

The Book of Matthew

A Biblical History

The Gospel of Matthew is the first of four gospels presented in the New Testament. Matthew was one of the 12 apostles that followed Jesus Christ throughout His ministry on earth. It is believed that this book was written between 50 and 70 A.D. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector that left his profession to follow the Lord. Matthew gives a personal witness account of many miracles that Jesus performed prior to being crucified. The purpose of this book is to prove to readers that Jesus is the true Messiah that was prophesized in the Old Testament. It is an artistically written book and proves to be consistent with the other three gospels; Mark, Luke and John regarding the historical events that occurred during the life of Jesus on earth. With 28 chapters, it is the longest Gospel of the four.

About the Questions

The study questions are designed to help you better understand the text. Don't treat them like a homework assignment, but rather use them as a means to help you look more closely at what the chapter is teaching. Take time to pray and ask God to speak to you and teach you.

Chapter 1

The first 17 verses give the genealogy of Jesus, who his relatives were.

1. List the names of the women that are mentioned in His genealogy?
2. What is significant about each of the woman mentioned?
3. What does the name Jesus mean? Why was the Son of God given that name?
4. What does Immanuel mean? Why is Jesus called Immanuel?
5. What lessons can we learn from Joseph's obedience?

Chapter 2

1. Why did the wise men come?
2. What was the source of authority for the chief priests and scribes when trying to determine the identity of the Messiah?
3. What did the wise men do when they met Jesus?
4. What lessons can we learn the reaction of the wise men to meeting Jesus?
5. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up where?
6. Why does Matthew continue to quote from the Old Testament?

Chapter 3

1. What message did John give to the people?
2. What was the purpose of John's ministry?
3. In what way should our lives be like that of John the Baptist?
4. When the people were baptized what did they confess?
5. Are there any sins you need to confess this morning?
6. What baptism does John promise Jesus will bring?
7. Ask Jesus to baptize you this morning with the Holy Spirit.
8. Have you been baptized in water? If not, contact the church about the next baptism.

Chapter 4

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1. How did Jesus get into the wilderness?
2. What do you notice about the things Satan used to tempt Jesus?
3. What did Jesus use in His response to each of the temptations He faced?
4. How will knowing God's Word help you overcome temptation?
5. What was promised to those who lived in darkness?
6. What was the message that Jesus began to preach?
7. What promise does Jesus give the fishermen if they will follow Him?
8. How did the fishermen respond to the invitation of Jesus?

Chapter 5

Chapters 5 - 7 record a message given by Jesus to His followers explaining how Christians should live, it is most commonly referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount"

The word, blessed, means happy.

1. According to Jesus, where will we find true happiness?
2. Why does Jesus compare His followers to salt?
3. Why light?
4. How can you apply verse 16 today?
5. In verse 18, what promise does Jesus give regarding His Word?
6. Is there anyone who you need to reconcile with today? How can you humbly seek to repair the broken relationship?
7. Is your eye causing you to sin? What things do you need to change to help you not look at what you shouldn't? Find someone you can be accountable to, let them know what you are struggling with so they can pray with you.
8. Since marriage is so sacred to Jesus, how can you work on yours?
9. What does Jesus mean by "turn the other cheek"?
10. How does loving your enemies set a Christian apart from the unbeliever? Who are you having a hard time loving? How can you apply this verse to you situation?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 deals with spiritual exercise or activities that each Christian should be involved in. We are taught the proper way to give, pray and fast. The word "charitable" means mercy that causes us to give.

1. Contrast the way the hypocrite gives with the way we should give.
2. How does God respond to proper giving?
3. In verse 6 Jesus is speaking regarding our private prayer life. How should we prayer? How does God promise to respond?
4. What warnings does Jesus give about prayer? "Do not..."
5. The "Lord's Prayer" is designed to be an example. What does it teach about praying?
6. What is "Fasting?"
7. Choose something to fast from this week, i.e. lunches, dinners, T.V. or even Facebook and use that time for prayer and worship. Choose a friend to fast with and encourage one another.
8. What can you do this week to store up treasures in heaven?
9. Matthew 6:25-34 contains some of the most practical and valuable teaching in the whole Bible. What does Jesus teach that will serve as the antidote to anxiety?

Chapter 7

1. What does Jesus tell us to do with the plank in our eye?
2. How will that help us help others?
3. Is there anything in your life that needs to come out? Take some time right now to confess it to God and ask His help to remove it.

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4. "Ask, seek knock" Jesus is teaching the need for persistence in prayer. Is there anyone who you have given up praying for? Start again today and be consistent, heaven is filled with people who made decisions for Christ in their final years, days even hours.
5. To understand the "Narrow Way," look up John 14:6 and John 1:12.
6. Who does Jesus warn us against?
7. In the final verses of chapter 7, what does the rock represent?
8. How can you build your life on the rock?

Chapter 8

1. Leprosy was an incurable, communicable disease. The law forbids anyone to touch a leper. What does Jesus do? What is the result?
2. A centurion is a Roman soldier, not a Jew. What does Jesus say about His faith?
3. How does Peter's mother in law respond to what Jesus did for her? How can you serve Jesus?
4. Summarize in just a few words what Jesus says about following Him in 8:18-22.
5. What did the disciples do in 8:23?
6. Where was Jesus during the storm?
7. What was He doing?
8. How does the whole city react to the healing of the demon possessed men?

Chapter 9

1. What does Jesus alone have power to do?
2. Take time to "soak in" the fact that Christ has forgiven all your sins. How should we respond to that?
3. Why did Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?
4. What does He call them to do?
5. New wine speaks of God doing a new thing. Perhaps God wants to do a new work in your life. Take time to seek Him for what he desires to do in and through you.
6. What do you learn about Jesus from the four consecutive stories of healing?
7. What does Jesus say about the harvest?
8. Pray for God to raise up LABORERS for the harvest in Vero Beach FL.

Chapter 10

1. Note that the word "disciple" means, "a learner and follower"
2. Before Jesus sends out the 12, what does He give them?
3. In vs. 7 they were to declare that the kingdom of God is at hand. What does the term "at hand" mean?
4. Why do you think they were sent with so little?
5. In verse 20, what promise is given to those who are facing persecution?
6. The promise of persecution is not one that we look forward to being fulfilled in our lives. According to Jesus, why do we face persecution?
7. What application can you make to your life from verse 32-33?
8. How do the words of Jesus in verse 39 effect you today?

Chapter 11

1. Why was John in prison?
2. What would cause John to doubt that Jesus was the Messiah?
3. What does Jesus give as proof that He is the promised Messiah?
4. According to Jesus who is even greater than John the Baptist?
5. Who does Jesus invite to come to Him?

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6. Take some time right now to give your burdens to Jesus.
7. What are some verses that might help you today with your situation?
8. Jesus spoke of taking His burden. His burden is the lost. Take His burden up by spending some time praying for your unsaved friends and family. Look for an open door this week to share Christ's love with them.

Chapter 12

1. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus broke their tradition. Are there any traditions in your life that Jesus needs to break?
2. Who was Jesus drawn to when he entered the synagogue? What does that tell you about Jesus?
3. Jesus gives a basic principle of unity, "a house divided cannot stand." take some time to pray for unity in your home and in CCVB.
4. "The strong man" is a reference to Satan. Jesus says when he is bound his goods (unsaved people, struggling Christians) can be plundered. Prayer and the gospel message plunder his goods. Pray again for your unsaved friends and family.
5. From the list below, circle the sins that can be forgiven?
 - a. Murder
 - b. Theft
 - c. Adultery
 - d. Blasphemy
 - e. Lying
6. The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is rejecting the salvation that God made possible through Christ. If a person rejects Christ there remains no way for them to be forgiven. If you have not prayed to receive Christ as your Savior, do it now. "Jesus, I ask you to forgive me of my sin and make me your child"
If you prayed that prayer contact us at prayer@ccvb.net and let us help you grow in Christ.

Chapter 13

1. Because the people did not listen to spiritual truth Jesus spoke to them in parables. Look up the word parable, what does it mean?
2. What does each of the following represent in the story? Don't guess keep reading and Jesus will tell you.
 - a. Seed
 - b. Sower
 - c. Path
 - d. Stony ground
 - e. Weeds
 - f. Good soil
3. In the parable of the tares, what is a tare? What do they represent?
4. What is the purpose of the story about the tares?
5. What is the lesson from the stories of the hidden treasure and the pearl?
6. Why was Jesus rejected at Nazareth?

Chapter 14

1. Why is it silly for Herod to think Jesus is John the Baptist risen?
2. What are some of the silly views that people have of Jesus today?
3. What motivated Herod to kill John?
4. What does the story of the 5 loaves and two fish teach us about:
 - a. God's ability to provide for us

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- b. God using us in the lives of other people
5. From Peter's experience on the water, what do we learn about:
 - a. Faith
 - b. Focus
 - c. Failure

Chapter 15

1. Are there any traditions you are holding that transgress God's commands?
2. Explain the contrast between what goes in a man and what comes out?
3. What does Jesus commend the woman of Canaan for?
4. Why do you think the disciples had a hard time believing the multitude could be fed with so little?
5. According to verse 32, how does Jesus feel about the unsaved multitudes?
6. How does that affect the way you view the lost?

Chapter 16

1. What sign does Jesus give to prove that He is who He claimed to be?
2. Leaven is like yeast; a small amount permeates a dough ball and causes the whole lump to rise. Sin does the same thing in our lives. It starts out small and grows out of control.
3. What important questions did Jesus ask the disciples?
4. How does Peter respond?
5. What promise does Jesus give to Peter regarding the church and the gates of hell?
6. What are the requirements if we want to follow Christ; verse 24?

Chapter 17

1. The word transfigured speaks of a change so that they were able to see Jesus in more of His glory.
2. Who appeared with Jesus on the mountain?
3. What does God declare to us about Jesus?
4. Why were the disciples unable to cast the demon out of the boy?
5. Where did Peter go to get the tax money they were required to pay?
6. Take some time to pray that God would provide for your needs, even if He has to do something supernatural.

Chapter 18

1. According to Jesus, who is the greatest in His kingdom?
2. Verses 8-9 demand us to deal with personal sin in a radical way. If there are sins that you are struggling with, take time right now to cut them out by admitting them to Jesus and asking for strength to stay away from them.
3. According to 12-14, what reaction does God have when a person gets saved?
4. What are we to do when relationships between other believers have been broken?
5. Contrast "go to them" in verse 15, with "forgive" in verse 21.
6. Are there people that have wronged you that you are holding a grudge against? RIGHT NOW REPENT, confess it to the Lord and choose to forgive them.

Chapter 19

1. According to God, what is His design for the marriage relationship?
 - a. Who is it between?

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- b. How long is it to last
2. What trait does Jesus associate with divorce in verse 8?
3. What is the significance of Jesus blessing the children right after speaking concerning divorce?
4. Why do you think the young ruler went away sad?
5. Can a camel go through the eye of a needle? How is it possible for anyone to get saved? (See Romans 10:9-10)
6. How does the promise of verse 29 minister to you today?

Chapter 20

1. What would you say is the primary message of the parable?
2. Jesus says, "Many are called but few are chosen" According to Scripture who is the person that God chooses?
3. What does Jesus tell the disciples will happen to Him when He arrives in Jerusalem?
4. What did Mom want for her boys in verse 21?
5. In verse 26, how does Jesus define greatness?
6. In verse 28, how does he illustrate greatness?
7. In a sense Jesus is asking you the same question He asked the Blind men, "what do you want me to do for you." How would you respond today to that question? Take some time to talk to Jesus about what He desires to do in your life.

Chapter 21

1. Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey was a public declaration by Jesus of being the Messiah. How did the people react?
2. Why was it wrong for the Temple to be filled with all that stuff? See verse 13.
3. What lesson do we learn about bearing fruit from the fig tree?
4. Why do you think the religious leaders were afraid to answer the questions posed by Jesus?
5. In the parable of the Vinedressers, who are the characters representing?
6. What does the phrase in verse 42 mean?

Chapter 22

1. Who do you think the characters of the Parable in verses 1-14 represent?
2. What seems to be the desire of the King?
3. Where were the people invited from?
4. Why was one of the guests removed from the feast?
5. What does Jesus tell us to do with the things that belong to God?
6. What things of yours belong to God?
7. What is significant about the statement "God is the God of the living?"
8. In a word, what is the greatest commandment?
9. To who is that love to be directed?
10. In what way are you showing love for God and others?

Chapter 23

1. What modern saying do you know that sounds a lot like verse 3?
2. Sum up the way the Pharisees are described in verses 3-7
3. In contrast, how are we to behave, verse 11?
4. According to verse 12, what should motivate us to humility?
5. Jesus described the behavior of the Pharisees in verse 24, what do you think He meant?

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6. Hypocrisy is not behaving one way when you feel another; Hypocrisy is behaving ungodly while claiming to be a follower of God. The Pharisees were the group that Jesus was most upset with, because of their hypocrisy. Are there areas in your life that this addresses?
7. Why was Jesus so upset over Jerusalem?

Chapter 24

1. What does Jesus predict will happen to the Temple?
2. In 70 AD the Temple was destroyed after the Jewish people rebelled against Roman occupancy. The Temple was leveled fulfilling the words of Christ.
3. Notice that chapter 24-25 is an answer Jesus gives to the questions of verse 3, what are the questions?

Chapter 25

1. What did the virgins do that made them wise?
2. According to verse 13, what application should we draw out of the story?
3. What did the 3rd man do with the talents he was given?
4. What did the first 2 do with theirs?
5. How are you using your resources to further the Kingdom of Heaven?
6. Who do the sheep represent?
7. Who do the goats represent?
8. How can we show the love of Jesus to strangers?

Chapter 26

1. Why were the religious leaders concerned about arresting Jesus during the feast?
2. How is the anointing of Jesus a good illustration of worship?
3. While eating the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus breaks bread and passes a cup.
 - a. What does the bread represent?
 - b. What does the cup represent?
4. What promise does Peter make to Jesus regarding “stumbling”?
5. How does Jesus respond to Peter?
6. What lessons can we learn from the disciples sleeping while Jesus is praying?
7. Jesus had 12 legions of angels at his disposal, yet he did not seek their aid. What does that teach about the love of Jesus?
8. What promise does Jesus give in verse 64?
9. What steps led to Peter denying Jesus?

Chapter 27

1. After Jesus was condemned by the religious leaders where did they take Him?
2. The Jews had lost the right to capital punishment, if they wanted Jesus put to death publicly they needed Rome’s help.
3. What do you learn about sin from Judas’ act of returning the money?
4. In verse 11, how does Jesus respond to the accusation of being King of the Jews?
5. Why do you think the people chose Barabbas over Jesus?
6. Notice how Jesus was treated by:
 - a. The soldiers
 - b. The robbers

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- c. The passers by
- 7. What do we learn from verse 46 about the suffering Jesus faced?
- 8. After watching the events of the cross, what conclusion did the Centurion come to in verse 54?
- 9. Why was a guard posted at the tomb?

Chapter 28

- 1. How did the stone get moved?
- 2. What message did the angels give to the women to share with the world?
- 3. Why did the chief priests bribe the guards?
- 4. What is the commission that Jesus gives in verse 18-20?
- 5. Take some time to pray about how you can be involved in the great commission.