A Guided Inductive Study of the Gospel of Matthew

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of the Gospel of Mark

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How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions. Ask your own. In an individual study it will be harder to

consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- Is there a **P**-romise to claim?
- Is there an **E**-xample to follow?
- Is there a **P**-rayer concern?
- Is there a **S**-in to avoid?
- +Is there an **I**-nstruction to obey?

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something here you need to pray about? Why?
7. Is there a word/topic you need to explore more deeply?

Outline of Matthew

Matthew 1 - Birth of Jesus
Matthew 2 - The Wismen
Matthew 3 - John the Baptist
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Matthew 15 - Hypocrisy
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Matthew 18 - Love & Forgiveness
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Matthew 20 - Be a Servant
Matthew 21 - Cheering Jesus
Matthew 22 - First Things First
Matthew 23 - Seven Woes
Matthew 24 – The End Times
Matthew 25 - Sheep and Goats
Matthew 26 - Betrayed
Matthew 27 - The Crucifixion
Matthew 28 - The Resurrection

Matthew 1 - Birth of Jesus

Key verses to think about.

1:1 The Genealogy of Jesus
This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:..17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

1:18 Mary is Found with Child
Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

1:19-20 Conceived of the Holy Spirit
Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

1:22-23 He Shall Be Called Immanuel
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Main Truth:

Jesus is the Son of God from Heaven, born of a virgin, born of the lineage of David, and given a name above every name, Immanuel and Jesus.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Genealogy of Jesus

Note the sinners and non-Jewish ancestors of Jesus. (Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba). Jesus came to save the whole world, not just Jews. Compare this genealogy to Luke's. Why the differences? (Luke 3:23-38)

2 The Virgin Birth

The virgin birth is no accident. It proclaims his deity as coming from the Father, and being "God with us." How important is the virgin birth to our salvation? Could Jesus save the world from sin if he was not born of a virgin? How is Adam's sin passed on to each of us?

3 The Name of Jesus

What are the two names of Jesus in this passage? Why is his name "Immanuel" so important? What else does the New Testament teach us about the name of Jesus?

Private Notes:

Matthew 2 - The Wise Men

Key verses to think about.

2:1-2 King of the Jews
Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

2:3-4 King Herod
When Herod the king heard *this,* he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

2:5 The Birth Place
So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

2:9-10 The Star
When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

2:11 The Gifts
And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

2:12 Warned of God
Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Main Truth:

The Wisemen came from Babylon in search of the King of the Jews. They knew it from the Star appearing and the prophecies of Daniel.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Wise men: How do you think the Wise men knew to go to Jerusalem to find the newborn King of the Jews? Daniel, in Babylon, was a magi who prophecies the coming of Messiah.

2 Herod: Do you know how bad Herod was? He was an Adolf Hitler of the first century. He kill all who might threaten his kingdom, wives, brothers, sons, etc. (see recommended stuty below)

3 Prophecies: Can you cite several Old Testament prophecies of the Birth of Jesus?

4 The Star: What do you think the Star was? A comment, alignment of planets, a shooting star? Something else? What was unusual about the Star? Have you studied it?

Comments:

For an in-depth study of Jesus' birth I recommend my 10 Chapter study of the birth of Christ.
https://www.ministrytoday.org/460-ChristmasStudy.htm

Private Notes:

Matthew 3 - John the Baptist

Key verses to think about.

3:1 John the Baptist
In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

3:5-6 Baptism of Repentance
Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

3:7-8 Brood of Vipers
But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

3:11 Baptism of Holy Ghost
“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3:14-15 Jesus Baptized
And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

3:16-17 Voice from Heaven
When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and Hefn saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came*from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Main Truth:

Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. So should you!

Questions:

1 What did John mean that *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand?"* All the other New Testament writers called it *"the kingdom of God."* (Matthew said it 38 times)

2 Why were John and Jesus were not kind and nice in their preaching? They called groups of people awful names. I we preachers did that we'd be in big trouble with the ACLU. (Such as hypocrites, blind guides, brood of vipers, whitewashed tombs, dogs, fools, and child of hell, child of the devil.)

3 What is *"fruit worthy of repentance?"* Do we have to make ourselves worthy of forgiveness?

4 Why did Jesus get baptized with the baptism of repentance if He had no sin? Is our baptism the baptism of repentance?

5 Why did Jesus get a voice from Heaven? We never get to hear a voice from Heaven to encourage us.

Private Notes:

Matthew 4 - Jesus Tempted

Key verses to think about.

4:1 Led by the Spirit
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

4:3 Temptation #1
Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4:6 Temptation #2
Satan said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.

4:9 Temptation #3
Satan said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

4:4 Answer #1
But He answered and said, "It is written, *'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*"

4:7 Answer #2
Jesus said to him, "It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'*"

4:10 Answer #3
Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*"

4:19-20 The Call, "Follow Me"
Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

4:21-22 The Call, "Follow Me"
Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son*of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Main Truth:

When Satan calls, just read him the Word. When Jesus calls, obey immediately.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Isn't it weird that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert "to be tempted"? Does God ever lead us into temptation?

2 Do you answer the devil's temptations? What do you answer the devil when tempted? Do you answer out loud or in your head? Do you use Scripture?

3 Do you ever have conversations with the devil? Should we have conversations with the devil!

4 When Jesus calls you, how quickly do you obey? Do you ever hear him call you to obey him?

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Matthew 5 - Hard Saying

Key verses to think about.

5:3-10 The Eight Beattitudes
Blessed are…poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hungry, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted.

5:10 Hard Sayings:

5:19 "Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;"

5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

5:22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a causefn shall be in danger of the judgment."

5:23-24 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

5:28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

5:32 "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery."

5:34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;"

5:39 “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”

5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”

5:48 “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Main Truth:

Jesus told his disciples, “Without me, you can do nothing.” Without Jesus living in us we cannot be blessed or obedient.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Which of the beattitudes best describe you? Pick 3.

2 Which hard sayings do you struggle with the most? Why do you struggle with them?

3 Was Jesus teaching a works salvation? (Verse 20)

Private Notes:

Matthew 6 – Jesus' Commands

Key verses to think about.

6:1 Give Offerings Secretly
"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

6:6 Pray in Secret
"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

6:7 Don't Pray Long Prayers
"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do.*For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

6:9 A Prayer Pattern
"In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name…"

6:14-15 Forgive When You Pray
"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

6:16 Fast in Secret
"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."

6:19 Don't Store Up Treasures
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

6:22 Light of the Body
"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light."

6:24 Don't Serve Two Masters
"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

6:25 Don't Worry About Tomorrow
"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

6:33-34 Seek God in First Place
"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble."

Main Truth:

Pray alone with God and always about everything and forgive everyone.

Questions:

1 Do you daily enter a secret closet of prayer? Where is your secret prayer closet or corner?

2 Do you need to forgive someone who hurt you?

3 Do you ever fast? Why do you fast? How often? Why or why not?

4 Do you worry? What about? Why?

5 Are you storing up treasures is heaven? How do you do that?

6 Do you serve two masters? Who or what dominates your thoughts and affections?

7 Do you seek God first every day? How do you exemplify that? Do you ever seek God in second place?

Private Notes:

Matthew 7 - Narrow Gate

Key verses to think about.

7:1-3 Judging Appearances
"Judge not, that you be not judged. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

7:7 Ask, Seek, Find
"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

7:11 Good Gifts
"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

7:13 Narrow Gate
"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

7:15-16 By their Fruits
"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"

7:21-23 Not Everyone Knows Jesus
"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

7:24 Wise Man on a Rock
"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"

7:26 Foolish Man on Sand
"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:"

Main Truth:

Some will make it to heaven, some will not. The difference is in the sincerity of your faith and obedience to Christ. Genuine faith receives, believes, and obeys Christ.

Questions:

1 What verse or verses encourage you? Why?

2 What verses frightens you? Why?

3 What verses are worth memorizing for life? Why?

4 Jesus also said "Judge righteous judgement." (John 7:24) And Paul said, "Judge among yourselves."
(1 Cor. 5:12, 6:1) What's the difference? What did Jesus mean?

5 What prayer promises here can you claim and cling to?

Private Notes:

Matthew 8 - By His Word

Key verses to think about.

8:2-3 A Leper
And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

8:8 Speak the Word
The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

8:15 He Touched Her
So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

8:16 He Healed Them All
When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick.

8:24-26 A Tempest
And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to *Him and* awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

8:28 Crazy Man
When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed *men,* coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

8:31-32 Demons Negotiate
So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole

herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Main Truth:

His "word" is power: he speaks with authority, calms the sea, he casts out demons, he touched the sick.

Questions ror Discusson:

1 Would you prefer Jesus' touch or his word for healing?

2 Draw a conclusion or a lesson from each healing. Healings:

- Leper
- Centurion
- Mother-in-law
- Cast out demons & healed sick
- Demonized man

3 Why would Jesus allow demons into pigs? Why reason with them? Why not cast them into hell?

Private Notes:

Matthew 9 - He Forgives & Heals

Key verses to think about.

9:4-5 Easy Peasy
But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, *'Your* sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

9:12-13 The Great Physician
When Jesus heard *that,* He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what *this*means: *'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'* For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

9:35 He Healed Them All
Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

9:36 l-38 Jesus' Compassion
But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Main Truth:

Jesus found it as easy to forgive our sins as to heal our bodies.

Questions:

Why do we think it's easier to get forgiveness from Jesus than healing?

What can you learn from each healing? Healings:

- Paralyzed man
- Woman with hemmorage
- Dead Girl raised
- Two blind men
- Mute man
- Every sickness and disease

3 Why did Jesus ask his disciples to pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers? Isn't that why he made disciples? What do harvesters do? Are you a harvester, a planter, or a waterer? What is your role is calling sinners to repentance?

Private Notes:

Matthew 10 - True Discipleship

Key verses to think about.

(There is much here. Choose at least 3 questions to discuss and/or answer.)

10:1 He Gave Them Power
When He had called His twelve disciples to *Him,* He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

10:8 He Commanded to Freely Give
"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

10:16 Sheep Among Wolves
"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

10:19-20 The Spirit Will Speak Through You,
"But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

10:22 You Will Be Hated
"You will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

10:25 Be Like Your Lore
"It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household!

10:27 Speak in the Light
"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops."

10:32-33 Confess Me Before Men
"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

10:35-36 Family Dissonance
"For I have come to *'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';* and *'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*

10:37-38 Take Up Your Cross
"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

10:42 A Cup of Cold Water
"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Main Truth:

If you obey and follow Jesus you will be persecuted, alienated, and rejected.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Jesus gave his disciples power "cast out demons and evil spirits." Is that given to every believer? Or was it a specific gift to the disciples?

2 There's much talk and emphasis by some teachers today that say believers can be possessed by demons that need to be cast out? Can the devil and the Holy Spirit inhabit the same person? What does the Scriptures say? Can a believer be demonized?

3 Jesus told his disciples not to premeditate what to say at their trials. Some preachers seem to think that's the way they should preach, without study or forethought. Is that what Jesus meant? Prove it with Scripture.

4 Jesus said faithful follower who are unashamed will be persecuted. Have you ever been persecuted? What provoked your persecutors?
Paul said, "All who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12) Is that true? Has it been true for you?

5 Have you ever been rejected by family or friends because of your stand for Christ? When? Where? By whom and why?

6 "He who endures to the end shall be saved" Does that men if you cave under persecution you won't be saved?

Clarify and Explain:

Verse 33 “Whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before My Father.” Does that mean if we deny Him like Peter did, we will be lost? Was Peter lost for denying the Lord? Then what does that mean?

Verse 42 says “will by no means will lose his reward” Does that mean we can lose our reward(s)? Show me in Scripture.

Verse 37 “take up your cross” What does that mean? What is the cross we are to take up? Do you?

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The questions we ask are not to create doubt or fear but to make you think.

Private Notes:

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Matthew 11 - Rest to Your Soul

Key verses to think about.

11:12 Heaven Suffers Violence
"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

11:19 You Are Never Satisfied
"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."

11:21 Woe to You
"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

11:28-30 Come to Me for Rest
"Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

Main Truth;

Some people are never satisfied, always finding fault, even Jesus experience nit-picking people.

Question for Discussion:

1 Verse 12 “The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.” What is that referring to? (Hint: see Revelation 12:7 and Luke 10:18)

2 What is Jesus’ yoke? “Take my yoke on you…my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

3 “Rest unto you soul” What is an unrested soul? A restless soul? An anxious soul? When does your soul need rest? It’s no talking about your body needing sleep.

Commentary:

The Bible has a lot to say about our soul. Check out an article and study I’ve done on “your soul.”

The Care of My Soul
https://www.prayertoday.org/Landing/Reflections-4-SoulCare.htm

Private Notes:

Matthew 12 - Legalism

Key verses to think about.

12:7 Mercy is Better Than Sacrifice
"But if you had known what *this* means, *'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,'* you would not have condemned the guiltless.

12:8 Lord of the Sabbath
"For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

12:10 Is It Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?
And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.

12:15 Jesus Withdrew Himself
But when Jesus knew *it,* He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.

Main Truth:
Jesus is Lord of all, including Lord of the Sabbath.

Questions:

1 Why don't we believers worship on Saturday the Sabbath? Isn't it one of the Ten Commandments? Why do we worship on Sunday?

2 There are a lot of legalists in the church today. They are people who enforce unbiblical rules of fundamentalism. Don't smoke, chew, go to movies, dance, etc. what were some "traditions of men"that you grew up with?

Biblical principles and guidelines for judgmental legalists.

Colossians 2:14
"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"

1 Corinthians 8:9-13
"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

1 Corinthians 10:31
"Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:23
"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."

Colossians 3:17
"Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Private Notes:

Matthew 13 - Sower & Seed

Key verses to think about.

13:13 He Spoke in Parables
"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

13:19-22 Bad Ground
"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it,* then the wicked *one comes* and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

13:23 Good Ground
"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it,* who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

13:29-30 Wheat & Tares
"But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

13:40 Tares Will Be Burned in the Fire

"Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

13:43 The Righteous Will Shine
"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Main Truth:

The word of God is sown in the hearts of men, but only good ground will respond and receive it.

Questions:

1 Who is the sower? Verse 37

2 Define: what, who, result

- Wayside=
- Stony ground=
- Thorns=

3 What makes for good ground? Should we not sow the word to bad ground?

4 How can the ground be prepared to receive the word?

5 How can you tell the difference between wheat and tares in the church?

6 According to Jesus will sinners go to hell? Why do some churches teach there is no hell or eternal damnation? Describe hell using Jesus own words here and elsewhere.

Matthew 14 - Miracles

Key verses to think about.

14:17 Feeding 5000+
And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

14:25 Jesus Walks on Water
Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

14:35 Those Who Touched Were Healed
And as many as touched *it* were made perfectly well.

Main Truth:

Jesus did amazing miracles to prove who he was.

Questions For Discussion:

1 What odd, unusual and/or curious things happened in the feeding of the 5000?

2 What odd, unusual and/or curious things happened in Jesus walking on water?

3 What odd, unusual and/or curious things happened in Jesus healing the sick?

4 What two people ever walked on water? Why didn't the others? Would you?

Curiosities:

1 Would you ask for someone's head on a charger rather than half the kingdom?

2 Where did they get 12 baskets of only one boy carried a lunch?

3 What if you didn't like fish? Would you go hungry?

4 How do you pass out fish and bread? Was it sandwiches? Did it have bones?

5 Do you think there was any complaining about the type of fish or the cheap barely loaves? Would you have complained?

6 Picture how Peter managed to climb out of a storm-tossed boat to walk on water.

Private Notes:

Matthew 15 - Hypocrisy

Key verses to think about.

15:2-3 Traditions of Men
"Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?

15:19-20 The Source of Evil
"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

22 A Desperate Mother
And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

15:26-27 The Children's Bread
But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

15:30-31 He Heals the Sick
Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them *the* lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

15:34-37 Feeding 4000+
Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish." So He commanded the

multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples; and the disciples *gave* to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.

Main Truth:

Out of the heart comes all evils.

Questions for Discussion:

1What traditions of men today are not biblically based?

2 Why was Jesus so rude to the non-Jewish mother? Would you ever refuse to pray for someone in need? Why would Jesus do that?

3 What live miracles have you seen (not on TV) in your lifetime? Why don't we see Jesus doing these miracles today?

4 What did Jesus mean by "the Children's Bread?" What is the children's bread? What promises and powers of God are you feeding on?

Private Notes:

Matthew 16 - Peter Rebuked

Key verses to think about.

16:16-18 Peter's Confession
Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build Myi church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

21-23 Peter Rebuked
From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

24-26 The Cost of Following
Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Main Truth:

There is a cost to following Jesus.

Questions for Discussion:

1 How would you answer a Catholic who claims Peter is the rock, the first pope, of the church?

2 Why did Jesus say. “You are Peter and Upon this rock I will build my church”? How would you feel if Jesus said this to you?

3 Did Jesus call Peter “Satan”? How would you feel if Jesus said this to you?

4 What are the gates of hell?

4 As we’ve asked before, “What is your cross to be carried following Jesus? What is the personal cost of your discipleship? Has there been a cost?

Commentary:

“The Gates of Hell”

This event took place thr foot of Mt Hermon and in the region of Caesarea Philippi, where there is a cave believed to be the gates of hell.

The archaeological site of Banias (Caesarea Philippi) in northern Israel. The cave and spring here were associated with the pagan god Pan, and it is traditionally regarded as the location where Jesus spoke to Peter about the "gates of Hades/hell" (Matthew 16:18). Because of its dark, bottomless appearance, some ancients considered it the gateway to the underworld (the "Gates of Hell")

Check it out:

Author of “Dynasty of Slaves” by Scott Magdalein his Podcast: The Raphaim
https://youtu.be/dgNWOQI8-2k?is=6MGCkooXddU5ucHd

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See also:
Reversing Hermon By Dr Michael S Heiser

Private Notes:

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Matthew 17 - Transfiguration

Key verses to think about.

17:1-3 Transfiguration
Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

17:5 A Voice from Heaven
While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

17:9 Tell No One
Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

17:15-16 Your Disciples Failed
"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

17:18 Rebuked the Demon
And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

17:19 So Little Faith
Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

17:27 Temple Tax
"Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money;fn take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Main Truth:

The disciples failed the test of believing with all their hearts.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Is the transfiguration proof that Jesus talked to, or prayed to the dead. Is it permitted for us to do so? Can we pray to Mary? Can we pray to saints to help us? Why, or why not?

2 Why do you think the transfiguration took place? What was the purpose?

3 Why the voice from Heaven? This wasn't the first time God spoke from Heaven to Jesus. When else did this happen?

4 Why did Jesus command the disciples not to tell anyone about the transfiguration?

5 Why did the disciples fail to cast out the demon even though Jesus had given them power to do so? Is the lack of prayer and fasting a sin?

6 Is fasting necessary for nearness to God? Why? Is God impressed with going without food?

7 Do you believe your faith can move mountains, not figuratively, but really? Have you ever commanded a mountain to move, or plucked up a fig tree by the roots? How is your faith?

8 Is the transfiguration proof that Jesus talked to, or prayed to the dead. Is it permitted for us to do so? Can we pray to Mary? Can we pray to saints to help us? Why, or why not?

Private Notes:

Matthew 18 - Love & Forgiveness

Key verses to think about.

(There's a lot to think about here!)

18:1-5 Child-like Faith

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

18:6 Hard Saying #1

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

18:8 Hard Saying #2

"If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire."

18:10-11 Little Ones Matter

"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. 14 "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

18:15-17 Making Amends When you are sinned against

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'*

And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

18:18-20 Binding & Loosing
"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

18:19 Prayer Agreement
Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

18:20 Promised Presence
For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

18:21-22 Forgive 70x7
Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

18:35 Forgive from the heart!
"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Main Truth:

There are pretty serious issues of forgiveness here. Don't ignore little ones. Don't offend anyone. Forgive everyone everything.

Questions for Discussion:

1 There are a number of hard saying of Jesus here. What are the hardest things to do and understand?

2 What will happen to us if you do not forgive otheres from your heart?

3 Was Jesus serious about …

- "millstone around your neck"?
- "plucking your eye out"?
- "forgive 490 times a day"?
- "Binding and loosing"?
- "Moving mountains"?
- "Agree in prayer & get answer"?

Don't just say 'yes', answer if it's true and realistic? Do you practice what he preached? If not, why not?

Private Notes:

Matthew 19 - Marriage & Divorce

Key verses to think about.

19:4-6 Divorce
And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who madefn *them* at the beginning *'made them male and female,'* and said, *'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"*? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

19:9 Remarriage
"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

19:14 Children
But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

19:21 Rich Young Ruler
Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

19:24 Eye of a Needle
"And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

19:25-26 Who Can Be Saved?
When His disciples heard *it,*they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Main Truth:

Obedience to Christ always involves sacrifice. Hard choices must be made.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Many stumble over Jesus' teaching in divorce and remarriage. Do you?

2 Was Jesus teaching a works salvation with the rich young ruler?

3 You've heard the the "eye of a needle" refers to a low door that canels must use to enter a city. Why then would the disciple infer "who then can be saved?" A camel can go through a low door. That's not impossible!

Private Notes:

Matthew 20 - Be a Servant

Key verses to think about.

20:16 Last Will Be First
"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

20:17-19 Jesus Foretells His Death
Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

20:26-28 Be a Servant
"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

29:32-33 What Do You Want?
So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

Main Truth:

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." We should imitate our Savior.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Who is the greatest? It is interesting how many times the disciples craved bring the top dog, the king of the mountain, the leader, the president, the CEO. What about you? What do you want to be in God's kingdom? A servant, or a leader?

2 This isn't the first time Jesus spoke to the disciples about his death. But they weren't listening. Even the scribes and Pharisees remembered this and asked Pilate to guard the tomb. We often only hear what we want to hear. Jesus often said and commanded HARD THINGS. What hard saying are you ignoring?

3 Specificity: "What do you want me to do for you?" Wouldn't it have been obvious what two blind men wanted? But Jesus wants them to spell it out. How about you? What do you want Him to do for you? Be specific. Be precise.

Private Notes:

Matthew 21 - Cheering Jesus

Key verses to think about.

21:7-8 Cheers!
They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.

21:12 The Angry Jesus
Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

21:13 House of Prayer
And He said to them, "It is written, *'My house shall be called a house of prayer,'* but you have made it a *'den of thieves.*

21:19 The Fig Tree
And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

21:21 Faith and Not Doubt
So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

21:22 Ask Believing.
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

21:29-31 The Will of the Father
"He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he

answered and said, 'I *go,* sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

Main Truth:

It's easy to cheer Jesus on Sunday, but much harder in the daily grind of Monday. Cheering Jesus is not discipleship.

Questions for Discussion:

1 The crowds began the week with cheers but ended it with jeers. What changed their minds?

2 Did Jesus lose his temper when he violently overturned tables and even made a whip to chase the out of the temple? Then he had an issue with a fig tree. When is it okay for us to have righteous indignation?

3 House of Prayer - God's house is to be known as a house of prayer. Is your church known as a house of prayer? Are you known as a man or woman of prayer?

4 Faith is believing God without a shadow of doubt. Here's a powerful promise and truth repeated often in the gospels, "Whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Do you absolutely believe this?

5 What has Jesus asked you to do that you've said no to, or ignored? What ministry of service has the church asked you to do, but you said, "No!"

Private Notes:

Matthew 22 - First Things First

Key verses to think about.

22:9-11 A Wedding Garment
'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

22:21 Paying Taxes
They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

22:29 Marriage in Heaven
Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

22:37 Greatest Commandment
Jesus said to him, "'*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*

Main Truth:

Getting ready for heaven involves getting God's robe of righteousness instead of your own.

Questions for Discussion:

1 What is the wedding garment we are to wear to the wedding feast?

2 What were the tattered garments the man wore to the feast? (Isaiah 64:6, Zech. 3:1-5, Jeremiah 17:9)

3 Should we pay taxes? Should we honor Caesar? Should we ever war against Caesar? Disobey Caesar?

4 What belongs to God that we should render to Him? (Hint: It's like taxes.)

5 Will you be married in heaven?

6 The greatest commandment is repeated throughout scripture. Where else do we find it? What word was left out of Matthew's quote?

Deuteronomy 6:5
"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Mark 12:30
'*And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*

Private Notes:

Matthew 23 - Seven Woes

Key verses to think about.

7 "Woes to "hypocrites"

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Condemnation:

13 you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men
14 you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers
16 you travel land and sea to win one proselyte
23 blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple,
25 For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin
24 who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!
27 For you cleanse the outside of the cup
29 Because you build the tombs of the prophets a

Derogatory Names

———————————

Hypocrites
Son of hell
Blind guides
Fools and blind
Full of extortion & self-indulgence
Whitewashed tombs
Serpents
Brood of vipers
Condemned to hell
You murderers

Commands

———————-

23:3 "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

23:8 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

23:11-12 Be Humble
"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

23:37 Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem
"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!

Main Truth:

Don't be like the hypocrites. Don't follow corrupt leaders. Be humble. Be a servant.

Questions for Discussion:

1 Why was Jesus so mad at Scribes and Pharisees?
What is a scribe?
What is a Pharisee?

2 Why would Jesus command his disciples to not be called rabbi, father, or teacher?

3 Was Jesus against tithing? Then was he approving tithing? Do you tithe? Why not?

4 Do you think Jesus believed in hell? Search the gospels for Jesus mentioning hell. How many times did he refer to hell? How did he describe it?

Private Notes:

Matthew 24 - End Times

Key verses to think about.

24:1-2 Temple Will Be Destroyed
Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

24:4-8 Beginning of Sorrows
And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things must* come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows."

24:9 Persecution
"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."

24:14 Gospel in all the World
"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

24:15 Abomination of Desolation
"Therefore when you see the *'abomination of desolation,'* spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),"

24:21-22 The Great Tribulation
"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

24:27 The Rapture?
"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

24:29-31 The Second Coming?
"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

24:34 This Generation?
"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."

24:35 Assurance of His Coming
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

24:36 No Man Knows the Day
"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,fn but My Father only."

Main Truth:

Jesus is coming again. The gospel will be preached in all the world. He will gather the saints to himself.

Questions for Discussion:

1 If Jesus said “not ond stone will be left on another” why is the Wailing Wall considered to be the only remaining stones of the temple? Either Jesus prophesied falsely, or the Wall was never part of the temple.

2 Even from the resurrection people have wanted to predict the time of his coming, but Jesus said, “It is not for you to know the times and the seasons the Father has put in His own hands.” (verse 36, Acts 1:8) So why do men try to predict his coming? Can anyone?

3 So why did Jesus give us so much end time information here, in the Pauline letters, and the book of Revelation?

4 What is the abomination of desolation? Jesus said whoever reads needs to understand this. Do you understand it?

5 What are the end time passages you remember? What signs are yet to be fulfilled?

6 Why did Jesus say “this generation shall not pass till all be fulfilled”?

Commentary:

I recommend three books every believer should read;

“The Day and the Hour" by Francis X. Gumerlock (a historical, non-fiction study of prophecy predictions $20)
https://store.americanvision.org/products/the-day-and-the-hour-christianitys-perennial-fascination-with-predicting-the-end-of-world

"The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot" by Ernest L. Martin, a facinating study of the Temple Mount and the location of the final temple. $45 on Amazon

But a Free download pdf
https://archive.org/details/templesthatjerus0000mart/mode/1up

The Wars of the Jews, Book 6
Josephus testimony on the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/josephussack.html

Private Notes:

Matthew 25 - Sheep and Goats

Key verses to think about.

(There are three parables here.)

25:10-13 Being Ready

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

25:24-25/30 Wasted Investment

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.' 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

25:31-32 Of Sheep and Goats

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holyfn angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats."

25:46 Everlasting Punishment

"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- Parable Wise and Foolish Virgins
- Parable of the Talents
- Judge the Sheep and Goats

Main Truth:

If you truly know the Lord you will shine for him, serve him faithfully, and do his work.

Question for Discussions:

One of the dangers we all face is to interpret parables incorrectly and miss the main point.

1 The virgins were not representing all believers, but separating those who have oil on their lamps, that is the light of life in their souls. The empty virgins had no true light of life.

2 The talents of silver were given to all, but only the true servants invested in serving their master. The false servant did nothing. He simply made a concession of faith that went no further.

3 The Judge divided the sheep from the goats. They look similar but they are not. The sheep are true followers of Christ. The goat follow their own ways pretending to be goats. The goats serve themselves and not the Master, thus "Depart from me I never knew you."

All of these parables were about true and false believers. Don't try to read anything else into them.

4 Do you agree or disagree? State your case. Can true born-again believers be lost? Prove it with Scripture!

Private Notes:

Matthew 26 - Betrayed

Key verses to think about.

26:2 The Plot
"You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

26:7-9 Alabaster Jar
A woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table.* But when His disciples saw *it,*they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the* poor."

26:14-16 The Betrayer
Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

26:21-24 Lord, Is it I?
Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

26:26 The Bread
And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it,* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

26:27 The Cup
Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

26:34-35 Peter's Denial
Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

26;47 Betrayed by a Kiss
And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

2:41 Watch and Pray
"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Main Truth:
You killed the Prince of life, whom God has raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Questions for Discussion:

1 What were the miracles of the resurrection? Compare the gospels.

2 Why do you think there are differences between the gospel stories of Jesus resurrection? What are those differences?

3 Have you ever read The Passover Plot by Hugh J. Schonfield? He argues that Jesus consciously planned his own arrest, crucifixion, and simulated death to fulfill Old Testament messianic prophecies, intending to be revived later, though his scheme ultimately went wrong. How would you answer a Jew that believes that story?

Synoptic Gospels Resurrection story
https://www.prayertoday.org/2013/Easter/Resurrection%20Story%20-%20Synopsis%20&%20Questions%20NIV.pdf

Private Notes:

Matthew 27 - The Crucifixion

Key verses to think about.

27:3-5 Judas Hung Himself
Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

27:24 He Washed His Hands
When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.fn You see *to it.*"

27:32 Simon the Cyrene
Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

27:45-46 Forsaken
Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

27:50-51 Jesus Died
And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

27:62-63 The Pharisees Remembered
The chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

Main Truth:

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 53:4-6 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Questions for Discussion

1 What if Jesus did not die for our sins on the cross? How would we be saved? How were Old Testament people saved?

2 What physical miracles took place at Jesus death? There are several.

3 Did God, the Father really forsake Jesus on the cross?

4 Simon the Cyrene is mentioned in Matthew, Mark, snd Luke. Where else was he and/or his sons mentioned outside the gospels?

5 Why do you think there are differences between the gospel stories of Jesus crucifixion? What are those differences?

See commentary on Simon the Cyrene and his sons:
https://davidkosobucki.com/2008/10/28/simon-of-cyrene-and-simeon-called-niger/

Synoptic comparison of the Crucifixion.
https://www.prayertoday.org/2013/Easter/Good%20Friday%20Scriptures%20-%20Just%20the%20Crucifixion.pdf

Private Notes:

Matthew 28 – The Resurrection

Key verses to think about.

28:1-2 He Arose
Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

28:9 They Worshiped Him
And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

28:18-20 The Commission
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go thereforef and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."Amen.

Main Truth:

You killed the Prince of life, whom God has raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Questions for Discussion:

1 What were the miracles of the resurrection? Compare the gospels.

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