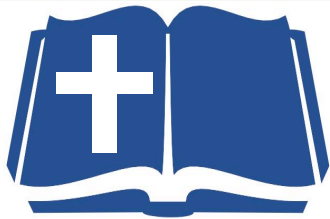


THE MESSAGE ON

MAIN ST

A Weekly Resource to Help You Draw Near to God

WEEK 5 - STUDY GUIDE



SOCIAL DISTANCING, SPIRITUAL NEARNESS

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

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses

“And they all with one consent began to make excuse” (Luke 14:18)

We use them all the time, but excuses are just attempts to justify our failure to take responsibility. Too often we make excuses as to why we can't serve Christ. Here is God's response to some of our most common excuses:

- ➔ **“I haven't got time”** - “Seek ye first the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33).
- ➔ **“Someone else will do it”** - “Here I am send me” (Isa. 6:8).
- ➔ **“It can't be done”** - “With God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27).
- ➔ **“I'm just too tired”** - “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isa. 40:31).
- ➔ **“I know I ought to but...”** - “To him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is a sin” (James 4:17).
- ➔ **“I'll do it some other time”** - “Now is the acceptable time” (2 Cor.. 6:2).
- ➔ **“But I don't like to do that”** - “For even Christ pleased not himself” (Rom. 15:3).
- ➔ **“Let them help themselves”** - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal.6:2).
- ➔ **“I can't”** - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13).

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

CAN YOU GIVE GOD A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR DAY?

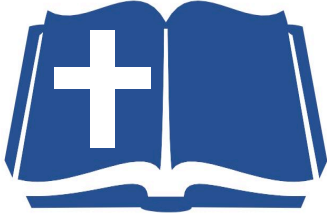
ABOUT THE PLAN

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. 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 5



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 21

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 Lord Has Need of It (Matthew 21:1-11)

By Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (v. 9). These words were shouted by the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem on the final week before His execution. It was a greeting of great honor. A greeting meant for a King.

People lined the street to greet Him. They threw down palm leaves and their garments before Him, symbolic of their respect and expectation (vs. 7-8, Mark 11:8). The air rang aloud with the cry of, “Hosanna,” which is translated “save us now” (11:9), a prayer that had become a word of joy and welcome.

The King had arrived! Yet notice “how” He came. He was not riding in a chariot of gold, or on an Arabian stallion, but rather on the colt of a donkey. By worldly standards this was an ill-fitting vehicle for the King of kings yet it was a sign pointing to the Messiah. His actions fulfilled a prophecy (v. 5). A prophecy, which was given hundreds of years earlier by the prophet Zechariah, who said, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; he is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9).

The colt was one “on which no one has sat” (Mark 11:2). Jesus did not come riding on a run-down old nag. Like all animals used in sacred and holy events, it was unblemished or ceremonially clean (1 Samuel 6:7). It was an animal that had been set apart for His use. When the Prince of Peace requires something of us, we are not to give him our left overs (Malachi 1:8), nor that which costs us nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). God deserves the Christian's "first-fruits," (Cf. Deuteronomy 18:4; Ex. 34:26; 2 Chronicles 31:5).

The use of this colt reminds one of the simple truth that God employs the lowly. Even though we are all sinners (Romans 3:23) the Lord is in need of us in His Kingdom, the Church. We may not see much in ourselves, but the Lord sees individuals who can shine for Him as lights (Matthew 5:14-16), build up His Kingdom (Mark 16:16), and use their talents for His glory (Matthew 25:14-27). When the owners of this colt heard the request of the Lord, they complied. The question is will we?

The Lord has need of our time, our talents, our attention, our adoration, our sacrifice, our service, our faith, and even our fortune. Will we freely give Him what He desires? Will we honor Him as King in our lives? Will our lips continue to utter that prayer of joy, welcome, and salvation: “Hosanna!” — 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.

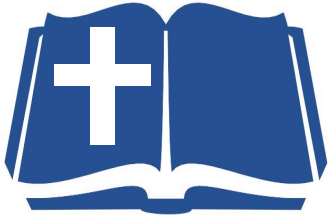
SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ 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

- ☑ **“Loneliness” by Leon Barnes**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198607_17.pdf
- ☑ **“Jesus in Jerusalem” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199009_16.pdf

TUESDAY - WEEK 5



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 22

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 Command (Matthew 22:34-40)

In this chapter Jesus proved that He has all the answers. In response to a question from a lawyer, He spoke of the greatest command.

It is called the first and greatest commandment because it deals with the first and greatest relationship, Man's relationship with God. God is to be first in our lives. Our love for Him is not to equal our love for any other. He deserves to be first because He is our Creator, Sustainer, and Savior.

It is called the first and greatest commandment because it deals with the greatest virtue, Love. Love is often given preference in scripture:

- ➔ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 – *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away...And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*
- ➔ Galatians 5:22-23 – *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*
- ➔ Colossians 3:14 – *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

In His answer Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4-6. The phrase “love the Lord your God” appears 9 times in Deuteronomy. It is without question the central responsibility of God’s people. It is not enough to say “I love you” (1 John 3:18). Love requires action not lip service. We reveal our love by our obedience. “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

The second commandment is also called great because it is linked to the first. To love God is to love what He loves. “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” (1 John 4:20-21)

— 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

- ✓ [“Taking the Kingdom Lightly” by Tommy South](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_01.pdf
- ✓ [“Which Is The Great Commandment” by Tommy South](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_02.pdf
- ✓ [“Love Isn't the Only Thing That Matters, But It Matters Most” by Wes McAdams](#)
<https://radicallychristian.com/love-isnt-the-only-thing-that-matters-but-it-matters-most>



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 5



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 23

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

After the series of questions to Jesus, and from Jesus in Matthew 22, Jesus had silenced all of His critics—the Herodians, Sadducees and Pharisees. “And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*” (Matthew 22:46). Jesus followed the exchanges of chapter 22 with some of His harshest criticism of the Pharisees. Jesus pronounced seven “woes,” statements of grief or denunciation, on the Pharisees. The first three woes deal with the teaching of the Pharisees, the second three deal with their lives, and the last woe is directed to Pharisees and the nation as a whole. The chapter closes with the Lord’s lament over Jerusalem.

The Pharisees. These were the religious purists—a party which grew from the second century ‘Hasidim’ (God’s loyal ones) and concentrated on control of religious, rather than political affairs. Their supreme concern and delight was to keep the law (including, of course, the traditions) in every exact detail. (Most scribes belonged to the Pharisee party). Judged by this standard, they were model Jews (Philippians 3:5-6). To this end, they kept themselves apart from other men. They could not eat with a non-Pharisee in case the food had not been tithed (i.e. one tenth given to God).

Inevitably, perhaps, this policy of separation led to disdain for all lesser mortals, a ‘holier-than-thou’ attitude which has made their name a term of reproach today. This arrogance, combined with a dry legalism which put exact ritual observance before love and mercy led them into conflict with Jesus. He did not dispute their orthodoxy, but the proud and unloving way in which they upheld it. The influence of the Pharisees was way out of proportion to their numbers, which were seldom large. It was the Pharisees who laid down the lines along which Judaism developed after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. They ensured a continued emphasis on individual piety and strict ethical standards, as well as their better-known rigid legalism. They were respected, if not loved, by other Jews (Richard France, “The Religious Background of the New Testament,” *Eerdmans’ Concise Bible Handbook*, p. 275-76).

“They Say and Do Not” (23:1-12).

The scribes and Pharisees sat in Moses’ seat, custodians to teach the Law of Moses to the people. They spoke with authority, but their actions did not match their words. They were to be followed when they taught the word of God in truth, but not when they made void God’s word by teaching for law the traditions of the elders (Matthew 15:1-6). They bound heavy burdens on others but found loopholes for themselves. Their works were done to be seen of men, not to please God. They proudly wore phylacteries, (leather boxes containing scripture) on the forehead and left arm, a practice derived from a literal reading of Exodus 13:16; Deuteronomy 6:8, 11:18, probably better understood figuratively. They also enlarged the fringe of their garments and sought places of honor at feasts and in the synagogues. They loved salutations of honor such as Rabbi, father and master, indications of their pride. Titles that elevate one servant over another in Christ’s service are wrong.

Lack of humility is at the bottom of practically all the trouble that ever came into the church. Proud, arrogant men, striving against each other for some type of advantage, stand squarely in the center of every division that ever occurred among the followers of Christ. Through pride Satan fell; through pride, he holds countless souls in captivity to do the will of the devil! (Burton Coffman, *Matthew*, p. 366).

— 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

- ✔ **“Why You Probably Need to Stop Calling People Pharisees” by Wes McAdams**
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1106-matthew-18-26-an-unpayable-debt>
- ✔ **“The Weightier Matters Of the Law” by W.W. Heflin**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198901_14.pdf

FRIDAY - WEEK 5



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 24

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 Controversy of Matthew 24-25”

In what is known as the Olivet discourse (Matthew 24-25) Jesus discusses the destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming. Some have distorted this passage and caused much confusion. This confusion can be avoided if we let the passage interpret itself. These chapters present a clear division in thought.

This division corresponds to the questions asked by the disciples at the start. After Jesus made a statement about the destruction of temple (vs. 1-2), the disciples say, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (v. 3). It seems the disciples had equated the destruction of temple with the end of the world. Jesus addresses these topics in order and clears up their misunderstanding.

The first section, Matthew 24:4-35, refers to the events surrounding the destruction of the Temple when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. The following section, Matthew 24:36-25:46, deals with things in regard to end of the world at the Lord’s Second Coming.

The division can be seen by comparing the message of these sections:

- The first section discusses the events of “these days” (24:33-35) but the second section, beginning in 24:36, deals with events of “that Day”.
- The first section deals with the localized events of Judea in A.D. 70. While the second section deals with second coming of the Lord which will be universal and will be experienced by all nations (25:32).
- In the first section the disciples are told to flee the coming destruction of Jerusalem (24:16). No one can flee from the Day of Judgment (25:32ff).
- The coming of the Lord discussed in the first section would not be a literal coming. In AD 70 He visited judgment upon Jerusalem (24:4-5, 23-26). This type of figurative language is the same cosmic imagery employed by God when He spoke of passing judgment upon various nations (Cf. Isaiah 13:5-6, 10, 13). However, in the final Judgment the Lord will come in His glory and be visible to all. The Bible is clear on this (Matthew 25:6,10,13,19, 31-32; 24:38-41, 46-51; Acts 1:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- In the first section describing A.D. 70 the world continued (24:16-21) but in the second section describing the Judgment, time will end and mankind will enter the eternal state (25:34,41,46).
- In the first section persecution followed the destruction of Jerusalem (24:21), but after the second coming there will be rest for God’s people (25:34, 46).
- In the first section Jesus revealed signs to warn the disciples of Jerusalem’s coming destruction so they would know when to flee (24:15-16), however no signs are given to warn of the Second Coming of the Lord (24:36ff).

Those who object to a division in these chapters appeal to the figurative language of Matthew 24:29-31. These verse seem to be speaking of the Second Coming of Christ however their context shows otherwise. The following verses immediately clarify when these things would take place. Jesus says, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place” (24:34). According to Jesus, the events of verses 29-33 took place in the first century. There is a distinction in the text beginning in Mt. 24:36.

— 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

- ✓ ["A Study of Matthew 24" by Wayne Jackson](https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/19-study-of-matthew-24-a)
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/19-study-of-matthew-24-a>
- ✓ ["What We Can Know About Matthew 24" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_03.pdf)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_03.pdf
- ✓ ["How To Be Ready When Jesus Comes" by Tommy South](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_04.pdf)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_04.pdf
- ✓ ["Matthew 24 – A child can understand it!" by David Sproule](http://www.pblcoc.org/thought-for-the-day/matthew-24-a-child-can-understand-it/)
<http://www.pblcoc.org/thought-for-the-day/matthew-24-a-child-can-understand-it/>

SATURDAY - WEEK 5



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 25

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

His Coming Is Certain (Matthew 25:1 ff)

In 2002 Harold Camping, a self-proclaimed expert on the end of the World, announced that by applying his number system to various Bible passages, he had been able to calculate the exact date for the end of the world. He was absolutely certain that the world would end on May 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM. He and his followers spent millions of dollars warning the world through various advertisements. But May 21, 2011 came and went, as have all other days when men have predicted the end would come.

These men have proven themselves to be false prophets (Deuteronomy 18:22). They could have saved themselves from embarrassment if they had only listened when Jesus told His disciples, **“of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”** (Mt. 24:36).

It has been observed that in the 260 chapters of the New Testament there are 318 references to the second coming of Christ. That works out to be 1 out of every 30 verses in the New Testament makes reference to it. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Jesus’ first coming there are 8 which point to His second!

Jesus was certain of this event. While comforting His disciple He said, “...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.” (John 14:3)

Paul was certain. He spoke to the Thessalonians saying,

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thess. 4:14-18).

Angels declared it to be certain. “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

John was certain that He is coming. “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.” (Revelation 1:7)

The Bible concludes with these words of certainty, “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20)

He is coming. That is certain. The question remains, will you be prepared? — Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

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

- ✔ [“Matthew 25:41 – “Jehovah’s Witnesses” and Hell” by Wayne Jackson](#)
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/410-matthew-25-41-jehovahs-witnesses-and-hell>
- ✔ [“Why Don’t People Believe in Hell?” by Jeremiah Tatum](#)
<http://faughnfamily.com/why-dont-people-believe-in-hell/>
- ✔ [“The Judgment” by Tommy South](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199101_05.pdf
- ✔ [“The Steward Who Came Up Short” by Bill Smith](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198704_06.pdf
- ✔ [“Seven Laws of Stewardship” by Bill Smith](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198704_07.pdf



MAIN STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAYS JOIN US ONLINE
FOR WORSHIP AT 11AM & 6PM AT MAINSTCOC.ORG

MAIN ST. LINKS

- Home Page – MAINSTCOC.ORG**
- STUDY GUIDE - Home Page**
- Facebook Page**
- Live Stream Channel**
- CONTACT US**

Main Street Church of Christ
 198 Main St. (PO 2747)
 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**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/
- Mathetis.org**
https://www.mathetis.org
- Digital Bible Study**
www.facebook.com/digitalbiblestudy1
- Karns Church of Christ**
https://karnscoc.org
- Preachinghelp.org**
http://preachinghelp.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