

2020-2021 CMA Matthew Reference Materials

Matthew 1

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

- ¶ Matthew 1:18 - This is **how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.**
- Matthew 1:19 - **Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.**
- ¶ Matthew 1:20 - But **after he had considered this, an** angel of the Lord **appeared** to him in a **dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**
- Matthew 1:21 - She will give birth to a son, and **you are** to give him the name **Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."**
- ¶ Matthew 1:22 - **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:**
- Matthew 1:23 - **"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").**
- ¶ Matthew 1:24 - **When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.**
- Matthew 1:25 - But he did **not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.**

Matthew 2

The Magi Visit the Messiah

- ¶ Matthew 2:1 - After **Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came** to Jerusalem
- Matthew 2:2 - and asked, **"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."**
- ¶ Matthew 2:3 - **When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.**
- Matthew 2:4 - When he **had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.**
- Matthew 2:5 - "In Bethlehem in **Judea,**" **they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:**
- ¶ Matthew 2:6 - **"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."**
- ¶ Matthew 2:7 - **Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.**
- Matthew 2:8 - He **sent them to Bethlehem** and said, "Go **and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.**"
- ¶ Matthew 2:9 - After they **had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.**
- Matthew 2:10 - When they saw the star, they **were overjoyed.**
- Matthew 2:11 - **On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.**
- Matthew 2:12 - **And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.**

The Escape to Egypt

- ¶ Matthew 2:13 - When they had **gone, an** angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a **dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."**
- ¶ Matthew 2:14 - So he got up, took the child and his **mother during the night and left for Egypt,**
- Matthew 2:15 - where **he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."**

- ¶ Matthew 2:16 - When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.
- Matthew 2:17 - Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
- ¶ Matthew 2:18 - "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

The Return to Nazareth

- ¶ Matthew 2:19 - After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
- Matthew 2:20 - and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."
- ¶ Matthew 2:21 - So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.
- Matthew 2:22 - But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,
- Matthew 2:23 - and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- ¶ Matthew 3:1 - In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea
- Matthew 3:2 - and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- Matthew 3:3 - This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
- ¶ Matthew 3:4 - John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
- Matthew 3:5 - People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.
- Matthew 3:6 - Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
- ¶ Matthew 3:7 - But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"
- Matthew 3:8 - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
- Matthew 3:9 - And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
- Matthew 3:10 - The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
- ¶ Matthew 3:11 - "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- Matthew 3:12 - His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 3:13 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.
- Matthew 3:14 - But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
- ¶ Matthew 3:15 - Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.
- ¶ Matthew 3:16 - As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
- Matthew 3:17 - And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 4

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

- ¶ Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- Matthew 4:2 - After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
- Matthew 4:3 - The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

- ¶ Matthew 4:4 - Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- ¶ Matthew 4:5 - Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.
- ¶ Matthew 4:6 - "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"
- ¶ Matthew 4:7 - Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- ¶ Matthew 4:8 - Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.
- ¶ Matthew 4:9 - "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."
- ¶ Matthew 4:10 - Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"
- ¶ Matthew 4:11 - Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Jesus Begins to Preach

- ¶ Matthew 4:12 - When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.
- ¶ Matthew 4:13 - Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali--
- ¶ Matthew 4:14 - to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:
- ¶ Matthew 4:15 - "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--
- ¶ Matthew 4:16 - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."
- ¶ Matthew 4:17 - From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

- ¶ Matthew 4:18 - As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.
- ¶ Matthew 4:19 - "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
- ¶ Matthew 4:20 - At once they left their nets and followed him.
- ¶ Matthew 4:21 - Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,
- ¶ Matthew 4:22 - and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Heals the Sick

- ¶ Matthew 4:23 - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
- ¶ Matthew 4:24 - News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.
- ¶ Matthew 4:25 - Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 5

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

- ¶ Matthew 5:1 - Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

The Beatitudes

- ¶ Matthew 5:2 - and he began to teach them. He said:
- ¶ Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ¶ Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ¶ Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ¶ Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are **the pure in heart, for** they will **see God**.
- Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are **the peacemakers, for** they will be **called children** of God.
- Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are **persecuted because** of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 5:11 - "Blessed are **you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me**.
- Matthew 5:12 - **Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward** in heaven, for in the same **way they persecuted the prophets who were before you**.

Salt and Light

- ¶ Matthew 5:13 - "You are the **salt of the earth. But** if the **salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot**.
- ¶ Matthew 5:14 - "You are the **light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden**.
- Matthew 5:15 - **Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house**.
- Matthew 5:16 - In the same **way, let your light shine before** others, that they **may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven**.

The Fulfillment of the Law

- ¶ Matthew 5:17 - "Do not **think that** I have come to **abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them**.
- Matthew 5:18 - **For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished**.
- Matthew 5:19 - **Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least** in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you **that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter** the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

- ¶ Matthew 5:21 - "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not **murder, and** anyone **who murders will** be subject to judgment.'
- Matthew 5:22 - But I tell you that anyone who **is angry with a brother or sister will** be subject to **judgment. Again, anyone** who says to a brother or **sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And** anyone who **says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire** of hell.
- ¶ Matthew 5:23 - "**Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember** that your brother or **sister has something against you,**
- Matthew 5:24 - **leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift**.
- ¶ Matthew 5:25 - "**Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison**.
- Matthew 5:26 - Truly I tell you, you will not **get out until you have paid the last penny**.

Adultery

- ¶ Matthew 5:27 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not **commit** adultery.'
- Matthew 5:28 - But I tell you that anyone **who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart**.
- Matthew 5:29 - If your **right eye** causes you to stumble, **gouge** it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- Matthew 5:30 - And if your right **hand causes** you to stumble, **cut it off** and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

- ¶ Matthew 5:31 - "It has **been said, 'Anyone** who divorces his **wife must give her a certificate of divorce**.'
- Matthew 5:32 - But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for **sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits** adultery.

Oaths

- ¶ Matthew 5:33 - "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.'
- Matthew 5:34 - But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;
- Matthew 5:35 - or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.
- Matthew 5:36 - And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.
- Matthew 5:37 - All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Eye for Eye

- ¶ Matthew 5:38 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'
- Matthew 5:39 - But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.
- Matthew 5:40 - And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.
- Matthew 5:41 - If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.
- Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

- ¶ Matthew 5:43 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- Matthew 5:44 - But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- Matthew 5:45 - that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- Matthew 5:46 - If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?
- Matthew 5:47 - And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?
- Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 6

Giving to the Needy

- ¶ Matthew 6:1 - "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 6:2 - "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- Matthew 6:3 - But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
- Matthew 6:4 - so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

- ¶ Matthew 6:5 - "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- Matthew 6:7 - And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
- Matthew 6:8 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- ¶ Matthew 6:9 - "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
- Matthew 6:10 - your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Matthew 6:11 - Give us today our daily bread.
- Matthew 6:12 - And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- Matthew 6:13 - And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'
- ¶ Matthew 6:14 - For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
- Matthew 6:15 - But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Fasting

- ¶ Matthew 6:16 - "When you **fast, do not look somber** as the hypocrites do, for **they disfigure their faces to show others** they are **fasting**. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
Matthew 6:17 - But when you **fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,**
Matthew 6:18 - so that it will not **be obvious** to others that you are **fasting, but only** to your Father, who is **unseen; and** your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Treasures in Heaven

- ¶ Matthew 6:19 - "Do **not store** up for yourselves **treasures on earth, where** moths and **vermin destroy**, and where **thieves break** in and steal.
Matthew 6:20 - **But store** up for yourselves **treasures in heaven, where** moths and **vermin do not destroy**, and where **thieves do** not break in and steal.
Matthew 6:21 - For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
¶ Matthew 6:22 - "The **eye is the lamp of the body. If** your eyes **are healthy, your** whole body will be full **of light.**
Matthew 6:23 - But if your eyes **are unhealthy, your** whole body will be full **of darkness. If** then the **light within you is darkness, how great** is **that darkness!**
¶ Matthew 6:24 - "No **one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted** to the one **and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.**

Do Not Worry

- ¶ Matthew 6:25 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your **life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?**
Matthew 6:26 - Look **at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.** Are you not much more **valuable than they?**
Matthew 6:27 - **Can any one** of you **by worrying add a single hour to** your life?
¶ Matthew 6:28 - "And **why** do **you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.**
Matthew 6:29 - **Yet I** tell you **that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one** of these.
Matthew 6:30 - **If that** is **how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown** into the **fire, will he** not much **more clothe you--you of little faith?**
Matthew 6:31 - So do not **worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'**
Matthew 6:32 - For **the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.**
Matthew 6:33 - **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**
Matthew 6:34 - **Therefore do** not worry **about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Matthew 7

Judging Others

- ¶ Matthew 7:1 - "Do **not judge, or you too will** be judged.
Matthew 7:2 - For in the **same way you judge others, you** will be **judged, and** with **the measure you use, it will be measured to** you.
¶ Matthew 7:3 - "**Why** do **you look** at the **speck of sawdust in** your brother's eye and **pay no attention** to the plank in your own eye?
Matthew 7:4 - How **can** you say to your **brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank** in your own eye?
Matthew 7:5 - **You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from** your brother's eye.
¶ Matthew 7:6 - "Do not **give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.**

Ask, Seek, Knock

- ¶ Matthew 7:7 - "**Ask and** it will be **given to you; seek and** you will **find; knock and** the door will be **opened to** you.
Matthew 7:8 - **For everyone** who **asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and** to the one **who knocks, the** door will be opened.
¶ Matthew 7:9 - "**Which** of you, if **your son asks for bread, will** give him a **stone?**

Matthew 7:10 - Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

Matthew 7:11 - If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:12 - So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow and Wide Gates

¶ Matthew 7:13 - "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Matthew 7:14 - But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

True and False Prophets

¶ Matthew 7:15 - "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Matthew 7:16 - By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:17 - Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Matthew 7:18 - A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 - Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 - Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

True and False Disciples

¶ Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 - Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'

Matthew 7:23 - Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

The Wise and Foolish Builders

¶ Matthew 7:24 - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:25 - The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:26 - But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:27 - The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

¶ Matthew 7:28 - When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

Matthew 7:29 - because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 8

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

¶ Matthew 8:1 - When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Matthew 8:2 - A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¶ Matthew 8:3 - Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

Matthew 8:4 - Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

The Faith of the Centurion

¶ Matthew 8:5 - When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

Matthew 8:6 - "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

¶ Matthew 8:7 - Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

- ¶ Matthew 8:8 - The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not **deserve** to have you **come under my roof**. But just say the word, and my **servant will** be healed.
- Matthew 8:9 - For **I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me**. I tell this one, 'Go,' and **he goes**; and that one, 'Come,' and **he comes**. I say to my **servant**, 'Do this,' and he **does it**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:10 - When Jesus **heard** this, he was amazed and said to **those following him**, "**Truly** I tell you, I have **not found anyone in Israel with such great** faith.
- Matthew 8:11 - I say to you **that many** will come from the **east and the west**, and will **take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob** in the kingdom of **heaven**.
- Matthew 8:12 - But **the subjects of the kingdom will** be **thrown outside**, into the **darkness, where there** will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:13 - Then Jesus said to the **centurion**, "**Go!** Let it be **done just as you believed it would**." And his **servant was** healed at that **moment**.

Jesus Heals Many

- ¶ Matthew 8:14 - When Jesus came **into Peter's house**, he saw **Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever**.
- Matthew 8:15 - He **touching her hand** and **the fever left her**, and **she** got up and **began to wait on** him.
- ¶ Matthew 8:16 - When **evening came**, **many who were demon-possessed were brought** to him, and **he drove out the spirits with** a word and healed all the **sick**.
- Matthew 8:17 - This was to **fulfill** what was **spoken through** the **prophet Isaiah**: "**He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases**."

The Cost of Following Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 8:18 - When Jesus saw the **crowd around him**, he **gave orders to cross** to the other side of the lake.
- Matthew 8:19 - Then **a teacher of the law** came to him and **said**, "**Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:20 - Jesus **replied**, "**Foxes have dens and birds have nests**, but the Son of Man **has no place to lay his head**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:21 - **Another disciple said** to him, "**Lord, first let me go and bury my father**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:22 - But Jesus **told him**, "**Follow me**, and let the **dead bury their own dead**."

Jesus Calms the Storm

- ¶ Matthew 8:23 - Then he got into the boat and his **disciples followed** him.
- Matthew 8:24 - **Suddenly a furious storm** came up on the **lake**, so that the **waves swept over** the **boat**. But Jesus **was sleeping**.
- Matthew 8:25 - The disciples went **and woke him**, **saying**, "**Lord, save us! We're going to drown!**"
- ¶ Matthew 8:26 - He replied, "You of **little** faith, **why** are you so **afraid**?" Then he got up **and rebuked** the winds and the **waves**, and it was **completely calm**.
- ¶ Matthew 8:27 - The men were amazed and **asked**, "**What kind of man is this? Even** the winds and the **waves obey him!**"

Jesus Restores Two Demon-Possessed Men

- ¶ Matthew 8:28 - When **he arrived at** the other **side in** the region of **the Gadarenes**, **two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him**. They were **so violent that** no one **could pass that way**.
- Matthew 8:29 - "What do you **want** with us, Son of **God**?" **they shouted**. "**Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?**"
- ¶ Matthew 8:30 - **Some distance** from them a **large herd of pigs was feeding**.
- Matthew 8:31 - **The demons begged Jesus**, "**If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs**."
- ¶ Matthew 8:32 - He said to them, "**Go!**" So they came out and went into the **pigs**, and the **whole herd rushed down the steep bank into** the lake and **died in** the **water**.
- Matthew 8:33 - **Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town** and **reported all this, including what had happened** to the demon-possessed men.
- Matthew 8:34 - Then the **whole town went out to meet Jesus**. And when they saw him, **they pleaded with him to leave their region**.

Matthew 9

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

- ¶ Matthew 9:1 - Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.
- ¶ Matthew 9:2 - Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."
- ¶ Matthew 9:3 - At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"
- ¶ Matthew 9:4 - Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"
- ¶ Matthew 9:5 - Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?
- ¶ Matthew 9:6 - But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."
- ¶ Matthew 9:7 - Then the man got up and went home.
- ¶ Matthew 9:8 - When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

The Calling of Matthew

- ¶ Matthew 9:9 - As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.
- ¶ Matthew 9:10 - While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.
- ¶ Matthew 9:11 - When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
- ¶ Matthew 9:12 - On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
- ¶ Matthew 9:13 - But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

- ¶ Matthew 9:14 - Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"
- ¶ Matthew 9:15 - Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.
- ¶ Matthew 9:16 - "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.
- ¶ Matthew 9:17 - Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

- ¶ Matthew 9:18 - While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."
- ¶ Matthew 9:19 - Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.
- ¶ Matthew 9:20 - Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.
- ¶ Matthew 9:21 - She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."
- ¶ Matthew 9:22 - Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.
- ¶ Matthew 9:23 - When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes,
- ¶ Matthew 9:24 - he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.
- ¶ Matthew 9:25 - After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.
- ¶ Matthew 9:26 - News of this spread through all that region.

Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute

- ¶ Matthew 9:27 - As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"
- ¶ Matthew 9:28 - When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied.
- ¶ Matthew 9:29 - Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you";
- ¶ Matthew 9:30 - and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."
- ¶ Matthew 9:31 - But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

- ¶ Matthew 9:32 - While they were **going out**, a man who **was demon-possessed and could not talk** was brought to Jesus.
- Matthew 9:33 - And when the **demon was driven out**, the man who had **been mute spoke**. **The crowd was amazed** and **said**, "**Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel**."
- ¶ Matthew 9:34 - But the **Pharisees said**, "It is by the **prince** of demons that **he drives** out demons."

The Workers Are Few

- ¶ Matthew 9:35 - Jesus went through all the **towns and villages**, **teaching** in their **synagogues**, **proclaiming** the **good** news of the **kingdom** and **healing every disease** and **sickness**.
- Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the **crowds**, he had **compassion** on **them**, **because** they **were harassed and helpless**, **like sheep without a shepherd**.
- Matthew 9:37 - Then he said to his **disciples**, "**The harvest is plentiful** but the **workers are few**."
- Matthew 9:38 - **Ask the** Lord of the **harvest**, **therefore**, **to send out workers into his harvest field**."

Matthew 10

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

- ¶ Matthew 10:1 - Jesus called his twelve **disciples** to him and **gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease** and **sickness**.
- ¶ Matthew 10:2 - These are **the names of the twelve apostles**: **first**, **Simon** (who is called **Peter**) and his brother **Andrew**; **James** son of **Zebedee**, and his brother **John**;
- Matthew 10:3 - **Philip and Bartholomew**; **Thomas and Matthew the tax collector**; **James** son of **Alphaeus**, and **Thaddaeus**;
- Matthew 10:4 - **Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed** him.
- ¶ Matthew 10:5 - **These twelve Jesus sent out** with **the following instructions**: "**Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans**."
- Matthew 10:6 - **Go rather to the lost** sheep of Israel.
- Matthew 10:7 - As you **go**, **proclaim this message**: '**The kingdom** of heaven has come **near**.'
- Matthew 10:8 - **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons**. **Freely you have received; freely give**.
- ¶ Matthew 10:9 - "**Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts--**
- Matthew 10:10 - **no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep**."
- Matthew 10:11 - **Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave**.
- Matthew 10:12 - As you enter the **home**, **give it your greeting**.
- Matthew 10:13 - If the **home is deserving**, **let your peace rest on it**; if it is not, let your **peace return** to you.
- Matthew 10:14 - If **anyone will not welcome you or listen** to your **words**, **leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet**.
- Matthew 10:15 - Truly I tell you, it will be more **bearable** for **Sodom and Gomorrah** on the **day of judgment** than for **that town**.
- ¶ Matthew 10:16 - "**I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves**."
- Matthew 10:17 - Be on your **guard**; **you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues**.
- Matthew 10:18 - On **my account** you will **be brought before governors and kings as witnesses** to them and to the Gentiles.
- Matthew 10:19 - But when **they arrest you**, do not **worry about** what to **say or how** to say **it**. At that **time you** will be **given what** to say,
- Matthew 10:20 - for it will not **be you speaking, but the Spirit** of your **Father speaking through you**.
- ¶ Matthew 10:21 - "**Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death**."
- Matthew 10:22 - You will **be hated by everyone because of me**, **but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved**.
- Matthew 10:23 - When you are **persecuted in one place, flee to another**. Truly I tell you, you will **not finish going through** the **towns** of Israel **before the Son of Man comes**.
- ¶ Matthew 10:24 - "**The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master**."
- Matthew 10:25 - It **is enough for students** to be like their **teachers, and servants like their masters**. If the head of the **house has been called Beelzebul, how much more** the members of **his household!**

- ¶ Matthew 10:26 - "So do not be afraid of them, for there **is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.**
- Matthew 10:27 - What I tell you in **the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.**
- Matthew 10:28 - Do not be afraid of those **who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**
- Matthew 10:29 - Are **not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.**
- Matthew 10:30 - And even the **very hairs of your head are all numbered.**
- Matthew 10:31 - **So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.**
- ¶ Matthew 10:32 - "**Whoever acknowledges me** before others, I will **also acknowledge before** my Father in heaven.
- Matthew 10:33 - But **whoever disowns me** before others, I will **disown before** my Father in heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 10:34 - "Do **not suppose that** I have come to bring **peace to the earth. I did** not come to bring **peace, but a sword.**
- Matthew 10:35 - For I have come **to turn** "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--
- Matthew 10:36 - **a man's enemies will** be the members of his **own household.'**
- ¶ Matthew 10:37 - "Anyone who **loves** their father or **mother more** than me is not worthy of **me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more** than me is not worthy of me.
- Matthew 10:38 - Whoever **does** not take **up** their **cross** and **follow** me is not worthy of me.
- Matthew 10:39 - **Whoever finds their** life will lose it, and whoever **loses** their life for my **sake** will **find** it.
- ¶ Matthew 10:40 - "Anyone who **welcomes you welcomes** me, and anyone who welcomes **me welcomes the one who sent me.**
- Matthew 10:41 - Whoever welcomes a **prophet as a prophet will** receive a **prophet's reward, and** whoever welcomes a righteous **person as a righteous person will** receive a **righteous person's reward.**
- Matthew 10:42 - And if **anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one** of these **little ones who** is my **disciple, truly** I tell you, that person will **certainly not lose their** reward."

Matthew 11

Jesus and John the Baptist

- ¶ Matthew 11:1 - **After** Jesus had **finished instructing his twelve** disciples, he **went** on from **there to teach and preach in** the towns of **Galilee.**
- ¶ Matthew 11:2 - **When John, who** was in **prison, heard** about **the deeds of the Messiah, he sent** his disciples
- Matthew 11:3 - to **ask** him, "Are you the one who is to **come, or should we expect someone else?"**
- ¶ Matthew 11:4 - Jesus **replied,** "Go **back and report to John** what you **hear and see:**
- Matthew 11:5 - The **blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.**
- Matthew 11:6 - **Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account** of me."
- ¶ Matthew 11:7 - **As John's** disciples were **leaving, Jesus** began to **speak to the crowd about** John: "What did you go out **into the wilderness** to see? **A reed swayed** by the **wind?**
- Matthew 11:8 - **If not, what** did you go out to see? **A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are** in kings' **palaces.**
- Matthew 11:9 - Then what did you go out to see? **A prophet? Yes, I** tell you, **and more** than a prophet.
- Matthew 11:10 - This is the **one about whom** it is **written:** "'I will **send my messenger ahead** of you, who **will prepare your way before** you.'
- ¶ Matthew 11:11 - **Truly** I tell you, **among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least** in the kingdom of heaven **is greater than he.**
- Matthew 11:12 - From **the days of John the Baptist until now,** the kingdom of heaven has **been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.**
- Matthew 11:13 - For all the **Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.**
- Matthew 11:14 - And if you are **willing to accept** it, he is **the Elijah who** was to come.
- Matthew 11:15 - **Whoever has ears, let them hear.**
- ¶ Matthew 11:16 - "To what **can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling** out to **others:**
- ¶ Matthew 11:17 - "'**We played the pipe for** you, and you did **not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'**
- ¶ Matthew 11:18 - For John **came neither eating nor drinking,** and they **say, 'He has a demon.'**
- Matthew 11:19 - The Son of Man **came eating and drinking,** and they **say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'** **But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.**"

Woe on Unrepentant Towns

- ¶ Matthew 11:20 - Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.
- Matthew 11:21 - "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
- Matthew 11:22 - But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.
- Matthew 11:23 - And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.
- Matthew 11:24 - But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

The Father Revealed in the Son

- ¶ Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.
- Matthew 11:26 - Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.
- ¶ Matthew 11:27 - "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- ¶ Matthew 11:28 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matthew 11:30 - For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 12

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

- ¶ Matthew 12:1 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.
- Matthew 12:2 - When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."
- ¶ Matthew 12:3 - He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"
- Matthew 12:4 - He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread--which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.
- Matthew 12:5 - Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?
- Matthew 12:6 - I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.
- Matthew 12:7 - If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.
- Matthew 12:8 - For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."
- ¶ Matthew 12:9 - Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue,
- Matthew 12:10 - and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"
- ¶ Matthew 12:11 - He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?"
- Matthew 12:12 - How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."
- ¶ Matthew 12:13 - Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.
- Matthew 12:14 - But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

God's Chosen Servant

- ¶ Matthew 12:15 - Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.
- Matthew 12:16 - He warned them not to tell others about him.
- Matthew 12:17 - This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
- ¶ Matthew 12:18 - "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
- Matthew 12:19 - He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.

Matthew 12:20 - **A bruised reed** he will not **break**, and a **smoldering wick** he will **not snuff out**, **till he has brought justice through to victory**.

Matthew 12:21 - In **his name** the nations will put their **hope**."

Jesus and Beelzebul

¶ Matthew 12:22 - Then they brought him **a demon-possessed man** who **was blind and mute**, and **Jesus healed him**, **so** that he **could both talk and see**.

Matthew 12:23 - All the people were **astonished** and **said**, "**Could this be** the Son of David?"

¶ Matthew 12:24 - But when the Pharisees **heard** this, they said, "It is **only by Beelzebul**, the **prince** of demons, **that this fellow drives** out demons."

¶ Matthew 12:25 - **Jesus knew their thoughts** and said to **them**, "**Every kingdom divided** against itself will be **ruined**, and **every city or household divided** against itself will **not stand**."

Matthew 12:26 - **If Satan drives out Satan**, he is **divided against himself**. **How** then can his kingdom stand?

Matthew 12:27 - And if I drive out **demons by Beelzebul**, by whom do **your people drive them out**? **So then**, they will be **your judges**.

Matthew 12:28 - But if it is by the Spirit of **God** that I drive out **demons**, then the kingdom of God has **come upon** you.

¶ Matthew 12:29 - "**Or again**, how can **anyone enter a strong man's house** and **carry off his possessions** unless he **first ties up the strong man**? **Then he can plunder his** house."

¶ Matthew 12:30 - "Whoever is **not with** me is against me, and whoever does **not gather with me scatters**."

Matthew 12:31 - And **so I** tell you, **every kind of sin and slander** can be forgiven, **but blasphemy against** the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Matthew 12:32 - Anyone who **speaks a word against** the Son of Man will be forgiven, **but anyone** who **speaks against** the **Holy** Spirit will not be **forgiven**, **either in this age or in the age to come**.

¶ Matthew 12:33 - "Make a **tree good** and its fruit will **be good**, or make a **tree bad** and its fruit will **be bad**, for a **tree is recognized by its** fruit."

Matthew 12:34 - You **brood** of **vipers**, **how** can you who are **evil say anything good**? For the **mouth speaks what the heart is full** of.

Matthew 12:35 - A **good man brings good things** out of the **good stored** up in him, and an **evil man brings evil things** out of the **evil stored** up in him.

Matthew 12:36 - But I tell you **that everyone will** have to **give account on the day** of judgment for every **empty word they have spoken**.

Matthew 12:37 - **For by** your words you will **be acquitted**, and **by** your words you will **be condemned**."

The Sign of Jonah

¶ Matthew 12:38 - Then some of the Pharisees and **teachers** of the law said to **him**, "**Teacher**, **we want** to see a sign from you."

¶ Matthew 12:39 - He **answered**, "**A wicked and adulterous generation asks** for a sign! But **none** will be **given** it **except** the sign of the **prophet Jonah**."

Matthew 12:40 - **For as Jonah was three** days and three nights in **the belly of a huge fish**, **so** the Son of Man will **be three** days and three nights in the **heart of** the earth.

Matthew 12:41 - The **men of Nineveh will stand up at** the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for **they repented at the preaching of Jonah**, and now something greater **than Jonah is** here.

Matthew 12:42 - **The Queen of the South will rise at** the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for **she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom**, and now something greater **than Solomon is** here.

¶ Matthew 12:43 - "**When an impure spirit comes** out of a **person**, it goes through **arid places seeking rest** and does not **find** it."

Matthew 12:44 - Then **it says**, '**I will return** to the **house I left**.' **When it arrives**, it **finds the house unoccupied**, **swept clean** and put in **order**."

Matthew 12:45 - Then it goes and **takes with it seven other spirits** more wicked than itself, and they **go in and live there**. And **the final condition** of that **person is worse** than the **first**. **That is how it will be with this wicked generation**."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

¶ Matthew 12:46 - **While** Jesus was **still talking** to the **crowd**, his mother and **brothers stood outside**, wanting to speak to him.

Matthew 12:47 - **Someone told him**, "**Your mother** and **brothers are standing outside**, wanting to speak to you."

¶ Matthew 12:48 - He **replied** to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

Matthew 12:49 - **Pointing to** his disciples, he **said**, "**Here are** my mother and my brothers."

Matthew 12:50 - For whoever does the will of my **Father** in **heaven** is my **brother and sister and** mother."

Matthew 14

John the Baptist Beheaded

- ¶ Matthew 14:1 - At that **time** **Herod the tetrarch** **heard the reports** about **Jesus**,
Matthew 14:2 - and he said to **his attendants**, "**This is John** the **Baptist**; **he has risen** from the **dead**! **That is why** **miraculous powers** are at **work** in him."
- ¶ Matthew 14:3 - **Now Herod had arrested John and bound** him and **put** him in **prison** because of **Herodias, his brother Philip's wife**,
Matthew 14:4 - for John had **been saying** to him: "It is not **lawful** for you to **have her**."
Matthew 14:5 - **Herod wanted to kill John, but** he was afraid of the **people, because they considered John a prophet**.
- ¶ Matthew 14:6 - **On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced** for the **guests and pleased Herod so much**
Matthew 14:7 - that **he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked**.
Matthew 14:8 - **Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."**
Matthew 14:9 - The **king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted**
Matthew 14:10 - and **had John beheaded in the prison**.
Matthew 14:11 - His **head was brought in on a platter and given** to the **girl, who carried it** to her mother.
Matthew 14:12 - **John's** disciples came and **took his body and buried it**. Then they went and **told Jesus**.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

- ¶ Matthew 14:13 - When Jesus **heard what** had **happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place**.
Hearing of this, the crowds **followed him on foot from the towns**.
Matthew 14:14 - When **Jesus landed and** saw a **large crowd, he had compassion** on them and **healed their** sick.
¶ Matthew 14:15 - **As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."**
¶ Matthew 14:16 - Jesus **replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."**
¶ Matthew 14:17 - **"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered**.
¶ Matthew 14:18 - **"Bring them here to me," he said**.
Matthew 14:19 - And **he directed the people to sit** down on the **grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then** he gave them to the disciples, and the **disciples gave** them to the people.
Matthew 14:20 - They all ate and were **satisfied, and** the disciples **picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces** that were **left** over.
Matthew 14:21 - The **number** of those who ate **was about** five **thousand** men, **besides women** and **children**.

Jesus Walks on the Water

- ¶ Matthew 14:22 - Immediately Jesus **made** the **disciples get into** the boat and **go on ahead** of him to the **other side, while he dismissed the crowd**.
Matthew 14:23 - **After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,**
Matthew 14:24 - and the **boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it**.
¶ Matthew 14:25 - **Shortly before dawn Jesus** went out to **them, walking** on the lake.
Matthew 14:26 - When the disciples saw **him walking** on the **lake, they were terrified**. "**It's a ghost,**" they said, and **cried out in fear**.
¶ Matthew 14:27 - But **Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**
¶ Matthew 14:28 - "Lord, **if it's you,**" **Peter replied, "tell me** to come to you on the water."
¶ Matthew 14:29 - **"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus**.
Matthew 14:30 - But when he saw the **wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"**
¶ Matthew 14:31 - Immediately Jesus **reached out his hand and caught him**. "You of **little faith,**" he said, "**why did you doubt?**"
¶ Matthew 14:32 - And when **they climbed into the boat, the wind died down**.

- Matthew 14:33 - **Then those** who were in the **boat worshiped** him, **saying**, "**Truly you** are the **Son of God**."
- ¶ Matthew 14:34 - When they **had crossed over**, they **landed at Gennesaret**.
- Matthew 14:35 - And when the men of that **place recognized Jesus**, they **sent word to all the surrounding country**. **People brought all their sick to him**
- Matthew 14:36 - and **begged him to let the sick just touch the edge** of his **cloak**, and **all who touched it were healed**.

Matthew 15

That Which Defiles

- ¶ Matthew 15:1 - Then **some** Pharisees and **teachers** of the **law** came to Jesus from **Jerusalem** and asked,
- Matthew 15:2 - "Why do your **disciples break the tradition of the elders**? **They don't wash their hands before they eat!**"
- ¶ Matthew 15:3 - Jesus replied, "And why do **you break the command of God** for the sake of your tradition?"
- Matthew 15:4 - **For God said, 'Honor your father and mother'** and 'Anyone **who curses their father or mother is to be put to death**.'
- Matthew 15:5 - But you **say** that if **anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God**,'
- Matthew 15:6 - they are not to **'honor their father or mother'** with it. **Thus you nullify the word of God** for the sake of your tradition.
- Matthew 15:7 - You **hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you**:
- ¶ Matthew 15:8 - "'These **people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me**."
- Matthew 15:9 - **They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules**.'" "
- ¶ Matthew 15:10 - Jesus called the crowd to him and **said, "Listen and understand**."
- Matthew 15:11 - **What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:12 - Then the disciples came to him and **asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"**
- ¶ Matthew 15:13 - He **replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots**."
- Matthew 15:14 - **Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:15 - **Peter said, "Explain the parable to us**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:16 - "Are you **still so dull?**" **Jesus** asked them.
- Matthew 15:17 - "Don't **you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?**
- Matthew 15:18 - But the **things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them**."
- Matthew 15:19 - For out of the **heart come evil thoughts--murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander**."
- Matthew 15:20 - These **are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them**."

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

- ¶ Matthew 15:21 - **Leaving that place**, Jesus **withdrew** to the **region of Tyre and Sidon**.
- Matthew 15:22 - **A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:23 - **Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:24 - He answered, "**I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:25 - The woman came and **kneled** before him. "**Lord, help me!**" **she** said.
- ¶ Matthew 15:26 - He **replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:27 - "**Yes it is, Lord**," **she** said. "**Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:28 - Then Jesus said to **her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted**." **And her daughter was healed at that moment**."

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

- ¶ Matthew 15:29 - **Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down**.
- Matthew 15:30 - **Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them**.
- Matthew 15:31 - The people were **amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel**.

- ¶ Matthew 15:32 - Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I **have compassion for these** people; they **have already been with me three days** and **have nothing to eat**. I do not **want** to send **them away hungry**, or **they may collapse on the way**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:33 - His **disciples answered**, "**Where could we get enough bread in this remote** place to **feed such a crowd?**"
- ¶ Matthew 15:34 - "**How many loaves do** you have?" Jesus **asked**. "**Seven**," they replied, "and a **few small fish**."
- ¶ Matthew 15:35 - He **told** the crowd to **sit** down on the **ground**.
- ¶ Matthew 15:36 - Then he **took** the seven loaves and **the fish**, and when he had **given thanks**, he **broke them** and **gave** them to the disciples, and **they in turn** to the people.
- ¶ Matthew 15:37 - They **all** ate and were **satisfied**. **Afterward** the disciples **picked up seven basketfuls** of **broken pieces** that were left **over**.
- ¶ Matthew 15:38 - The **number** of **those** who ate **was four thousand men**, **besides women** and **children**.
- ¶ Matthew 15:39 - After Jesus **had sent the crowd away**, he **got** into the **boat** and went to **the vicinity of Magadan**.

Matthew 16

The Demand for a Sign

- ¶ Matthew 16:1 - The Pharisees and **Sadducees** came to Jesus and **tested** him **by asking him** to **show them** a sign from heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 16:2 - He replied, "When **evening comes**, you say, 'It will **be fair weather**, for the sky is red,'
- ¶ Matthew 16:3 - and in the **morning**, '**Today it will be stormy**, for the sky is **red and overcast**.' You **know** how to **interpret the appearance of the sky**, but you **cannot interpret the signs of the times**.
- ¶ Matthew 16:4 - A **wicked** and **adulterous generation** looks for a sign, but **none** will be **given** **except** the sign of **Jonah**." **Jesus then left** them and went **away**.

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

- ¶ Matthew 16:5 - When they **went across** the **lake**, **the disciples forgot to take bread**.
- ¶ Matthew 16:6 - "Be **careful**," **Jesus** said to **them**. "**Be** on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- ¶ Matthew 16:7 - They **discussed this among** themselves and said, "It **is because we didn't bring any bread**."
- ¶ Matthew 16:8 - **Aware** of **their discussion**, **Jesus** asked, "**You of little faith**, **why** are you **talking among yourselves about having no bread?**"
- ¶ Matthew 16:9 - Do you **still not understand?** **Don't you remember the** five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?
- ¶ Matthew 16:10 - Or the **seven** loaves for **the four** thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?
- ¶ Matthew 16:11 - How is it you **don't understand that** I was **not talking** to **you about bread?** **But be** on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- ¶ Matthew 16:12 - Then **they understood** that he was **not telling** them **to guard** against the **yeast used in bread**, but **against the teaching of** the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

- ¶ Matthew 16:13 - When Jesus came to the **region of Caesarea Philippi**, he asked his **disciples**, "**Who** do **people say** the Son of Man is?"
- ¶ Matthew 16:14 - They **replied**, "**Some say John** the **Baptist**; **others say Elijah**; and **still others, Jeremiah** or **one of the prophets**."
- ¶ Matthew 16:15 - "But **what about** you?" he asked. "Who do you **say I am?**"
- ¶ Matthew 16:16 - **Simon Peter answered**, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the **living** God."
- ¶ Matthew 16:17 - Jesus **replied**, "**Blessed** are **you, Simon son of Jonah**, for this was **not revealed to you by flesh and blood**, but **by my Father** in heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you that you **are Peter**, and on **this rock** I will **build my church**, and **the gates of Hades** will **not overcome it**.
- ¶ Matthew 16:19 - I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**; **whatever** you **bind** on earth will be **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be **loosed** in heaven."
- ¶ Matthew 16:20 - Then he **ordered his disciples not** to tell **anyone that** he was the Messiah.

Jesus Predicts His Death

- ¶ Matthew 16:21 - From that **time** on Jesus began **to explain to** his **disciples that** he **must go to Jerusalem and suffer**

many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

- ¶ Matthew 16:22 - Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"
- ¶ Matthew 16:23 - Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."
- ¶ Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
Matthew 16:25 - For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.
Matthew 16:26 - What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
- Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.
- ¶ Matthew 16:28 - "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Matthew 17

The Transfiguration

- ¶ Matthew 17:1 - After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
Matthew 17:2 - There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.
Matthew 17:3 - Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.
- ¶ Matthew 17:4 - Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."
- ¶ Matthew 17:5 - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"
- ¶ Matthew 17:6 - When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.
Matthew 17:7 - But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."
Matthew 17:8 - When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.
- ¶ Matthew 17:9 - As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."
¶ Matthew 17:10 - The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"
¶ Matthew 17:11 - Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.
Matthew 17:12 - But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."
Matthew 17:13 - Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy

- ¶ Matthew 17:14 - When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.
Matthew 17:15 - "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.
Matthew 17:16 - I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."
- ¶ Matthew 17:17 - "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me."
Matthew 17:18 - Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.
- ¶ Matthew 17:19 - Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"
- ¶ Matthew 17:20 - He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

- ¶ Matthew 17:22 - When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.
Matthew 17:23 - They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.

The Temple Tax

- ¶ Matthew 17:24 - After Jesus and his **disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came** to Peter and **asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay** the temple tax?"
- ¶ Matthew 17:25 - "**Yes, he does,**" he replied. **When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes-- from their own children or from others?"**
- ¶ Matthew 17:26 - "From **others,**" **Peter answered. "Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him.**
- Matthew 17:27 - "**But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.**"

Matthew 18

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

- ¶ Matthew 18:1 - At that **time** the **disciples** came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- ¶ Matthew 18:2 - **He called a little child** to him, and **placed the child among** them.
- Matthew 18:3 - And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless **you change and become like little children, you will never enter** the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew 18:4 - **Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is** the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew 18:5 - And whoever **welcomes one such child in my name welcomes** me.

Causing to Stumble

- ¶ Matthew 18:6 - "If **anyone causes one** of these little **ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it** would be better for them to **have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.**
- Matthew 18:7 - Woe to the **world because** of the things **that cause people to stumble! Such things must** come, but woe to **the person through whom** they come!
- Matthew 18:8 - If your **hand or your foot causes** you to stumble, **cut** it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter **life maimed or crippled than** to have **two hands or two feet** and be thrown **into eternal fire.**
- Matthew 18:9 - And if your eye causes you to stumble, **gouge** it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter **life with one eye than** to have **two eyes** and be thrown into the fire of **hell.**

The Parable of the Wandering Sheep

- ¶ Matthew 18:10 - "See that you do **not despise one** of these little **ones. For** I tell you **that their angels in heaven always see the face of** my Father in heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 18:12 - "What do you **think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?**
- Matthew 18:13 - And if **he finds it, truly** I tell you, he **is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.**
- Matthew 18:14 - In the **same way your** Father in heaven is **not willing that any** of these little **ones should perish.**

Dealing With Sin in the Church

- ¶ Matthew 18:15 - "If your brother or **sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two** of you. If **they listen** to you, you **have won them over.**
- Matthew 18:16 - But if they will **not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'**
- Matthew 18:17 - If **they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**
- ¶ Matthew 18:18 - "Truly I tell you, whatever you **bind** on earth will be **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be **loosed** in heaven.
- ¶ Matthew 18:19 - "**Again, truly** I tell you that **if two** of you on **earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by** my Father in heaven.
- Matthew 18:20 - For **where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**"

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

- ¶ Matthew 18:21 - Then **Peter** came to Jesus and **asked**, "**Lord**, how **many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?**"
- ¶ Matthew 18:22 - Jesus **answered**, "I tell you, **not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**"
- ¶ Matthew 18:23 - "**Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.**"
- Matthew 18:24 - As he **began the settlement**, a man who owed **him ten thousand bags of gold was brought** to him.
- Matthew 18:25 - **Since** he was **not able** to pay, the **master ordered** that he and his **wife** and **his children** and all that he **had be sold to repay the debt.**
- ¶ Matthew 18:26 - "At this the servant **fell on his knees before** him. 'Be patient with me,' **he begged**, 'and I will pay **back everything.**'"
- Matthew 18:27 - **The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.**
- ¶ Matthew 18:28 - "But **when that servant went out, he found one** of his **fellow servants who** owed him a **hundred silver coins. He grabbed him** and began **to choke him.** 'Pay back what you owe me!' **he demanded.**"
- ¶ Matthew 18:29 - "His fellow servant **fell to his knees and** begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will **pay it back.**'"
- ¶ Matthew 18:30 - "But he **refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown** into **prison until he could pay** the debt.
- Matthew 18:31 - When the **other servants saw what** had happened, they **were outraged and** went and **told their master everything** that had happened.
- ¶ Matthew 18:32 - "Then the **master called the servant in.** 'You **wicked servant,**' **he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.**'"
- Matthew 18:33 - **Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?**"
- Matthew 18:34 - **In anger his master handed** him over to **the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.**
- ¶ Matthew 18:35 - "This is **how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.**"

Matthew 19

Divorce

- ¶ Matthew 19:1 - When Jesus had **finished saying** these things, he **left Galilee and** went **into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan.**
- Matthew 19:2 - **Large crowds** followed him, and he **healed them there.**
- ¶ Matthew 19:3 - **Some Pharisees came** to him **to test him.** They **asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"**
- ¶ Matthew 19:4 - "**Haven't you read,**" **he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'**"
- Matthew 19:5 - and said, 'For **this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?**'"
- Matthew 19:6 - **So** they are no **longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:7 - "Why then," they **asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"**
- ¶ Matthew 19:8 - Jesus **replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.**"
- Matthew 19:9 - I tell you that **anyone** who **divorces** his wife, **except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits** adultery."
- ¶ Matthew 19:10 - The disciples said to him, "If this is **the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:11 - Jesus **replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.**"
- Matthew 19:12 - For there are **eunuchs** who **were born that way**, and there are **eunuchs** who have **been made eunuchs by** others--and there are those **who choose to live like eunuchs for** the sake of the kingdom of **heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.**"

The Little Children and Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 19:13 - **Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them.** But the **disciples rebuked** them.
- ¶ Matthew 19:14 - Jesus **said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."**

Matthew 19:15 - When he **had placed his** hands on them, he went on from there.

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

- ¶ Matthew 19:16 - **Just** then a man came **up** to Jesus and **asked**, "**Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:17 - "Why do you **ask me about** what is **good?**" **Jesus replied**. "**There** is only One who is **good**. If you want to enter **life, keep the commandments.**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:18 - "**Which ones?**" **he inquired**. **Jesus** replied, "'You shall not **murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony,**
- Matthew 19:19 - **honor** your father and mother,' and **'love** your **neighbor** as **yourself.**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:20 - "All **these I have kept,**" **the young man said**. "**What do I still lack?**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:21 - **Jesus answered**, "**If** you want to be **perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then** come, follow me."
- ¶ Matthew 19:22 - When the young **man heard** this, he went **away sad, because** he **had great wealth**.
- ¶ Matthew 19:23 - Then **Jesus** said to his **disciples**, "**Truly** I tell you, it is **hard for** someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew 19:24 - **Again I** tell you, it is **easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than** for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
- ¶ Matthew 19:25 - When the disciples heard this, they **were greatly astonished** and **asked**, "Who then can be **saved?**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:26 - **Jesus looked at them and said**, "**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:27 - **Peter** answered **him**, "**We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?**"
- ¶ Matthew 19:28 - **Jesus** said to them, "Truly I tell **you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**
- Matthew 19:29 - **And everyone** who **has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.**
- Matthew 19:30 - **But many** who **are first** will be **last, and** many who **are last** will be first.

Matthew 20

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

- ¶ Matthew 20:1 - "For the kingdom of **heaven** is **like** a landowner **who went out early** in the **morning to hire workers for** his vineyard.
- Matthew 20:2 - **He agreed to** pay them a **denarius for the day and sent** them **into** his vineyard.
- ¶ Matthew 20:3 - "**About nine in the morning he** went out and **saw others** standing in **the marketplace doing** nothing.
- Matthew 20:4 - He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will **pay you whatever is right.**'
- Matthew 20:5 - So they **went**. "**He** went out **again about noon and about three** in the **afternoon and** did the same **thing**.
- Matthew 20:6 - About five in the **afternoon he** went out and **found still** others **standing around**. **He** asked them, '**Why** have **you been standing here all day long doing** nothing?'
- ¶ Matthew 20:7 - - "**Because no one has hired us,**' they **answered**. "**He** said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'
- ¶ Matthew 20:8 - "When **evening came, the owner** of the **vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'**
- ¶ Matthew 20:9 - "The **workers who** were **hired about five in the afternoon came and each received** a denarius.
- Matthew 20:10 - So **when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received** a denarius.
- Matthew 20:11 - When they **received it, they began to grumble against the landowner**.
- Matthew 20:12 - '**These who** were **hired last worked only one hour,**' they said, 'and you have **made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.**'
- ¶ Matthew 20:13 - "But he **answered one** of them, 'I am **not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for** a denarius?'
- Matthew 20:14 - **Take your pay and go. I** want to give the one who **was hired last the same as I gave** you.
- Matthew 20:15 - **Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?**'
- ¶ Matthew 20:16 - "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

- ¶ Matthew 20:17 - **Now Jesus** was going up to **Jerusalem**. **On the way, he took** the **Twelve aside** and said to them,
 Matthew 20:18 - "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be **delivered over** to the **chief priests** and the **teachers** of the **law**. **They will condemn him to death**
 Matthew 20:19 - and **will hand** him over to the **Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified**. **On the third day** he will be **raised** to life!"

A Mother's Request

- ¶ Matthew 20:20 - **Then** the **mother** of **Zebedee's sons** came to **Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of** him.
 ¶ Matthew 20:21 - "What is it you **want?**" **he asked**. **She said**, "**Grant that** one of these two sons of **mine may sit** at your right and the **other at your left in** your kingdom."
 ¶ Matthew 20:22 - "You don't know what you **are asking**," **Jesus** said to **them**. "**Can you drink the cup I** am going to **drink?**" "**We can**," **they** answered.
 ¶ Matthew 20:23 - Jesus said to them, "You **will indeed drink from my cup, but** to sit at my **right or left is not for me to grant**. **These places belong to those for whom** they have **been prepared by** my **Father**."
 ¶ Matthew 20:24 - When **the ten heard** about **this**, they were **indignant with** the two **brothers**.
 Matthew 20:25 - Jesus called **them together and** said, "You know that the **rulers** of the **Gentiles lord it over** them, and **their high officials exercise authority over** them.
 Matthew 20:26 - **Not so with you. Instead, whoever** wants to **become great among you must be your servant**,
 Matthew 20:27 - and whoever wants to be **first must be your slave--**
 Matthew 20:28 - **just** as the Son of **Man did** not **come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many**."

Two Blind Men Receive Sight

- ¶ Matthew 20:29 - As Jesus and his **disciples** were **leaving Jericho, a large** crowd followed him.
 Matthew 20:30 - Two **blind men** were **sitting by the roadside, and** when they heard that Jesus was **going by, they shouted**, "**Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!**"
 ¶ Matthew 20:31 - The **crowd rebuked** them and told them to **be quiet, but** they shouted all the **louder**, "**Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!**"
 ¶ Matthew 20:32 - **Jesus stopped and called them**. "**What** do you want me to do for you?" he asked.
 ¶ Matthew 20:33 - "Lord," they **answered, "we want our sight**."
 ¶ Matthew 20:34 - Jesus **had compassion** on them and **touched** their **eyes**. **Immediately** they received their **sight and** followed him.

Matthew 21

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

- ¶ Matthew 21:1 - As **they approached Jerusalem** and came to **Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples**,
 Matthew 21:2 - saying to them, "Go to **the village ahead** of you, **and at once you will find** a **donkey tied there, with her colt by her**. **Untie them and bring** them to me.
 Matthew 21:3 - If **anyone says anything** to you, say that the **Lord needs them**, and he will **send them right away**."
 ¶ Matthew 21:4 - This took place to **fulfill** what was **spoken through** the prophet:
 ¶ Matthew 21:5 - "Say to **Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'**"
 ¶ Matthew 21:6 - The disciples went and did as Jesus **had instructed** them.
 Matthew 21:7 - They **brought the donkey and the colt and placed their** cloaks on them for Jesus to **sit on**.
 Matthew 21:8 - A **very large crowd spread their** cloaks on the **road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on** the road.
 Matthew 21:9 - The **crowds that went** ahead of him and **those that followed shouted**, "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**" "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**" "**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**"
 ¶ Matthew 21:10 - When Jesus **entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and** asked, "Who is this?"
 ¶ Matthew 21:11 - The **crowds answered**, "This is Jesus, the **prophet from Nazareth in Galilee**."

Jesus at the Temple

- ¶ Matthew 21:12 - Jesus entered the temple courts **and drove out all** who were **buying and selling there**. **He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves**.

- Matthew 21:13 - "It is **written**," he said to them, "**My house will be called a house of prayer,**' but you are **making it 'a den of robbers.'**"
- ¶ Matthew 21:14 - The **blind** and the **lame came** to him at the temple, and he **healed** them.
- Matthew 21:15 - But when the chief priests and the **teachers** of the **law saw the wonderful things** he did and the **children shouting in** the temple **courts**, "**Hosanna** to the Son of David," they were **indignant**.
- ¶ Matthew 21:16 - "Do you **hear what these children are saying?**" they asked him. "**Yes,**" replied Jesus, "**have** you never **read,**" "**From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?**"
- ¶ Matthew 21:17 - And he **left** them and went out of the city to **Bethany, where he spent the night.**

Jesus Curses a Fig Tree

- ¶ Matthew 21:18 - **Early** in the **morning, as** Jesus **was on his way back** to the city, he was **hungry.**
- Matthew 21:19 - **Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then** he said to it, "**May you never bear fruit again!**" **Immediately the tree withered.**
- ¶ Matthew 21:20 - When the disciples saw this, they were **amazed.** "**How** did the fig **tree wither so quickly?**" they asked.
- ¶ Matthew 21:21 - Jesus **replied,** "**Truly** I tell you, if you have **faith and do not doubt, not only can** you do what **was done** to the fig **tree, but also you** can say to this **mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and** it will be done.
- Matthew 21:22 - If you **believe, you will receive whatever** you ask for **in prayer.**"

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

- ¶ Matthew 21:23 - Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he **was teaching,** the chief priests and the **elders** of the **people came** to him. "By what **authority are** you doing these **things?**" they asked. "**And who gave you this authority?**"
- ¶ Matthew 21:24 - Jesus **replied,** "**I will also ask you one question. If you answer me,** I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
- Matthew 21:25 - **John's baptism--where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?**" They **discussed it among themselves** and said, "If we **say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't** you believe him?"
- Matthew 21:26 - But if we **say, 'Of human origin'--we are afraid** of the **people, for they all hold that John was** a prophet."
- ¶ Matthew 21:27 - So they answered **Jesus, "We don't know."** Then he **said, "Neither will I** tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

- ¶ Matthew 21:28 - "What do you **think?** **There** was a **man** who **had two sons.** He went to the first and **said, 'Son, go and work today** in the vineyard.'
- ¶ Matthew 21:29 - "'I will **not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and** went.
- ¶ Matthew 21:30 - "Then the **father went** to the **other son** and said the same **thing.** He answered, 'I **will, sir,**' but he did not go.
- ¶ Matthew 21:31 - "**Which** of the **two did what his father wanted?**" "**The first,**" they answered. Jesus said to them, "**Truly** I tell you, the tax collectors and the **prostitutes are entering** the kingdom of **God ahead** of you.
- Matthew 21:32 - For John came to you to **show you** the way of **righteousness,** and you did **not believe** him, but the tax collectors and the **prostitutes did.** And **even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe** him.

The Parable of the Tenants

- ¶ Matthew 21:33 - "**Listen to another parable:** **There** was a **landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.**
- Matthew 21:34 - When the harvest **time approached, he** sent his servants to the **tenants to collect his fruit.**
- ¶ Matthew 21:35 - "The **tenants seized** his **servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.**
- Matthew 21:36 - Then he **sent other** servants to **them, more than** the **first time,** and the **tenants treated them** the same way.
- Matthew 21:37 - **Last** of all, he sent his **son** to them. 'They **will respect my son,**' he said.
- ¶ Matthew 21:38 - "But when the **tenants saw** the **son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'**
- Matthew 21:39 - So they took him **and threw him out** of the vineyard and **killed him.**

- ¶ Matthew 21:40 - "Therefore, when the **owner** of the **vineyard comes**, what will he do to those tenants?"
- ¶ Matthew 21:41 - "He **will bring those wretches to a wretched end**," they replied, "and he **will rent the vineyard to other tenants**, who will **give him his share of the crop at harvest** time."
- ¶ Matthew 21:42 - Jesus said to **them**, "**Have** you never read in the **Scriptures**: "**The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone**; **the Lord has done this**, and it is **marvelous in our eyes**?"
- ¶ Matthew 21:43 - "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of **God will be taken** away from you and **given** to a **people** who **will produce its** fruit.
- Matthew 21:44 - Anyone **who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces**; anyone on **whom** it falls will be **crushed**."
- ¶ Matthew 21:45 - When the chief priests and the **Pharisees heard** Jesus' **parables**, they **knew he** was **talking about them**.
- Matthew 21:46 - They **looked for a way to arrest** him, but they **were afraid** of the **crowd because** the **people held that** he was a prophet.

Matthew 22

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

- ¶ Matthew 22:1 - **Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying**:
- Matthew 22:2 - "The **kingdom** of heaven is like a king **who prepared a wedding banquet** for his son.
- Matthew 22:3 - He sent his servants to those who had been **invited to the banquet** to tell them to come, but **they refused** to come.
- ¶ Matthew 22:4 - "Then he **sent some more servants and said**, '**Tell those** who have been **invited that I have prepared my dinner**: **My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered**, and **everything** is ready. **Come** to the wedding banquet.'
- ¶ Matthew 22:5 - "But **they paid no attention and** went **off--one to his field, another to his business**.
- Matthew 22:6 - The **rest seized** his **servants, mistreated them and killed them**.
- Matthew 22:7 - The king **was enraged**. He sent **his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city**.
- ¶ Matthew 22:8 - "Then he said to his **servants**, '**The wedding banquet is ready**, but those I invited did not **deserve** to come.
- Matthew 22:9 - **So go** to the **street corners and invite** to the **banquet anyone you find**.'
- Matthew 22:10 - So **the servants went** out into the **streets and gathered all** the people they **could find, the bad as well as the good**, and the **wedding hall was filled with guests**.
- ¶ Matthew 22:11 - "But when the **king came in to see** the guests, **he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding** clothes.
- Matthew 22:12 - He **asked**, '**How** did you **get in here without wedding clothes, friend?**' The man was **speechless**.
- ¶ Matthew 22:13 - "Then the **king told the attendants**, '**Tie** his hand and foot, and **throw him outside**, into the **darkness, where** there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.'
- ¶ Matthew 22:14 - "For **many are invited, but few are chosen**."

Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

- ¶ Matthew 22:15 - Then the Pharisees went out and **laid plans to trap him in his words**.
- Matthew 22:16 - They **sent their disciples to him along** with the **Herodians**. "Teacher," they said, "**we know** that you are a **man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth**. **You aren't swayed** by **others, because you pay** no attention to **who they** are.
- Matthew 22:17 - Tell **us then**, what is **your opinion? Is it right** to pay **the imperial tax to Caesar or not?**"
- ¶ Matthew 22:18 - But **Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said**, "You **hypocrites, why** are **you trying** to trap me?"
- Matthew 22:19 - **Show me the coin used for paying the tax**." They **brought** him a **denarius**,
- Matthew 22:20 - and he asked **them**, "**Whose image** is this? **And whose inscription?**"
- ¶ Matthew 22:21 - "**Caesar's**," they replied. Then he said to **them**, "**So give back** to **Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's**."
- ¶ Matthew 22:22 - When they heard this, they were **amazed**. **So** they left him and went **away**.

Marriage at the Resurrection

- ¶ Matthew 22:23 - **That same day** the **Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection**, came to him with a question.
- Matthew 22:24 - "Teacher," they **said**, "**Moses told us that** if a **man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring** for him.
- Matthew 22:25 - **Now there were seven brothers among us**. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, **he left his wife to** his brother.

- Matthew 22:26 - The same **thing happened** to the **second and third brother**, **right on down** to the **seventh**.
- Matthew 22:27 - **Finally, the woman died.**
- Matthew 22:28 - **Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"**
- ¶ Matthew 22:29 - Jesus replied, "You are **in error** because you do **not know** the **Scriptures or the power** of God.
- Matthew 22:30 - At the **resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage**; they will be like the **angels** in heaven.
- Matthew 22:31 - **But about the resurrection of the dead--have you not read** what God said to you,
- Matthew 22:32 - 'I **am** the God of **Abraham, the God of Isaac**, and the God of **Jacob**'? He is not the God of the dead **but of the living.**"
- ¶ Matthew 22:33 - When the **crowds heard** this, they were **astonished** at his **teaching**.

The Greatest Commandment

- ¶ Matthew 22:34 - **Hearing that** Jesus **had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together**.
- Matthew 22:35 - One of **them, an expert in the law, tested** him with **this question**:
- Matthew 22:36 - "**Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?**"
- ¶ Matthew 22:37 - Jesus **replied**: "**Love** the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all **your soul** and with all **your mind**."
- Matthew 22:38 - This is the first **and greatest** commandment.
- Matthew 22:39 - And the **second is like it**: '**Love** your **neighbor** as **yourself**.'
- Matthew 22:40 - All the Law and the **Prophets hang on these two commandments.**"

Whose Son Is the Messiah?

- ¶ Matthew 22:41 - **While** the Pharisees **were gathered together**, **Jesus** asked them,
- Matthew 22:42 - "What do you **think about** the **Messiah? Whose son is he?**" "**The son of David**," they replied.
- ¶ Matthew 22:43 - He said to **them**, "**How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'?** **For he says**,
- ¶ Matthew 22:44 - "'The **Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'**"
- ¶ Matthew 22:45 - If **then David calls** him 'Lord,' how **can he be his son?**"
- Matthew 22:46 - No one **could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.**

Matthew 26

The Plot Against Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 26:1 - When Jesus had **finished saying all these things**, he said to his disciples,
- Matthew 26:2 - "As you know, the **Passover is two days away**--and the Son of Man will be **handed** over to be **crucified.**"
- ¶ Matthew 26:3 - Then the chief priests and the elders of the **people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas**,
- Matthew 26:4 - and **they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill** him.
- Matthew 26:5 - "**But not during the festival**," **they said**, "**or there may be a riot among** the people."

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

- ¶ Matthew 26:6 - While Jesus was **in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper**,
- Matthew 26:7 - a woman came to him with **an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as** he was reclining at the table.
- ¶ Matthew 26:8 - When the disciples saw this, they were **indignant**. "**Why this waste?**" **they asked**.
- Matthew 26:9 - "This **perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given** to the poor."
- ¶ Matthew 26:10 - **Aware** of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are **you bothering this woman?** **She has done a beautiful thing to me.**
- Matthew 26:11 - The **poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.**
- Matthew 26:12 - **When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.**
- Matthew 26:13 - Truly I tell you, **wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.**"

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 26:14 - **Then one** of the **Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went** to the chief priests
 Matthew 26:15 - and asked, "What are **you willing to give me if I deliver him** over to you?" So **they counted out** for **him thirty pieces** of **silver**.
 Matthew 26:16 - **From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand** him over.

The Last Supper

- ¶ Matthew 26:17 - On the **first** day of the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "**Where do you want us to make preparations** for you to eat the Passover?"
 ¶ Matthew 26:18 - He replied, "Go into the **city to a certain man and tell him**, 'The **Teacher says: My appointed time is near**. I am going to **celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house**.'"
 Matthew 26:19 - So the **disciples did** as Jesus **had directed them and prepared the** Passover.
 ¶ Matthew 26:20 - When **evening came**, Jesus was reclining at the **table with** the Twelve.
 Matthew 26:21 - And while they were **eating**, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."
 ¶ Matthew 26:22 - They **were very sad and** began to say to him one after the **other**, "**Surely** you don't mean me, **Lord?**"
 ¶ Matthew 26:23 - Jesus **replied**, "**The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with** me will betray me.
 Matthew 26:24 - The Son of Man will **go just** as it is **written about** him. But **woe to that man who betrays the** Son of Man! It would be **better** for him if he **had not been born**."
 ¶ Matthew 26:25 - **Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said**, "Surely you don't mean **me, Rabbi?**" Jesus answered, "You have said so."
 ¶ Matthew 26:26 - While they were **eating**, **Jesus took bread**, and when he had given thanks, he **broke it** and gave it to his **disciples, saying**, "**Take and eat; this** is my body."
 ¶ Matthew 26:27 - Then he **took a cup, and** when he had given thanks, he gave it to **them, saying**, "**Drink from it, all** of you.
 Matthew 26:28 - This is **my blood of the covenant, which is poured out** for **many for the forgiveness of sins**.
 Matthew 26:29 - I tell you, I will **not drink from this fruit of the vine** from now **on until that day when I drink it new with** you in **my Father's kingdom**."
 ¶ Matthew 26:30 - When they **had sung a hymn, they** went out to the **Mount of Olives**.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

- ¶ Matthew 26:31 - Then Jesus told **them**, "**This very night you will all** fall away on account of me, for it is written: "**I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered**."
 ¶ Matthew 26:32 - But **after I have risen**, I will **go ahead** of you into Galilee."
 ¶ Matthew 26:33 - Peter **replied**, "**Even if all** fall away on account of you, **I never will**."
 ¶ Matthew 26:34 - "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very **night, before** the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."
 ¶ Matthew 26:35 - But **Peter declared**, "**Even** if I have **to die with** you, I will **never disown you**." And all the **other disciples** said the same.

Gethsemane

- ¶ Matthew 26:36 - Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place **called Gethsemane, and** he said to **them**, "**Sit here while I go over there** and pray."
 Matthew 26:37 - He **took Peter** and the two **sons of Zebedee along** with him, and he began to **be sorrowful and troubled**.
 Matthew 26:38 - Then he said to them, "**My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and** keep watch with me."
 ¶ Matthew 26:39 - **Going a little farther, he fell** with his **face to the ground and** prayed, "My Father, if it **is possible, may this cup be** taken from **me. Yet** not as I **will, but as** you will."
 ¶ Matthew 26:40 - Then he returned to his disciples and found them **sleeping**. "**Couldn't you men keep** watch with me **for one hour?**" **he asked Peter**.
 Matthew 26:41 - "**Watch and pray so** that you will not fall into **temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak**."
 ¶ Matthew 26:42 - He went **away a second time** and prayed, "My Father, if it is **not possible for this cup to** be taken **away unless I** drink it, **may your** will be done."
 ¶ Matthew 26:43 - When **he came back, he again found** them **sleeping, because their eyes were heavy**.
 Matthew 26:44 - So he **left** them and went **away once more and prayed the third time, saying the** same thing.
 ¶ Matthew 26:45 - Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you **still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has** come, and the Son of Man **is delivered** into the **hands of sinners**.
 Matthew 26:46 - **Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!**"

Jesus Arrested

- ¶ Matthew 26:47 - While he was still **speaking**, Judas, one of the **Twelve**, **arrived**. With him was a **large crowd armed with swords and clubs**, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
- Matthew 26:48 - Now **the betrayer had arranged a signal with them**: "The one **I kiss is the man**; arrest him."
- Matthew 26:49 - **Going at once to Jesus**, Judas said, "**Greetings, Rabbi!**" and **kissed him**.
- ¶ Matthew 26:50 - Jesus **replied**, "**Do what you came for, friend**." Then the **men stepped forward**, **seized Jesus and arrested him**.
- Matthew 26:51 - With that, one of Jesus' **companions reached for his sword**, **drew it out** and **struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear**.
- ¶ Matthew 26:52 - "Put **your sword back in its place**," Jesus said to him, "for all **who draw the sword will die by the sword**."
- Matthew 26:53 - Do you **think I cannot call on my Father**, and he **will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels**?
- Matthew 26:54 - **But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way**?"
- ¶ Matthew 26:55 - **In that hour Jesus** said to the **crowd**, "**Am I leading a rebellion**, that you have come out with swords and **clubs to capture me**? **Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching**, and you did **not arrest me**."
- Matthew 26:56 - **But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled**." Then all the **disciples deserted him and fled**.

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

- ¶ Matthew 26:57 - Those who had **arrested Jesus** took him to **Caiaphas the high priest**, where the **teachers of the law** and the **elders had assembled**.
- Matthew 26:58 - But **Peter followed him at a distance**, **right up to the courtyard of the high priest**. He **entered and sat down with the guards** to see the **outcome**.
- ¶ Matthew 26:59 - The chief priests and the **whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus** so that they **could put him to death**.
- Matthew 26:60 - But they did not **find any, though many false witnesses came forward**. **Finally two came forward**
- Matthew 26:61 - **and declared**, "**This fellow said**, 'I am **able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it** in three days.'"
- ¶ Matthew 26:62 - Then the high **priest stood up** and said to **Jesus**, "**Are you not going to answer**? What is **this testimony that these men are bringing** against you?"
- Matthew 26:63 - But **Jesus remained silent**. The high **priest said** to him, "**I charge you under oath by the living God**: Tell **us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God**."
- ¶ Matthew 26:64 - "You have said so," Jesus **replied**. "**But I say to all of you**: **From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven**."
- ¶ Matthew 26:65 - Then the high **priest tore his clothes** and said, "**He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy**."
- Matthew 26:66 - What do you **think**?" "**He is worthy of death**," they answered.
- ¶ Matthew 26:67 - Then they **spit in his face and struck him with their fists**. **Others slapped him**
- Matthew 26:68 - and **said**, "**Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you**?"

Peter Disowns Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 26:69 - **Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard**, and a servant **girl came** to him. "You **also were with Jesus of Galilee**," she said.
- ¶ Matthew 26:70 - But he denied **it before them all**. "**I don't know what you're talking about**," he said.
- ¶ Matthew 26:71 - Then he went out to **the gateway**, where **another servant girl saw him** and said to the **people there**, "**This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth**."
- ¶ Matthew 26:72 - He denied **it again, with an oath**: "**I don't know the man!**"
- ¶ Matthew 26:73 - **After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter** and said, "Surely you **are one of them; your accent gives you away**."
- ¶ Matthew 26:74 - Then he began to **call down curses, and he swore to them**, "I don't know the **man!**" **Immediately a rooster crowed**.
- Matthew 26:75 - Then **Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken**: "**Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times**." **And he went outside and wept bitterly**.

Judas Hangs Himself

- ¶ Matthew 27:1 - **Early** in the **morning**, **all** the chief priests and the elders of the **people made their plans how** to have Jesus executed.
- Matthew 27:2 - So **they bound him**, **led** him away and handed him over to **Pilate the governor**.
- ¶ Matthew 27:3 - **When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw** that Jesus **was condemned**, **he was seized with remorse and returned the** thirty pieces of **silver to** the chief priests and the elders.
- Matthew 27:4 - "**I have sinned**," **he** said, "for I **have betrayed innocent blood**." "**What is that to us?**" they **replied**. "**That's your** responsibility."
- ¶ Matthew 27:5 - **So Judas threw the money into** the temple and **left**. **Then** he went away **and hanged himself**.
- ¶ Matthew 27:6 - The chief **priests picked up the coins and** said, "It is against the **law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money**."
- Matthew 27:7 - So **they decided to use the money to** buy the potter's field as **a burial place for foreigners**.
- Matthew 27:8 - That is **why it** has been called the **Field of Blood** to this day.
- Matthew 27:9 - Then what was **spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled**: "**They** took the thirty pieces of **silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel,**
- Matthew 27:10 - and **they used them** to buy the potter's field, as the **Lord commanded me**."

Jesus Before Pilate

- ¶ Matthew 27:11 - **Meanwhile Jesus stood before** the **governor**, and the **governor asked** him, "Are you the king of the **Jews?**" "**You** have said so," Jesus replied.
- ¶ Matthew 27:12 - When he **was accused by** the chief priests and the **elders, he gave no answer**.
- Matthew 27:13 - **Then Pilate** asked **him**, "**Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing** against you?"
- Matthew 27:14 - But Jesus **made no reply, not even** to a **single charge--to the great amazement** of the governor.
- ¶ Matthew 27:15 - Now it was the **governor's custom** at the **festival to release a prisoner chosen by** the crowd.
- Matthew 27:16 - At that **time they** had **a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus** Barabbas.
- Matthew 27:17 - So when the crowd **had gathered, Pilate** asked **them**, "**Which one do** you want me to release to you: Jesus **Barabbas, or Jesus** who is called the Messiah?"
- Matthew 27:18 - For **he knew it was out of self-interest that** they **had handed Jesus over** to him.
- ¶ Matthew 27:19 - **While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message**: "**Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because** of him."
- ¶ Matthew 27:20 - But the chief priests and the **elders persuaded the** crowd to **ask for Barabbas and** to have Jesus executed.
- ¶ Matthew 27:21 - "Which of the **two do** you want me to release to **you?**" **asked the governor**. "**Barabbas,**" they answered.
- ¶ Matthew 27:22 - "What **shall I do, then, with** Jesus who is called the **Messiah?**" **Pilate** asked. **They all answered, "Crucify him!"**
- ¶ Matthew 27:23 - "**Why? What crime has he committed?**" **asked Pilate**. But they **shouted** all the **louder, "Crucify him!"**
- ¶ Matthew 27:24 - **When Pilate saw** that he **was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in** front of the **crowd**. "**I am innocent of this man's blood,**" he said. "It is your responsibility!"
- ¶ Matthew 27:25 - All the **people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"**
- ¶ Matthew 27:26 - Then **he released Barabbas** to them. But he **had Jesus flogged**, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 27:27 - Then the **governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around** him.
- Matthew 27:28 - **They stripped him** and put **a scarlet robe on** him,
- Matthew 27:29 - and **then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it** on his head. They put a **staff in** his right **hand**. **Then they knelt in** front of him **and mocked him**. "**Hail, king of the Jews!**" they said.
- Matthew 27:30 - They **spit on** him, and took **the staff and struck** him on the **head again and again**.
- Matthew 27:31 - After they **had mocked** him, they **took off the robe and put his own clothes on** him. Then **they led** him **away to crucify** him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 27:32 - As they were going **out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry**

the cross.

- Matthew 27:33 - They came to a place called **Golgotha** (which means "the place of the skull").
- Matthew 27:34 - There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.
- Matthew 27:35 - When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
- Matthew 27:36 - And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.
- Matthew 27:37 - Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.
- ¶ Matthew 27:38 - Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.
- Matthew 27:39 - Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads
- Matthew 27:40 - and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"
- Matthew 27:41 - In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.
- Matthew 27:42 - "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.
- Matthew 27:43 - He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"
- Matthew 27:44 - In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 27:45 - From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.
- Matthew 27:46 - About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").
- ¶ Matthew 27:47 - When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."
- ¶ Matthew 27:48 - Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink.
- Matthew 27:49 - The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."
- ¶ Matthew 27:50 - And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.
- ¶ Matthew 27:51 - At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split
- Matthew 27:52 - and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.
- Matthew 27:53 - They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.
- ¶ Matthew 27:54 - When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"
- ¶ Matthew 27:55 - Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs.
- Matthew 27:56 - Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus

- ¶ Matthew 27:57 - As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.
- Matthew 27:58 - Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him.
- Matthew 27:59 - Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,
- Matthew 27:60 - and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.
- Matthew 27:61 - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

- ¶ Matthew 27:62 - The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.
- Matthew 27:63 - "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'
- Matthew 27:64 - So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."
- ¶ Matthew 27:65 - "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."
- Matthew 27:66 - So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Matthew 28

Jesus Has Risen

- ¶ Matthew 28:1 - After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
- ¶ Matthew 28:2 - There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- Matthew 28:3 - His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
- Matthew 28:4 - The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.
- ¶ Matthew 28:5 - The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.
- Matthew 28:6 - He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
- Matthew 28:7 - Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."
- ¶ Matthew 28:8 - So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
- Matthew 28:9 - Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.
- Matthew 28:10 - Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

- ¶ Matthew 28:11 - While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.
- Matthew 28:12 - When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money,
- Matthew 28:13 - telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'
- Matthew 28:14 - If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."
- Matthew 28:15 - So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

- ¶ Matthew 28:16 - Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.
- Matthew 28:17 - When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.
- Matthew 28:18 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Matthew 28:19 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matthew 28:20 - and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."