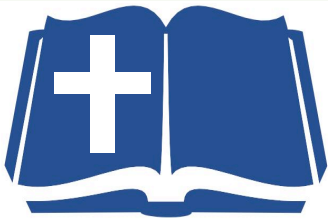


THE MESSAGE ON

MAIN ST

A Weekly Resource to Help You Draw Near to God

WEEK 4 - STUDY GUIDE



SOCIAL DISTANCING, SPIRITUAL NEARNESS

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

Simple Secrets to Healthy Living

by Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

The old adage says, “An apple a day, will keep the doctor away.” This is not just an old wives tale. Although they are not a “cure all” apples are a very healthy choice. In an article by Stanford Medicine Cancer Center, entitled *Nutrition to Reduce Cancer Risk*, apples are listed among the foods that may actually “interfere with the process of developing cancer”. Prevention magazine states that eating apples may be a natural way to whiten your teeth. An “apple a day” is the kind of prescription I like. It’s cheap and it is easy to swallow.

Here’s another health tip: “A devotional a day!”

- While it may not keep your teeth looking white, it will benefit your heart (1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 23:7).
- It may not prevent cancer but it is a will guard against a far deadlier disease, sin (Psalm 119:11).
- It may never be prescribed by your family doctor but it is highly recommended by the Great Physician (Mark 2:17).
- It doesn't cost a thing except your time and effort.

“An apple a day” may sound too simple but eating healthy foods will promote good health. Similarly “a devotional a day” is also an easy practice which adds to our well-being. Give it a try. Start with a short reading of scripture and some reflection on the text. Sing a familiar hymn. Pray regularly. Yes, it sounds too simple but try it, you might just be surprised at results!

CAN YOU GIVE GOD A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR DAY?

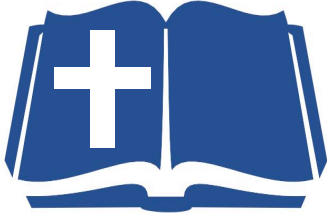
ABOUT THE PLAN

We have been studying the book of Matthew. Our goal is to spend time each day with Jesus. This guide is a tool to help you.

In this guide there are helps for every Sunday & Wednesday. On those days join us online at mainstcoc.org. Here are some helpful hints:

- **Start with a Commitment** to set aside time in your day, EVERY DAY, either individually or as a family (or both). Make a true commitment or you will never follow through.
- **Click the Links.** You will find many links throughout this guide. Online resources such as websites, videos, and articles can be accessed on your electronic device through this PDF file. Each link will appear in bright Blue text like this: MAINSTCOC.ORG. Just click on the link and it should open in your browser window.
- **Utilize the Resources.** Many extra resources are provided along the right sidebar of each page. Most of these do not follow the study of Matthew but are other valuable resources for you to check out.
- **Pray, Pray, Pray!** This cannot be stressed this enough. Pray throughout your day (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).
- **Share this guide with others.**

MONDAY - WEEK 4



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 16

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

“UPON THIS ROCK” (Matthew 16:13-20)

The Most Important Question

After hearing what others believed about Him, Jesus asked His disciples what they had come to believe. These men were first-hand witnesses. They heard every sermon. They witnessed each miracle. They walked with Jesus every day. They saw Him in private as well as public. What did they conclude? Peter quickly gave the answer. He confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (v. 16). The question is not just “Who is Jesus?”, for the world still has many opinions about that, what really matters is what do you believe? Jesus is still asking, “Who do you say that I am?”

The Rock

Some people believe that Peter is the “Rock” described in this verse, but the church was not built upon Peter. Many are confused because of Jesus’ play on words in verse 18 regarding the Peter’s name. His name comes from the Greek word “*Petros*” meaning a piece of rock or stone (Strong’s). However the word describing the “rock” upon which Jesus would build His church is more substantial. It upon comes from a word meaning a large “mass of rock” (Strong’s). The church was not built upon a small pebble like Peter, rather it was built upon the bedrock of faith in Jesus. The belief in Jesus as the Son of God is the true foundation discussed here. Peter understood this. In his epistle he described Jesus as our chief Cornerstone and Christians as merely “stones” building “up a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5-8).

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, “...you are God’s building...For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Not only is He the foundation, He is the only foundation. No house can stand without a proper foundation. Jesus himself taught this in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Men. To build on the rock is to hear and obey Jesus (Matthew 7:24-29). Jesus is the foundation and the Head of the church (Col. 1:18). We must obey Him in all things! “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:17).

“The Gates of Hades” (Matthew 16:15)

“Hades” refers to the unseen world of the dead (Cf. Luke 16:19-31). Jesus is making a reference to His death and resurrection. The grave (Hades) could not hold Him. Death could not hinder His plan. He arose triumphantly from the grave and was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness” (Romans 1:4). The resurrection shows that Jesus was not just a good man who died for a good cause. He conquered death, proving what Peter said, He is “the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. — Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ Video.WVBS.org – Free, professionally-produced, lessons on various topics.
- ➔ Worldbibleschool.org – Learn the Gospel and find out how to have eternal life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ **Daily Boost** - Glenn Colley offers daily thoughts for individuals & families.
- ➔ **Your Daily 180** – Bill Haywood offers daily 3-minute devotional videos.

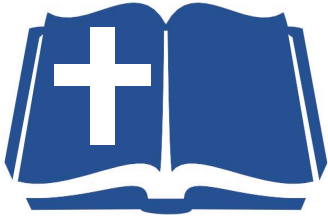
SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ Searchtv.org/music.html – A large database of a *cappella* hymns.
“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19)

ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY’S READING

- ✔ **“The Church That Jesus Built” by Coy Roper**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198906_08.pdf
- ✔ **“My Church” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_08.pdf
- ✔ **“Losing and Saving Life” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_09.pdf
- ✔ **“The Great Confession” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_07.pdf

TUESDAY - WEEK 4



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 17

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9)

We call this event the Transfiguration because the Bible says, “He was transfigured before them” (Matthew 17:2). The the Greek word here is the one from which comes the word “metamorphosis”. Jesus’ form was altered. He was changed before His disciple’s eyes. They saw a glimpse of Jesus’ heavenly glory (Cf. Rev. 1:16, Acts 26:12-15).

According to the Gospels, as Jesus prayed on the mountain:

- “...the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.” (Luke 9:29)
- “...His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light” (Matthew 17:2-3).
- “...His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.” (Mark 9:2-3)

Peter woke to see this wonder and spoke without understanding, saying: “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” (vs. 4-6). Peter suggested this “because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.” (Mark 9:6).

Peter wanted to honor all three men. He saw greatness in each man. These men were indeed great, Moses was the great law-giver and Elijah was considered one of the greatest of the prophets, but Peter erred when He considered them equal with Jesus.

While Peter “was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them...” (v. 5). This cloud is reminiscent of the Old Testament and the cloud that signified the presence of God (Exodus 13:21-22; Exodus 24:16). God called from within the cloud and rebuked Peter saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (v. 5). The Father made it clear, Jesus is not equal to Moses or Elijah, He is His Son! The Father placed His Son above all others (Phil. 2:9-11, Cf. Heb. 3:5-6).

Peter would not forget this lesson. Later in life he wrote proclaiming the authority of Christ and cites this event, saying, “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” (2 Pet 1:16-18). The Father instructs everyone to: “Listen to Jesus” Let us never forget (Hebrews 1:1-3).

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ GNTtv.org – Official site of the “Good News Today” television program.
- ➔ Apologeticspress.org – Strengthen your faith in God, Jesus Christ, & the Bible.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [The Porch & the Torch](#) – Study the Bible with Dan Winkler through these videos.
- ➔ [MercyMail](#) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from Steve Higginbotham.

SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ Kleinwood.com/annual-singing – Over 700 a cappella hymns.

“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”
(Ephesians 5:19)

ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY’S READING

- ✓ [“Faith Makes A Difference” by Joe D. Schubert](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198206_07.pdf
- ✓ [“Down From the Mountain” by Tommy South](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_10.pdf



Jeremiah

15:16

Matthew 4:4

WEDNESDAYS JOIN US ONLINE FOR BIBLE STUDY AT 7PM AT MAINSTCOC.ORG

Scriptures to Memorize

Here is a list of notable verses:

The importance of memorizing scripture is seen in Psalm 119:11. David said, ***“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*** The ability to recall verses and to remember where they are found is vital to any Bible study. We have selected a number of well-known and essential scriptures for your consideration.

Hints for Memorization

- Repetition, repetition, repetition!
- Make flash cards.
- Take a phrase like, ***“Love suffers long and is kind.”*** Repeat it again and again emphasizing different words each time. Then move to the next phrase. Do this with each phrase until you can say the whole verse without looking. Example:
 - “**LOVE** suffers long and is kind”
 - “Love **SUFFERS** long and is kind”
 - “Love suffers **LONG** and is kind”
 - “Love suffers long **AND** is kind”
 - “Love suffers long and **IS** kind”
 - “Love suffers long and is **KIND**”
- Meditate on the verses throughout your day (in the car, on lunch break, etc)

www.mainstcoc.com

Visit our website to listen to scripture songs to help you memorize.

We have uploaded over 50 Bible verses (and Bible lists) that have been put to music and sung by our members. This is a great tool to help with your memorization.

Do You Know Your Bible Lists?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books of OT | <input type="checkbox"/> Days of Creation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books of NT | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit of the Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Apostles | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Commandments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Sons of Jacob | |

These (and others) have been put to music and are now available on our website.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Genesis 1:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22:42 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Num 6:24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23:34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2:5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Deut 6:4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24:46-47 | <input type="checkbox"/> Phil 3:12-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Kings 8:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 1:1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Philippians 4:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 3:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:6-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 8:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 4:23-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 18:3, 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 8:23-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Philippians 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 19:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 8:31-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Col 1:13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 19:7-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 2:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 20:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> *John 14:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Col 3:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Thess 5:17-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 25:1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> *John 15:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Timothy 1:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 46:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 17:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 51:10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:37-38 | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Timothy 6:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 89:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:40 | <input type="checkbox"/> *2 Timothy 1:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 95:1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:47 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 95:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11:26 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 103:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17:30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 117 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 4:15-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 118:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 9:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 118:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 10:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 119:105 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 121:1-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Proverbs 3:5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Proverbs 22:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 13:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Isaiah 40:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Romans 8:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:2-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Isaiah 43:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:12-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Lam 3:23-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Habakuk 2:20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 2:19-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 4:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 1:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> *James 4:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 6:33 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 3:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 6:9-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 5:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mat 7:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 9:24-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 5:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 7:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 10:12-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 5:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 13:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 1:22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matt 11:28-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 14:40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 2:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 16:13-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 15:3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 16:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 2:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Peter 5:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 21:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 4:7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 1:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt 26:26-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 1:5-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt 28:18-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:7-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 5:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 5:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:16-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:36-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 7:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 John 4:7-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 1:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 1:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13:32 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Galatians 2:20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 1:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16:15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3:27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 2:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1:37 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Gal 5:22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Luke 4:18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:8-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 22:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Ephesians 3:20-2 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4:4-6 | |

Passages with an asterisk (*) have been put to music.

The Bible

66 Books

1189 Chapters

40 Authors

*Each guided by the same Spirit (2 Peter 1:22)

2 Divisions:

*Old Testament with 39 Books

*New Testament with 27 Books

Old Testament has 5 Sections:

5 Books of Law (Genesis-Deut)

12 Books of History (Joshua-Esther)

5 Books of Poetry (Job-Song)

5 Major Prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)

12 Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)

New Testament has 4 Sections:

4 Biographies (Matthew-John)

1 Book of History (Acts of Apostles)

21 Epistles (Romans-Jude)

1 Book of Prophecy (Revelation)

Other Facts:

Longest Book Psalms (150 chapters)

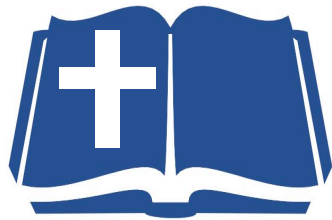
Shortest Book 3 John

Longest Chapter Psalm 119 (176 vs)

Shortest Chapter Psalm 117 (2 verses)

Shortest Verse John 11:35

THURSDAY - WEEK 4



Daily Bible Reading

MATTHEW CHAPTER 18

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

The Greatest? (Matthew 18)

The apostles of Jesus Christ accomplished amazing things in His service. Before His ascension, He said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). They followed this blueprint, taking the gospel from Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the earth. Secular history suggests that each one, with the exception of John, suffered a violent death in service to the Lord. But they had much to learn about greatness in the kingdom.

Someone once asked George Bernard Shaw in which age he would most have enjoyed living. The witty Irishman flashed, "The age of Napoleon. "Why?" he was asked. "Because," replied Shaw, "then there was only one man who thought he was Napoleon!" The Napoleon problem was present even among the apostles. They too were infected with the "I deserve to be first" virus. (William P. Barker, *As Matthew Saw the Master*, p. 97; quoted in Burton Coffman, *Matthew*, p. 275)

"Who is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" (18:1-4).

This lesson on humility is also found also in Mark 9:33-37 and Luke 9:46-48. Few virtues were emphasized more fully by the Lord. They asked their question about greatness "at the same time," perhaps excited by the events of chapter 17. To answer their question, Jesus called a little child and used him as an object lesson. His first pronouncement was that "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The disciples wondered about their positions of greatness, but Jesus warned that they would not even enter into the kingdom of heaven unless they changed their state of mind. He then gave the source of true greatness—humility. "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Children have commendable qualities: humility, lack of prejudice, teachableness, innocence and trust. Christ's way to greatness is very different from the way of the world.

Solemn Warning (18:5-6)

With the child still present, Jesus stated that "whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" and then warned about the tragedy of offending, or causing to stumble one of these little ones. What worse sin could a man commit than to cause a child (or a babe in Christ) to stumble? Comparatively speaking, Jesus said that the punishment for the most heinous crimes, to be cast into the sea, weighted by a huge stone, is better than to commit this sin. Every Christian has a special responsibility to present a consistently faithful life before all others, especially children and babes in Christ.

— Bob Prichard

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ **FREE PTP365** – A library of audio and video lessons presented at the *Polishing The Pulpit* conference. Now free for a limited time. Free365.polishingthepulpit.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ **The Light Network** – Encourage your soul. Enlighten your mind. Empower your faith.
- ➔ **Lightgrams** – Tim Hall offers biblical encouragement for Christian living.

SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ **Mychurchofchristradio.com** – An internet radio station featuring a *cappella* songs
"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"
(Ephesians 5:19)

ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

- "Matthew 18:26 – An Unpayable Debt" by Wayne Jackson**
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1106-matthew-18-26-an-unpayable-debt>
- "Merciless Steward" by Bill Smith** http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198704_04.pdf
- "The Unforgiving Servant" by Coy Roper**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198808_10.pdf
- "The Real Meaning of Matthew 18:20" by Ben Giselbach**
<https://plainsimplefaith.com/discipline/>

FRIDAY - WEEK 4



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 19

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

“God’s Plan for Marriage” (Matthew 19:1-8)

How to Handle Difficult Issues:

The Pharisees came to Jesus to test Him and to entrap Him. They came to Him with the “hot topic” of the day. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” Divorce was not uncommon in Jesus’ day (e.g. King Herod, Matthew 14:3-5). Religious leaders were divided over the proper grounds for divorce. One school of thought centered around Rabbi Hillel, who taught that a man could divorce for just about any reason, while another, Rabbi Shammai, taught that God only permitted divorce in the case of fornication. They were asking Jesus to choose sides in this debate.

Jesus did not ignore this difficult question. He simply them to the Word of God for the answer. “He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read...’” (v. 4). Jesus did not place stock in the opinions of the religious leaders of the day. He was only concerned with what was pleasing to His Father in Heaven. He looked to the authoritative Word.

God's Plan from the Beginning:

In answer to their question Jesus took them back to the creation and the institution of marriage (Genesis 1:27; 2:24). In a marriage two become one flesh (Genesis 2:24). It is God who creates this union.

Jesus’ points back to God's original plan for marriage. Divorce was missing from this blueprint. God hates divorce and considers it a treacherous act (Malachi 2:16). Divorce was not (and is not) in God's plan. The Pharisees realized this is what Jesus was saying and smartly replied, “Then why did Moses allow divorce?” (a reference to Deuteronomy 24:1-4). Jesus answered succinctly, “Because of the hardness of your hearts” (v. 8). It is important to note the brevity of Jesus’ answer. He completely bypasses the law of Moses and points back to God's original plan. He simply said, “but from the beginning it was not so”(v. 8). This answer is extremely significant because Jesus did no enter into endless disputes on various points of the law, or to give a commentary on the old law, He upheld God’s original plan for all mankind.

The Father's desire for marriage is one man and one woman for life! There is only one exception to this plan. Jesus said, “...whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery...” (v. 9). For every other case He warns, “what God has joined together, let not man separate” (v. 6).

The marriage bond is sacred and not to be entered into lightly. God created marriage therefore all questions about marriage must be answered by Him. They cannot be determined by popular opinion or human laws. — Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ Searchtv.org – Official site of the “In Search Of The Lord’s Way” television program
- ➔ thegospelofchrist.com – Official site of The Gospel of Christ program. Offering episodes & study aids.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [Today With Jesus](http://TodayWithJesus.com) – Learn from the Life of Jesus with Dan Winkler & Robert Hatfield.
- ➔ [Living Water Archive](http://LivingWaterArchive.com) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from David A. Sargent.

SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ Searchtv.org/music.html – A large database of a *cappella* hymns.
“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19)

ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY’S READING

- ✔ ["Radical Christianity...The Religion Required of the Rich Young Ruler" by Coy Rober](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198808_02.pdf)
- ✔ ["From the Beginning" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_13.pdf)
- ✔ ["Matthew 19:24 – The Rich and Heaven" by Wayne Jackson](https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1091-matthew-19-24-the-rich-and-heaven)
- ✔ ["4 Questions Every Christian Needs to Answer about Money" by Wes McAdams](https://radicallychristian.com/4-questions-every-christian-needs-to-answer-about-money)

SATURDAY - WEEK 4



Daily Bible Reading

MATTHEW CHAPTER 20

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

Parable of the Laborers

God's way of looking at things is radically different from man's way of looking at things. "For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). This difference is highlighted in Jesus' parable of the laborers in the vineyard. How can it be right that those who work only one hour are paid just the same as those who work the full twelve hours in the heat of the day? The situation described is certainly a common, everyday situation, but the actions of the householder are not common, everyday actions. Yet they reveal much about God, not the least that He is gracious to the undeserving. It is significant that this parable is found between Peter's question, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" (Matthew 19:27) and the request by James and John through their mother that they be given seats on Jesus' right and left hand in the kingdom. Learning the ways of Christ, especially as they relate to power, prestige and work are a lifelong learning experience.

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (20:1-16).

This parable of the kingdom of heaven is found only in Matthew's gospel account. No doubt one of its purposes was to improve the attitude of Peter and the other disciples, helping them to understand that with God, "many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first" (Matthew 19:30). A householder had an urgent need for workers, so he went to the *agora*, the marketplace to hire workers, from the beginning of the day (6 a.m.), and every three hours afterward, even adding some workers at the 11th hour. The first workers had a promise of "a penny," a Roman denarius, a silver coin equal to about 15-20 cents, but a normal day's wages, as payment. The other workers, found idle by the householder, agreed to work with his promise, "whatsoever is right I will give you." At the eleventh hour, when workers were still idle, their response was that "no man hath hired us." The "trouble" began when the steward began to pay the laborers, beginning with the last hired. Each received a denarius, no matter how long he had worked. This displeased the workers who had worked the whole day, because they believed they should receive more pay, despite the fact that they were paid what was promised (and all of the workers had families to care for). The householder argued that he had done no wrong, and had paid what was agreed. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" Jesus then adds, "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

There are many possible lessons to be gleaned from the parable. Coffman suggests that God is the householder, the vineyard is the church, the penny payment is the reward of heaven, the first hired are legalists, the last hired are those who rely on God's grace, and the time-sequence is the life-cycle of Christians (*Matthew*, p. 303). Some questions to consider concerning the parable: Does it matter how much service we do in the kingdom of heaven? Can the Christian have the selfish attitude of a twelve hour worker and still receive his reward in the kingdom? What caused some to still be idle at the eleventh hour, despite the householder's numerous attempts to find workers? Did any of the workers earn what they received, or were all the beneficiaries of the householder's grace? — Bob Prichard

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ GBNtv.org – Official site of Gospel Broadcasting Network, offering hundreds of Bible study videos.
- ➔ Elizabethtoncoc.org/biblical-viewpoints – Archive of "Biblical Viewpoints" episodes.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [Today With Jesus](#) – Learn from the Life of Jesus with Dan Winkler & Robert Hatfield.
- ➔ [Living Water Archive](#) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from David A. Sargent.

SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ Kleinwood.com/annual-singing – Over 700 a cappella hymns.

ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

- ["The Last-Hour Steward" by Bill Smith](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198704_05.pdf)
- ["The Resurrection Hope" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_11.pdf)
- ["'Paid' By Grace" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_14.pdf)
- ["Not To Be Served" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_15.pdf)
- ["Who's Going To Be FIRST?" by Mike Benson](https://imikemedia.org/2020/03/17/whos-going-to-be-first/)



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Check Out This Additional Resource:

A Legacy of Faith offers a free Bible study guide for each chapter of Matthew, entitled, “Studying Matthew with Your Children”. *And it’s not just for children. It can be download for free.* It would be a great resource to use along with this guide.

This is a great blog to subscribe to. They daily articles and podcasts about Christian living with an emphasis on the family.



Matthew: Jesus the King

Chapter 1

There are two major parts to Matthew 1:

1. The _____ of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17), and
2. The _____ of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25).

QUESTIONS FROM THE CHAPTER

1. In Matthew 1:1, Jesus Christ is called the Son of _____, and the Son of _____

EXAMPLE

5. Who told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary? (1:20) _____
6. What does “Immanuel” mean? (1:23) _____

THINGS TO DISCUSS

1. What does the word “genealogy” mean?
2. Why did God give us this long family tree of Jesus?
3. What does “betrothed” mean?
4. What good things can we learn from Joseph in this chapter?

OTHER NOTABLE LINKS

- [Biblecourses.com](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/)
- [Preachinghelp.org](http://preachinghelp.org)
- [House to House/Heart to Heart](http://www.housetohouse.com)
- [Mathetis.org](http://www.mathetis.org)
- [Focus Press](http://www.focuspress.org)
- [Digital Bible Study](http://www.facebook.com/digitalbiblestudy1)
- [The Christian Courier](http://www.christiancourier.com)
- [Karns Church of Christ](https://karnscoc.org)
- [Bear Valley Church of Christ](http://www.bearvalleycofc.com)
- [West Huntsville Church of Christ](https://westhuntsville.org)
- [The Average Christian Podcast with Zack Krug](http://www.averagechristianpodcast.com)