

# THE MESSAGE ON

# MAIN ST

A Weekly Resource to Help You Draw Near to God

## WEEK 3 - STUDY GUIDE



### SOCIAL DISTANCING, SPIRITUAL NEARNESS

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

## The Best Translation

Three preachers were discussing their favorite translations of the Bible. The first said, “I like the King James Version because of its beautiful English.” Another said, “I like the New American Standard Bible because it's closer to the original Hebrew and Greek.” The third one said, “I like my mother's translation the best.”

The other men were surprised. They said, “We didn't know that your mother made a translation of the Bible.” “Yes,” he replied. “She translated it into everyday life. And it was the most beautiful and convincing translation I ever saw.”

The wise man has said, “Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30). We need more walking Bibles in the home, in the workplace, and in the community.

Paul said, “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” (2 Cor 3:2-3). Therefore, let us follow the command of the Lord and let our “lights shine” so that men may read the story of our lives and glorify the great God whom we serve! (Mt 5:14)

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## 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](http://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](http://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 3



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 11

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 Great Invitation” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Some of the most beautiful words ever spoken are found in this text. Jesus lovingly calls to all who will listen:

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:18-30)

This passage has been called “the Great Invitation”.

**It is great because of the One who offered it.** To Him “all things” have been delivered (Matthew 11:27, Cf 28:18). He is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) who offers comfort and rest to all who will come. His invitation can be trusted because He is faithful (Hebrews 10:23).

**It is great because it is offered to all.** Jesus speaks to the weary and the burdened. He speaks to those who have problems. Job said, “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). Since all have problems, Jesus is speaking to each one of us!

**It is great because of what it offers.** Jesus invites us to rest. He told His disciples, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). He invites everyone to find peace. Peter says cast “all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

**It is great because of the challenge it offers.** Jesus not only says “Come to Me”, He also says “learn of Me.” To be a “disciple” is to be a learner, a pupil, or student of Jesus. Disciples are called to learn of Him and be transformed into His likeness (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:1).

An author wrote of a successful Christian revival in Rwanda that took place some years back. In describing the things that contributed to its success, he claimed, “Christians were known for asking one another, ‘What have you learned about Jesus today?’” What an outstanding reminder: The pursuit of the knowledge of Christ is essential to spiritual growth (2 Peter 1:3).

**It is great because the offer has not expired.** He continues to offer this invitation. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). Will you accept His invitation?

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [Video.WVBS.org](http://Video.WVBS.org) – Free, professionally-produced, lessons on various topics.
- ➔ [Worldbibleschool.org](http://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](http://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

- ✔ [“Matthew 11:3 – John Has Doubts” by Wayne Jackson](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/594-matthew-11-3-john-has-doubts)  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/594-matthew-11-3-john-has-doubts>
- ✔ [“The Rejection of the Messiah” by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_10.pdf)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199007\\_10.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_10.pdf)

**True Comfort (Matthew 11:25-30)**  
Comfort is not the absence of problems in life but the presence of Christ.

# TUESDAY - WEEK 3



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 12

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

### Healing a Demon Possessed Man who was Blind and Dumb (12:22-30).

Casting out a demon, Jesus healed a man who was both blind and dumb (mute). The amazed people said, "Is not this the son of David?" which irked the Pharisees even more. Their only explanation was that Jesus was in league with the devil, a sorcerer. Jesus showed their inconsistency: Why would Satan work against himself? And if He was casting out demons by Satan's power, how did the Pharisees cast out demons? Since He was casting out demons by the Spirit of God, they should recognize that the kingdom of God was upon them. Jesus fought in Satan's domain, and had won. It was time for men to choose whether they would be on His side or not. Fence straddling would not work.

**Speaking Against the Holy Spirit (12:31-32).** Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was the sin demonstrated by the Pharisees. They were so determined to reject Jesus and His teachings that no matter what Jesus said or did, they had a faithless alternate. Their hearts were hardening to the point that they would never repent, and would never honestly approach the evidence.

**Good and Evil Hearts (12:33-37).** The Pharisees appeared to be the most religious of all people, but their corrupt hearts were revealed by their words and actions. No matter what they claimed, the true nature of their hearts was revealed. All words are important. They reveal our character more than we realize, and one day all will give account for what they have said—and for what they should have said but did not. It is especially important that we realize we will be judged according to the judgment revealed in our words. "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matthew 7:1-2).

**The Sign of Jonah (12:38-42).** Despite the many miracles Jesus performed, one of the scribes and Pharisees asked for another sign. Only the sign of Jonah (the only prophet Jesus compared Himself to), three days in the fish's belly would be given, a reference to His death and resurrection. The Ninevites did not see Jonah's resurrection, but believed and obeyed his teaching. The queen of Sheba responded to Solomon's wisdom. These Gentiles were blessed by responding to truth, but condemnation came to this generation for rejecting the truth.

**Swept and Empty (12:43-45).** Because of the hardness of their hearts, "this generation" was going to be worse off than before. Jesus was casting out demons, but His enemies were demonizing Him, and causing harm to the people. They left the house empty in which only God should reign. — Bob Prichard

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [GNTtv.org](http://GNTtv.org) – Official site of the "Good News Today" television program.
- ➔ [Apologeticspress.org](http://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](http://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

- ✓ ["Sabbath Controversies" by Tommy South](#)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199007\\_11.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_11.pdf)
- ✓ ["Going Too Far" by Tommy South](#)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199007\\_12.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_12.pdf)
- ✓ ["Those Careless Words" by Adam Faughn](#)  
<http://faughnfamily.com/those-careless-words/>
- ✓ ["The Use of the Preposition "Eis" in Matthew 12:41" by Wayne Jackson](#)  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1152-use-of-the-preposition-eis-in-matthew-12-41-the>



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"***
- Meditate on the verses throughout your day (in the car, on lunch break, etc)

[www.mainstcoc.com](http://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 3



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 13

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

### What Are You Planting? (Matthew 13:1-9,18-23)

It is that time of year. All around vegetable gardens and flower beds are appearing. It is the time for planting.

**Be Careful What You Plant.** Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.” (c.f. Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:34, Luke 8:11-15). In the parable of the Sower the seed that was planted is the God’s Word (Matthew 13:19; Lk 8:11). It is the very best seed. It is “incorruptible” (1 Peter 1:22-23). It is able to “save your souls” (James 1:21). For every seed produces after its own kind (Genesis 1:11) and only the word of God carries the germ of life that once planted can produce true faith (Romans 10:17, 1:16). It is not about whether you have a “green thumb” or not. It is about putting the right seed in the right place.

**Some Gardens Require Plowing.** The one difference between the good soil and bad is whether or not the soil was ready to receive the seed. In the parable, the types of soil in the story refer to the types of hearts among men. Some people are like wayside soil. Their hearts are hard and the Word doesn’t even have a chance. God used this imagery when He pleaded with Israel to break up their “fallow ground” or unplowed fields (Jeremiah 4:3, Hosea 10:12). He was rebuking their hard rebellious attitudes. Such soil needs to be cultivated, broken up so that the seed can take root. We must open ourselves to the message of God.

**Some Gardens Require Plucking.** Some people are like rocky soil. Their faith has not achieved any depth because certain things are obstructing proper growth. Such things must be plucked out or during the storms of life they will lead to ruin.

**Some Gardens Require Pulling.** Some people are like thorny soil. They allow the cares of world to choke out their faith. A spiritual weed isn’t necessarily something sinful and harmful. It can be anything that displaces our priorities, intrudes on our service, or stands in the way of our obedience, like the “cares, riches, and pleasures of life” (v. 22, cf. Luke 8:14). Deep roots can be hard to remove. Sometimes help is needed to pull up an overcrowded garden. We must not let pride hinder us from seeking the help of a brother or a sister in Christ (c.f. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Galatians 6:1-3).

**Some Gardens Are Prepared.** Good soil (aka a good heart) is ready to receive the Word. Matthew 13:23 explained this “is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces”. In prepared soil roots can run deep and growth is unimpeded.

Planting is not just a springtime pursuit. The garden of the human heart must be tended everyday. How is your garden?

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## 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](http://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 13:8 – Seed Sown in “Good Ground” by Wayne Jackson**  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/642-matthew-13-8-seed-sown-in-good-ground>
- ✔ **“The Parable of the Sower” by Tommy South**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199009\\_01.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_01.pdf)
- ✔ **“Parable of the Mustard Seed” by Tommy South**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199009\\_02.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_02.pdf)
- ✔ **“Parables of True Values” by Tommy South**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199009\\_03.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_03.pdf)

# FRIDAY - WEEK 3



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 14

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

### *Get Out of the Boat (Matthew 14:22-33)*

After spending most of the night alone in prayer Jesus walked out to His disciples on water. When this miraculous walk took place it was in the fourth watch of the night (or around 3:00 AM). Three times in this text Matthew uses the word “immediately”. Let us consider each case.

**“Immediately” (14:22)** — Matthew utilizes this word in reference to when the disciples set sail. They left immediately after one of the greatest miracles Jesus had ever performed (the feeding of the 5000, Matthew 14:13-21). This miracle is the only miracle to be recorded by all four of the Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John). It is a testament to Jesus’ Deity (John 20:30-31). It reveals that God can take what little we have to give and multiply it for His glory. It is likely that Jesus’ motivation for sending them away was due to the crowd. John reveals that “Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king” (John 6:15).

**“Immediately” (14:27).** This time the word is used in reference to how quickly Jesus responds to calm their fear. The disciples were afraid because they saw something they did not understand. Jesus immediately spoke to them saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” The unknown can be scary but Jesus calms our anxiety by speaking truth & knowledge through His word to free us from fear (Jn 8:32).

**“Immediately” (14:31).** The word is used in reference to how quickly Jesus responded to Peter’s need. Peter showed the courage to do what they others dared not. He got out of the boat! Peter, however, illustrates the disciples’ dilemma: He wanted to fully place his trust in the Lord but he still had trouble fully committing. He jumped out of the boat in faith but his success was short lived. He soon allowed the wind and the waves to distract him. He began to sink. Jesus intervened. He did not let Peter drown and neither will He let us be overcome if we seek to walk with Him. Notice Jesus’ immediate response, “O You of Little Faith”. Peter was sinking because he took his eyes off of Jesus. As we go through life there will be storms and rough water. However, as long as we keep our eyes upon Jesus and put our trust in Him we will be okay (Hebrews 12:1-2). Some view this account as a failure but it was merely another step in the development of the disciples’ faith. This scene concludes with the them worshipping Him and acknowledging, “Truly You are the Son of God.” Just a few chapters later Peter expressed this confession with even more conviction (Matthew 16:16-18). Indeed, failure does not have to mean defeat as long as we do not give up and we learn from our mistakes. — Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

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

## 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

- ➔ [Searchtv.org/music.html](http://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

- ✔ ["Alone With God or Alone Without God" by David Sproule](#)  
<http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/alone-with-god-or-alone-without-god/>
- ✔ ["Jesus and the Storms of Life" by Tommy South](#)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199009\\_04.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_04.pdf)

# SATURDAY - WEEK 3



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 15

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

### “Why do thy Disciples Transgress the Tradition?” (15:1-9).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:3-5). The scribes and Pharisees were professional “mote hunters,” and confronted Jesus over what seems a trivial matter, “Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.” But the scribes and Pharisees were dead serious, and considered the traditions to be even more binding than the word of God. The reference here is not to hands that were actually in need of washing, but to ceremonial cleansing.

The Scribes and Pharisees came from Jerusalem, about a hundred miles away, perhaps as an official delegation from the Sanhedrin, to question Jesus. Their seemingly trivial complaint was that the disciples did not follow the traditional hand washing ceremony prescribed by the elders. “For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash *their* hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And *when they come* from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables” (Mark 7:3-4). Jesus took the discussion to a deeper spiritual level, asking the scribes and Pharisees why they transgressed the commandment of God with their tradition. He reminded them that God (not Moses) said, “Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.” Yet the Pharisees had made the care of their parents a secondary duty by the device of Corban. “But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is* Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free*” (Mark 7:11). By this they could declare that the money that should have gone to support their parents was instead dedicated to God, so they were not obligated to carry out the divine command. Jesus then quoted Isaiah 29:13 as a prophecy of their vain and empty worship, teaching the commandments of men instead of teaching the word of God.

**Blind Leaders of the Blind (15:10-14).** Jesus shocked and offended the Pharisees by pointing out that it was not the outward ritual but the inward heart of a man that made him clean or unclean in God’s eyes. When the disciples reported that the Pharisees were offended, Jesus said that these blind leaders of the blind would fall into the ditch. They were not the plant that the Father had planted, so they would be rooted up. — Bob Prichard

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [GBNtv.org](http://GBNtv.org) – Official site of Gospel Broadcasting Network, offering hundreds of Bible study videos.
- ➔ [Elizabethtoncoc.org/biblical-viewpoints](http://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](http://Kleinwood.com/annual-singing) – Over 700 a cappella hymns.

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY’S READING

- ✔ [“Stop Saying “God Knows My Heart” to Excuse Sin ” by Wes McAdams](#)  
<https://radicallychristian.com/stop-saying-god-knows-my-heart-to-excuse-sin>
- ✔ ["Lord, please help me!" by David Sproule](#)  
<http://www.pbccoc.org/thought-for-the-day/lord-please-help-me/>
- ✔ ["The Dangers of Religion" by Tommy South](#)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199009\\_05.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_05.pdf)
- ✔ ["The Canaanite Woman: A Conflict between Matthew and Mark?" by Wayne Jackson](#)  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/468-canaanite-woman-a-conflict-between-matthew-and-mark-the>



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 Pikeville, Kentucky 41502

### 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

- House to House/Heart to Heart**  
housetohouse.com
- Focus Press**  
www.focuspress.org
- The Christian Courier**  
https://www.christiancourier.com
- Biblecourses.com**  
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- West Huntsville Church of Christ**  
https://westhuntsville.org
- The Average Christian Podcast**  
with Zack Krug