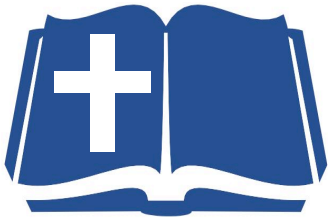


THE MESSAGE ON

MAIN ST

A Weekly Resource to Help You Draw Near to God

WEEK 2 - STUDY GUIDE



SOCIAL DISTANCING, SPIRITUAL NEARNESS

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

[Click here to learn more about this study](#)

ARE YOU IN SHAPE?

By Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

I have always been a big fan of collegiate sports. I admire the preparation and dedication of each player to be able to compete at this high level. These players do not just show up one day and decide to play a game. They train for this opportunity all year long.

This is an example for Christians to embrace. Our prize is not won without dedication and daily effort. While we may not be running up and down a court or on a field, the Bible does liken the Christian life to a race. Paul said, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it” (1 Corinthians 9:24). “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”. (Hebrews 12:1)

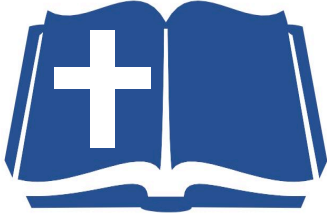
An NCAA championship is not won by those who are out of shape and unprepared. Neither will Christians attain the prize by being spiritually weak. This is why Paul instructed Timothy to exercise himself unto godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). [Not that it is by our own works or strength that we get to Heaven but we must maintain our relationship with God.]

Let me suggest the following daily exercise regimen. These exercises will increase your strength and endurance and are great for your heart (Cf. Proverbs 23:7, 4:23):

- ▶ **Walk Every Day** - “Walk worthy of the calling which you were called” (Eph. 4:1). “Walk in love” (Eph. 5:1, Rom. 6:4). “walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). “Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).
- ▶ **Upward Presses** - “I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me...press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12,14).
- ▶ **Knee Bends** - “Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). “Men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). “...I bow my knees to the Father...” (Ephesians 3:14)
- ▶ **Do A Variety of Lifts** – “And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up” (Acts 3:7). “Bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). “Lifting up holy hands” (1 Tim. 2:8). “Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35).
- ▶ **Incline Exercises** – “...incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel” (Joshua 24:23). “I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever” (Psalm 119:112).
- ▶ **Healthy Diet** – “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4; Acts 17:11).
- ▶ **Proper Hydration** – “...whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst...” (John 4:14).
- ▶ **Meditation** – On His Word (Ps. 119:148), “on all His Work” (Ps. 77:12), on good things (Philippians 4:8), “day & night” (Ps. 1:2).

Remember “bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

MONDAY - WEEK 2



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 6

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

Jesus Prayed. Do You? (Matthew 6:5-15)

Jesus is the pattern we strive to imitate in life (1 Corinthians 11:1). He is the Shepherd in whose footsteps we follow (1 Peter 2:21,25). He possesses countless attributes which are worthy of emulation, however today we focus on the fact that Jesus was a prayerful person. He not only gave us the model prayer, He gave us an example of prayerfulness.

A survey of Jesus' life reveals:

- ▶ He prayed alone before He His day began (Mark 1:35)
- ▶ He prayed alone in the afternoon (Mt. 14:23; Luke 9:18, 5:16)
- ▶ He prayed with His disciples in the afternoon (Luke 9:28-29)
- ▶ He prayed alone at night & even all night (Luke 6:12)
- ▶ He prayed in public (Mt. 11:25-27; John 11:41-42, 12:27-28)
- ▶ He prayed before important decisions (Luke 6:12-13)
- ▶ He prayed at important events (i.e. after His baptism, Lk. 3:21-22)
- ▶ He prayed in moments of deep agony (Lk 22:42; Matthew 27:46)
- ▶ He prayed before meals (Mk. 8:6; Mt. 26:26; Luke 24:30)
- ▶ He prayed to teach others (Matthew 6:9-13)
- ▶ He prayed for others (Luke 22:31-32)
- ▶ He prayed for His disciples (John 17:6-19)
- ▶ He prayed for His future disciples (John 17:20-26)
- ▶ He prayed for children (Matthew 19:13-15)
- ▶ He prayed for His enemies (Luke 23:34)
- ▶ He prayed to heal (Mark 7:34-35)
- ▶ He prayed with thanksgiving (John 11:41-42; Luke 10:21-22)
- ▶ He prayed with loud cries and tears (Hebrews 5:7)
- ▶ He prayed the same prayer multiple times (Matthew 26:39,42,44)
- ▶ He prayed short prayers (John 12:27-28)
- ▶ He prayed long prayers (John 17:1-26; Lk 6:12)
- ▶ He prayed kneeling (Lk 22:41)
- ▶ He prayed standing (John 17:1)
- ▶ He prayed laying prostrate with His face in the ground (Mt. 26:39)
- ▶ He prayed according to the Father's will (Mt. 26:36-44)
- ▶ He prayed with His dying breath (Luke 23:46)
- ▶ He prayed before He ascended back to Heaven (Luke 24:50-53)

A look into the prayer life of Jesus helps one understand the command "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He was continually prayerful. He placed priority on prayer. What an amazing and challenging example to follow. Jesus prayed. Do you?

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

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

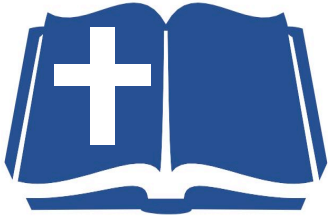
SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ [Searchtv.org/music.html](https://www.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

- ✔ **"3 Ways to Make Your Prayer Life More Biblical"** by Wes McAdams
<https://radicallychristian.com/3-ways-to-make-your-prayer-life-more-biblical>
- ✔ **"Seek First His Kingdom"** by John L. Kachelman, Jr.
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199406_16.pdf
- ✔ **"Why Did Jesus Repeat Himself?"** by Mike Benson
<https://imikemedia.org/2020/03/19/when-can-you-trust-jesus/>
- ✔ **"Worrywarts, Could You Spare a Moment?"** By David Sproule
<http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/worrywarts-could-you-spare-a-moment/>

TUESDAY - WEEK 2



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 7

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

“Building on the Rock” (Matthew 7:24-29)

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with a powerful parable. This parable is often taught to children through song but it is not just a message for kids:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (vs. 24-28).

Obedience isn't popular but Jesus reveals it is paramount. The foolish “build their houses on sand” by acting as they see fit rather than obeying God. This is no way to build a life! Living this way assures destruction. Solomon said, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12).

It is foolish to be hearers only because obedience leads to a living faith and a blessed life. Jesus says, “blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28). James echoed the Lord’s admonition when he said, “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith with out works is dead” (James 1:22, 2:20). There is no substitute for obedience.

Again and again Jesus pointed people to His words. He wants men to listen and obey because:

- His Word is essential to life (John 6:33). It is through the Word of God that faith is produced (Romans 10:17, Cf. John 8:47).
- His Word is essential to discipleship. A true disciple of Christ seeks to abide in His Word (John 8:33, 15:7)
- His Word is essential to our preparation for Judgment. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35). To reject His Word is to reject that which judges us on the Day of Judgment (John 12:48).
- His Word is essential to faithful living. Obedience is the correct course for those who say they love God (John 14:24, 14:15)

Let His words be cherished in our hearts, be the light of our eyes (Psalm 119:105), and the sound on our tongues. Let us never be ashamed of Jesus, or His Words, or He will be ashamed of us when He comes (Luke 9:26, Cf. Matthew 10:32-33). As the old song teaches, “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way...”

— 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

- ✓ [“Matthew 7:1 Re-Examined” by Wes McAdams](#)
<https://radicallychristian.com/matthew-71-re-examined-judge-not-lest-ye-be-judged>
- ✓ [“Why Believing in Jesus is Not Enough” by Jeremiah Tatum](#)
<http://faughnfamily.com/why-believing-in-jesus-is-not-enough/>
- ✓ [“You Can Trust God” by David Roper](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_200808_02.pdf
- ✓ [“Which Way Are You Traveling” by David Roper](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_200808_03.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)

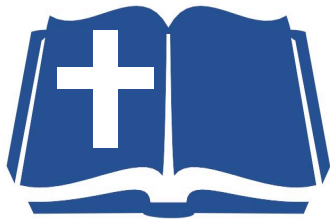
Shortest Book 3 John

Longest Chapter Psalm 119 (176 vs)

Shortest Chapter Psalm 117 (2 verses)

Shortest Verse John 11:35

THURSDAY - WEEK 2



Daily Bible Reading

MATTHEW CHAPTER 8

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

“Jesus & the Leper” (Mt 8:1-4, Mk 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)

After Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew records a number of miracles that Jesus performed. In his commentary on Matthew, H. Leo Boles said, “the sermon shows that he taught as one having authority and the miracles show that He acted as one having authority.” Bob Prichard has said, “After recording the *words* of Jesus, Matthew turns his attention to the *works* of Jesus.” One of these works was the healing of a leper.

Leprosy is a terrible infectious disease that attacks the body. It began with lesions on the skin, eventually damaging the nerves (leaving the flesh numb), and destroying tissue causing decay. The deterioration of the physical body was only a part of the devastation that leprosy wrought.

When a person contracted the disease they were separated from people. In the Old Law it was written,

“...leprous man. He is unclean. The priest shall surely pronounce him unclean; his sore is on his head. ⁴⁵“Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’” (Leviticus 13:44-45)

Once they were declared unclean the leprous person was sent outside the camp. They were isolated from society and separated from everyone they knew and loved. They were treated as if they were already dead.

Leprosy can be seen as a symbol for sin (Isaiah 64:6). What leprosy does to the body, sin does to the soul. Leprosy and sin both separate (Isaiah 59:1-2) and both are deadly (Romans 6:23).

The leprous man in our text was not supposed to be in the crowd, but his desire for healing and his faith in Jesus brought him out of seclusion. He “came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ His plea was earnest and desperate. Mark says he implored Him (Mark 1:40). He was reverent, “kneeling down” (Mark 1:40) and he “worshiped Him”. He was humble and submissive, saying, “If You are willing”. He was believing, saying, “You can make me clean”.

In response, Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed’” (vs. 2-3). Not only is it amazing that Jesus healed this man, it is also noteworthy that Jesus reached out and touched him. Leviticus 13:44-46 forbade touching a leper. Anyone who touched a leper was considered defiled. However, when Jesus touched the leper He did not become unclean. Instead Jesus provided cleansing (Leviticus 14:1-52).

Jesus was willing to heal this man. He is ready and willing to heal all who come to Him for cleansing. (Cf. Acts 2:36-41, 22:16)

— 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

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

- “The Miracles” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_07.pdf
- “Through His Poverty We Were Made Rich” by Jeremiah Tatum**
<http://faughnfamily.com/through-his-poverty-we-were-made-rich/>

FRIDAY - WEEK 2



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 9

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 series of miracle accounts begun in chapter 8 is continued in chapter 9. Matthew records his call to become an apostle here. Most of the apostles were fishermen, but the selection of a publican, or tax gatherer such as Matthew was unusual because of the low opinion most people had of these men considered collaborators with the Roman government. Most people despised tax collectors because the tax collection was arranged by the local aristocracies, and they often overcharged (Luke 3:12-13), even using physical violence to get their money. Taxes were very high at the time as well, and in general no one likes paying taxes. Since Matthew was “sitting at the receipt of custom,” he may have been locally prominent as a customs official that would not only collect regular taxes but also collect revenues from the inspection of traveler’s and merchant’s baggage. Not only did Jesus call Matthew to follow Him, but He also dined with Matthew’s associates.” (Bob Prichard)

He Knows the Heart (Matthew 9:3-4)

When Jesus forgave the paralytic man “the scribes said within themselves, ‘This Man blasphemes!’” However, Matthew reveals that Jesus knew their hearts (9:3-4). Think of the surprise these men had when Jesus revealed the very things they were thinking.

Concerning Jesus, John wrote, “He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.” (John 2:24-25). Long ago King David put this truth to music and sang,

“If we had forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart” (Psalm 44:20-21).

God is the “Revealer of secrets” (Dan. 2:47). He knows all things:

- He searched the heart of Judas and found that the devil had taken up residence (John 13:2).
- He searched the heart of the hypocrite and found a heart far from Him (Matt. 15:8).
- He searched the heart of Simon the Sorcerer and found it to be corrupt (Acts 8:21).
- He searched the heart of the false teacher and found a heart “trained in covetous practices.” (2 Peter 2:14).

“God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Romans 2:16). Jesus knew what was in the hearts of the Scribes and Pharisees but more importantly He knows what your heart. What will He find?

— Josh Alle (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](#) – 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 – 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 Power of the King” by Gene Cloer](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_07.pdf
- ✔ ["The Greatest Love Story" by Josh Blackmer](#)
<http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/the-greatest-love-story/>
- ✔ ["The Compassion of Christ" by David Roper](#)
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198302_04.pdf

SATURDAY - WEEK 2



Daily Bible Reading



MATTHEW CHAPTER 10

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

Call and Commission of the Twelve (Matthew 10:1-4)

He called twelve disciples (“learners”) and gave them power, or authority over unclean spirits and diseases. By His delegation of authority to them, He made them apostles (“those sent forth with a mission, those commissioned with authority”).

(1) Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. Peter is always listed first, reflecting his leadership ability. He and his brother Andrew were fishermen from Bethsaida (John 1:44). Both were likely followers of John before they began to follow Jesus (John 1:35-42). Jesus gave Simon the name “Cephas” (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek), meaning rock. Andrew was less prominent, but is often seen bringing others to Jesus (John 1:4-42; 6:8-9; 12:20-22).

(2) James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. The family fishing business was successful enough to employ other workers (Mark 1:20). It was Zebedee’s wife (thought to be Salome) who asked for prominent places in Jesus’ kingdom for her two sons (Matthew 20:20-21). Jesus called the two brothers “Boanerges” (sons of “Thunder”) when they wanted to destroy an unfriendly Samaritan village (Luke 9:51-56). James, who is always listed first, was probably the older, and was the first apostle to be martyred (Acts 12:1-2). John apparently was the last of the apostles to die, perhaps on Patmos or in Ephesus.

(3) Philip and Bartholomew. Philip is a Greek name meaning “lover of horses.” He was also from Bethsaida, and is mentioned mostly in John (1:43-48; 6:5-7; 12:21-22; 14:8). Bartholomew is an Aramaic name meaning “son of Tolmai.” He may be the same person as Nathanael, who came from Cana (John 21:2), and was praised by Jesus (John 1:47).

(4) Thomas and Matthew the Publican. Thomas is also called Didymus, or “twin” (John 11:16; 21:2). He appears only in John (John 11:16; 14:5; 20:24-29). He has been called “Doubting Thomas” because of the incident in John 20, but he was courageous when Lazarus died (John 11:16). He ultimately called Jesus “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Matthew calls himself “the publican,” humbly acknowledging the Lord’s grace to him.

(5) James the son of Alphaeus and Lebbeaus surnamed Thaddeus. Little is known of James, distinguished as the son of Alphaeus. Matthew is also the son of an Alphaeus (Mark 2:14), so it is possible he and James were also brothers. Thaddeus is apparently also called Jude, or “Judas not Iscariot” (John 14:22). Only John 14:22 tells of him.

(6) Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Simon is actually the “Canaanite,” an Aramaic word for zealot (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13). The Zealots were a nationalistic party. Last in every list is Judas, from Kerioth, a town in Judah. He was the dishonest treasurer for the twelve (John 12:4-6; 13:29). He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:14-56; Mark 14:10-50; Luke 22:3-53; John 13:2-30; 18:2-3) and then committed suicide (Matthew 27:3-10; Acts 1:15-19). — **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 Messengers of the King” by Gene Cloer**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_08.pdf
- ✓ **“The Confession of the King” by Gene Cloer**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_09.pdf
- ✓ **“Principles of Discipleship” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_08.pdf
- ✓ **“Discipleship and Suffering” by Tommy South**
http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_09.pdf



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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.digitalbiblestudy1.com)
- [The Christian Courier](https://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](#)