

Matthew

1 – Matthew 1:1-17—Genealogy

Why would Matthew begin the Gospel with a genealogy? (compare to Genesis) Who are the women included in the genealogy? Why are they included? Why would Matthew mention Abraham and David at the beginning and the end? (v.1, 17) Why does Matthew begin with Abraham (Luke ends with Adam)?

2 – Matthew 1:18-25—Jesus' Birth

How is Matthew very careful to let us know about the virgin birth? What “right” by Jewish law did Joseph have? Why didn't he carry out his “right”? Why does the angel call him “Joseph son of David”? What would Joseph also know by the angel telling him the name, Jesus? Why would Joseph have known the Isaiah [passage that Matthew quotes? What did it “cost” Joseph to take Mary as his wife? Why was it important for Matthew to write that Joseph had no union with Mary until Jesus was born?

3 – Matthew 2:1-12—Magi

Why don't we hear about the shepherds and the angels at Jesus birth? What if we only had Matthew's “Christmas story”? How would the Magi have known about the star? (See [Numbers 24:17](#) and [Daniel 1](#)). Why was it important that the Magi stopped in Jerusalem? Why didn't Herod send his own men to find Jesus? What do we know about this star that appeared? Why the 3 gifts? What happened to the Magi after they returned home?

4 – Matthew 2:13-23—To Egypt

What “cost” did Joseph now pay for the sake of Jesus? Why did he do this? What is the 2-fold meaning of “out of Egypt I have called My son”? How many times does “the angel of the Lord” appear to Joseph in a dream? Why did Joseph settle his family in Nazareth?

5 – Matthew 3—John & Jesus' Baptism

What happened during the 30 some years between the end of Ch. 2 and these verses? How do we know this? Did John the Baptizer know that he was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy? What did John mean by “the kingdom of heaven is near”? Why does Matthew tell us about John's clothes and food? Why did the people come out to John in the Wilderness? How is this different from the church's mission programs? What's the difference between water baptism and “baptism by fire”? Why was Jesus baptized? Since Jesus is God, why did the Holy Spirit come down upon Jesus? (recall how judges and kings were called and empowered)

6 – Matthew 4:1-11—Temptation

Why the temptations in the desert for 40 days? (recall Moses, Elijah, David, etc.) How was the temptations of Jesus like those against Adam and Eve? How did Jesus repel the devil's temptations? What most important lesson does this teach us about dealing with temptations in our lives? Why the 3 temptations? Were there also others?

7 – Matthew 4:12-25—Galilee

What is the significance that Jesus preached the same message that John was preaching? Why didn't Jesus choose some Pharisees or scribes to be His disciples? Why did Peter, Andrew and others follow Jesus? What did it “cost” them? What did these men do during this time of following Jesus? Note, v.25, who else followed Jesus?

8 – Matthew 5—Teachings

How inviting are these “Beatitudes”? Why does Jesus say “blessed”? What church would put these on their PR materials? Why did Jesus teach this at the beginning of His public ministry? How much of this did the people / His disciples understand? How did this compare with the Jewish teachings of those from Jerusalem? What does this say to the ecumenical movement of “watering down” the Word of God? What does this teach us about living our lives in obedience to Jesus and His Word?

9 – Matthew 6—More Teachings

Why do you give to the needy? “When you pray”, “when you fast” – how often do we do these? How do we “store up for ourselves treasures in heaven”? What is the difference between worry and planning for the present and the future? How do we “seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness”?

10 – Matthew 7—More Teachings

What kind of judging is Jesus talking about? How might we “throw pearls to pigs”? What is the opposite of “ask, seek and knock”? How do we “enter the narrow gate”? How can we distinguish a false prophet? What was the difference in Jesus’ teachings?

11 – Matthew 8—It’s About Faith

How did the leper know about Jesus? What was so “great” about the centurion’s faith? Does faith heal? What did Jesus teach about the “cost” of following Him? What was “little” about the disciple’s faith? Why did Jesus allow the demons to enter the pigs?

12 – Matthew 9—Miracles And Faith

How could Jesus “see their faith”? Why was the paralytic healed? Why did Jesus call Matthew to follow Him? Another teaching about fasting - what does Jesus teach this time? How did the faith of the ruler and the woman compare? What does this teach us? Why did Jesus tell the blind men not to tell anyone about their healing?

13 – Matthew 10—The 12 Apostles

Why did Jesus send out the 12? What instructions did He give to them at this time? How would they be cared for? What could they expect?

14 – Matthew 11—Teach And Preach

Why did John ask about Jesus? What is the meaning of Jesus’ answer to John? (see [Isaiah 53:4-6](#)) What is the significance of what Jesus teaches about John? What is Jesus invitation to His disciples and to us?

15 – Matthew 12—Opposition

How did Jesus challenge the man-made Sabbath laws? What is He teaching? What’s the continued irony between the Pharisees and the demon-possessed man who Jesus healed? Was Jesus being disrespectful to His mother, or why did He answer as He did?

16 – Matthew 13—Miracles

What happened “that same day”? Why did Jesus get in the boat? Why did He speak in parables? Who was “listening” to them? (v.18) Why does Jesus teach about the “kingdom of heaven”? What does Jesus mean by “old” and “new” treasures?

17 – Matthew 14—Who Is Jesus?

Who was Herod? How did Jesus respond to the news of John’s tragic death? Why did Jesus feed the 5,000 when He wanted to withdraw from the people? What important teaching went along with this marvelous miracle? When Jesus finally gets away by Himself (v.22-23) what does He do? Again, what is the important teaching as Jesus walks on the water? What is the teaching when Peter walks on the water too? What is “little faith”? (v.31) What did the disciples mean by their confession (v.33)? How were so many people healed (v.34-36)?

18 – Matthew 15—Faith Or Unbelief?

Why did Jesus speak to the Pharisees and teachers of the law in such a harsh way? What does Jesus want them to know (“listen and understand”)? What does Jesus teach the crowds? What does this teach us today? How does the “faith” of Peter and the disciples compare with this Canaanite woman? Why such a contrast? How would this woman have such faith in Jesus? Compare how Jesus spoke to the Pharisees with how He spoke to this woman. How does it seem similar at first? How was it very different and beneficial for the woman? What is similar to the feeding of the 5,000? What is different? Why both of these?

19 – Matthew 16—Confession Of Faith

The Pharisees (and Sadducees!) are back! Why? What is “the sign of Jonah”? Why is this still the “only sign” needed in our day and age too? What did Jesus mean by “you of little faith” (v.8)? After all the teaching and miracles, why didn’t the disciples still “get it”? Why don’t we “get it” so often? Did Peter “get it”? Why not? (make sure to read v.28 in the context of Ch. 17!)

20 – Matthew 17—Mountain Top

What happened during the 6 days? Why only Peter, James and John on the mountain top? Why Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus? What was Peter's idea? What was God the Father's command? What was Jesus' command? Why was Jesus so upset (or was He?) at the bottom of the mountain? Note again, v.20, "little faith". How did Jesus pay His taxes? How do we pay our taxes? Is there a difference?

21 – Matthew 18—Life In The Kingdom

What did the disciples mean by "kingdom of heaven"? What did Jesus mean by it? Why did Jesus use the hyperbole in these verses? Who are the "little ones" in v.10-14? What is the context of the "Matthew 18" verses (v.15-20)? How are these verses sometimes misused? How are they to be a blessing? How does the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant help us understand the words about a "brother who sins against you"? How does this parable also help us understand the previous verses of the "brother who sins against you"?

22 – Matthew 19—Teachings

Why is there so much divorce in our world? Why did the Pharisees ask the question? Why did the disciples say "it is better not to marry"? (v.10) Why would the disciples rebuke those bringing little children to Jesus? How does this relate to God's Word about divorce? How was the Rich Young Man a "little child"? What "hindered" him from following Jesus? Is Jesus promising "rewards" in v.28-30? What WILL we receive in the Kingdom of heaven?

23 – Matthew 20—The Last First

Note 19:30 and 20:16 - why the repetition? What difference does it make that we live in the Kingdom of heaven as we live in this world? Why do we expect to receive more? (v.10) How does Mrs. Zebedee give us an example of this? What is the irony of the two blind men in contrast to Jesus' disciples who followed Him? Which are we more like?

24 – Matthew 21:1-22—Palm Sun – Tuesday

Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem like this, at this time? Again, what is the great irony of the blind and the lame (and the children) in the Temple in contrast to the leaders? What is the warning this gives us today? What is the message of the fig tree? Is v.22 a "blank check" from God? What is Jesus teaching us?

25 – Matthew 21:23-22:14—Opposition

What does Jesus teach by His question on John's baptism and authority? Jesus taught with many parables. Why these 3 parables? (see 21:45-46 and 22:15)

26 – Matthew 22:15-46—Challenges And Teachings

How did Jesus answer the "trick question" of the Pharisees? What does He teach? How important is marriage at the resurrection? Why did the Sadducees ask this? Why do people today ask about it? The best way to teach is through questions - what was wrong with the questions in these verses? How did Jesus powerfully teach anyway?

27 – Matthew 23—Woe!

What does it mean to "practice what you preach"? What does Jesus mean "do not call anyone on earth 'father'" (v.9) Why the 7 "woes" in this chapter? (see v.37-39) What is Jesus' desire with the Jews, the religious leaders, all people?

28 – Matthew 24—Last Days

How does Jesus talk differently to His disciples? What does this chapter teach us about "the last days" and what we should expect? What do we know about Judgment Day? What comfort does Jesus give in these verses? What does the Bible teach about the "rapture"? How are we "faithful and wise servants"? (v.45-47)

29 – Matthew 25—Kingdom Of Heaven

Again, 3 parables - what do they have in common? What is unique about each? This chapter starts: "At that time" - what time? This is during Holy Week - what additional emphasis does this give to these parables? What do all three parables teach about those who are "blessed"? "cursed"?

30 – Matthew 26:1-27:31—Passover Fulfilled

What was the OT purpose of the Passover? Why did Jesus observe it? Note the contrast of the woman with Judas - why the difference? Why did Jesus single out Judas? (26:21-25, 50; 27:1-5) and Peter? (26:31-35, 69-75) Who was in charge of the arrest, the trial, before Pilate, etc.? How is this reassuring? What is the terrible irony of Jesus mockery before the soldiers (note: how did Jesus “reign” as our King?)

31 – Matthew 27:32-28:20—Death & Resurrection

Why did Simon have to carry the cross? Why did Jesus refuse the wine in v.34, but receive it in v.48 (or did He? See [John 19:28-30](#)) What titles does Matthew record for Jesus as He was on the cross? V.36, 40, 54. Why does Matthew record the events of 27:51-53? What’s the importance of the guard at the tomb? (see 27:62-66 and 28:4, 11-15) Note Matthew’s inclusion of the women: 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Why did the 11 disciples go to Galilee? What happened there?