

# The Gospel of Matthew

## “Jesus the King”



Volume 1: Chapters 1-14  
A Self-Study Guide

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**Directions:**

Everyone is encouraged to have previously read the text that will be covered during that class period before class begins. Each week you will know what material will be covered. You are asked to read the text and think about it. As you read circle, box, underline, and highlight points that you think are interesting or important. Out to the side of the text, in the margins, write down any interesting points you find or any questions you have about the text. The use of colored pencils is highly recommended in helping you mark points that you find interesting in the text. Highlighting while you read the text will help bring this book alive and you will see things in the text that you never have seen before. Be sure to read the “historical points” found throughout the booklet. This will give a historical background to the scripture that can aid understanding.

**Introduction:**

The gospel according to Matthew gives us another portrait of Jesus our Lord. Each of the gospels gives us a different picture of character of Jesus. The gospel of Mark shows Jesus as a servant and as the Redeemer. Many of Jesus’ miracles are recording in Mark’s gospel. The gospel of Luke portrays Jesus as the Son of Man and shows us His humanity. Luke records many of Jesus’ parables. The gospel according to John proves that Jesus is the Son of God, showing His deity. The gospel you are about to study, written by Matthew, shows Jesus is the King and the Messiah whose coming has been prophesied for thousands of years.

Matthew’s account is written by a Jew for Jews about a Jew. The purpose of this gospel is stated well by Wayne Jackson in The Living Messages of the Books of the New Testament, “The design of Matthew is to demonstrate (primarily to Jews, but ultimately to all men) that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament Scriptures and the author of the kingdom of God in which all peoples of the earth may be saved.” Since this gospel is written to prove that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and King of the Jews, Matthew either quotes or alludes to the Old Testament about 100 times. As you study, be sure to notice how often Matthew refers to the Old Testament. Therefore, read the gospel as if you were a Jew and see the defense Matthew is making for Jesus against the arguments the Jews might bring against Jesus being the Messiah.

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Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:  
 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.  
 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.  
 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.  
 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,  
 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife of* Uriah.  
 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.  
 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.  
 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.  
 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.  
 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.  
 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.  
 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.  
 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.  
 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.  
 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.  
 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

## HCSB

1:1 The historical record of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:  
 2 Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,  
 3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram,  
 4 Aram fathered Aminadab, Aminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,  
 5 Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,  
 6 and Jesse fathered King David.  
 Then David fathered Solomon by Uriah's wife,  
 7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,  
 8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram, Joram fathered Uzziah,  
 9 Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,  
 10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, Amon fathered Josiah,  
 11 and Josiah fathered Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.  
 12 Then after the exile to Babylon Jechoniah fathered Salathiel, Salathiel fathered Zerubbabel,  
 13 Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,  
 14 Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,  
 15 Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,  
 16 and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.  
 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were 14 generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, 14 generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Messiah, 14 generations.

- I. Why does Matthew refer to Jesus as the son of David and the son of Abraham in verse 1? (Read Genesis 22:18 and 2 Samuel 7:12-13 for additional help.)

**Interesting Point:** All male listings were the rule in Jewish genealogies. No women, for example, appear in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:23-38).

2. List the women who are named in the genealogy. Describe the background of each woman.
  
3. Notice throughout the genealogy the “X is the father of Y” pattern. But it stops in verse 16. Why does not verse 16 say, “Joseph fathered Jesus?” Why is this important?

#### NKJV

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.  
 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.  
 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.  
 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”  
 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:  
 23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, “God with us.”  
 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,  
 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

4. Why did Joseph plan to put away Mary?

5. In this text, what is the stated purpose of Jesus?

#### HCSB

1:18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit.  
 19 So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.  
 20 But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit.  
 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”  
 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
 23 **See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel,** which is translated “God is with us.”  
 24 When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her  
 25 but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son. And he named Him Jesus.

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 *"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel."*

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

## HCSB

2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

3 When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

5 "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

6 **And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah:**

**because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel."**

7 Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him."

9 After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure.

11 Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

1. According to the text, how many wise men were there?
2. What is frankincense and myrrh?
3. Why is Herod frightened upon hearing the news in verse 2?
4. Who did the wise men worship?

#### NKJV

2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*"

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18 "*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*"

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

#### HCSB

2:13 After they were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him."

14 So he got up, took the child and His mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt.

15 He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called My Son.**

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the male children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men.

17 Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

18 **A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
and she refused to be consoled,  
because they were no more.**

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 saying, "Get up! Take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, because those who sought the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and His mother, and entered the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.

23 Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that He will be called a Nazarene.

**Historical Point:** After Herod's death his kingdom was divided among three sons. Archelaus began his reign by massacring three thousand citizens. Archelaus seemed to inherit his father's nature and was also a cruel tyrant.

4. How does Matthew prove in this text that Jesus is the King and the Messiah?

**Did You Know?** This is the last time we read about Joseph. Luke 2 records the time when Jesus was left by Joseph and Mary in Jerusalem. While we read about some of Mary's actions through the gospels, Joseph disappears from the record.

NKJV

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.'*"

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

9 and do not think to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

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."

HCSB

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea

2 and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!"

3 For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

**A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!"**

4 John himself had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were flocking to him,

6 and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

7 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to the place of his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.

9 And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones!

10 Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees! Therefore every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to take off His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn. But the chaff He will burn up with fire that never goes out."

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

14 But John tried to stop Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?"

15 Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him *to be baptized*.

16 After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him.

17 And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!

 What do you find interesting and unique in this text?

1. What was the purpose of John the Baptist and his teachings?
  
2. Explain John's strong message to the leaders in verses 7-12?
  
3. Premillennialism teaches that the kingdom of heaven has not come yet. Is this possible in light of John's teaching in this text? Why or why not?

## Matthew

## Chapter 4


Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

### NKJV

4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.  
 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.  
 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."  
 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*'"  
 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,  
 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:  
     "*He shall give His angels charge over you,' and,  
     'In their hands they shall bear you up,  
     Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*"  
 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, '*You shall not tempt the LORD your God.*'"  
 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.  
 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."  
 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*'"  
 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

### HCSB

4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.  
 2 After He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry.  
 3 Then the tempter approached Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."  
 4 But He answered, "It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"  
 5 Then the Devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,  
 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: **He will give His angels orders concerning you and, they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**"  
 7 Jesus told him, "It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**"  
 8 Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.  
 9 And he said to Him, "I will give You all these things if You will fall down and worship me."  
 10 Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: **Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.**"  
 11 Then the Devil left Him, and immediately angels came and began to serve Him.

 What did you find interesting in the text?

1. What lessons can we learn from the methods Satan used in tempting Jesus and how Jesus handled these temptations?
2. Was this the only time Jesus was tempted by Satan (see Luke 4:13)? Read Hebrews 4:12-16. What things should we learn and what hope should we have from reading these recorded temptations of Jesus?

#### NKJV

4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.  
 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,  
 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:  
 15 *"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
 By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
 Galilee of the Gentiles:  
 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."*  
 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
 18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.  
 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
 20 They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.  
 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,  
 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.  
 23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.  
 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.  
 25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

#### HCSB

4:12 When He heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee.  
 13 He left Nazareth behind and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.  
 14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:  
 15 **Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
 along the sea road, beyond the Jordan,  
 Galilee of the Gentiles!**  
 16 **The people who live in darkness have seen  
 a great light, and for those living in the  
 shadowland of death, light has dawned.**  
 17 From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!"  
 18 As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen.  
 19 "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!"  
 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.  
 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them.  
 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.  
 23 Jesus was going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.  
 24 Then the news about Him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to Him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And He healed them.  
 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

 What did you find interesting or unique in this text?

3. How does Isaiah describe Jesus in his prophecy? Why is Jesus called this? (compare John 1:4-9; 9:5)

## Matthew

## Chapter 5

Note before you begin: As you read chapters 5-7, called the Sermon on the Mount, look for the deep meaning and deep truths of Jesus' message. Philip Yancey, in referring to the Sermon on the Mount, states: "Though I have tried at times to dismiss it as rhetorical excess, the more I study Jesus, the more I realize that the statements contained here lie at the heart of his message. If I fail to understand this teaching, I fail to understand him."


Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

### NKJV


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.  
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.  
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.

### HCSB

5:1 When He saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.  
2 Then He began to teach them, saying:  
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.  
4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
because they will be comforted.  
5 Blessed are the gentle,  
because they will inherit the earth.  
6 Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst for righteousness,  
because they will be filled.  
7 Blessed are the merciful,  
because they will be shown mercy.  
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
because they will see God.  
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
because they will be called sons of God.  
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness,  
because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.  
11 "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me.  
12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

 What did you find interesting in this text?

I. Determine the meaning of "blessed."

 For each of the following verses, write down the deep meaning, great spiritual truths, and lessons we can learn from each beatitude:

vs. 3:

vs. 4:

vs. 5:

vs. 6:

vs. 7:

vs. 8:

vs. 9:

vs. 10:

vs. 11:

vs. 12:

NKJV

5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.


HCSB

5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons can we learn from this text?

NKJV

5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

HCSB

5:17 "Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches people to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches *these commandments* will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

I. Does Jesus mean in verse 17 that the Old Law is **not** done away with? Why or why not? Explain what you think Jesus means in verse 17. (Consider Galatians 3:24-26; Hebrews 10:7-9)

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

Note before beginning: As you read verses 21-48, be sure to determine what abuse Jesus is correcting the Jewish leaders of in each section of text.

NKJV

5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, "Raca!" shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

HCSB

5:21 "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.

22 But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Fool!' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You moron!' will be subject to hellfire.


23 So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.

26 I assure you: You will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny!

**Clarifying Point:** In verse 22, the word "raca" is the transliteration of an Aramaic quasi-swear word that means empty headed, worthless, blockhead, or imbecile. The Sanhedrin was the highest authority among the Jews for religious and civil matters.

 What sin were the Jews committing? What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

NKJV

5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not commit adultery*.'

28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.


HCSB

5:27 "You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery**.

28 But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell!


 What sin were the Jews committing? What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

NKJV

5:31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'  
 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.  
 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'  
 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;  
 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.  
 37 But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

HCSB

5:31 "It was also said, **Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce.**  
 32 But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.  
 33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord.**  
 34 But I tell you, don't take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God's throne;  
 35 or by the earth, because it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King.  
 36 Neither should you swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black.  
 37 But let your word 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one.


 What sin were the Jews committing? What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

NKJV

5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'  
 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.  
 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.  
 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.  
 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

HCSB

5:38 "You have heard that it was said, **An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.**  
 39 But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.  
 40 As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well.  
 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.  
 42 Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

 What sin were the Jews committing? What great spiritual truths and present day lessons can be found in this text?

#### NKJV

5:43 "You have heard that it was said, '*You shall love your neighbor* and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

#### HCSB

5:43 "You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor** and hate your enemy.

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same?

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

2. Explain verse 48.

Questions concerning verses 17-48:

3. What phrases do you find repeated in each section of text? Why are these phrases important?

4. Carefully consider and answer this question: Was Jesus giving new commands or was he sharpening the meaning of the Old Law? Explain your answer.

Read the following texts highlighting things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.  
 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.  
 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,  
 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

## HCSB

6:1 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.  
 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don't sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. I assure you: They've got their reward!  
 3 But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,  
 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

✍️ What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

## NKJV

6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.  
 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.  
 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.  
 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.  
 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.

## HCSB

6:5 "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They've got their reward!  
 6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.  
 7 When you pray, don't babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words.  
 8 Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.  
 9 "Therefore, you should pray like this:  
     Our Father in heaven,  
     Your name be honored as holy.  
 10 Your kingdom come.  
     Your will be done  
     on earth as it is in heaven.  
 11 Give us today our daily bread.  
 12 And forgive us our debts,  
     as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
 13 And do not bring 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 people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well.  
 15 But if you don't forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing.

2. Why should we pray to God if He already knows what we need before we pray?

3. List all of the things we learn about prayer and the lessons we can learn from this text:

NKJV

6:16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

HCSB

6:16 "Whenever you fast, don't be sad-faced like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so their fasting is obvious to people. I assure you: They've got their reward!

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head, and wash your face,

18 so that you don't show your fasting to people but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

Questions concerning verses 1-18:

3. What general principles and attitudes is Jesus trying to teach us in these verses?

4. In each section of text, Jesus calls these people hypocrites. What are these people doing in the text that is hypocritical?

# NKJV

6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

# HCSB

6:19 "Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness—how deep is that darkness!

24 "No one can be a slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

1. Verse 20 tells us to store up treasures in heaven. How do we do that? (Consider 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 18:18-25.)

2. Explain how verses 22-23 fit in with the context of what Jesus is saying.

3. Why can we not serve two masters (vs. 24)? Why is this not possible?

# NKJV

6:25 "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?

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

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.

# HCSB

6:25 "This is why I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the sky: they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?

27 Can any of you add a single cubit to his height by worrying?

28 And why do you worry about clothes? Learn how the wildflowers of the field grow: they don't labor or spin thread.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these!

30 If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't He do much more for you—you of little faith?

31 So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'

32 For the idolaters eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

34 Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

4. What are some practical things we can do to help us not worry, as Jesus commands in verse 25?

5. List what "all these things" is referring to in verse 33?

Questions concerning verses 19-34:

6. What general principles and attitudes is Jesus trying to teach us in these verses?

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.  
2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.  
3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?  
4 Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye?  
5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.  
6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.  
7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.  
8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.  
9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?  
10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?  
11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!  
12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## HCSB

7:1 "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged.  
2 For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.  
3 Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye?  
4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye?  
5 Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.  
6 Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them with their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.  
7 "Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.  
8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.  
9 What man among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?  
10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?  
11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!  
12 Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them—this is the Law and the Prophets.

**Interesting Point:** Among the Jews the dogs of the street were held in low esteem. The reference here is not to cute little pet dogs but to large, savage, ugly dogs. One could see them almost everywhere, prowling about the garbage and the rubbish thrown into the streets. They were considered unclean and filthy. Pigs were viewed as being similarly contemptible and filthy, and were among the unclean animals in Leviticus 11:7. Also see 2 Peter 2:22.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

- I. In light of the context, explain what Jesus is calling for us to do when he says "do not judge" in verse 1. Should we decline any assessment of others, since none of us are perfect?

2. Explain how verse 6 fits into the context of what Jesus is teaching.

NKJV

7:13 "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.

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.

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!"

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

HCSB

7:13 "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.

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.

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!"

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

 What great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

3. What is the key principle Jesus is teaching in each of the following paragraphs?

vs. 13-14:

vs. 15-20

vs. 21-23

vs. 24-29

4. Who will enter the kingdom of God and who will not, according to Jesus? Apply these characteristics to what we see in the world today.

5. This is the end of Jesus' sermon, what is commonly called the sermon on the mount. Scan back through chapters 5-7 and write down the main attitudes and messages Jesus was trying to teach.

## Matthew

## Chapter 8

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

NKJV

8:1 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."

HCSB

8:1 When He came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

2 Right away a man with a serious skin disease came up and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

3 Reaching out His hand He touched him, saying, "I am willing; be made clean." Immediately his disease was healed.

4 Then Jesus told him, "See that you don't tell anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed, as a testimony to them."

**Historical Point:** Old Testament Law was quite detailed in its instructions regarding recognition and quarantine of leprosy persons. Priests became the central figures for diagnosis, care of patients, and taking sanitary precautions to protect the rest of the community. The Law required that a leper be isolated from the rest of society (Lev. 13:45-46). Infected persons were required to wear mourning clothes, leave their hair in disorder, keep their beards covered, and cry “Unclean! Unclean!” so that others could avoid them. Any contact would defile the person who touched a leper. In fact, many rabbis taught that no one should come within six feet of a leper (one hundred feet if downwind from one), and would throw rocks at ones who came too close.

1. What two ways did Jesus respond to the leper that would have made the crowds gasp?

 What lessons can we learn from this text?

#### NKJV

8:5 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!

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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.

#### HCSB

8:5 When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

6 “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible agony!”

7 “I will come and heal him,” He told him.

8 “Lord,” the centurion replied, “I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be cured.

9 For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under my command. I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it*.”

10 Hearing this, Jesus was amazed and said to those following Him, “I assure you: I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith!

11 I tell you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

13 Then Jesus told the centurion, “Go. As you have believed, let it be done for you.” And his servant was cured that very moment.

2. Who are the “many from the east and west” and who are “the heirs of the kingdom” in verses 11-12?

3. Notice Jesus does not say in verse 10, “No one in Israel have I found with a better grasp of authority.” Instead Jesus said, “No one in Israel have I found such faith.” What does the centurion’s grasp of authority have to do with great faith?

 What other lessons can we learn from this text?

#### NKJV

8:14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore our sicknesses.”*

#### HCSB

8:14 When Jesus went into Peter’s house, He saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and began to serve Him.

16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick,

17 so that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

**He Himself took our weaknesses  
and carried our diseases.**

 What did you find interesting in this section of text?

4. How does Matthew prove in this text that Jesus is the King and the Messiah?

5. Describe the power Jesus exerts in this text toward the crowds and toward Peter’s mother-in-law.

## NKJV

8:18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.

19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head."

21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

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?"

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.

33 Then those who kept *them* fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what *had happened* to the demon-possessed *men*.

34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged *Him* to depart from their region.

## HCSB

8:18 When Jesus saw large crowds around Him, He gave the order to go to the other side of the sea.

19 A scribe approached Him and said, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go!"

20 Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."

21 "Lord," another of His disciples said, "first let me go bury my father."

22 But Jesus told him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

23 As He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.

24 Suddenly, a violent storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves. But He was sleeping.

25 So the disciples came and woke Him up, saying, "Lord, save *us*!! We're going to die!"

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, you of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea. And there was a great calm.

27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this?—even the winds and the sea obey Him!"

28 When He had come to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met Him as they came out of the tombs. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

29 Suddenly they shouted, "What do You have to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

30 Now a long way off from them, a large herd of pigs was feeding.

31 "If You drive us out," the demons begged Him, "send us into the herd of pigs."

32 "Go!" He told them. So when they had come out, they entered the pigs. And suddenly the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water.

33 Then the men who tended them fled. They went into the city and reported everything—especially what had happened to those who were demon-possessed.

34 At that, the whole town went out to meet Jesus. When they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their region.

5. What is the cost to be a disciple of Jesus, from this text? Also consider Luke 14:26-27. How does this apply to you?

6. a. What is the reaction of the town after seeing Jesus' power to cast out demons? Why do you think they had this reaction?

**Life Application:**

- b. What is our reaction to the power of Jesus? Do we sometimes also react the same way as the town? How?

 What other lessons can we learn from this text?

## Matthew

## Chapter 9

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

### NKJV

9:1 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.

### HCSB

9:1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own town.  
2 Just then some men brought to Him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Have courage, son, your sins are forgiven."  
3 At this, some of the scribes said among themselves, "He's blaspheming!"  
4 But perceiving their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why are you thinking evil things in your hearts?  
5 For which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"  
6 But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He told the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home."  
7 And he got up and went home.  
8 When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck and gave glory to God who had given such authority to men.

*Compare this text to Mark's account in 2:1-12.*

1. In what ways does Jesus prove that he is the King and the Messiah?
2. Why do the scribes charge Jesus with speaking blasphemy? What was blasphemous about what Jesus said or did?

3. What is the reaction of this crowd after seeing Jesus' power? How is this different from the last town Jesus was in?

✍ What lessons can we learn from this text?

#### NKJV

9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 But go and learn what *this* means: "*I desire mercy and not sacrifice.*" For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.

17 Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

#### HCSB

9:9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" So he got up and followed Him.

10 While He was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came as guests to eat with Jesus and His disciples.

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 But when He heard this, He said, "Those who are well don't need a doctor, but the sick do.

13 Go and learn what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice.** For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners."

14 Then John's disciples came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

15 Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests be sad while the groom is with them? The days will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

16 No one patches an old garment with unshrunk cloth, because the patch pulls away from the garment and makes the tear worse.

17 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

**Historical Point:** Tax collectors were agents or contract workers who collected taxes for the government during Bible times. Some translations incorrectly call them "publicans," but publicans were wealthy men, usually non-Jewish, who contracted with the Roman government to be responsible for the taxes of a particular district. They were often backed by military force. Zacchaeus was called the chief tax collector in Jericho, which may mean he was a publican (Luke 19:1-10). By contrast, tax collectors were employed by publicans to do the actual collecting of monies. They were Jews, usually not very wealthy.

As a class, tax collectors were despised by their fellow Jews, and were generally associated with "sinners." They often gathered more than the government required and pocketed the excess amount. But tax collectors were also hated because their fellow citizens viewed them as mercenaries working for the Roman oppressors.

4. Examine verse 12 and explain Jesus' answer. Was Jesus saying that the Pharisees did not need Jesus because they were righteous in the sight of God?
5. Explain what Jesus means in verse 13 when he says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What applications can we make to ourselves from this statement?

**For Consideration:** In Kenneth L. Chumbley's commentary on Matthew he gives the following thought about verse 17: "The usual explanation for this is that old wineskins have already been stretched to the breaking point and any further expansion caused by new wine would burst them. This answer, however, doesn't agree with chemistry. The sugar in grape juice can produce carbon dioxide forty to fifty times its original volume, which is more than enough to burst new skins, much less old ones (Job 32:19; fermenting wine has been known to burst wooden barrels bound by metal hoops). New wine was put into new skins because old bottles were brittle, cracked, and contained dregs that precipitated fermentation in fresh juice."

6. Considering the question Jesus is answering, the context of his answer, and to whom Jesus is responding, explain what Jesus means in verses 15-17.

 What lessons can we learn from this text?

7. What is Jesus implying when he calls himself the groom and his disciples the wedding guests?

 What other things did you find interesting in this text? What spiritual truths are found in this text?

# NKJV

9:18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."  
 19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples.  
 20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.  
 21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."  
 22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.  
 23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,  
 24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.  
 25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.  
 26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

# HCSB

9:18 As He was telling them these things, suddenly one of the leaders came and knelt down before Him, saying, "My daughter is near death, but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."  
 19 So Jesus and His disciples got up and followed him.  
 20 Just then, a woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years approached from behind and touched the tassel on His robe,  
 21 for she said to herself, "If I can just touch His robe, I'll be made well!"  
 22 But Jesus turned and saw her. "Have courage, daughter," He said. "Your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment.  
 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house, He saw the flute players and a crowd lamenting loudly.  
 24 "Leave," He said, "because the girl isn't dead, but sleeping." And they started laughing at Him.  
 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.  
 26 And this news spread throughout that whole area.

**Historical Point:** Recall that the Law stated in Leviticus 15:19-27 that when a woman had a flow of blood, she was considered continually unclean. Whoever touched her was unclean and any objects she touched were unclean.

Further, flute players were there to lead the crowd in mourning. Several professional women mourners were required even at the funeral of the poorest person; the funeral of a member of a prominent family like this would have many mourners. The cathartic release of mourning included shrieking and beating of breasts. (*The IVP Bible Background Commentary*)

8. Consider the faith of the leader of the synagogue and the faith of the bleeding woman. How did they both show faith? What is amazing about their faith?

 What lessons can we learn from this text?

# NKJV

9:27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See *that* no one knows *it*."

31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest *truly is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

# HCSB

9:27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, shouting, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men approached Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they answered Him.

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done for you according to your faith!"

30 And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus warned them sternly, "Be sure that no one finds out!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout that whole area.

32 Just as they were going out, a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to Him.

33 When the demon had been driven out, the man spoke. And the crowds were amazed, saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!"

34 But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons!"

35 Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

36 When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.

38 Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

9. What was implied by the blind men calling Jesus "son of David?"

10 What are some possible explanations why Jesus would order the blind men not tell anyone about their healing in verse 30?

11. What is "the good news of the kingdom" that Jesus was proclaiming in verse 35?

12 a. What reaction did Jesus have when he saw the crowds? Why did he have this reaction?

b. What lessons can we learn from this response of Jesus?

13. From verses 19-38, in what ways does Jesus prove that he is the King and the Messiah?

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV


10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.  
 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother;  
 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;  
 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.  
 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.  
 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
 7 And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.  
 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts,  
 10 nor bag for *your* journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.  
 11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.  
 12 And when you go into a household, greet it.  
 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.  
 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.  
 15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

## HCSB

10:1 Summoning His 12 disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.  
 2 These are the names of the 12 apostles:  
 First, Simon, who is called Peter,  
 and Andrew his brother;  
 James the son of Zebedee,  
 and John his brother;  
 3 Philip and Bartholomew;  
 Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;  
 James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;  
 4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot,  
 who also betrayed Him.  
 5 Jesus sent out these 12 after giving them instructions: "Don't take the road leading to other nations, and don't enter any Samaritan town.  
 6 Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
 7 As you go, announce this: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'  
 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, drive out demons. You have received free of charge; give free of charge.  
 9 Don't take along gold, silver, or copper for your money-belts.  
 10 Don't take a traveling bag for the road, or an extra shirt, sandals, or a walking stick, for the worker is worthy of his food.  
 11 "When you enter any town or village, find out who is worthy, and stay there until you leave.  
 12 Greet a household when you enter it,  
 13 and if the household is worthy, let your peace be on it. But if it is unworthy, let your peace return to you.  
 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that house or town.  
 15 I assure you: It will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

**Historical Point:** Showing hospitality by taking in travelers was one of the most important virtues in Mediterranean antiquity, especially in Judaism. Pious Jewish people returning to holy ground would not want even the dust of pagan territory clinging to their sandals; Jesus' representatives here treat unresponsive regions as unholy or pagan. (*The IVP Bible Background Commentary*)

I. What is the main point of this text?

 What do you find interesting in this text?

2. What lessons can we learn from this text? Based on this text, what are some expectations we should have when we go into the world to teach the lost?

#### NKJV

10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.  
17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.  
18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.  
19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;  
20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.  
21 "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.  
22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.  
23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.  
24 "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master.  
25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household!

#### HCSB

10:16 "Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as harmless as doves.  
17 Because people will hand you over to sanhedrins and flog you in their synagogues, beware of them.  
18 You will even be brought before governors and kings because of Me, to bear witness to them and to the nations.  
19 But when they hand you over, don't worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour,  
20 because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.  
21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will even rise up against their parents and have them put to death.  
22 You will be hated by everyone because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered.  
23 When they persecute you in one town, escape to another. For I assure you: You will not have covered the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.  
24 A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master.  
25 It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master. If they called the head of the house 'Beelzebul,' how much more the members of his household!

3. What is the main point of the text?
4. Explain the meaning of verse 23. What does it mean that the disciples will not go through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes? What event must the "coming of the Son of Man" refer to?

# NKJV

10:26 "Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to *"set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law";*

36 and *"a man's enemies will be those of his own household."*

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

# HCSB

10:26 "Therefore, don't be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won't be uncovered, and nothing hidden that won't be made known.

27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops.

28 Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent.

30 But even the hairs of your head have all been counted.

31 Don't be afraid therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 "Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.

34 Don't assume that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 For I came to turn

**a man against his father,**

**a daughter against her mother,**

**a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;**

36 **and a man's enemies will be**

**the members of his household.**

37 The person who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; the person who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.

39 Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing his life because of Me will find it.

40 "The one who welcomes you welcomes Me, and the one who welcomes Me welcomes Him who sent Me.

41 Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. And anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous will receive a righteous person's reward.

42 And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!"

5. What is Jesus' main point in this text?

5. What important lessons do we learn from verses 34-39?
  6. Look at verses 40-42. What applications can we make from these verses?
- ✎ What other great spiritual truths and present day lessons are found in this text?

## Matthew

## Chapter 11

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

### NKJV

11:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.  
 2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples  
 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"  
 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:  
 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.  
 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." [NIV: *does not fall away on account of me.*]

### HCSB

11:1 When Jesus had finished giving orders to His 12 disciples, He moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns.  
 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent a message by his disciples  
 3 and asked Him, "Are You the One who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"  
 4 Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see:  
 5 the blind see, the lame walk, those with skin diseases are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news.  
 6 And if anyone is not offended because of Me, he is blessed." [NIV: *does not fall away on account of me.*]

1. John had proclaimed that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". John had also baptized Jesus and testified that he "saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him" (John 1:29-32). Since John said and saw these things, why do think John would ask this question in verse 3?
2. Explain how Jesus' response is an answer to John's question.

## NKJV

11:7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

10 For this is *he* of whom it is written:

*"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You."*

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

14 And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come.

15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

16 "But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,

17 and saying:

*"We played the flute for you,  
And you did not dance;  
We mourned to you,  
And you did not lament."*

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon."

19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" But wisdom is justified by her children."

## HCSB

11:7 As these men went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind?

8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Look, those who wear soft clothes are in kings' palaces.

9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and far more than a prophet.

10 This is the one it is written about:

**Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You;**

**he will prepare Your way before You.**

11 I assure you: Among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force.

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John;

14 if you're willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who is to come.

15 Anyone who has ears should listen!

16 "To what should I compare this generation? It's like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to each other:

*17 We played the flute for you,  
but you didn't dance;  
we sang a lament,  
but you didn't mourn!*

18 For John did not come eating or drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!'

19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

### 3. What is the main point of Jesus' speech to the crowds?


#### Question For Thought:

4. It has been argued for many years that the kingdom is synonymous with the church. Therefore, any time one reads about the kingdom, God is always talking about the church. If this is true, how could Jesus say that since the days of John the Baptist "*the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force*" since the church had not been established yet?

As you ponder and answer that question, consider that God's kingdom existed in the Old Testament, established by Solomon (2 Samuel 7:12-16-consider a dual meaning to David's immediate seed, Solomon, and coming seed, the Messiah; 1 Kings 2:46). Because of the people's sins, the kingdom was removed (Hosea 1:4; Amos 9:8-10) and God promised its restoration/establishment when the Messiah came (Joel 2:28-3:1; Amos 9:11-15; Zephaniah 3:9-20; Zechariah 9:9-12; Acts 1:6).

God established his spiritual kingdom when the Messiah came (Matthew 16:18) consisting of all the saved, that is, the church. Christians are in the kingdom of God today (Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:6). But the context must tell us if the kingdom speaks about church today or Israel's sinful past.

5. Explain what Jesus means in verses 16-19.

 What do you find interesting in this text?

NKJV

11:20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

HCSB

11:20 Then He proceeded to denounce the towns where most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent:

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes long ago!

22 But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until today.

24 But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to infants.

26 Yes, Father, because this was Your good pleasure.


27 All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him.


28 "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

29 All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

6. What is the main point in this text?

 What do you find interesting in this text?

 Consider chapter 11 and list the ways that Jesus proved he is the King and the Messiah:


Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

12:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.  
 2 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"  
 3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:  
 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?  
 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?  
 6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple.  
 7 But if you had known what *this* means, "*I desire mercy and not sacrifice*," you would not have condemned the guiltless.  
 8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."  
 9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.  
 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.  
 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out?  
 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."  
 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other.  
 14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

## HCSB

12:1 At that time Jesus passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some heads of grain.  
 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"  
 3 He said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry—  
 4 how he entered the house of God, and they ate the sacred bread, which is not lawful for him or for those with him to eat, but only for the priests?  
 5 Or haven't you read in the Law that on Sabbath days the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent?  
 6 But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here!  
 7 If you had known what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice**, you would not have condemned the innocent.  
 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."  
 9 Moving on from there, He entered their synagogue.  
 10 There He saw a man who had a paralyzed hand. And in order to accuse Him they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"  
 11 But He said to them, "What man among you, if he had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn't take hold of it and lift it out?  
 12 A man is worth far more than a sheep, so it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."  
 13 Then He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and it was restored, as good as the other.  
 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

 What do you find interesting in this text?

- I. What was it that so enraged the Pharisees when they saw the disciples picking grain and Jesus healing a man's withered hand?

- | NKJV  | HCSB  |
|---|---|
| 12:15 But when Jesus knew <i>it</i> , He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.  | 12:15 When Jesus became aware of this, He withdrew from there. Huge crowds followed Him, and He healed them all.  |
| 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known,  | M16 He warned them not to make Him known,   |
| 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:   | 17 so that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:   |
| 18 <i>"Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.</i> | 18 <b>Here is My Servant whom I have chosen, My beloved in whom My soul delights; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations.</b> |
| 19 <i>He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.</i>   | 19 <b>He will not argue or shout, and no one will hear His voice in the streets.</b>  |
| 20 <i>A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;</i>  | 20 <b>He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick, until He has led justice to victory.</b>                                     |
| 21 <i>And in His name Gentiles will trust."</i>   | 21 The nations will put their hope in His name.   |

4. What is the main point of the prophecy and this section of text?

- 38

# NKJV

12:22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

24 Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, "This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit.

34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

# HCSB

12:22 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to Him. He healed him, so that the man could both speak and see.

23 And all the crowds were astounded and said, "Perhaps this is the Son of David!"

24 When the Pharisees heard this, they said, "The man drives out demons only by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

25 Knowing their thoughts, He told them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.

26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, who is it your sons drive them out by? For this reason they will be your judges.

28 If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

29 How can someone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

30 Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not gather with Me scatters.

31 Because of this, I tell you, people will be forgiven every sin and blasphemy, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the one to come.


33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

34 Brood of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

35 A good man produces good things from his storeroom of good, and an evil man produces evil things from his storeroom of evil.

36 I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak.

37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

 What do you find interesting in this text?

6. Explain the arguments Jesus makes in verses 25-30 to prove that his power is not from Beelzebub:
7. Explain what Jesus means in verses 31-32.
8. Explain verses 33-37. What lessons can we learn from these verses?

#### NKJV

12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none."

44 Then he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

46 While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.

47 Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You."

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"

50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

#### HCSB

12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights."

41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's proclamation; and look—something greater than Jonah is here!"

42 The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look—something greater than Solomon is here!"

43 "When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it roams through waterless places looking for rest but doesn't find any."

44 Then it says, 'I'll go back to my house that I came from.' And when it arrives, it finds the house vacant, swept, and put in order."

45 Then off it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that man's last condition is worse than the first. That's how it will also be with this evil generation."


46 He was still speaking to the crowds when suddenly His mother and brothers were standing outside wanting to speak to Him."

47 Someone told Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to You."

48 But He replied to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"

50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven, that person is My brother and sister and mother."

 What do you find interesting in this text?

9. What point is Jesus trying to get across in this section of text?
10. Why did Jesus refuse to offer the scribes and Pharisees a sign? What lessons can we learn from this?
11. From verses 22-50, how did Jesus prove that he is the King and the Messiah?

## Matthew

## Chapter 13

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

NKJV

13:1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.  
2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.  
3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.  
4 And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.  
5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.  
6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.  
7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.  
8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.  
9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

HCSB

13:1 On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.  
2 Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore.  
3 Then He told them many things in parables, saying: "Consider the sower who went out to sow.  
4 As he was sowing, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and ate them up.  
5 Others fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil, and they sprang up quickly since the soil wasn't deep.  
6 But when the sun came up they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered.  
7 Others fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.  
8 Still others fell on good ground, and produced a crop: some 100, some 60, and some 30 times what was sown.  
9 Anyone who has ears should listen!"

1. Why do you think Jesus told this parable without giving an explanation to the crowds (*Mark 4:10 tells us that the later explanation was given to the twelve apostles alone*)?

NKJV

13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

*"Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

15 *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'*

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:


19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

 What do you find interesting in this text?

HCSB

13:10 Then the disciples came up and asked Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered them, "Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them.

12 For whoever has, more will be given to him, and he will have more than enough. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

13 For this reason I speak to them in parables, because looking they do not see, and hearing they do not listen or understand.

14 Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

**You will listen and listen,  
yet never understand;  
and you will look and look,  
yet never perceive.**

15 **For this people's heart has grown callous;  
their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
otherwise they might see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn back—  
and I would cure them.**

16 "But your eyes are blessed because they do see, and your ears because they do hear!

17 For I assure you: Many prophets and righteous people longed to see the things you see yet didn't see them; to hear the things you hear yet didn't hear them.

18 "You, then, listen to the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one sown along the path.

20 And the one sown on rocky ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.

21 Yet he has no root in himself, but is short-lived. When pressure or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the seduction of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

23 But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does bear fruit and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown."

📖 What is the main point Jesus is trying to get across to the crowd?

1. Explain Jesus' reason why he spoke to the people in parables.
2. How is this parable an encouragement to those who sow the seed of the kingdom?
3. Notice Jesus' condemnation of the people in verses 14-15. What lessons can we learn and what are some practical things we can do so that we do not fall under the same condemnation?
4. What other lessons and applications can we make from this section of text?

#### NKJV

13:24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;  
25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.  
26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.  
27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'  
28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'  
29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.  
30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

#### HCSB

13:24 He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.  
25 But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left.  
26 When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared.  
27 The landowner's slaves came to him and said, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?'  
28 "'An enemy did this!' he told them. "'So, do you want us to go and gather them up?' the slaves asked him.  
29 "'No,' he said. 'When you gather up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them.  
30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but store the wheat in my barn.'"

5. Notice again that an explanation is not given to the crowds from Jesus. Later, Jesus will explain it to his disciples. What would the crowds have thought about this parable and what do you think they would have understood given they did not receive the later explanation?

NKJV

13:31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,

32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

HCSB

13:31 He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.

32 It's the smallest of all the seeds, but when grown, it's taller than the vegetables and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches."

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into 50 pounds of flour until it spread through all of it."

34 Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables, and He would not speak anything to them without a parable,

35 so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

**I will open My mouth in parables;  
I will declare things kept secret  
from the foundation of the world.**

6. Give an explanation and key point Jesus was making with these parables.

NKJV

13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

HCSB

13:36 Then He dismissed the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached Him and said, "Explain the parable of the weeds in the field to us."

37 He replied: "The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;

38 the field is the world; and the good seed—these are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and

39 the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

40 Therefore just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.


41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather from His kingdom everything that causes sin and those guilty of lawlessness.


42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Anyone who has ears should listen!

**Clarifying Point:** "Tares" probably refers to darnel, a noxious weed that is virtually indistinguishable from wheat in the early stages of growth. When ground into flour it gives off a bitter taste and can induce dizziness, drowsiness or vomiting. Sowing darnel in a field for purposes of revenge was a crime under Roman legislation. The necessity for a law on the subject suggests that the action was not infrequent.

-- Kenneth L. Chumbley, The Gospel of Matthew

 What do you find interesting in this text?

 What is the main point Jesus is trying to get across to his disciples in the parable of the tares?

7. What lessons and applications do we learn from these parables?

#### NKJV

13:44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,  
46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

51 Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old."

53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?

55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?"

57 So they were offended at Him. ¶ But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

#### HCSB

13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.

46 When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a large net thrown into the sea. It collected every kind of fish,

48 and when it was full, they dragged it ashore, sat down, and gathered the good |fish| into containers, but threw out the worthless ones.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out, separate the evil people from the righteous,

50 and throw them into the blazing furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" "Yes," they told Him.

52 "Therefore," He said to them, "every student of Scripture instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who brings out of his storeroom what is new and what is old."

53 When Jesus had finished these parables, He left there.


54 He went to His hometown and began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "How did this wisdom and these miracles come to Him?

55 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother called Mary, and His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

56 And His sisters, aren't they all with us? So where does He get all these things?"

57 And they were offended by Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his household."

58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

 What do you find interesting in this text?

8. What is the main point Jesus is trying to get across to his disciples in the parable of the hidden treasure, the parable of the pearl of great value, and the parable of the net?
9. Contrast the three parables and consider if there are any other lessons learned from these parables.
10. Explain the meaning of verse 52.

Lessons from the chapter:

11. Scan back through chapter 13 and write down the lessons and points Jesus was trying to teach the crowds and his disciples. Then write down the applications we can make from these lessons.
12. In what ways does Jesus prove he is the King and the Messiah in this chapter?

Read the following texts using colored pencils to highlight things you find interesting and important. Write down your own thoughts and questions in the margins next to the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

## NKJV

14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus  
2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."  
3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put *him* in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.  
4 Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."  
5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.  
6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod.  
7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.  
8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter."  
9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded *it* to be given to *her*.  
10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison.  
11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother.  
12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

## HCSB

14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus.  
2 "This is John the Baptist!" he told his servants. "He has been raised from the dead, and that's why supernatural powers are at work in him."  
3 For Herod had arrested John, chained him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,  
4 since John had been telling him, "It's not lawful for you to have her!"  
5 Though he wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd, since they regarded him as a prophet.  
6 But when Herod's birthday celebration came, Herodias' daughter danced before them and pleased Herod.  
7 So he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.  
8 And prompted by her mother, she answered, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter!"  
9 Although the king regretted it, he commanded that it be granted because of his oaths and his guests.  
10 So he sent orders and had John beheaded in the prison.  
11 His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother.  
12 Then his disciples came, removed the corpse, buried it, and went and reported to Jesus.

1. We find from Mark 6:17 that Herod Antipas was married to Herodias. Yet in this text, verse 3 tells us that Herodias was Philip's wife. Do we have a contradiction? Whose wife was she? What do we learn from this?

2. What lesson do we learn from John the Baptist?

# NKJV

14:13 When Jesus heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."

19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

# HCSB

14:13 When Jesus heard about it, He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed Him on foot from the towns.

14 As He stepped ashore, He saw a huge crowd, felt compassion for them, and healed their sick.

15 When evening came, the disciples approached Him and said, "This place is a wilderness, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

16 "They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat."

17 "But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to Him.

18 "Bring them here to Me," He said.

19 Then He commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

20 Everyone ate and was filled. Then they picked up 12 baskets full of leftover pieces!

21 Now those who ate were about 5,000 men, besides women and children.

**Clarifying Point:** Most translators used the word "loaves" for the bread that was used in this miracle. But what we think of as bread loaves today is not the same as bread loaves then. What is meant is something that resembles a pancake, flat and round. Thayer says that the loaves were generally as thick as one's thumb and possibly about the size of a plate. The point is that these five loaves and two fish were only enough for a boy's lunch (John 6:9).

3. Write down the different ways we see the humanity of Jesus revealed:

4. What life applications and spiritual lessons can we learn from this text?

## NKJV

14:22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick,

36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched *it* were made perfectly well.

## HCSB

14:22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

23 After dismissing the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone.

24 But the boat was already over a mile from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them.

25 Around three in the morning, He came toward them walking on the sea.

26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and cried out in fear.

27 Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's You," Peter answered Him, "command me to come to You on the water."

29 "Come!" He said. And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out His hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those in the boat worshiped Him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God!"

34 Once they crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

35 When the men of that place recognized Him, they alerted the whole vicinity and brought to Him all who were sick.

36 They were begging Him that they might only touch the tassel on His robe. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

☞ What do you find interesting in this text?

5. What do we learn about Jesus from this text?

6. What lessons can we learn about faith from this text?

Lessons from the chapter:

7. Look back over this chapter and write down the ways that Jesus proved he is the King and the Messiah: