus Announces His Impending Death

Matt. 26:1-5

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” 3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

Discussion Question:

1. What do you think Jesus was feeling as He gave the men this dire report?

The Anointing at Bethany

Matt. 26:6-13

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.” 10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you,

wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Discussion Question:

2. Why is being in the home of a leper mentioned here?
3. Why was this woman and her alabaster flask of oil important to Jesus?

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Matt. 26:14-16

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

CONSIDER: SEE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE POWERS OF DARKNESS AT WORK.

Jesus Last Supper with His Friends

Matt. 26:26-30

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

CONSIDER: THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WAS WHERE THE OLIVE PRESS WAS. JESUS WOULD EXPERIENCE GREAT PRESSURE THERE AS THE TIME OF HIS TRIALS APPROACHED.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

Matt. 26:31-35

31 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33 Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” 34 Jesus said to him,

“Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

CONSIDER: HOW REMARKABLE THAT JESUS WOULD ALERT THE DISCIPLES OF THEIR IMPENDING FAILURE YET ASSURE THEM THAT HE WOULD STILL MEET THEM IN GALILEE AFTER HIS RESURRECTION.

Jesus Agony at Gethsemane

Matt. 26:36-39

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Discussion Question:

4. Why was Jesus in such distress?
5. What was the “cup” Jesus referred to?

Matt. 26:44-46

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

Discussion Question:

6. When raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said to His Father “I know that You do always hear me.” So why did Jesus say ‘the same words’ three times here to His Father?

Matt. 26:50-54

50 Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.” Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. 51 But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear. 52 “Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword. 53 Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for

thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? 54 But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

For Your Consideration

The time for redemption's price to be paid had finally arrived. The three years of ministry from God the Son to His people was far reaching, yet so very intimate as He garnered many human friendships. I'm sure He would surely miss His earthly family and close band of brothers. His anticipation of upcoming torture weighed heavily on Him, but the thought of a break from His Father in Heaven would cause Him to sweat in great agony "as it were, drops of blood". Hebrews 12:2 says "... who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame..." We are His Joy and we rejoice in Him, Jesus our Savior.

Memory Verse

Matt. 26: 27-28

*27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.
28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

Lesson #9: The King is Crucified

Matt. 27:11-25, 45-56

Discussion Starter:

As children many times we get away with things because we think no one saw. Describe, if you can, an episode when you were punished for something you didn't do.

Jesus Is Sentenced by Pontius Pilate

Matt. 27:11-14

11 Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked him. Jesus replied, "You have said it." 12 But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. 13 "Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?" Pilate demanded. 14 But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise.

Discussion Question:

1. Why didn't Jesus speak up for Himself?

Matt. 27:15-18

15 Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. 16 This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. 17 As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

Discussion Question:

2. As you read verse 18, what was Pilate's real aim?

Matt. 27:19-25

19 Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night." 20 Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. 21 So the governor asked again, "Which of these two

do you want me to release to you?" The crowd shouted back, "Barabbas!" 22 Pilate responded, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" 23 "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!" 24 Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!" 25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Discussion Question:

3. Why do you think Pilate would ignore his wife's advice, and bend to the will of the Jews rather than do the right thing?

CONSIDER: THE POWERS OF DARKNESS INCITE THE CROWD TO 'CRUCIFY HIM'.

Forsaken

Matt. 27:45-53

45 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 46 At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" 47 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 48 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. 49 But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him." 50 Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, 52 and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. 53 They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

Discussion Question:

4. The veil of the temple was torn; what impact would that have had in the Jewish community?

Matt. 27:54-56

54 The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!" 55 And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance.

56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

For Your Consideration

What a story! This righteous Jesus who went around for over three years doing only good, faced three political trials and three religious trials overnight. He was accused, tried and sentenced to death for announcing to the religious leaders who He was, God's beloved son. The real story is that dark forces wanted this beacon of great light snuffed out. Apostle John says that "men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." If these evil forces had known that this dark moment and tragic episode would result in the shining of glorious light from saints around the world throughout the ages, scripture says "they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

Memory Verse

Matt. 27:54

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Lesson #10: The Risen Savior and His Great Commission

Matt. 27:57-61 & Matt. 28:1-20

Discussion Starter:

Recall a time when your child or someone at home came down with an illness where fever and other symptoms kept you and them up all night. Speak to the relief you felt when the sickness was alleviated, and they were up and feeling better.

Jesus Placed in A Tomb

Matt. 27:57-61

57 As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, 58 went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. 59 Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. 60 He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. 61 Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching.

Discussion Question:

1. What is the significance of what Joseph of Arimathea did?

Early Sunday Morning

Matt. 28:1-4

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

Discussion Question:

2. Why did the soldiers react so drastically to the angel as compared to other angelic encounters?

Matt. 28:5-7

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

Discussion Question:

3. The women kept watch until He was entombed in the evening and returned early morning on the third day. Do you think the women loved Jesus more than the men? Explain.
4. Why is the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ essential?

The Women’s Faithfulness is Rewarded

Matt. 28:8-10

8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

CONSIDER: IMAGINE THE EXCITEMENT THE WOMEN FELT THAT THEIR LORD AND FRIEND WAS ALIVE.

Report of The Guards

Matt. 28:11-17

11 While they were on their way, behold, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had occurred. 12 And when they [the chief priests] had gathered with the elders and had consulted together, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers, 13 And said, Tell people, His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we were sleeping. 14 And if the governor hears of it, we will appease him and make you safe and free from trouble and care. 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this story has been current among the Jews to the present day. 16 Then the eleven disciples left for

Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Discussion Question:

5. Did those paid lies pay off? How did they play out?

The Great Commission

Matt. 28:18-20

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

VALUE EXERCISE: LIST THE ELEMENTS OF OUR GREAT COMMISSION.

For Your Consideration

Wow! What a ride. Jesus who was born to be king came the first time to redeem mankind and reign in the hearts of all men. The cost of one soul was so expensive that all the world’s wealth was not enough to purchase it. Yet our pardon has been purchased by Jesus’s precious blood, guaranteeing our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. We are commissioned to live as kingdom people and to “Go and tell the world” that this Jesus will come again a second time, to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Rev. 12:10 says Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come.” The Kingdom of God begins now, in you and me!

Memory Verse

Matt. 28:18-20

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



PRAYER | PRAISE | PROCLAMATION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
2191 5TH STREET #105 NORCO, CA 92860
WWW.3PSMINISTRIES.ORG