

INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT - MATTHEW

TMBC Course #8



Student Workbook

The Best Books in the Bible

Chapter 1

Audio lesson: New Testament 1



Objective: To introduce the New Testament and explain why the gospels are the central purpose of Scripture.



“Study to present yourself approved unto God, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.”

—2 Timothy 2:15

Jesus said, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”

—John 5:39

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

—Luke 24:27

The first four books of the New Testament are called “gospels,” which means “good news.” They are often referred to as biographies of Jesus because we get our biographical information on Jesus’ life from them. They are not typical biographies like we have today, however, because the people who wrote them were not trying to tell Jesus’ entire life story. Two of these gospels do not even mention His birth or the first 30 years of His life.

These four gospels tell us about Jesus’ works, His teaching, and the redemption He brought to the world. By the time we have surveyed and summarized these inspired biographies, we will have gained a comprehensive insight into the life of a Man who only lived for 33 years, but who impacted the history of our world more than anyone else who ever lived.

The gospels show us that the whole Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—is all about Jesus Christ. They are therefore the most important books in the Bible, the key to understanding all of Scripture. As we will see, Jesus declared that He is at the center of God’s plan from beginning to end. Everything in Scripture points to Him and His plan to redeem and save lost mankind.

The gospels declare God to us because they present Jesus Christ, God’s greatest revelation of truth. Everything that Jesus was, everything that Jesus said and everything that Jesus did reveals God to us; that is why this study is so important.



1. True or false? Unlike the Old Testament books, there is only one kind of book in the New Testament.
2. True or false? The four Gospels are considered the heart of the Scripture.
3. True or false? The Gospels are like biographies of Jesus.
4. True or false? It is not important to study the Bible as long as we know its basic message.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. How does someone get faith?
 - a. By hearing or reading the Word of God
 - b. By waiting for the miracle of faith to come
 - c. By being born to parents who have faith
 - d. By going on a pilgrimage and doing good works
6. Who is the main character of Scripture?
 - a. Moses
 - b. King David
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. The apostle Paul
7. What is the main purpose of the Bible?
 - a. It is a scientific manual.
 - b. It is a thorough history of civilization.
 - c. It is a textbook on salvation.
 - d. It is a list of what we should and should not do.

8. Which aspect of Jesus' ministry accurately revealed the truth about God?
- a. What He said and taught
 - b. What He did
 - c. His personality and character
 - d. All of the above
9. Why did God come to us in the form of a man?
- a. To show us that He too was only a man before He became a god
 - b. To communicate His message to us in a way we could understand
 - c. So He could rule over us as a human king
 - d. To correct the teachings He had given in the Old Testament as a Spirit
10. What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
- a. The Old Testament is for Jews, and the New Testament is for everyone else.
 - b. The Old Testament tells us that Jesus Christ is coming, and the New Testament tells us that Jesus Christ came and is coming again.
 - c. The Old Testament is full of inaccuracies, but the New Testament is entirely true.
 - d. The Old Testament was written by men, but the New Testament was written by Jesus Himself.
11. What should we do with what we learn in the Bible?
- a. Study carefully
 - b. Rightly explain the words of truth to others
 - c. Teach others who can then teach others
 - d. All of the above



Why is the Gospel good news to you personally? What difference has it made (or can it make) in your life? Who do you need to share the good news with?



Thank God that He sent Jesus to bridge the separation between human beings and God. Ask Him to give you great insight as you study His Word in the next few weeks. Ask God to show you and give you courage to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways are the four Gospels not typical biographies of the life of Jesus? _____

2. In what ways was Jesus Christ the greatest Revelation of truth this world has ever received from God? (Consider John 1:18) _____

3. Why are the four Gospels the most important books in the Bible? (Consider John 5:39; Luke 24:27; 44, 45) _____

4. According to Luke 24:45, what truth did Jesus share with the apostles that opened their understanding, or their minds, that they might understand all of the Scriptures? _____

5. According to the Gospel of Mark, “Jesus came.” What differences did it make to this world that Jesus came? _____

6. Describe the spiritual dateline when “Jesus came” into your life. _____

7. What differences has the reality that “Jesus came” to you made in your life? _____

The Magnificent Obsession

Chapter 2

Audio lesson: New Testament 2



Objective: To learn the primary emphases and purposes of the four gospels.



“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”

—John 4:34

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

—John 3:16-18

The Bible addresses the most basic and fundamental problem of humanity—that we have divorced ourselves from God and that separation must be reconciled. The Old Testament tells us the divorce is the result of sin – the sin of Adam and Eve, our parents. Its message summarizes the solution to our problem of separation from God with these words: “Jesus is coming!” The message of the New Testament, however, describes the solution to our problem from a different perspective: “Jesus came!” The reason He came was to provide forgiveness for our sin and to reconcile us to God.

Jesus was the greatest revelation of truth that the world has ever been given. All other beliefs and opinions must be measured by the truth that He gave us. In fact, the New Testament tells us that Jesus was (and is) the exact image of God. Out of His union with God, He gave us all the truth we could possibly understand about God. Because the gospels tell of Jesus’ life, works, and teaching, they are the most important books in the Bible.

Jesus was zealous about His mission to reconcile humanity to God. He said that His “food” was to do the work God sent Him to do. He came because God wanted to communicate with us in a way we could understand. This is why it is so important to study the gospels: to understand God’s message and to receive His solution to our problem of separation from Him.



1. True or false? The gospels are very thorough, covering every stage of Jesus' life.
2. True or false? Matthew and Luke are the only gospels that tell about the birth of Jesus.
3. True or false? All four gospels emphasize Jesus' death and resurrection above all else.
4. True or false? Jesus, who dwells in those who believe, can still heal today.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Why is the last week of Jesus' ministry so important?
 - a. It is the only part of Jesus' life we know anything about.
 - b. He did not do anything important until that week.
 - c. He tried to take over the Roman government that week, which is why He was crucified.
 - d. He became the "Lamb of God" and offered Himself up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.
6. What was Jesus' "magnificent obsession"?
 - a. Becoming well known and influential
 - b. Learning as much as He could to become enlightened
 - c. Doing the will of God and finishing the work the Father had given Him
 - d. Using political power for good purposes
7. What was the great accomplishment Jesus discussed with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration?
 - a. His death on a cross
 - b. His miracles of healing
 - c. Training twelve men to be just like Him
 - d. Defending the weak and helpless of society

8. What was the primary purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection?
 - a. To demonstrate His divinity
 - b. To show us that death is just an illusion
 - c. To reconcile the divorce between God and humanity
 - d. To teach us to sacrifice for each other
9. How did Jesus bridge our separation from God?
 - a. He "redeemed" us, or bought our way back into God's family.
 - b. He convinced God that we were not as bad as He thought.
 - c. He convinced us that God was not as holy as we thought.
 - d. He taught us how to earn God's favor with good works.
10. What works other than redemption did Jesus do?
 - a. He showed us the way to live.
 - b. He taught us the truth.
 - c. He did miracles of healing, protection, and provision.
 - d. All of the above
11. What is the greatest proof of the New Testament?
 - a. The fact that everyone who heard Jesus believed Him
 - b. Jesus' resurrection
 - c. The miracles Jesus' disciples did
 - d. There is no proof. We have to have blind faith.



Have you experienced the redemption and new life Jesus offers and have you been reconciled to God? If so, how has your life changed by knowing Him? If not, ask Him to forgive your sins and make you right with God and help you follow His ways.



Thank God for all of His blessings—redemption, new life, His power and presence in your life, and everything else that He has provided for you. Ask Him for opportunities to accomplish His will and do all the works He has called you to do, and for His help to do them.



Going Deeper

1. How did Jesus reconcile the divorce between God and man? (Consider 2 Corinthians 5: 18 - 21) _____

2. How do the books of Exodus and Leviticus support the reality that Jesus came to reconcile that divorce through His death on the cross? _____

3. Why do half of the chapters in the Gospel of John cover the first 33 years of the life of Jesus and the second half of his chapters cover the last week in the life of Jesus? What is so important about that last week? _____

4. How does this observation tell us why Jesus came? _____

5. What were the vision statement and the mission objectives of Jesus, according to Jesus Himself? (Consider John 4:34; 9:4; 17:4; 19:30) _____

6. Do you have a personal vision statement and mission objectives because Jesus came into your life? If so, what are they? _____

7. How does the seventh beatitude merge with 2 Corinthians 5: 18-19? _____

The Ministries of the Messiah

Chapter 3

Audio lesson: New Testament 3



Objective: To explore the three main emphases of Jesus' ministry.



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

—John 14:6

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

—1 John 4:9-10

In the gospels, we discover that Jesus was a Man with a mission. He clearly knew what His mission was and stated His objectives frequently. In the last chapter, we explored His "magnificent obsession," which was accomplishing the work His Father sent him to do. When He came to the end of His three years of public ministry, He went into the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed: "I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do" (John 17:4). And His last words on the cross were a loud cry of triumph: "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

But what work did Jesus accomplish? When we read the four gospels, we find that they describe three main aspects of Jesus' ministry, and they give almost equal attention to each aspect. One third of the gospels tells of His teaching—the truth about life and God's purposes for His people. One third of the gospels tell of His mighty works—His miracles of healing and deliverance that showed that He was truly from God. And one third of the gospels tell of redemption—Jesus' death and resurrection, and how His sacrifice saved us from our sin. Jesus expressed this threefold ministry in John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



1. True or false? Jesus considered the ministry of casting out evil spirits to be real and important.
2. True or false? If Jesus understood as much about mental illness as we do today, He would not have tried to cast demons out of people.
3. True or false? Jesus came only to redeem us, not to teach us.
4. True or false? Jesus not only taught us truth, He showed us truth by the way He lived.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Which of the following terms did Jesus use to describe Himself?
 - a. The Way
 - b. The Truth
 - c. The Life
 - d. All of the above
6. Which of the following is often considered the greatest discourse of Jesus?
 - a. The Great Commission
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. His defense at His trial
 - d. His seven sayings on the Cross
7. Which of the following is the longest discourse of Jesus?
 - a. The Upper Room discourse
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. The parable of the Prodigal Son
 - d. The Olivet discourse

8. What kind(s) of dialogue did Jesus engage in?
 - a. Friendly dialogue with people
 - b. Hostile dialogue with people
 - c. Dialogue with God, or prayer
 - d. All of the above

9. Match each of Jesus' terms for Himself with the kind of ministry it represents.

a. "The Way"	i. Teaching
b. "The Truth"	ii. Miracles
c. "The Life"	iii. Redemption

10. What does the biblical word "confess" literally mean?
 - a. To "justify" oneself
 - b. To say "I am sorry"
 - c. To "say the same as"
 - d. To "change" one's mind

11. Which gospel is most unlike the other three?
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke
 - d. John

12. Match each gospel with its primary emphasis.

a. Matthew	i. Jesus as a man
b. Mark	ii. Jesus as King of the Jews
c. Luke	iii. Jesus as God in the flesh
d. John	iv. Jesus as a servant



Which of the three ministries of Jesus have you experienced personally? How have His teaching, His works, and His redemption affected your life?



Thank God for the ministries of Jesus—His teaching, His works, and the redemption He offers. Ask Him to help you "confess" His truth when you read or listen to His Word. Ask Him to cause His Word to transform your life. Ask God to make you a strong testimony of a life transformed by his redemption.



Going Deeper

1. Why has the Holy Spirit, Who is the Author of the Bible, given us four Gospels? Why would not one have been enough? _____

2. Based on the emphasis they place on His life, what are the four ways the Gospels present the most important life ever lived? _____

3. What are some of the unique characteristics of the Gospel of John? _____

4. How can you divide the content or emphasis of the message of the four Gospels into three thirds? _____

5. Relate that to the declaration of Jesus: "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6).

6. How does this declaration describe His ministries of redemption, revelation and regeneration?

7. How completely have you received the blessings of this threefold ministry of Jesus Christ by reading and studying these four Gospels? _____

The Strategy of the Savior

Chapter 4

Audio lesson: New Testament 4



Objective: To introduce the book of Matthew and understand Jesus' strategy for His ministry.



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

—Matthew 9:35-38

In all four gospels, Jesus is pictured as a Man with a strategy for accomplishing His mission. This is especially true in the Gospel of Matthew. Each time we read in Matthew that Jesus saw the multitude and was moved with compassion for them, we have a picture of His compassion for the whole world and His strategy for reaching the world with His message of salvation. When Jesus looked on those multitudes with compassion, He always did something strategic.

Much of Jesus' strategy involved training and teaching His disciples to meet the needs of the world. The multitudes who came to Jesus represent the world with all its problems, and Jesus frequently placed His followers strategically between Himself and the people to show them how to receive God's supernatural provision and to give it out to those who need it. God's provision for the multitude is passed from Jesus to the multitudes through the hands of the disciples, and that is still His plan today. The risen, living Christ chooses to use His disciples to pass the truth of His Good News to those who are in need of salvation.



1. True or false? Serious students of the Bible should study only the Bible and avoid any other commentaries and study tools.
2. True or false? Jesus knew exactly what His mission was and He had a strategy to accomplish His mission.
3. True or false? Jesus was so serious that He did not want to show His emotions and He never wept over the problems of people.
4. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount is the first long teaching given by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What was the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount?
 - a. To show how His disciples can become part of God's solution to people's problems
 - b. To teach us how we can earn our salvation
 - c. To show that the Old Testament is no longer important
 - d. To explain why He came
6. What did Jesus do at the end of the Sermon on the Mount?
 - a. He told everyone to go home.
 - b. He organized an uprising.
 - c. He challenged His listeners to make a commitment.
 - d. He told everyone to go teach what they had just heard.

7. When did the miracle of multiplying bread take place?
 - a. As soon as Jesus spoke the word
 - b. As the disciples had faith to give the bread out with their own hands
 - c. When God's voice thundered from heaven
 - d. Even before Jesus prayed
8. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in the Great Commission?
 - a. To build a bigger temple in Jerusalem
 - b. To secretly convert members for the church
 - c. To enforce God's law in the world
 - d. To go into all the world and make disciples
9. What did Jesus promise in the Great Commission?
 - a. Everyone who hears the Gospel will believe it.
 - b. Each of the disciples will be martyred.
 - c. Many religions will lead people to heaven.
 - d. He will always be with His followers.
10. Which of the following were a part of Jesus' strategy in the gospel of Matthew? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. He correctly analyzed the needs of the world.
 - b. He organized His followers.
 - c. He deputized His followers.
 - d. He supervised His followers.
 - e. He has been agonizing on behalf of His church for 2,000 years.



If you had heard Jesus preach the Sermon on the Mount, do you think you would have wanted to follow Him in spite of how difficult it seemed? Why or why not? In what ways can you be part of His solution for people's needs today?



Thank God that He has a solution for all the world's problems and needs and that He wants us to become part of His solution. Ask God to be your strength and give you wisdom and love, which you will need to minister through you.



Going Deeper

1. Are you committed to Bible study? What tools do you have for your Bible study? What more should you have or have access to? _____

2. How is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, in addition to being the record of a great miracle, a parable of the missionary vision of Jesus Christ? _____

3. What was the strategy of Jesus when He taught the Sermon on the Mount? _____

4. What was the objective of Jesus when He gave that teaching on the mountaintop? _____

5. What was the difference between a disciple and an apostle? _____

6. Based on a careful study of the teachings of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels, what were the values of Jesus and how do they differ from the value systems of most of us? _____

7. How does His Parable of the Sower focus the challenges we face when we study or attempt to demonstrate His teachings to others? _____

Thy Kingdom Come

Chapter 5

Audio lesson: New Testament 5



Objective: To introduce Matthew's theme of the kingdom of heaven and to understand the birth of the King.



From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

—Matthew 4:17

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

—Matthew 6:9-10

One of the primary emphases of the Gospel of Matthew is "the kingdom of heaven." Jesus came into this world as a King—not the kind of King that rules over a national government, but the King of an eternal, spiritual kingdom open to anyone who believes in Him. Those who follow Jesus are called, therefore, to be His subjects and to seek to bring His kingdom into their lives and into the world.

To submit to Jesus as King means that He becomes the Lord of our life. When we repent and turn to Jesus, we turn away from our selfish desires and the values of the world and accept the values of the King. When we pray, we pray for His kingdom to come. And as we relate to other people, we tell them the Good News of the kingdom so that they can follow Jesus too. Our whole lives are to be centered around this goal: to see God's spiritual reign established in our lives and our world by the power of the Holy Spirit.



1. True or false? One of Matthew's emphases was the kingdom of heaven.
2. True or false? According to Matthew's gospel, being a follower of Christ means becoming part of God's solution for the world's needs.
3. True or false? The idea of a "kingdom of God" began with Matthew in New Testament times.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

4. What is the kingdom of heaven? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. A country where Christianity is the official religion
 - b. A country where Christianity is the majority religion
 - c. The establishment of the heavenly order in the world
 - d. The supremacy of God's will in human affairs
 - e. The reign of God over humanity
 - f. The King living within individual people
 - g. A democracy in which there is religious freedom
5. What kind of King does Jesus want to be?
 - a. Ruler of Israel
 - b. Ruler over every country's government
 - c. Lord of the church only
 - d. Lord of every person's heart
6. According to Jesus, what should our priority be when we pray?
 - a. For our will to be done
 - b. For God to meet all our needs
 - c. For God's kingdom to be established in the world
 - d. For our government leaders to be wise
7. What is the power of the kingdom of heaven?
 - a. The good works of human beings
 - b. The unity of all humanity
 - c. Persuasive words of preachers
 - d. The Holy Spirit
8. What does the word "repent" mean?
 - a. To turn around and go the opposite direction
 - b. To be sorry
 - c. To be saved
 - d. To agree with Jesus' words

9. What part of our lives does repentance affect?
- a. Our minds
 - b. Our will
 - c. Our lifestyle
 - d. All of the above
10. What kinds of values should Christians have?
- a. The same values as our culture
 - b. The values of our church
 - c. The values of our King—Jesus
 - d. It depends on our mood
11. Why do some people not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus?
- a. They understand biology well enough to know it is not true.
 - b. The virgin birth is just a legend, not a truth found in the Bible.
 - c. They do not believe supernatural miracles are possible.
 - d. Jesus Himself said He was just an ordinary man.
12. When did the Wise Men arrive to see Jesus?
- a. About a week before He was born
 - b. The moment He was born
 - c. Two years after He was born
 - d. When the angels called them to come
13. Which of the following kinds of people felt threatened by Jesus?
- a. Wise men
 - b. Religious and political leaders
 - c. The poor and oppressed
 - d. Angels



What has repentance meant to you? Have you become a citizen of God's kingdom? Is your value system the same as the King's?



Thank God that He sent Jesus into the world to save us and that people like Matthew wrote about Jesus so we could learn of Him. Ask God for His kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as in heaven, today and each day.



Going Deeper

1. What is the difference between the Kingdom of Heaven in the Gospel of Matthew and the Kingdom of God in the other Gospels? _____

2. When we're told in the Gospels that Jesus and John the Baptist came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, why was that message good news? _____

3. Relate this concept to the familiar passage in John 3: 3, 5. What was the purpose of the new birth according to Jesus when He presented the new birth to Nicodemus? (Consider the emphasis Jesus placed on the Kingdom of God in Matthew 6:33) _____

4. Explain why Jesus began so many of His parables with the statement "The kingdom of heaven is like..." _____

5. What did Jesus mean when He taught that the Kingdom of God is within you? _____

6. Explain what it means to profess and confess that Jesus is your King as well as your Savior.

7. In light of this emphatic teaching, is it possible to trust Jesus to be your Savior and then take an option on making Him your King and your Lord? Explain. _____

The Crises of the Christ

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: New Testament 6



Objective: To introduce the ministry of John the Baptist and explore some of the major events in Jesus' life.



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 lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

—Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

—Matthew 4:10

John the Baptist is described very briefly in the four gospels, but he is one of the most significant people in the Bible. He was not only the greatest of the prophets; he was the last of the prophets before Jesus. The Old Testament prophets preached the Good News that the Messiah was coming, but John actually got to see Him. He was the one who literally introduced the people of God to their Messiah saying, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

There are several important events in the life of Jesus Christ that are described in the early chapters of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. One of those events was His baptism, which was His inauguration that marked the beginning of His public ministry. Another was His temptation, which came immediately after His baptism. In Matthew 4, the Spirit of God led Jesus into the wilderness where He had a confrontation with Satan and was tempted three times. Jesus resisted temptation by knowing and quoting Scripture and by keeping God first in His life. Unlike Adam long ago, Jesus did not sin when He was tempted. He proved that He was the Son of God who overcomes sin.



1. True or false? John the Baptist was not a very significant character in the Bible.
2. True or false? John the Baptist thought that all the prophets pointed to himself as the Messiah.
3. True or false? John the Baptist was a great prophet and a great preacher.
4. True or false? Many people heard John preach because he lived and preached in the largest cities.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's ministry?
 - a. To introduce Jesus as the Messiah
 - b. To make people angry by preaching hard messages
 - c. To be an example of how all Christians should live
 - d. To establish a new religion
6. What did baptism by John represent?
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Initiation as a monk or priest
 - c. Giving up all possessions
 - d. Becoming a Christian
7. What happened when Jesus came to be baptized by John?
 - a. Jesus baptized John instead.
 - b. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
 - c. Everyone left Jesus to follow John
 - d. The religious leaders came out to arrest Jesus.

8. Why was Jesus baptized?
- a. So His sins would be forgiven
 - b. To demonstrate that John was more important
 - c. So He could become God's Son
 - d. To mark the beginning of His public ministry
9. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptation?
- a. The same way Adam responded in Genesis—He was deceived.
 - b. He resisted by quoting Scripture.
 - c. He fled into the wilderness to escape.
 - d. He destroyed Satan immediately.
10. In how many ways did Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness?
- a. One
 - b. Three
 - c. Ten
 - d. Twenty-four
11. What should always be first in our life – our highest priority?
- a. Our family
 - b. Our church
 - c. Our work
 - d. God

*"And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one"*

—Matthew 6:13

12. What does Jesus' victory over temptation mean for us?
- a. We will never be tempted.
 - b. We will never give in to temptation.
 - c. He can keep us from falling into temptation because He lives in us.
 - d. We can sin as much as we want because He defeated Satan.



Life is too short and too precious to spend it on anything less than God's best. What is your highest priority in life? Is anything or anyone more important to you than God? If so, what must you do to adjust your priorities to put God first?



Thank God that Jesus overcame temptation and defeated Satan. Thank Him that He is able to keep you from falling. Ask Him to help you resist your temptations by the power of His Spirit within you. Ask God to help you always to place Him first in your life.



Going Deeper

1. What was the significance of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in the wilderness?

2. In what ways was His baptism different from the baptism He made a part of His Great Commission to preach the Gospel and make disciples, baptizing all those disciples? _____

3. What was the significance of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness? _____

4. When you study the three ways Jesus was tempted, do they have any personal application for you and me today? How? _____

5. What is the personal application of the temptation to turn stones into bread after a 40-day fast? _____

6. How are we to apply the temptation to put God to the test? _____

7. Explain how the temptation to worship the god of this world relates to you and me, especially the way Jesus responded with *Worship God and Him only.*” In addition to quoting Scripture, observe and apply the way Jesus responded to each of these temptations. _____

A Checkup from the Neck Up

Chapter 7

Audio lesson: New Testament 7



Objective: To introduce the Sermon on the Mount and to learn about the beatitudes.



“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

—Matthew 5:3-10

In some ways, Jesus’ greatest discourse was His Sermon on the Mount, which is a concise summary of the ethical teaching of the entire Bible. Jesus invited those who were closest to Him to hear His message of this sermon so that they could minister to other people in the crowds. One of the first things He taught His followers was the beatitudes, or beautiful attitudes: a profile of the mind and character of a true believer.

The essential question in the Sermon on the Mount is: “Are you part of the problem, or are you part of the solution of Jesus?” In a sense, the beatitudes are the message, and the rest of the sermon is about how that message is applied to life. Those who serve in the kingdom of God must first have the character of the King. The beatitudes show us the right attitudes for coming to God and for going from God into the world to be part of His solution.



1. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount gives us the essence of all of God's law.
2. True or false? Jesus called a select few to hear His message because they were the ones who had the biggest problems.
3. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount shows us that being a Christian is only about making a decision, not about having a changed life.
4. True or false? The beatitudes are about our attitudes.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What does the word "blessed" mean?
 - a. Happy
 - b. Wealthy
 - c. Comfortable
 - d. Perfect
6. Which of the following attitudes or characteristics are part of being a Christian? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Hungry for righteousness
 - b. Proud
 - c. Powerful
 - d. Poor in spirit
 - e. Merciful
 - f. Trouble-free
 - g. Pure in heart
7. Who is the solution for the needs of the people?
 - a. Christians
 - b. Governments
 - c. Jesus
 - d. Each person is his or her own solution
8. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
 - a. To be humble and recognize your own insufficiency
 - b. To be incapable of doing any good thing
 - c. To be completely ignorant
 - d. To give up all possessions for Jesus
9. Why are those who mourn blessed? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. God loves serious people more than joyful people.
 - b. Those who mourn learn to have compassion and minister to others.
 - c. Those who mourn recognize sin and suffering and are open to receiving Jesus.
 - d. God teaches us valuable lessons through the failures that grieve us.
 - e. We are redeemed by our suffering.

10. What does the biblical concept of meekness mean?
- a. Weakness
 - b. Shyness
 - c. Indecision
 - d. Being tamed like a horse
11. What does Jesus promise to those who hunger and thirst for His righteousness?
- a. Moral perfection
 - b. Fullness
 - c. Futility
 - d. Food
12. Which attitudes come from those who have been filled with righteousness?
- a. Mercy and love
 - b. Pure motives
 - c. Reconciliation
 - d. All of the above
13. What generally happens to those who demonstrate godly attitudes and characteristics?
- a. They are always free from trouble.
 - b. They make friends with everyone.
 - c. They are persecuted.
 - d. They become too holy to associate with.



How well does the profile of a follower of Christ—the character of the beatitudes—fit with your culture? How do they describe Christians you know? How well are you able to express these attitudes and characteristics in your life?



Thank God that He has shown us a better way than the ways of this world. Ask Him that the Spirit of Jesus would produce the right attitudes—His beautiful attitudes—in your heart and help you be a solution to the world's problems.



Going Deeper

1. Why would Jesus begin this teaching to recruit those who would be His solutions to the problems people have in this world with eight teachings about attitudes? (Consider Matthew 6:22, 23) _____

2. How does Jesus relate these eight great attitudes to the relationships of those who heard them stated? _____

3. What does it mean to be poor in spirit, and how can you apply this first beatitude to your own life? _____

4. What kind of mourning is Jesus talking about in the second beatitude? _____

5. What is Biblical meekness, and in what way do the meek inherit the earth? _____

6. When a disciple is filled full with righteousness, what does Jesus mean when He teaches that they will next be merciful with a pure heart? _____

7. In what way is Jesus teaching that being a peacemaker leads to being persecuted for righteousness' sake? _____

A Turtle on a Fence Post

Chapter 8

Audio lesson: New Testament 8



Objective: To further examine the beatitudes and to discuss four pictures Jesus used to describe His followers.



“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 by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:14-16

The first four beatitudes are the “coming” attitudes—the mindset of a person who comes to God. The second four beatitudes are the “going” attitudes—the mindset of a person who is sent into the world by God. Together they describe those who are God’s solution for the problems of humanity.

Jesus follows His profile of Christ-like character with four pictures, four profound metaphors that show us what happens when that character impacts pagan culture. He taught His disciples that they are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden, and a candle on a candlestick (Matthew 5:13–16). These four metaphors begin the application of the sermon.

No followers of Jesus can have all of these attitudes and do the kind of works He commands apart from the Spirit of God working in and through them. Christians should always be filled with humility and gratitude for the power of God that enables them to serve Him well. Only in His strength can we impact the culture we live in for Christ.



1. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount is about the crises, the character, and the challenges of being a Christian.
2. True or false? Many people feel that the beatitudes and the illustrations that follow them are the main teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.
3. True or false? The only way to be the salt of the earth is to live among the people of the world.
4. True or false? Though the disciples thought they had chosen Jesus, in reality He had chosen them.
5. True or false? Though Jesus chooses His followers, it is up to us to come up with a strategy and position ourselves like a candle on a candlestick.
6. True or false? If you truly have the attitudes and characteristics of a Christian, you will not be able to hide it.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

7. Why did Jesus compare His disciples to salt? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. They would be like a preservative rubbed into the corrupt world
 - b. Salt is necessary for life, and the disciples would bring life to the world.
 - c. They would work as hard as salt miners.
 - d. Salt makes water impossible to drink, and the disciples would be impossible for people to accept.
8. How are the disciples like light?
 - a. They burn out quickly.
 - b. They turn on and off very easily.
 - c. They use up a lot of energy.
 - d. They shine the light of truth into a dark world.
9. Which of the following are true statements about the role of Christians as God's solution? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. "I cannot, but God can, and He is with me."
 - b. "I do not want to, but God wants to, and He is with me."
 - c. "I can, so God can use me."
 - d. "If I could not, God would not be with me."
 - e. "I am not, but God is, and He is with me."
 - f. "I did because God told me to."
 - g. "I did not, but God did because He was with me."

10. How should we respond when God uses us for His work?
- a. With great pride for what we have done
 - b. With humility, realizing what God has done
 - c. With indifference because it was not our concern
 - d. With loud words that direct attention to our church
11. Whose character and ministry are described by the beatitudes and the four illustrations of Matthew 5?
- a. Those who believe and follow Jesus
 - b. Jesus Himself
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. Neither a nor b
12. How are disciples like a turtle on a fence post? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. The disciple is strategically placed.
 - b. The disciple is stuck and really helpless.
 - c. The disciple did not get where he or she is without God.
 - d. The disciple is to have the character of a turtle and hide in his shell.



Have you accepted God's call to be part of His solution for the world? What kind of disciple, salt, light, city on a hill, and candle on a candlestick are you? What has God accomplished in your life that you could not accomplish yourself? What do you want Him to do in you and through you that you cannot do on your own?



Thank God that it is His power that works in those who believe. Ask Him to accomplish His purposes in you and through you as you trust and depend on Him. Ask Him to help you be salty salt, a bright light, and part of His solution for the world.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways do these attitudes make the disciple the salt of the earth? _____

2. What are several possible applications of this salt metaphor, and which one do you believe is the correct one? _____

3. In what ways are the disciples with these attitudes like a candle on a candlestick, or a city on a mountaintop that cannot be hidden? _____

4. How do these eight attitudes relate to the coming experiences and the going experiences of a disciple of Jesus Christ? _____

5. Precisely what context do you think Jesus had in mind when He taught His seventh blessed attitude, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*"? _____

6. How do the first 16 verses of this fifth chapter of Matthew challenge us to look in, to look around and to look up? _____

7. How can these eight blessed attitudes get from the paper and ink of our Bibles into our minds and hearts? _____

Relational Righteousness

Chapter 9

Audio lesson: New Testament 9



Objective: To understand how Jesus wants us to apply His teaching in our relationships.



“Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same 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 5:19

Jesus continues the application of His sermon by making two important statements. The first is that He has come to fulfill the Law of God, not destroy it. The second is that the righteousness of those who follow Him should be greater even than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, the religious teachers of His time, who did not really understand the Law or why God had given it. The religious leaders had forgotten that the Law was made for people, not people for the Law. Their righteousness was all in their outward behavior, not in their hearts. Jesus’ followers would have a greater, deeper righteousness because it was from the heart.

Jesus then says that to be part of His solution, part of His answer to their questions, His disciples have to know God’s Word. After making these statements regarding the importance of Scripture in the life of a disciple, Jesus shows them how to apply His teaching in their relationships. The first relationship He addresses is the relationship with their brother, or fellow disciple. Next He teaches them the Christian response to an adversary. Then He explains how important it is for His followers to handle God’s good gift of sexuality in the ways God instructs. Jesus’ message helps us understand that the root of sin begins long before sin is committed. Jesus teaches us that we can control our passions before they influence us to disobey God.



1. True or false? It is not important for Christians to be righteous.
2. True or false? Jesus told His disciples that the Old Testament was no longer relevant to His kingdom.
3. True or false? Jesus' teaching did not contradict the Law of Moses.
4. True or false? God meant for everyone to be able to read or hear the Bible for themselves and understand it.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. When Jesus said "You have heard it said . . . , but I say to you . . . ," whose teaching was He correcting?
 - a. God the Father
 - b. Moses
 - c. The scribes and Pharisees
 - d. His disciples
6. Why did God give us the law?
 - a. To make us miserable
 - b. Because He loves us
 - c. So our governments could enforce His will
 - d. So we could criticize people who break the Law
7. What did Jesus mean when He said His disciples must be righteous?
 - a. Get right with God
 - b. Be right with God
 - c. Do what is right for God
 - d. All of the above

8. How should our spiritual character affect our relationships with other people?
- It should isolate us from other people.
 - It allows us to tell people how good we are.
 - We should live out our character in our relationships.
 - It is completely separate and should have no effect.
9. How does Jesus want us to apply the law of God? (*choose all that apply*)
- Remember God's purpose and intent of the law.
 - Remember the law was made for man, not man for the law.
 - Remember to apply God's law with God's love.
 - Remember to hit people over the head with the law of God.
10. Who does God tell us to love?
- Our family and friends
 - Other Christians
 - Our enemies
 - Everyone
11. What is the solution when our eye causes us to sin?
- Gouge it out.
 - Avoid society completely.
 - Wear a veil that covers our eyes.
 - Stop looking at whatever causes us to sin.
12. If we are to be God's solution to the world's problems, how should we deal with our sexual desires?
- We must learn to let God control our desires and satisfy them only in God's way.
 - We must never admit that we have sexual desires.
 - We must satisfy our desires however we can.
 - We must train ourselves not to have any desires.
13. Why is God opposed to adultery?
- It has very harmful effects on everyone involved, especially the children.
 - It tears down families.
 - It does not lead to satisfaction and fulfillment.
 - All of the above.



Why do you think so much of Jesus' teaching is about our relationships? Do you have any relationships: brothers, adversaries, opposite sex, marriage partner, neighbors, or even enemies, in which it is difficult to maintain Christ-like character? In what ways can Jesus' teaching help you in that relationship?



Thank God that He has chosen to have a relationship with you. Ask Him to help you grow to be like Jesus so that you can show His love to other people and be part of His solution.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways was Jesus confronting the scribes and Pharisees in the six paragraphs of Matthew chapter 5 that begin with “*You have heard that it was said, but now I say to you.*”?

2. Describe the value Jesus was placing on our relationship with the one He describes as our “brother,” and why He places such great value on that relationship. _____

3. How and why did Jesus tell us to cope with the problem of sexual temptation? _____

4. What did Jesus mean when He talked about plucking out your eye if what you are looking at is causing you to sin? _____

5. Why is it important for a disciple of Jesus to have the correct approach to the Law (Word) of God? _____

6. What did Jesus teach regarding the relationship of a disciple of His to his neighbor and enemy? _____

7. Why did Jesus teach that it is so very important for His disciples to apply the blessed attitudes in all their relationships? _____

Look In, Look Out, and Look Up

Chapter 10

Audio lesson: New Testament 10



Objective: To understand the three perspectives of a disciple and how we are to live for God.



“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons 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 5:43-45

“When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

—Matthew 6:3-4

When Jesus taught the beatitudes, He challenged His disciples to look into the core of their beings and consider the mindset and attitudes that were driving their lives. In the long passage that followed the beatitudes, He challenged them to look around and apply the beatitudes in their most important relationships—including their relationships with their enemies. Now in Matthew 6, Jesus tells His disciples to look up and consider the spiritual disciplines and values of an authentic disciple.

The Pharisees practiced their righteousness to impress other people. Jesus challenged His disciples to live for the approval of God. This is at least part of what He meant when He taught that the righteousness of His disciples would be greater than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Christians—true followers of Christ—are to live with their eyes on God, seeking His approval while they allow Him to make them into part of His solution for the needs of the world.



1. True or false? Those who are righteous in their relationships will never have any problems with other people.
2. True or false? Jesus taught that it is very important for His disciples to always keep their word, even when it is difficult.
3. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount does not describe how we are to live today. It is only a description of what heaven will be like.
4. True or false? Jesus did not agree with the teaching that we should love our friends but hate our enemies.
5. True or false? Our spiritual well-being is directly related to how we manage our money and our giving.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

6. Where was the idea of loving one's enemies first taught?
 - a. In the Sermon on the Mount
 - b. In the Old Testament
 - c. In the Garden of Eden
 - d. After Jesus ascended to heaven
7. Which is the highest law for a Christian disciple?
 - a. The law of self-preservation
 - b. To die as a martyr
 - c. To glorify God and do the will of Jesus
 - d. To empty oneself of all desires
8. What did Jesus teach about peace?
 - a. That war is always wrong
 - b. That war is the only way to peace
 - c. That Christians should not fight in wars
 - d. That Christians should seek reconciliation and peace in all of their relationships with others
9. How are Christians to fit into their culture?
 - a. We are to be different.
 - b. We are to conform to those around us.
 - c. We are to contradict everything in our culture.
 - d. We are to completely isolate ourselves from our culture.
10. In the Sermon on the Mount, which direction does Jesus instruct His disciples to look?
 - a. To look inside themselves
 - b. To look around at others
 - c. To look up to God
 - d. All of the above

11. How is it possible for Christians to be different from the world, to keep His Word, and to love their enemies?

- a. We must have great willpower.
- b. We must be trained through much discipline.
- c. God gives us the grace and strength we need.
- d. We cannot do these things until we get to heaven.

12. Why should we give to the needy?

- a. To be rewarded by others for our good deeds
- b. To help all the needy people
- c. So that others might see our good example
- d. To be rewarded by God

13. In what ways does God want us to give and to pray?

- a. As a means for everyone to see how good we are
- b. As an act of worship for God to see
- c. As a secret that no one can ever find out
- d. As a way to earn His favor



Do you have an enemy God wants to love through you? How can you show God's grace to your enemy? Which is more important to you in your gifts to the Lord: how much you give, or your motives for giving? Which is more important to the Lord? Why?



Thank God for all of His gifts to you. Ask Him to help you give Him your offerings with a pure heart out of your love for Him. Ask Him to entrust you with more, that you might be able to faithfully give Him more.



Going Deeper

1. What are the three perspectives or directions in life that a disciple must practice to be one of the solutions and answers of Jesus? _____

2. After His teaching about the relationship of a disciple to his enemies, why is it significant that Jesus then taught the importance of looking up in the right way? _____

3. What were the differences between the righteousness of a disciple of Jesus and the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, according to the teaching of Jesus in the first half of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew? _____

4. What and why are the three vertical spiritual disciplines of a disciple of Jesus, according to this same passage of Scripture? _____

5. Can you focus 20 questions implied or directly asked by Jesus that surface the values of a disciple of Jesus, and in what way do our treasures show us where our heart is, according to Matthew 6:19-34? _____

6. If you think of your values or priorities as a target with a bull's-eye surrounded by a dozen circles, what should be the "values priority target" of an authentic disciple of Jesus according to this same passage? _____

7. In what way does it make them a solution of Jesus when authentic disciples of Jesus have these vertical disciplines and values in their life? _____

Divine Disciplines and Vertical Values

Chapter 11

Audio lesson: New Testament 11



Objective: To understand Jesus' teaching about the spiritual discipline of prayer and the values of His kingdom.



“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. And when you pray do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. This then is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”

—Matthew 6:6-13

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

—Matthew 6:20-21

We cannot live the Christian life if we do not know how to pray. That is why Jesus demonstrated and taught His disciples the discipline of prayer. The main point of His teaching is that we must be sure we are talking to God when we pray, not trying to teach or impress others. He promises that God, who is in secret, will honor and respond to our sincere, private prayers.

Jesus taught His followers how to pray in the “Lord’s Prayer,” as it is often called, though it can be more accurately described as the “Disciples’ Prayer.” After addressing God as our heavenly Father, Jesus indicated seven petitions: three that acknowledge our priorities of keeping God first in every area of life, and four for our personal needs: “Give us, forgive us, lead us, and deliver us.”



1. True or false? Prayer is an essential practice for those who follow Jesus.
2. True or false? As with giving, Jesus wants us to pray to God alone, not to try to impress other people.
3. True or false? We are supposed to pray only in secret when we can find a closet to hide in.
4. True or false? The only prayer Jesus authorized is “The Lord’s Prayer,” which we should always recite word for word.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. How does Jesus tell us to address God in prayer?
 - a. As our Shepherd
 - b. As our Master
 - c. As our Servant
 - d. As our Father
6. Whose will is our highest priority in prayer?
 - a. God’s
 - b. The church’s
 - c. Our own
 - d. Whoever has a need
7. What should our main emphasis be when we pray for our own needs?
 - a. Everything we want for all time
 - b. Everything we want today
 - c. Everything we need for all time
 - d. Everything we need today

8. Why do we need to ask God for forgiveness?
- a. Because He is reluctant to be merciful to us
 - b. Because we do not always live up to His standards or represent His name as well as we should
 - c. Because we are so evil that we sin all the time
 - d. Because He does not know we want to be forgiven until we tell Him

9. Which of the following personal requests are found in “The Disciples’ Prayer”?
(choose all that apply)

- a. Give us
- b. Bless us
- c. Forgive us
- d. Hear us
- e. Watch over us
- f. Lead us
- g. Deliver us
- h. Leave us alone

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

I Corinthians 10:13

10. How do we deal with temptation?
- a. Confront it recklessly and without fear.
 - b. Be ashamed for even feeling tempted.
 - c. Ask God to lead us away from temptation and trust Him always to give us a way of escape.
 - d. Prove how strong we are by seeking more temptation.
11. What message do we imply when we fast?
- a. “Look at how holy I am!”
 - b. “Lord, Your will is more important to me even than food.”
 - c. “I am more disciplined and more religious than people of other religions who do not fast.”
 - d. “I can force the Lord to do what I want by refusing to eat.”
12. Where can we invest our treasures (of any kind) most wisely?
- a. In a respectable bank
 - b. In long-term projects
 - c. In any kind of charity
 - d. In the kingdom of God



What do you treasure most in your life? Are your values based on life in this world or on eternity? What can you do today to turn your heart more toward the kingdom of God?



Pray the Disciple's Prayer—Matthew 6:9-13—thinking carefully about every phrase.



Going Deeper

1. What are the three providential petitions in the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray?

2. What are the four personal petitions in that prayer? _____

3. Show how the petition, "*Thy will be done*," can be a paraphrase of the petition, "*Thy kingdom come*." _____

4. Why is it important to pray the three providential petitions before praying the "give us" petitions? _____

5. Why did Jesus add to this prayer that, if we do not forgive others, we are not forgiven?

6. Is this a prayer or a prescription for prayer, or is it not either/or but both/and? _____

7. How do we know this is to be prayed in the context of a group setting? _____

The Choices of the Committed

Chapter 12

Audio lesson: New Testament 12



Objective: To further explore the practical applications of the Sermon on the Mount and to understand the difference between true and false discipleship.



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

—Matthew 7:7-8

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

—Matthew 7:12

In Matthew 7, Jesus continues to focus on what it means to look in, look up, and look around. He teaches His disciples not to judge others; to ask, seek, and knock on the doors of God’s goodness, expecting Him to answer their prayers; to treat other people according to how they want to be treated; and to enter the Kingdom of Heaven in the only way He has taught—through Him.

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a picture of two kinds of disciples: those who are like a house built on the rock, and those who are like a house built on sand. Obeying His teaching is like building on solid rock, and not obeying His teaching is like building on sand. Both have heard His words, but foolish ones never apply what they have learned. Those who apply His teaching are wise. Only one kind of life can withstand the storms of life and live forever in His kingdom.



1. True or false? When we value the right things and really understand that God takes care of us, we have no reason to worry.
2. True or false? Our real values are not reflected in our daily lives.
3. True or false? God tells us that we are to find out what is wrong with other people and tell them about it.
4. True or false? God wants us to be able to see our own faults clearly.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What did Jesus mean when He said not to judge others?
 - a. We can never say for sure what is right and wrong.
 - b. We should approve of everyone's behavior.
 - c. We should not be hypocrites who criticize other people.
 - d. Christians should not become attorneys or judges or serve on juries.
6. Which of the following are good indicators of our spiritual values? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. The faith of our ancestors
 - b. The culture we live in
 - c. How we spend our money
 - d. What we think about all day
 - e. The language we speak
 - f. How we spend our time
 - g. How healthy we are
 - h. How we use our talents and skills
 - i. The decisions we make
 - j. How wealthy we are
 - k. Our desires and ambitions
 - l. Where we were born
7. What does Jesus promise to those who look to God in prayer?
 - a. He might not hear them.
 - b. He might decide to give them a bad gift instead of a good one.
 - c. He will eventually get tired of answering them.
 - d. He will always answer their prayers in a good way.
8. What is the "golden rule"?
 - a. Treat other people the way you want to be treated.
 - b. Treat other people the way they have treated you.
 - c. Let people treat you as badly as they want to.
 - d. Do not get angry, just get revenge.

9. How does Jesus distinguish between fake and genuine disciples?
- a. Are they part of the many or part of the few
 - b. Are they true or are they false
 - c. Are they those who say or those who do
 - d. All of the above
10. How does Jesus describe those who are part of His solution? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. They are doers, not just talkers.
 - b. They are committed to ask, seek, and knock.
 - c. They are learning His values.
 - d. They act very holy and say beautiful prayers.
11. What kind of person enters into the kingdom of heaven?
- a. Those who are very active in the church
 - b. Those who say, "Lord, Lord"
 - c. Those who never sin again
 - d. Those who truly trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord
12. Which of the following is most clearly a true disciple of Jesus?
- a. One who can cast out demons
 - b. One who builds his house on a rock
 - c. One who hears Jesus' words and obeys them
 - d. One who can perform miracles in Jesus' name



In the past, have you been more like a house built on sand or a house built on rock? How do you know? What kind of disciple would you like to be? Why?



Thank God for His invitation into His kingdom and for His promise to make you the kind of person who can represent Him and be part of His solution. Ask Him to continue to teach you and to give you a loving and willing heart to trust and obey.



Going Deeper

1. How are the first five verses of Matthew chapter 7 an exhortation to make the commitment to look in? _____

2. In these same verses, what was Jesus trying to get the hypocritical person to think about with His two questions that began with “Why?” and “How?” _____

3. In what ways was Jesus trying to get the disciple to make the commitment to look up in His exhortations in verses 7 through 11 in chapter 7? _____

4. In what ways did the Golden Rule (verse 12) challenge the disciple to make the commitment to look around? _____

5. In the invitation of Jesus, which begins at verse 13, how was He essentially challenging those who attended His teaching on the mountaintop with the question, “What kind of solution or disciple are you going to be?” and what were the three possibilities He profiled for them? _____

6. What was the essence of the metaphor of the two houses being hit by storms, and how did it apply to those who say and those who do? _____

7. Are you part of the solution or part of the problem, part of His answer or just another question mark? If you are a solution and an answer of Jesus, what kind of solution and answer are you? _____

The Commission of the Committed

Chapter 13

Audio lesson: New Testament 13



Objective: To introduce the twelve apostles and to understand the cost and rewards of discipleship.



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

—Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus trained twelve disciples, or “apostles,” to reach the world with the Good News, the message of salvation. The apostles were to preach the Gospel and demonstrate the kingdom of God through signs and wonders. They were to heal the sick, cleanse lepers, cast out devils and raise the dead. They would not always be well received, but they were to preach and give the Gospel freely to all without asking anyone for anything, trusting God to meet their every need. His disciples were to live by faith.

Jesus’ disciples followed Him closely for three years and then faithfully spread the Good News after His resurrection and ascension, just as we must be faithful to reach our world for Christ as we proclaim the Gospel to the world in which we live.



1. True or false? The word “apostle” means “sent one.”

2. True or false? The twelve apostles were always learning from Jesus because they were always with Him.
3. True or false? Most of Jesus' great discourses were given primarily to the twelve apostles.
4. True or false? The commissioning of the disciples was a unique event; Jesus does not send people out anymore.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Which disciple was the philosophical thinker who doubted Jesus' resurrection?
 - a. Peter
 - b. Thomas
 - c. Philip
 - d. James
6. What was Matthew's profession?
 - a. Tax collector
 - b. Fisherman
 - c. Priest
 - d. Writer
7. Which disciples were brothers? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Philip and Bartholomew
 - b. Peter and Andrew
 - c. Judas and Simeon
 - d. James and John
 - e. Thomas and Matthew
8. To whom were the disciples first told to go?
 - a. Gentiles
 - b. Jews
 - c. Pharisees
 - d. Everyone
9. What kind of welcome did Jesus indicate the disciples would receive?
 - a. Crowds would gather around them to hear the Gospel.
 - b. No one would notice them.
 - c. They would become martyrs.
 - d. They would be like sheep among wolves, and many would reject them.

10. The cost of discipleship is so great that we must be willing to place Jesus above _____ . *(choose all that apply)*

- a. The people we know
- b. Our possessions
- c. Our own dreams and desires
- d. Our families
- e. Our own life plans

11. How does Jesus say we should spend our lives?

- a. Save it at all costs
- b. Let it spill away
- c. Spend it, or sacrifice it, for Him
- d. Always working, never resting

12. Which of the following promises can we believe in if we have fellowship with Jesus?

- a. We will not have to go through storms in life.
- b. All storms must obey our command.
- c. We will eventually be destroyed by the storms of life.
- d. No storm can overcome us if He is “in the ship” with us.



Have you ever encountered a problem that you felt would destroy your life? If so, what was it? How does Jesus’ promise to be with you in every situation comfort and strengthen you?



Thank God for wanting to use you to share His Good News with others. Thank God that He is always with us and is above every storm in life and that nothing can sink those who are in fellowship with Him. Ask Him to strengthen your fellowship with Him and to strengthen your faith. Now ask Him if there is someone you should share the Good News with. Ask God for wisdom, an opportunity and courage to share the Gospel with them.



Going Deeper

1. Using all the resources you have, like Bible dictionaries, commentaries and books on the apostles, what was each individual apostle doing when he met Jesus, how did that change because he met Jesus, what was he doing when he died and where and how did he die?

2. In what ways is the fate of the disciples an example of what the famous German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “The Cost of Discipleship”? _____

3. Jesus sent the disciples out to preach. Why did He instruct them to take no provisions with them for their journey? _____

4. How can you personally apply the story of the apostles in a boat that was caught in the midst of a great storm, when Jesus turned that great storm into a great calm? _____

5. What are the personal applications of the storm story in Matthew 14 when Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water to Him? _____

6. In the dialogue between Jesus and Peter in Matthew 16, Peter had the right answer to Jesus’ question, “*Who do you say that I am?*” The Lord praised him and then, in the next sentence, He rebuked Peter and called him Satan. What does this teach us about our own inconsistencies in our faith and response to Jesus? _____

7. How should we apply the covenant that Jesus established in Matthew 4:19 with the two sets of brothers who became apostles, when He essentially challenged them with “*Follow me and I will make you ...*”? _____

Seeds, Soils and Sons

Chapter 14

Audio lesson: New Testament 14



Objective: To introduce the parables of Jesus and how He used them.



“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

—Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

—Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus often taught in parables—simple stories that contained deep truths. One reason was that He would not be arrested for telling stories the authorities did not understand. Only those who had the Holy Spirit to teach them understood His parables. Those who were not hungry for truth could not understand them. Jesus was the absolute Master of this approach to teaching. We should always look for the central truth of each parable because Jesus’ parables are usually given to teach one primary truth.

Matthew 13 contains several of Jesus’ well-known parables, one of which was about a sower who scattered seed onto different kinds of soil. The seed represented God’s Word, and the soils represented those who hear the Word. Some who hear the gospel are like hard soil that cannot receive it. Those who give up under persecution are like rocky soil in which the seed begins to grow but before it can bear fruit, it is quickly scorched by the hot sun. Those who are distracted by the things of the world are like good soil that is filled also with weeds and thorns that do not allow fruitful plants to grow up. And finally, some are like deep, rich soil that receives the Word and produces much fruit. These are the hearers Jesus seeks.



1. True or false? A yoke is an instrument that makes it possible to carry a heavy burden.
2. True or false? Jesus makes everything easy for us.
3. True or false? Jesus promises to give us strength to be able to bear any burden in Him.
4. True or false? The Gospel of Mark has a lot of significant material that neither Matthew nor Luke contain.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Who is primarily responsible for the spiritual life and ministry of a disciple?
 - a. God—it is all up to Him.
 - b. The disciple—it is all up to the disciple.
 - c. Both a and b are truths are taught in Scripture.
 - d. Scripture does not address this issue.
6. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
 - a. To keep from getting into trouble with Roman authorities
 - b. To express deep spiritual truths in understandable ways
 - c. Both of the above
 - d. No one really knows
7. What did Jesus compare to a treasure hidden in a field?
 - a. Miracles
 - b. Silver Roman coins
 - c. The temple in Jerusalem
 - d. The kingdom of heaven

8. What is the subject of the parable of the sower?
- a. How people respond when the Word of God is taught
 - b. How to preach the gospel effectively
 - c. How to determine the right season for sowing seed
 - d. How the kingdom of heaven will contain a lot of farmland
9. What must happen in a person's life for the Word of God to have an effect? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. They must be able to understand it.
 - b. They must be persecuted.
 - c. They must respond in obedience to it.
 - d. It has an effect regardless of whether they understand it.
10. How does God want us to respond when we hear and receive the seed of the Word? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. He wants us to be willing to receive and obey it
 - b. He wants us to keep it to ourselves
 - c. He wants us to understand and believe it
 - d. He wants us to be fruitful
11. To whom is evil attributed in the parable of wheat and tares?
- a. The sower (God)
 - b. An enemy (Satan)
 - c. Thorns
 - d. The harvesters
12. When does God separate false Christians from true Christians?
- a. As soon as He discovers them
 - b. Whenever we decide to weed them out of the church
 - c. At the final harvest
 - d. Never



them?

Of the four kinds of people who respond to the gospel in the parable of the sower, which do you think are most common? Which kind are you? What obstacles are most likely to prevent you from bearing fruit? What can you do to overcome



Thank God that He has chosen to bear eternal fruit through the lives of His followers. Ask Him to help you be the best kind of hearer of His Word, and that He would help you sow His seed wherever you go.



Going Deeper

1. What are the challenges the applications of The Parable of The Sower (Matthew 13) present to us when we hear the Word of God taught or preached? _____

2. What are the challenges the applications of this same parable present to us when we attempt to preach or teach the Word of God? _____

3. How does the application of *The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares* answer the question “Where did evil come from?” How does this same parable teach us not to judge those we think are tares and those we think are wheat in the church today? _____

4. In what ways do the applications of the parables of the *pearl of great price* and the *treasure hidden in the field* teach us that only a total commitment to God and Christ show that we understand how to value our faith in Christ? _____

5. In *The Parable of The Sower*, what is represented by the hard ground, the rocky soil, and the tares or weeds that keep the seed from producing fruit? _____

6. In the passage at the end of Matthew 11, what does Jesus want us to learn about His burden, His heart and His yoke? _____

7. What is the essential truth we are to learn about a yoke and, in that context, what is the yoke of Jesus? _____

Righteousness, Inside Out

Chapter 15

Audio lesson: New Testament 15



Objective: To explore the teachings of Jesus in His conversations with other people.



“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

—Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus proclaimed that He would build His church, and the gates of Hell would not stop Him. The context of this announcement was that Jesus asked His apostles, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter responded, “You are the Christ!” which means the promised Messiah.

As important as this confession of Peter is, the response of Jesus to this confession is even more significant. Jesus was very clear that Peter had not come up with that answer on his own. The Father had revealed it. Jesus would build His church on the miracle that a man as ordinary as Peter could say something as wonderful as that. In fact, the church would be filled with ordinary people who do extraordinary things because they are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It is very important that we too have the right answer to this question Jesus asked the apostles. We need to know that He is Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the promised Redeemer and Savior of the world.



1. True or false? When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were immediately filled with faith and courage.
2. True or false? Peter did not walk on the water until he was sure the Lord was calling him.
3. True or false? Jesus waited until Peter called out to Him, until he prayed before He reached out and rescued Peter.
4. True or false? Jesus taught in many ways other than just parables.
5. True or false? Jesus' conversations with the religious leaders were always polite and friendly.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

6. Which of the following words describes the disciples in the boat in the storm?
 - a. Full of faith
 - b. Excited
 - c. Terrified
 - d. Trusting in Jesus
7. Which of the following words describes the righteousness of the Pharisees?
 - a. Pure
 - b. External
 - c. Internal
 - d. Inspired by God
8. What did Jesus say about the traditions of the religious leaders?
 - a. They were not from Scripture.
 - b. They were found in Scripture.
 - c. They were better than Scripture.
 - d. They were always very instructive and helpful.
9. How do traditions apply to Christians today?
 - a. We do not have any traditions. We only practice what is scriptural.
 - b. Traditions are always wrong and sinful.
 - c. Traditions can be helpful sometimes, but they can never be considered as important as Scripture.
 - d. Traditions are sacred—a sign of God's continuing revelation to humanity.
10. What causes human beings to be corrupt?
 - a. Unfortunate circumstances
 - b. Pressure from other people
 - c. Poverty
 - d. The sinful nature within us

11. What was Peter's answer to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"

- a. A great teacher
- b. An enlightened soul
- c. The Christ, the Son of God
- d. A reincarnation of Elijah

12. Who revealed Jesus' identity to Peter?

- a. God the Father
- b. One of the other disciples
- c. Peter's own wisdom
- d. No one. He just guessed right.



If Jesus asked you who you think He is, how would you answer Him? In what ways has He revealed Himself to you? Are you facing any storms in your life? How does Jesus want you to respond?



Thank God that He has an answer for our sin problem and Jesus cleanses us from the inside out. Thank God that He promises to always be with us, even in the midst of our storms. Ask Him to continue to purify your heart so that you will trust Him more.



Going Deeper

1. Explain how the differences between the righteousness Jesus taught and the righteousness of the Pharisees were internal rather than external, vertical rather than horizontal, and scriptural rather than traditional. _____

2. How are we to apply the teaching of Jesus (as recorded in Matthew 15) that the issues that cause us to sin are not outside-in, like environment, but are inside-out, or heart issues? _____

3. What is the application in this same context of the emphatic declaration of Jesus that extra-Biblical authorities for faith and practice should never be put in the place of the final authority for faith and practice that we find in the inspired Word of God? (Think of those like Mormons, the Christian Scientists, or others that have extra- Biblical authorities for faith and practice.)

4. How are we to apply the teaching of Jesus that we are to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him, and then lose our life that we might find it? _____

5. What should be our personal application of the teaching of Jesus in His dialogue with Peter about Who had revealed to him the answer to the question, “*Who do you say that I am?*”

6. What truth can we apply to the reality that Peter did not walk on the water until he was certain it was the Lord and that his Lord had invited him to walk on the water? _____

7. As recorded in Matthew 16: 24-26, what value did the Lord place upon our soul and what did He mean by our soul? _____

Faith, Forgiveness and Family

Chapter 16

Audio lesson: New Testament 16



Objective: To explain more of Jesus' teaching in the book of Matthew.



"I tell you the truth, 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."

—Matthew 17:20

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. . . . And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

—Matthew 18:3, 5

Jesus taught His disciples many things in the great discourses, the parables, and His conversations in the Gospel of Matthew. One of His repeated teachings was on the importance of faith. On one occasion, His disciples could not cast an evil spirit out of a boy, and Jesus told them they had little faith. When the boy's father asked for greater faith, Jesus said that all things are possible to those who believe.

Jesus also taught frequently about forgiveness. In the Sermon on the Mount, He told His disciples to pray that God would forgive them as they forgave others and said that His followers must show that they understand mercy by being merciful. Since we have been forgiven, we are to forgive constantly. Later in Matthew, He tells a parable of a man who was forgiven for an enormous debt, but who then insisted that small debtors pay him for every penny they owed. This kind of person does not understand forgiveness, Jesus said, and will not experience His forgiveness.

Then Jesus taught about marriage and divorce, emphasizing that marriage is a sacred covenant that should not be dissolved except when one partner has broken the covenant by living in adultery. Responsibilities in marriage and in raising children should always be taken very seriously.



1. True or false? The Bible never says anything about guardian angels.
2. True or false? None of us has perfect faith, but it is possible for our faith to increase.
3. True or false? It is good for us to agree when others pray because unity is an important part of being Christians.
4. True or false? When someone sins against us repeatedly, we should forgive them up to seven times.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What did Jesus teach about having faith?
 - a. It is not the size of our faith that is important, but Who our faith is in
 - b. We need to learn to trust God in all areas of our life
 - c. We cannot be unbelieving and say we have faith
 - d. All of the above
6. How much does God forgive us when we become a Christian?
 - a. Just a little, since most of us are good people when we come to Him
 - b. Enough that we only have to pay for a few of our minor sins
 - c. For however much financial debt we owe other people
 - d. For everything—the huge debt our sins have created.
7. What does Jesus say about those who are not willing to forgive others?
 - a. They are wise not to let people get away with offenses.
 - b. He will let them become judges in His kingdom.
 - c. They will not experience His forgiveness because they have not understood His mercy.
 - d. He will require them to pay a fine and serve time in prison.

8. Which of the following is an essential statement in any relationship?
- a. "I am wrong. I am sorry. Will you forgive me?"
 - b. "Why do you not apologize to me when you are wrong?"
 - c. "I would apologize if I were wrong, but I usually am not."
 - d. "I am always wrong. It is always my fault. How do you put up with me?"
9. What did Jesus teach about marriage?
- a. It is a sacred, permanent covenant.
 - b. It can be dissolved only at the husband's request.
 - c. Divorce was forbidden in the Law of Moses, but times have changed, so God allows it today.
 - d. It does not matter how often someone gets married as long as he or she is married to only one person at a time.
10. How does someone become an adequate parent?
- a. Simply by getting married and bearing children
 - b. Only by becoming an adequate person by God's help
 - c. By reading the Bible a lot
 - d. By letting the children do whatever they want to do
11. What did Jesus tell the rich young ruler to do to have eternal life?
- a. Keep the commandments to earn God's favor.
 - b. Voluntary poverty is the only way to salvation.
 - c. Repent for loving his riches more than he loved God.
 - d. It is impossible for the rich to enter heaven.
12. What must we do to have eternal life?
- a. Keep all the commandments to earn God's favor
 - b. Voluntarily give up wealth and become poor
 - c. Repent from anything we love more than we love God
 - d. Say a special prayer and get baptized



The rich young ruler had to repent for making his money a higher priority than God. What did repentance mean for you? How often do you need to make sure God is your highest priority? God has forgiven you of all your sins if you have trusted in Him as your Lord and Savior. Is there someone now whom you need to forgive?



Thank God for His great mercy and His willingness to forgive. Thank Him also for the gifts He has given you (forgiveness, health, family, marriage, eternal life, and fellowship with other believers). Ask him to strengthen your family relationships today so your family will be a picture of God's love.



Going Deeper

1. In a survey, we do not have time to apply all the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. In general, how are we to apply the three dimensions in which Jesus taught forgiveness in the Gospel of Matthew: when we look up; when we look around; and when we look in? _____

2. When Peter asked Jesus if he should forgive those who trespassed against him up to seven times, Jesus taught a great parable (Matthew 18: 21-35). How are we to apply the essential teaching of that parable in our relationships with those who have trespassed against us? _____

3. Considering that same passage, how are we to apply the teaching of Jesus that we are to forgive seventy times seven? _____

4. How are we to apply the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 19 that marriage is one man and one woman together forever? _____

5. To make this work, Jesus taught in that same passage that this is only possible when God helps us. How do we become an adequate person, partner, and parent to make marriage and family work and last forever? (Consider Psalm 127: 1, 2; Matthew 19: 11, 12; John 3: 3, 5)

6. When the man whose son the disciples of Jesus could not heal said with tears, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief," the Lord responded favorably. How can you and I raise the threshold of our belief and lower the threshold of our unbelief?

7. Compare and contrast the story of the rich young ruler with the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. What did they have in common, and how were they different? What does this tell you about repentance? _____

The Call to Commitment

Chapter 17

Audio lesson: New Testament 17



Objective: To understand the invitation Jesus offers His followers and the radical commitment He expects of them.



“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

—Matthew 20:26-28

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”

—Ephesians 4:32

Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem the week before His crucifixion, and when He arrived in the city He cleansed the temple and cursed a fig tree. These acts created the context for a powerful parable that made the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders even more intense.

Some of the hardest words ever spoken by Jesus are found at the conclusion of this long chapter of Matthew 21 when Jesus informs the religious leaders that because they were not bringing forth the fruit of the kingdom, the kingdom would be taken away from them (the Jews) and given to a people (the Gentiles - all those who are not Jews) who would bring forth fruit.

Jesus taught His disciples to have the heart of a servant and to commit to follow Him at all costs. This servant attitude and radical commitment still apply to His followers today.



1. True or false? It is never too late to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Those who accept Christ late in life go to heaven just like those who follow Him their whole lives.
2. True or false? It is better to have an extremely sinful life before coming to Christ than to come to faith as a child and have only sinned a little.
3. True or false? Jesus praised the mother of James and John for her great faith and wise advice.
4. True or false? Jesus invites us and wants to have fellowship with us as a king invites his subjects to a banquet.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. How did Jesus cleanse the temple?
 - a. He and His disciples picked up all the litter on the grounds.
 - b. He expelled all the non-Jews.
 - c. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and drove them away.
 - d. He prayed a cleansing prayer over it.
6. What did the withered fig tree symbolize?
 - a. Israel
 - b. Gentiles
 - c. The temple
 - d. The law of Moses
7. What did Jesus present as His credentials when the religious leaders questioned His authority?
 - a. His status as a priest
 - b. His ancestry
 - c. His works
 - d. His knowledge
8. Because Israel had mistreated its prophets and the Son of God, what did Jesus say He would do?
 - a. He would take the kingdom of God out of Israel's hands.
 - b. He would send them even more prophets.
 - c. He would declare all other religions valid.
 - d. He would personally take over Jerusalem and expel all of the Jewish leaders.
9. Where is God's headquarters today?
 - a. The United States
 - b. The largest church in the world
 - c. Jerusalem
 - d. Wherever His people bring forth the fruit of His kingdom

10. In Jesus' parable of the wedding feast, what were the excuses people gave for not accepting the invitation to the feast? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. They had bought a field and needed to go see it.
- b. They had bought some oxen and needed to test them.
- c. They didn't think that they were worthy to be invited.
- d. They had just gotten married.

11. What did Jesus require of those who would follow Him?

- a. That they take up their cross and follow Him
- b. That they sell all they have and give to His ministry
- c. That they learn how to do miracles before identifying with Him
- d. That they memorize the four gospels

Jesus said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him (have fellowship), and he with me.

—Revelation 3:20



How much do you value your fellowship with God? How does knowing that Jesus wants to enjoy time with you make you feel? In what ways would you like to see your fellowship with Him grow deeper and stronger? What is keeping you from enjoying fellowship with God?



Thank God that He desires to fellowship with us even more than we want to fellowship with Him. Ask Him to help you bring forth the fruit of the kingdom internally and externally.



Going Deeper

1. How can you apply the parable about the king inviting guests to his banquet to your own personal fellowship with your King of kings and Lord of lords? (Consider Revelation 3: 19, 20)

2. In what way did the withered fig tree prefigure the hardest things Jesus ever said to the Jewish religious leaders, as recorded near the end of Matthew chapter 21? _____

3. What did the metaphor used by the Lord, when He challenged His followers to take up their cross and follow Him, mean to those who heard that awesome and very difficult invitation?

4. How do we apply personally the teaching of Jesus that His followers should follow His example to minister or serve, just as He came to serve and give His life a ransom for many? (Matthew 20: 27, 28) _____

5. The cleansing of the Temple describes the zenith of the hostile dialogue between Jesus and the religious leaders. If He came back today, would He “overturn the tables” in the churches? Why or why not? _____

6. How does the most solemn message Jesus ever gave to the Jewish religious leaders apply to a church, a missionary organization, a Christian college or university, and any other ministry today? _____

7. Since the kingdom of God is now in the hearts of those who crown Jesus to be their king, how does this sobering and solemn message apply to you and me today? In other words, will He take away our opportunity to bring forth fruit for him and gave it to those who will bring forth its fruit? _____

Confrontation, Crisis and Commission

Chapter 18

Audio lesson: New Testament 18



Objective: To describe the last events in Jesus' earthly life and ministry.



"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20

As Jesus taught in Jerusalem in the week before His crucifixion, He encountered the religious leaders in several hostile confrontations. Jesus spoke very harsh words about the corrupt Jewish leadership and told them that the kingdom would be taken out of Israel's hands because they had rejected Him – the Messiah.

Jesus gave many prophecies about the future of Jerusalem and about His return. He said that His second coming will be spectacular, like a flash of lightning across the sky. But He did not predict when He would return and said that it would be when we are not expecting it. Nevertheless, we are to watch for the signs of the times and make sure that when He comes, He will find us faithfully serving Him. His coming will be judgment upon those who do not believe and a great celebration for His followers.

When Jesus was arrested and crucified, all of His disciples fled. But they came back together after His resurrection, and before He left them, He commissioned them to go into the world with the gospel and make many more disciples.



1. True or false? After the cleansing of the temple, Jesus' relationship with the religious authorities got much better.
2. True or false? Jesus taught that His followers would not need to pay taxes.
3. True or false? Jesus could never think of a good response to the religious leaders' arguments.
4. True or false? The Great Commission to go and preach the Gospel is only for pastors and evangelists.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Which commandment did Jesus say was the greatest?
 - a. Give ten percent of your income to the church.
 - b. Love God and love your neighbor.
 - c. Do not commit adultery.
 - d. Do not judge or you will be judged.
6. What was Jesus' philosophy of leadership?
 - a. The church should have a strict hierarchy.
 - b. All Christians are equal brothers and sisters.
 - c. Because everyone is a servant, the church should have no teachers or leaders of any kind.
 - d. Only trained priests should be leaders in the church.
7. What did Jesus call the corrupt religious leaders? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Hypocrites
 - b. Whitewashed tombs
 - c. Honest but mistaken men
 - d. Sons of hell
 - e. Prophets worthy of respect
8. According to Jesus, when will the end of the world be?
 - a. When the temple is destroyed
 - b. When everyone in the world has accepted Him
 - c. When Satan decides to surrender
 - d. He does not say, but He gave several signs to watch for.
9. What are the signs that Jesus' return is near (see Matthew 24:4-14)? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Many will come and say they are the Christ—God's Messiah.
 - b. Wars and rumors of wars
 - c. Famines
 - d. Earthquakes
 - e. Persecution of His followers
 - f. False prophets will deceive many.
 - g. The Gospel will be preached in the whole world.

10. What will Jesus' return be like?
- a. Very secret. He may have already come.
 - b. Spectacular and obvious to everyone
 - c. A great celebration for the whole world
 - d. A gradual process
11. Which of the following did Jesus pray the night before He went to the cross?
- a. "Not My will but Yours be done."
 - b. "I refuse to drink this cup."
 - c. "My will and Yours are always the same."
 - d. "Please tell me Your will so I can decide if I want to do it."
12. What is the meaning of communion, or the Lord's Supper?
- a. It is a secret initiation ritual into the church.
 - b. It is a memorable picture of Jesus' sacrifice.
 - c. It is an incantation to evoke Jesus' presence.
 - d. It is a prayer that only pastors and priests should pray.
13. What was the greatest sign that Jesus did to prove He was God?
- a. He made food to feed thousands of people.
 - b. He healed everyone who had a disease.
 - c. He rose from the dead as He said He would.
 - d. He cast out demons.
14. What does the Great Commission tell us to do?
- a. Establish Christian governments
 - b. Force people to obey the commandments
 - c. Go into all the world and make disciples
 - d. Increase church membership



Are you looking forward to the return of Jesus? Why? In what ways do you see the Great Commission being fulfilled? In what ways do you think God wants you to participate in the Great Commission?



Thank God for His promise that He is going to come again to take His followers to heaven. Thank God for the work of His followers who have spread the Gospel around the world. Ask Him to send more workers into the harvest—and to help you discover your role in the Great Commission and thank Him that He has promised to always be with you.



Going Deeper

1. When Jesus says, as recorded in Matthew 24, that even He does not know when He is coming, and He says in the first chapter of Acts that it is not for His disciples to know the times and the seasons which only the Father knows, how should that affect our attitude toward the chronology of these events? _____

2. In light of the fact that Jesus told us that one of the signs of the times is that the Gospel must first be preached in all the nations, and Peter tells us in Second Peter 3 that we should live in such a way as to hasten His coming again, what could we be doing to hasten that day? _____

3. Since the second coming is the only hope of this world and the blessed hope of the church, are you telling the world and the church that He is coming again, or are you like the men in the first chapter of Acts who are gazing up in the air when you have been given a Great Commission? _____

4. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20) Jesus charged His followers to make disciples, baptize those disciples, and teach those disciples everything He commanded the disciples to observe about Him. Have we fulfilled the commandments of that Commission until we teach a new disciple all the things we have observed about Jesus Christ? _____

5. How long does it take to teach a new disciple these things, and does this not mean having a relationship with those disciples? _____

6. Is the church, and are you and I, implementing and obeying these commandments in the Great Commission? _____

7. How did the apostles obey these aspects of the Great Commission, as recorded in the second chapter of the book of Acts? _____
