

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 **prophecy** 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 *touched 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 **Genesaret**.
- 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 **kneel** 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** it **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 **serv**ed, 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** him 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 **sinner**s."
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**.

Matthew 27

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**."