

# *Matthew Part 2*

## *Leader Guide*

(NASB and ESV)

THE CHRIST, THE SON OF  
THE LIVING GOD  
(MATTHEW 14–28)

*Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)*

© 2008, 2009, 2013 Precept Ministries International

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (5/2013)

## USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

### **Leader Guides include the following:**

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

### **Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:**

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**

Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.

- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**

Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

### **Using the Leader Guide with In & Out**


#### **When your entire group uses In & Out**

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

#### **For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out**

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

<b>PRINTED PAGE NO.</b>	<b>L E S S O N S</b>	<b>PDF PAGE NO.</b>
1	LESSON ONE: Matthew 14–15	5
7	LESSON TWO: Matthew 16–17	11
13	LESSON THREE: Matthew 18–19	17
19	LESSON FOUR: Matthew 20–21	23
25	LESSON FIVE: Matthew 22–23	29
33	LESSON SIX: Matthew 24–25	37
41	LESSON SEVEN: Matthew 26	45
47	LESSON EIGHT: Matthew 27–28	51

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 1**

### **Lesson emphasis**

- Matthew 14–15

### **MATTHEW 1–13**

To begin this discussion you might ask for a review of Matthew 1–13, if most in your group studied that course. Otherwise, use the page from the lesson which tells that information, and discuss briefly. Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts.

What is the repeated phrase in Matthew 7:28; 11:1; and 13:53?

Jesus finished saying or teaching something

What did He finish in Matthew 7? What was it about?

He finished the Sermon on the Mount about those entering the kingdom of heaven, Matthew 5–7. It describes the righteousness needed to enter the kingdom.

Matthew 1–4 established Jesus as the King, and the message in 3 and 4 was:  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

What was Matthew 8–10 about?

Matthew 8–9 Jesus healed many and demonstrated His authority  
Matthew 10 He instructed the 12 before He sent them out.  
He gave them some of His authority.

What is the segment of Matthew 11–13 about?

Matthew 11–12 Jesus gave warnings to people about judgment to come.  
Matthew 13 Parables about not hearing/understanding His Word,  
resulting in judgment.

Matthew 13:53–58 tells that Jesus went to Nazareth after He taught the parables by the Sea of Galilee.

Nazareth took offense at Him; so He didn’t do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

But they did wonder where He got His miraculous powers.

## **MATTHEW 14**

What are the main events of this chapter?

Herod killed John the Baptist.  
Jesus fed 5,000+.  
He walked on water.

### Verses 1–12

What / who are these verses about?

Look at Herod's Family Tree as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Herod Antipas and Archelaus his brother were both sons of Herod the Great. Herod Antipas, of Matthew 14, heard about Jesus' miraculous powers and thought He was John the Baptist risen from the dead.

This Herod had beheaded John. John's message of repentance had been directed at Herod Antipas because he had Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. [Herodias divorced Philip to marry Antipas]

Herod Antipas might have been a man of lust and fear, based on what verses 5–9 say about him.

### Verses 13–21

What was Jesus' reaction when He heard about John's death?

He withdrew to a secluded / desolate place by Himself.

He didn't stay withdrawn because of sadness.

He continued His ministry of healing because of His compassion toward the many who followed Him. He even fed them when it was late and they were hungry.

True compassion for others is demonstrated in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Give time for your group to share what they learned about Jesus feeding 5,000. Discuss cross-references from the other Gospels.

Luke says this took place in Bethsaida.

### John 6:5–15

Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread to test him.

The people's response to the miracle was, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." They had seen the sign and realized who He is.

Jesus then withdrew to the mountain alone, because He perceived they were going to make Him king by force.

### Verses 22–33

What happened in these verses?

Jesus sent the disciples out on a boat in the sea at dark.

Verses 24–25 tell what the conditions on the sea were like. The boat was a long distance from shore, and it was probably between 3:00 and 6:00 am—still dark.

He came to them—again demonstrating Who He is and His authority.

Relate this to Matthew 8:23–27.

They had seen Him rebuke the wind and waves before when they were on the sea in a storm.

What is faith? Ask your group how they would describe it to someone. And what’s the relationship between fear and faith?

6:25–33—Anxiety shows little faith.

Faith can be seen because it’s lived out, Matthew 8:10; 9:2, 22, 29.

Peter’s faith got him out of the boat to walk on water until he looked at his circumstances, then he started to sink—“little faith” because of doubt and probably some fear. Fear is referenced three times in verses 26–30.

But the disciples knew that He was certainly God’s Son.

Jesus gradually revealed Who He is to His twelve disciples, more than to anyone else.

### Verses 34–36

You might direct your group to look at their maps and note Nazareth, then the Sea of Galilee, then Gennesaret.

What happened in these verses?

He continued healing those who came near to Him. Compassion.

## **MATTHEW 15**

What are the main events of this chapter?

Jesus warned about Pharisees’ traditions and God’s Word.

He healed a Canaanite.

He fed 4,000+.

He warned the very religious and demonstrated compassion to Gentiles.

Verses 1–20

Ask your group what they learned about their study of these verses. Look at Jerusalem on the map.

Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem, not a short trip, to question Him about keeping traditions.

They held their traditions above God's Word.

Let your group discuss how this might happen now.

What was the root of their problem, according to Jesus? What did He say about it?

Their hearts were far from God.  
Their worship was in vain as they upheld their traditions.

One's heart is the root of worship and defilement.

The mouth speaks from what is in the heart.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that defilement comes from within a person, not from without.

Verses 21–28

Where did Jesus go? What did He do? Continue using the map as your visual aid.

He went to Tyre and Sidon, Gentile territories.

The Canaanite woman, a Gentile, didn't argue with Jesus' statement that He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. But she did believe that He would heal her daughter.  
Her faith was great.

Compare with other statements of faith in Matthew.

Matthew 8:5–13      the centurion had great faith, not yet found in Israel  
Matthew 9:2          paralytic and friends  
Matthew 9:22, 28–29   faith associated with healing

Peter and the disciples had little faith, but they had faith.

Give time for application discussion.

Verses 29–39

What happened in these verses? Why? Where? With whom?

According to Mark 7:31, Jesus went within the region of Decapolis.



That was Gentile territory.

He demonstrated His compassion for the Gentiles by healing and feeding the 4,000+. He had been with them 3 days.

Romans 1:16 gives the pattern of Jew first, then also Greek (Gentile).

Jesus was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, but His compassion was extended to the Gentiles, too.

Does it seem like the same feeding in Matthew 15:32–38 as in Matthew 14?

Two different feedings: 4000+, 7 loaves and a few fish, 7 baskets left over, Gentiles.

Let your group discuss application of compassion to all kinds of people.  
You might ask them also to consider what their faith is like.

Faith should be growing.



## Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 2

### Lesson focus

- Matthew 16–17
- Who do people say Jesus is?

### REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group to consider who they say and believe Jesus is. Write this question at the top of your visual aid, “Who do you say Jesus is?” Or ask how He has been referred to in Matthew 1–15. You might write their answers on a visual aid.

Messiah, 1:1  
Son of David

King of Jews, Matthew 2

God Himself said from heaven that Jesus is His Son in Matthew 3:16–17.

Several times Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man.

Lord of the Sabbath, greater than Jonah, Solomon, and the temple, Matthew 12.

“You are certainly God’s Son!” Matthew 14:33.  
The disciples said this after seeing Him walk on the water.

What is His character, as described in Matthew?

He had compassion for all kinds of people, called them to repent, but confronted those who didn’t.

He disciplined His disciples progressively.

You might briefly review what the twelve disciples had seen and done.

They saw Him heal many and cast out demons.  
He even sent them out to do the same as they taught about the kingdom.

He calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee, then later He walked on the water to them in the midst of another storm.

They participated in His feeding of 5,000+ and then 4,000+.

## **MATTHEW 16**

What is this chapter about? Main events? Tell your group to look at their map as a visual aid.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees asked for a sign from Jesus.

At Caesarea Philippi, Peter made the most significant statement about Him.

Jesus began to tell the disciples about His death, resurrection, and coming.

### Verses 1–12

How does this chapter begin?

The Pharisees and Sadducees tested Jesus by asking Him for a sign from heaven.

Jesus described them as an evil and adulterous generation.

### Luke 18:9–14; Matthew 23:1–7 and Luke 11:53–12:2

The only sign they received was that of Jonah.

### Matthew 12:38–41

Jesus referred to the scribes and Pharisees before as an evil and adulterous generation who craved for a sign. Then He said that Jonah was in the belly of the sea monster 3 days and 3 nights like the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth. His death and resurrection was the sign.

What did Jesus warn His disciples about in verses 6–12?

The Pharisees' and Sadducees' teachings were like leaven; they spread to infect those around them.

What does Matthew 15:1–20 and Mark 7:3–8 say about their teaching?

Man-made doctrines and traditions were taught as equal to, and overriding, God's Word. Lip service to God with a heart far from Him. They were hypocrites and taught hypocrisy.

You might give a brief time for your group to discuss: Does this happen now? Is this a warning for believers now?

### Verses 13–20

What happened in these verses?

Jesus questioned His disciples about who others and they said He was.

Peter answered with the statement which was revealed to him by God in heaven.

Jesus is the Christ—first time stated by a person in Matthew, the Son of the living God. The Christ means the anointed, i.e. the Messiah.

Jesus blessed, commended Peter for his statement, told him about building His church and gave him the keys of the kingdom.

Ask your group what they learned from their study about verses 18–19. What do they think these statements mean?

Verse 18

Jesus named Simon Barjona “Peter” at some time before this. Peter means stone; it’s from the same Greek word as “rock.”

Jesus said He would build His church on “this rock.”

Ephesians says that Jesus is the cornerstone, and the apostles and prophets are the foundation.

Peter later wrote that all believers are living stones being built up together into a spiritual house, built on the cornerstone of Jesus the Christ which the builders, Jewish leaders at Jesus’ time, rejected.

Matthew opened with the statement that Jesus is the Messiah. But it wasn’t until Matthew 16 that the heavenly Father revealed this to Peter—that He is the Christ.

Therefore, Jesus builds His church on the rock Peter, and the context is clear that the church is not built apart from the profound statement Peter makes, that Jesus is the Christ and Son of the living God. Ephesians 2:20 makes it clear that the foundation of the church is the apostles but not apart from the Cornerstone, Jesus the Christ.

“Hades” is the place of the dead—even death itself will not overpower / prevail against His church.

Verse 19

Jesus gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Keys unlock.

*NOTE: Peter is the one who presented the gospel to the Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 2, and thousands of them were saved. Peter was also the one who presented the gospel to the Gentiles first in Acts 10, and all of those present were saved. Perhaps that is what Jesus meant by the keys, unlocking, of the kingdom.*

The binding and loosing on earth is already done in heaven by God Himself. His will is carried out on earth.

After saying these things to Peter and the disciples, Jesus told them not to tell anyone that He is the Christ—the time was not yet. Later that message was proclaimed by them to all.

Verses 21–28

How do these verses begin? What’s significant about this?

“From that time . . .” The last time that phrase was used in Matthew is 4:17, the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

Here it’s used to mark the time when He began to tell the disciples that He would go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed and raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

Relate this to the beginning of this chapter.

The sign of Jonah

What happened next? With whom?

Peter again spoke up, but this time it was contrary to God’s will.  
He had his mind set on man’s interests this time. Satan’s interests.

How did Jesus explain in the next verses? Discuss application.

Anyone who wants to follow Him—be His disciple—must deny himself and take up his cross, signifying death.

Those who focus on this world have their reward in full and forfeit their souls.

Jesus’ disciples give their earthly lives up in exchange for saving their souls.

Then Jesus explained what will happen after His own death and resurrection.  
He will come again, in glory, to repay every man according to his deeds.

Verse 28 is connected to the promise of His return in verse 27.  
He’ll come in His kingdom, and some of those disciples saw it.

*NOTE: Some think this is also connected to Matthew 17:1–8.*

**MATTHEW 17**

Verses 1–13

What is the event?

Jesus was transfigured while Peter, James, and John saw it.

Moses (who wrote the Law) and Elijah (a prophet) were also there.

But God Himself spoke from heaven telling the disciples to listen to His beloved Son. He equated Jesus’ words with that of His own in the Law and Prophets.

In Matthew 3:17 the Father spoke from heaven at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry declaring that He is His Son.

He told Peter, James, and John not to tell the vision to anyone until after He'd risen from the dead.

He prepared them little by little for what they would face as He died and was raised, and even afterward.

Death is repeated several times in Matthew 16 and 17.  
But it does not stop the Lord Jesus Christ from accomplishing His Father's will.  
It will not stop His followers from doing the same.

What did Jesus say about Elijah? Why?

The disciples asked why the scribes said that Elijah must come first.  
Come before Messiah comes  
Who came and will come again

Jesus agreed with what the scribes said. Relate this to Malachi 3:1–3 and 4:5.  
The messenger will come to prepare the way of the Lord's coming.  
Elijah will come before the day of the Lord—the time of His judgment.

Then Jesus told them that Elijah had come, referring to John the Baptist.  
Relate this to what He told the crowds in Matthew 11:14.

John was not recognized for who he was and was killed.  
The same, Jesus said, will happen to the Son of Man.

#### Verses 14–21

What are these verses about? Who was involved?

Jesus cast out a demon from a boy whose father asked for mercy on him.

This is another example of Jesus' compassion on the generation that He described as evil, adulterous, unbelieving, and perverted. He put up with that generation while He was on earth, and showed compassion to many of them.

When His disciples asked why they couldn't cast out the demon, He said to them what He had said before—little faith; 16:8; 14:31; 8:26.

Then He said that with faith even the size of a mustard seed nothing is impossible.  
He was preparing them for His death and resurrection.

*NOTE: Some in your group might notice that the NAS footnote in their Bible for verse 21 says that the verse is not in the early manuscripts of Matthew. The NASB Observation Worksheet brackets this verse for that reason. The ESV does not include this verse in the text, but footnotes it. Such verses in ESV Observation Worksheets are bracketed and italicized.*

Verses 22–23

What did Jesus restate in these verses?

He repeated that He was to be given to men (elders, chief priests, and scribes in Jerusalem), and they would kill Him.

But He also repeated that He would rise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

They, probably a reference to His disciples, were grieved / greatly distressed.  
They understood.

Verses 24–27

What was the situation? What happened?

Peter and Jesus again

Jesus questioned Peter to consider a spiritual truth from paying taxes.  
Sons are exempt; only strangers pay.

So as not to offend, Jesus sent Peter to get the coin from the fish and pay taxes for both of them.

Encourage your group to focus on who they say / believe Jesus is.

How is that lived out in everyday life?



## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 3**

### **Lesson focus**

- Matthew 18 –19
- The greatest in the kingdom

### **MATTHEW 18**

What is the question the disciples asked Jesus? Why might they have asked this?

Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Peter walked on the water toward Jesus for a little while. The disciples had evidently heard Jesus tell Peter that He gave him the keys of the kingdom.

Peter, James, and John had been with Him at His transfiguration.

They might have remembered His references to their “little faith.”

Regardless of the reason, they asked the question.

Before Jesus answered their question, what did He tell them?

To enter the kingdom, one must  
Be converted / turned  
Become like children

What was the illustration He used? What did it show?

He set a child in their midst.

Simple, helpless, dependent on others

Then how did Jesus answer the question of verse 1?

The one who humbles himself as a child is the greatest in the kingdom.

Relate this to Matthew 5:19–20, great in the kingdom and enter the kingdom.

The religious leaders of the day were not going to be the greatest ones in the kingdom of heaven; unless they repented, they weren’t even going to enter the kingdom.

The humble were going to inherit the kingdom and be the greatest in it.

Ask your group what else they learned from verses 1–14.

Children or little ones are repeated.

Stumble, stumbling blocks are repeated.

Enter the kingdom, enter life is repeated and contrasted with eternal fire, fiery hell.

Verses 5–7 present a contrast.

Receiving one such child in Jesus' name might picture one who is humble.

That's contrasted with causing a little one who believes in Him to stumble.

Better for that one to drown than face what's before him.

Woe to the one through whom the stumbling block comes.

Verses 8–9 are similar to what Jesus taught in Matthew 5:29–30. Better to enter life than eternal fire. Stumbling blocks prevent entering the kingdom of life eternal. Do whatever is necessary to get rid of them. Relate this to cross-references in the lesson about personal sin.

Verse 10, not despising little ones can be another example of humility in this context.

*NOTE: 1. Many think that the references to children in these verses refer to believers.  
2. Early manuscripts don't have verse 11 in them. Some in your group might mention this. But it doesn't interrupt the context here. The NASB Observation Worksheet brackets this verse for that reason. The ESV does not include this verse in the text, but footnotes it. Such verses in ESV Observation Worksheets are bracketed and italicized.*

You might ask what your group learned from the illustration in verses 12–14.

The Father in heaven is not going to lose even one of His sheep, little ones.

#### Verses 15–20

What are the steps one is to take when a brother sins?

Go and show him his fault in private . . . hopefully he'll listen.

If not, then take one or two more with you for witnesses of the facts.

Hopefully, then he'll listen. If he does at this point, then only three other people know of his sin.

If not, then tell it to the "church" (assembly—even though the church didn't exist yet, the Jews were acquainted with assemblies of Jewish brothers).

If he doesn't listen to the church, then treat him as a Gentile or tax collector.

The Jews had no dealings with them.

How do verses 18–20 fit into this context?

Relate this to Matthew 6:10.

God's will in heaven worked out on earth.

He's in the midst when brothers correct sin among themselves.

#### Verses 21–35

What are these verses about? Is there any humility involved in this?

Forgive brothers from the heart.

The illustration tells of the great debt people owed God because of sin. He had compassion and forgave the debt people could never pay—it was beyond comprehension.

Therefore, we should also have compassion toward one another and forgive. This is the main point of the parable—forgiveness as God has forgiven us.

*NOTE: Don't let your group get sidetracked trying to define all the elements of the parable. If needed, remind them that when studying parables in Matthew Part 1, they learned that a parable has one main point.*

### **MATTHEW 19**

How does this chapter begin?

When Jesus had finished these words / sayings

At this point, you might review the other places where these words are repeated in Matthew.

- 7:28 This was after Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount  
Chapters 1–7 establish Jesus as the King and tell about His kingdom.  
The call of these chapters is focused on repentance and surpassing righteousness.
- 11:1 He instructed His 12 disciples and sent them out.  
Chapters 8–10 tell of Jesus' healings and authority.  
He gave the 12 some of His authority and sent them to heal and preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- 13:53 He finished the parables in this chapter  
Chapters 11–13 warn of judgment for those who are not part of the kingdom.

What have chapters 14–18 been about?

Who Jesus is—Son of God, Christ

His disciples saw more miraculous things done by Jesus.

He fed 5,000+ and then 4,000+.

He walked on the water.

He was transfigured.

God the Father equated Jesus' words with that of Moses and Elijah.

Jesus also began to tell His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem to suffer, die and be raised again.

Then, in chapter 18 He taught about entering the kingdom and the greatest in the kingdom, humility, correction, and forgiveness toward brothers.

According to verse 1, where did Jesus go?

To the region of Judea . . . toward Jerusalem

### Verses 3–12

What are these verses about? Who is involved? What's the application?

The Pharisees asked Jesus a question to test Him. Compare with 16:1.

This question is very relevant to many societies now.

God's design for marriage from the beginning was that the husband and wife become one and not separate.

Moses permitted, in the Law, divorce because of hardness of heart; but it was not God's heart.

Jesus answered that anyone who divorces, except for immorality, and remarries commits adultery.

Ask your group what they learned about marriage from 1 Corinthians 6 and 7.

The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit—flee immorality and glorify God.

Because of immoralities, each is to have his/ her own spouse and should fulfill their duty to one another.

But Paul says that it's good for the unmarried and widows to remain as they are; however, if they don't have self-control, they should marry.

Paul’s opinion—he had no command of the Lord—was that it’s good for virgins to remain as they are in view of the present distress, but it’s not a sin to marry.

One who is unmarried can be concerned about things of the Lord and how to please Him—undistracted devotion to the Lord; whereas, the married person’s interests are divided.

*NOTE: The text does not tell us exactly what “the present distress” was. However, Paul says in verse 29–32 that the time has been shortened, the form of this world is passing away, and he wants them to be free from concern.*

What did the disciples understand in verses 10–12? What did Jesus say about the kingdom?

Better not to marry

Only those to whom it’s been given can accept that.

Eunuchs born that way  
Eunuchs made so by men  
Eunuchs by choice for the sake of the kingdom

#### Verses 13–15

What should the disciples have known already from Jesus’ teaching in chapter 18?

Don’t despise the little ones; don’t rebuke or hinder them coming to Jesus.

The kingdom belongs to “such as” these.

#### Verses 16–30

Who and what are these verses about? Also discuss cross-references.

Jesus was asked another question; this time by a rich man who wanted to know what he had to do to obtain eternal life.

Jesus answered that keeping the commandments is necessary to enter life.

#### Leviticus 18:1–5

A man may live by keeping God’s statutes and judgments.

#### Deuteronomy 28:1–2; 30:19–20; 32:45–47

If they diligently obeyed, the Lord would set Israel high above other nations, blessings would overtake them. They were to choose life through obedience.

What did Jesus tell the rich man?

To sell possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him.

His wealth seemed to be a stumbling block which he was not willing to put away from himself. He went away grieved. Compare this with Matthew 6:19–21, 24, 33.

Who asked the next question and what was it?

The disciples were astonished and asked who can be saved. Salvation is equated with eternal life in these verses, as is the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God.

Salvation is impossible for people; only God can do it.

No work of the law can save a person.  
Entering the kingdom comes only by following Jesus in obedience.

Peter asked Jesus another interesting question in verse 27. What is it? The answer?

He confessed that he and the other disciples had done what He told the rich man to do. They had left all and followed Jesus, so what would there be for them?

In the regeneration (of Israel) when the Son of Man returns and sits on His throne, the twelve will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Anyone who leaves earthly relationships and things for the kingdom will receive many times more. They'll inherit eternal life.

Encourage your group to remember these closing verses for when they study Matthew 24–25 later in this course.

## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 4**

### **Lesson focus**

- Matthew 20–21
- Servant of all

### **REVIEW**

You might begin this discussion by asking how Matthew 18 began.  
Who asked Jesus what question?

The disciples asked Jesus—  
Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

His answer was the one who humbles himself as a child.

Then who asked what question in 18:21?

Peter asked Jesus—  
How often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?

His answer was to forgive from the heart as often as needed.  
Have mercy toward your brothers.

Who asked what of Jesus in Matthew 19:3?

Pharisees, testing Jesus, asked him a question—  
Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?

In Jesus' reply He addressed their hardness of heart.

Who was next to ask Jesus a question?

The rich man wanted to know what he must do to obtain eternal life.  
Jesus' answer was about obedience to the Father and following Him.

What did the disciples ask in 19:25?

Then who can be saved?

Jesus' answer was that salvation is only possible with God.  
People can't do anything to save themselves.

What's the last question of chapter 19?

Peter asked what there was for the disciples who had left all to follow Jesus.

He answered:

- Sit on 12 thrones judging 12 tribes of Israel in the regeneration / new world
- Receive many times (ESV—a hundredfold) as much as left
- Inherit eternal life
- But many first will be last, and last, first.

## **MATTHEW 20**

How does this flow of thought continue into Matthew 20?

### Verses 1–16

This is connected with Matthew 19:30 as the statement in 20:16 is almost the same.

The parable of the generous landowner demonstrates that all who enter the kingdom receive eternal life.

Ask your group what they think about the last / first and first / last regarding the kingdom. Might this relate to the greatest in the kingdom? Give time for discussion.

### Verses 17–19

What are these verses about?

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus told the disciples again—

- The Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes (rulers of Israel)
- They will condemn Him to death
- They'll hand Him over to Gentiles
- The Gentiles will mock, scourge / flogged, and crucify Him
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He'll be raised

Relate to Matthew 16:21 and 17:9, 12, 22–23.

16:21—suffer many things from elders, chief priests, and scribes  
be killed and then raised up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

17:9, 12—tell no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead  
Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands

17:22–23—delivered into the hands of men,  
they will kill Him, and He'll be raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

20:18–19—adds that the Jewish rulers will give Jesus to Gentiles



What does Luke 18:31–34 add to this?

What was written in the prophets had to be accomplished.  
The disciples didn't understand.

Verses 20–28

How does the flow of thought continue into these verses?

James and John's mother asked Jesus to let her sons sit at His right and left in the kingdom. She didn't understand what it would take from her sons for that to happen. They would have to "follow" Him in all ways—even sacrificially.

He described the cup He had to drink in verses 18–19.

What's the connection with James and John's mother's request?

Only the Father determines who sits where in the kingdom.

Jesus' illustration was that the rulers and great men of the Gentiles lord it over them. But whoever wishes to be great in the kingdom of God must be the servant of all.

How do the cross-references relate to who will be the greatest in the kingdom?

Mark 9

The one who wishes to be first shall be last and servant.

Philippians 2

Paul spoke of considering others as more important than oneself. He gave Timothy as an example of one genuinely concerned for the welfare of others in contrast to those who seek after their own interests, rather than those of Christ. Epaphroditus who came close to death for the work of Christ is another example.

John 13

This is the account of Jesus' example of serving the disciples by washing their feet. No disciple is greater than the Master—servant of all.

Jesus was going to Jerusalem to demonstrate that. He came to give His life as a ransom.

Isaiah 53:11

Jesus is God's Servant who will justify and bear the iniquities of many.

Verses 29–34

How do these verses fit into the immediate context?

Two blind men called on Jesus, the Son of David, for mercy.

Although He knew that He was headed for suffering and death, He took time to show mercy to them as He opened their eyes.

His compassion / mercy for others didn't change because of where He was headed. This was another illustration of His servanthood.

Jesus was a servant in the midst of an evil, adulterous, unbelieving, perverted generation—for whom He came to die.

Discuss any application from this chapter.

## **MATTHEW 21**

Where do the events of this chapter take place?

Bethphage and Bethany are very close to Jerusalem.

This is the first time Matthew recorded Jesus being in Jerusalem and the temple there, other than 4:5. The other Gospels tell that He had been there before, but Matthew didn't write about it.

What's the first event in verses 1–11?

Jesus sent two disciples to get a donkey and colt for Him to ride on into Jerusalem. This was fulfillment of OT prophecy about Israel's coming King, Zechariah 9:9.

A gentle King on a beast of burden

Luke 19 says that the crowds also blessed Him as the King.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because, as a whole, they didn't recognize the time of their visitation—by their Messiah King.

Therefore, He predicted the soon-coming fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in A.D. 70.

Ask your group what they learned from Revelation 19 about the next time Jesus comes to earth as King.

He judges and wages war on the unrighteous.

He's the King of kings and Lord of lords leading the armies of heaven.

He strikes down the nations to rule them and treads the winepress of God's wrath.

It's a stark contrast with His first coming.

Verses 12–17

Where did Jesus go and what did He do?

The temple, God’s house, was a holy house of prayer called by God’s name, Isaiah 56:6–7.

The religious of the day had turned it into a money-making place, “a robber’s den.” Jesus drove those out of it who were involved.

Then He healed the blind and lame in the temple.

The children were blessing Him, but the chief priests and scribes were indignant.

Relate this to Matthew 16:21; 20:18 and Luke 19:40.

You might ask if Jeremiah 7:1–11 and the people’s attitudes relates to “church” in any way today.

Verses 18–22

What happened? What was the lesson for the disciples?

A fig tree produced no fruit; therefore, Jesus proclaimed that it never would; it withered immediately.

Jesus used that as an example of the faith they might have—actually, that they would have in the future.

Ask your group if they remember anything previously in Matthew about not bearing fruit.

In chapter 3, John the Baptist told Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Trees that don’t bear good fruit are cut down and thrown into the fire.

The same statement was made in 7:19 in the context of false prophets.

When Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered, this may also have been an illustration of what would happen to the unbelieving of the nation of Israel. In a few days that unbelieving, evil, and adulterous generation would condemn Jesus to the cross.

Ask what your group learned about prayer from studying Elijah.

He heard from God—His word.

He prayed according to what God said—His will.

God did what He said He would do.

Elijah just had to believe what God said and act/ask accordingly.

The same is true for all believers.

Verses 23–46

Who asked Jesus a question to begin this discourse?

He went to the temple again where the chief priests and elders asked where His authority came from.

So he asked them a question about their belief regarding John’s baptism of repentance which they didn’t answer. It was about repentance and belief, neither of which they had.

How did Jesus illustrate His answer to their question?

Two parables

The first parable told of how the prostitutes and tax collectors who repented and believed would get into the kingdom of God before the self-righteous who didn’t.

The second confronted them with their rejection of God’s prophets and Son whom He sent to tell His people about the fruit of righteousness.

Then He challenged them regarding their knowledge of the Scriptures about the chief corner stone which the builders rejected. They stumbled over the stone, and Jesus told the consequences of it.

The kingdom of God was taken from the rulers of Israel and given to the people producing the fruit of it—fruit in keeping with repentance.

Because of this confrontation the chief priests and Pharisees wanted to seize (ESV—sought to arrest) Jesus, but didn’t because of fearing the people.

This began the progression of Him being given into the hands of men, the religious leaders of His own people.

The King was headed toward giving His life as a ransom for many. He was the Servant King, and His followers are to be as compassionate and a servant as He is.

You could end the discussion by asking what they would tell someone who asked what these two chapters are about.

## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 5**

### **Lesson focus**

- Matthew 22–23
- Jesus silenced the Pharisees' and Sadducees' questions
- Love God with all your heart

### **REVIEW**

You can begin this discussion by asking what your group remembers about the Pharisees and the Sadducees from Matthew.

3:7

When John the Baptist saw some Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he called them a brood of vipers and challenged them to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. They were facing the wrath of God if they didn't repent.

5:20

Then Jesus said in His teaching that to enter the kingdom of heaven one's righteousness had to surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees.

They practiced their righteousness before men / people to be noticed by them, and that was their reward in full, Matthew 6. They were "hypocrites."

9:10–15, 34

Their first question was directed to Jesus' disciples.

They asked why Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners; which indicated that they certainly didn't associate with that kind of people.

They said, for the first time, that Jesus cast out demons by the ruler of the demons.

12:1–14, 24–45

When they pointed out Jesus' disciples did something unlawful, Jesus said for the first time, "Have you not read...." Verse 14 says that they conspired to destroy Him.

It was the second time Matthew recorded that they said Jesus cast out demons by the ruler of the demons.

Some of them asked for a sign from Jesus; His answer was Jonah.

15:1–14

They asked why Jesus' disciples ate with unwashed hands (compare 12:1–14).  
He called them hypocrites, and said that they invalidated God's Word by their traditions.

His disciples pointed out that the Pharisees were offended by Jesus.

16:1–12

This is the first time Matthew said that they tested Jesus with their questions.  
This was probably a different group from those of Matthew 12 who asked for the sign.  
Jesus said they were the evil and adulterous generation.

He warned the disciples of their teaching.

19:1–9

Again some Pharisees tested Jesus by asking a question based on their interpretation of the Law. Again He answered by saying, "Have you not read..."

He also pointed out their hard heart.

21:45–46

When they heard Jesus' parables, they wanted to seize / arrest Him, but didn't because of fearing the people.

Verse 43 is similar to the first one about them in Matthew. They had no fruit of the kingdom, no fruit of repentance.

## **MATTHEW 22**

How does this chapter continue from the previous one?

Jesus began telling parables about the kingdom of heaven again in Matthew 21:28.

Parables about God sending His prophets and Son to call Israel, and its leaders, but they were unwilling, unworthy.

They killed the prophets and were conspiring to kill His Son.

### Verses 1–14

Ask your group what they learned from studying this parable.

Jesus predicted the soon coming destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by the Romans, verse 7. It was because they were unwilling to come to Him.

Verse 14 states the main point of it. Many were invited to the wedding feast—called, but in comparison only a few came—chosen.

Verses 15–22

What was the response to the parable?

Pharisees and Herodians then plotted how to trap / entangle Jesus by saying something for which they would have grounds for accusation.

But they knew that He:

Was truthful

Taught the way of God

Deferred to no one (ESV—do not care about anyone’s opinion)  
—not partial to any (ESV—not swayed by appearances)

So another question was asked about the Law.

As Jesus answered, He again referred to them as hypocrites and their testing of Him. His answer, though, amazed even them.

Give to Caesar what is his and to God what is His.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Verses 23–33

Who questioned Jesus next? What happened?

The Sadducees asked Him a question about the resurrection.

He pointed out to them that they didn’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God.

The Sadducees didn’t believe in resurrection which shows God’s power. Jesus said that God is the God of the living, not the dead.

Again people were astonished at His answer.

This silenced the Sadducees. There is no more record in Matthew of them conversing with Jesus.

Verses 34–46

What are these verses about?

Some Pharisees again gathered to question Him.  
They were all trying to have grounds to accuse Him and get rid of Him.

A lawyer asked another question to test Jesus.

Let your group discuss how Jesus answered and what they learned from their study about loving God, especially application.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 17–25

God commanded Israel to love Him with all their heart, soul, and might.

His words were to be on their hearts so that they taught their children to obey as they did.

Teach them diligently

Bind them

Write them

Diligently keep them

If you have time, you might compare this with what Jesus told the disciples about children coming to Him.

Direct your discussion back to Matthew 22:41–46.

What happened when Jesus asked the Pharisees a question?

No one was able to answer and from then on asked Him no more questions.

He silenced both the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

Ask your group what they learned from Jesus' questions about Christ and David.

Christ descended from David, but is also his Lord.

**MATTHEW 23**

What is this chapter about? What's the repeated statement?

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites . . . .

Verses 1–12

What was Jesus' warning to the crowds and disciples?

The chair of Moses was the seat of honor and teaching in the synagogue.  
Jesus said not to follow their deeds / works.

In verses 8–10 Jesus said three negative commands.

Don't be called Rabbi

only one teacher, others are brothers

Don't call anyone your father

only one Father in heaven

Don't be called leaders / instructors

one leader / instructor—Christ



What teaching did Jesus repeat in verses 11–12?

Greatest = servant, humble

Contrast this with the scribes and Pharisees.

Verses 13–33

What's the definition of "hypocrite"?

An actor; in the Bible, one whose acts appear righteous, but is evil and unloving inside

Isaiah 29:13

Jesus quoted this about the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 15.

Their hearts were far from God, even though they honored Him with their lips.

Obedience is the demonstration of loving God.

1 John 4:7–12, 19–21

The same is true for New Testament believers.

Jesus said to love one another. Obedience to that is showing love for Him.

The demonstration of such love is that God sent His Son to be the propitiation, satisfaction, for our sins so that we can have eternal life.

Discuss the "woes" along with application.

Those who won't enter kingdom and shut it off from other people

Devour widows' houses, long prayers in pretense = receive greater condemnation

*NOTE: Some in your group might notice that the NAS footnote in their Bible for verse 14 says that the verse is not in the early manuscripts of Matthew. The NASB Observation Worksheet brackets this verse for that reason. The ESV does not include this verse in the text, but footnotes it. Such verses in ESV Observation Worksheets are bracketed and italicized.*

Make proselytes sons of hell

Blind guides

Swear by gold of temple which was more valued by them than the holy temple  
offering on altar which was more valued than altar which sanctifies it

They had no understanding of the holiness and magnificence of God.

You might ask if they remember anything about swearing from previous chapters—about oaths.

Matthew 5:37 says to let your yes be yes and your no be no.  
In other words, do what you say you're going to. There should be no need to make vows.

Continue to discuss the woes.

Tithe, but neglect  
Justice  
Mercy  
Faithfulness

Ask if they remember ways they've seen that the Pharisees neglected these.

justice—devour widows' houses

mercy—more concerned about whether Jesus was working on the Sabbath than about the man who was healed

faithfulness—more concerned about keeping their man-made traditions than obedience to God's Word

What else is learned about the Pharisees in these woes?

Clean outside . . . inside, robbery / greed and self-indulgence  
Repentance and true righteousness make both clean.

Only outwardly appear righteous . . . inwardly—hypocrisy and lawlessness

Build prophets' tombs . . . but are really their murderers, like their fathers

Brood of vipers who will not escape the sentence of hell

#### Verses 34–39

What did Jesus say clearly in these verses which He'd already said in parables?

He's sending Israel—particularly the scribes and Pharisees—prophets and wise men and (righteous, Matthew 13:52) scribes. Some they'll kill and crucify, and others they'll scourge and persecute. That's what happened in Acts.

They claimed the value of the temple's gold and the altar's offering, but committed murder between the temple and the altar.

Even though He mentioned the blood of all the prophets killed, His point was that those present were as guilty as their forefathers who had murdered all the prophets.

He wanted to gather Jerusalem to Himself, but they were unwilling. Therefore, her house was being left desolate. The Romans would come on that generation and destroy Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70.

According to Matthew 21:23 and 24:1, where does it seem that Jesus was when He said all these things?

In the temple—God’s holy dwelling on earth  
which was soon to be destroyed  
because of hypocrisy and unwillingness to repent and come to Him

To end this discussion, ask your group about any application they want to discuss.



## Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 6

### Lesson focus

- Matthew 24–25
- Jesus' coming

### REVIEW

Ask for a brief review of Matthew. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.  
*Watch your time; there is a lot to discuss in this lesson.*

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 His authority / He instructed and sent out 12 to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–23 Jesus went to Judea, to Jerusalem / Woe to hypocrites

Who was Jesus' primary audience for His works and words?

Jews of Galilee and Judea

What did He know was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem?

The leaders would hand Him over to the Gentiles and He would be killed.  
But He told His disciples that He would rise again from the dead.

What did He say at the end of Matthew 23 about Jerusalem?

Because they killed the prophets and those sent to them, He predicted the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70—all these things will come upon this generation.

They won't see Him again until they say blessed is He who comes in the Lord's name—until they recognize who He is at His second coming.

### MATTHEW 24

What is Matthew 24–25 about? Who did this teaching prepare, and for what?

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to die and rise again.

In these chapters, He told them that He will come again and what His kingdom will be like then.

He prepared His disciples for His death by teaching about His return.

What were His repeated warnings in this teaching for His disciples? For believers now?

Don't be misled by false Christs and prophets.

Be alert and ready for His coming.

Be faithful until He comes.

What place and people does this prophecy primarily speak to and about?

Jews in Jerusalem, Judea

The nations are mentioned briefly in Matthew 24 and in the judgment at the end of Matthew 25.

According to Matthew 26:1–5 who did Jesus speak to and when?

He spoke to His disciples two days before Passover—the Passover when He would be put on the cross. It was two days before His death.

What He said was vitally important for them . . . and for believers now.

As you discuss Matthew 24–25, you might use a simple time line, as shown on the last page of this guide, for a visual aid.

#### Verses 1–14

What did Jesus say about the temple?

It would be torn down— A.D. 70, by the Romans.

What term is repeated in verses 3–14?

The end of the age

Jesus used this term in the parables He taught in Matthew 13.

It's the time when the wicked hypocrites will be taken out of His kingdom, His kingdom of righteousness.

The disciples asked Jesus three questions in verse 3. Some consider the second and third questions as one.

What did Jesus teach His disciples in these verses as He answered their question about the end of the age?

Many will come claiming to be the Christ and mislead many, Jews.  
False Messiahs have done this very thing since Jesus' death.

John was one of the disciples who heard Jesus say these words.  
He wrote in 1 John 2:18–19 about the antichrists who would come.

There will be wars, famines, and earthquakes—the beginning of birth pangs.

Those who follow Him will face tribulation, hatred by all nations.

False prophets will lead many astray; others will fall away, betray, and hate one another—this speaks of Jews.

Lawlessness will increase and love will grow cold.

The gospel will be preached to all nations, and then the end will come.  
Relate this to Revelation 14:6–7.

What's the warning to His followers, disciples? Discuss cross-references, too.

The one who endures to the end will be saved—endures tribulation, hatred, betrayal. The disciples watched as Jesus endured all these things.

Christians all encounter these things. It's because of Jesus' name.

Hebrews 3:6, 12–14

Those who hold fast to the end prove that they're of Christ's house, partakers of Him.  
Those who fall away have evil and unbelieving hearts.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Verses 15–35

Who was Jesus addressing?

He spoke of things yet future, so He spoke to more than just the disciples who were with Him at that time.

Daniel—a Jewish prophet, verse 15

the holy place—in the temple where the Jews worship, verse 15

Judea—an area in Israel, verse 16

Sabbath—Jews are the ones who would be concerned about traveling on the Sabbath, verse 20

This fits with the context of Matthew, which was written primarily for a Jewish audience.

What are these verses about? Discuss the chronology of events and cross-references.

This is about the sign of His coming.

The abomination of desolation begins the great tribulation time which goes to Jesus' coming. Daniel predicted this event and time.

The abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place. 2 Thessalonians 2 says the man of lawlessness will take his seat in the temple and declare himself as God.

Then those in Judea are to flee because the tribulation will be so great that nothing like it has ever happened and never will. Joel and Jeremiah both predicted this time in connection with the day of the Lord.

False Christs and prophets will do signs and wonders during that time to mislead many—even try to mislead the elect (Jewish believers during that time).

His coming will be so obvious that it's like lightning flashing or vultures over a dead corpse.

The sun and moon will darken; the stars will fall and the heaven shake.

Then all will see the sign of His coming in the sky with clouds and great glory. He'll gather His elect from wherever they might be. No more tribulation for them.

Isaiah 27 and Ezekiel 11 help to clarify who these elect are—the Jews.

Daniel 12 says they're the ones written in the book.

But others will mourn when they see Him—the unbelievers who'll face judgment with the hypocrites.

Ask how the parable of the fig tree relates.

Just as you know that summer is near when you see a fig tree putting forth its leaves, recognize Jesus is near, at the door, when you see all these things.

The generation that sees these things happen (the events just prior to His coming) will not pass away until they all take place.



Verses 36–51

What are these verses about?

Jesus' coming is certain, but no one knows when except the Father.

His coming will be at an unexpected time (for the world) as was the flood.

As the wicked were taken away in the flood, the wicked of this day will also be taken away when He comes. They'll be going about life as usual and they won't understand until they are taken for judgment.

Two men in a field  
Two women grinding at the mill

One taken for judgment and one left.

Ask how this might relate to Matthew 13:36–43, 47–50.

The tares, the wicked, are taken out from among the righteous.

What do you learn from Jesus' last two illustrations?

The head / master of the household would have been on the alert if he'd known when the thief was coming. We have to be ready at all times.

The faithful and sensible slave / servant is ready at all times. He does what the master charged him to do. He'll be blessed when the master comes and put in charge of all of his possessions.

But when the master comes unexpectedly, the evil slave / wicked servant will be cut in pieces and assigned a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth—judgment.

What did Jesus instruct His disciples, followers, about His coming in these verses?

Be on the alert; be ready; be faithful until then.

**MATTHEW 25**

What do the parables in verses 1–30 illustrate and teach about the time of His coming?

Then the kingdom will be compared to / like. . . .

The virgins who were ready, alert for the bridegroom's coming, were the ones who entered the kingdom—not those who weren't ready for it.

Israel is looking for the return of Messiah, but that doesn't mean all will be ready when it happens. If you have time, review what Matthew says about those who will enter the kingdom.

The parable about the talents illustrates “faithfulness” . . . until He comes.  
Faithfulness is not passive; it's active.

You might ask your group if they're ready for His coming at any moment. What are they doing because of their faith?

#### Verses 31–46

What are these verses about?

When He comes, He'll judge all the nations; the righteous, sheep, and unrighteous, goats, of the nations at that time.

What's the order, the sequence of events?

Jesus will come  
He'll sit on His throne  
All nations will be gathered before Him  
He'll separate the righteous and unrighteous of the nations.

What will He say about the righteous and the unrighteous of the nations as He judges them?

The righteous will take care of the King's brothers, the faithful in Israel at the time of His coming.

The unrighteous will not.

What will happen to the righteous and unrighteous of the nations at that time?

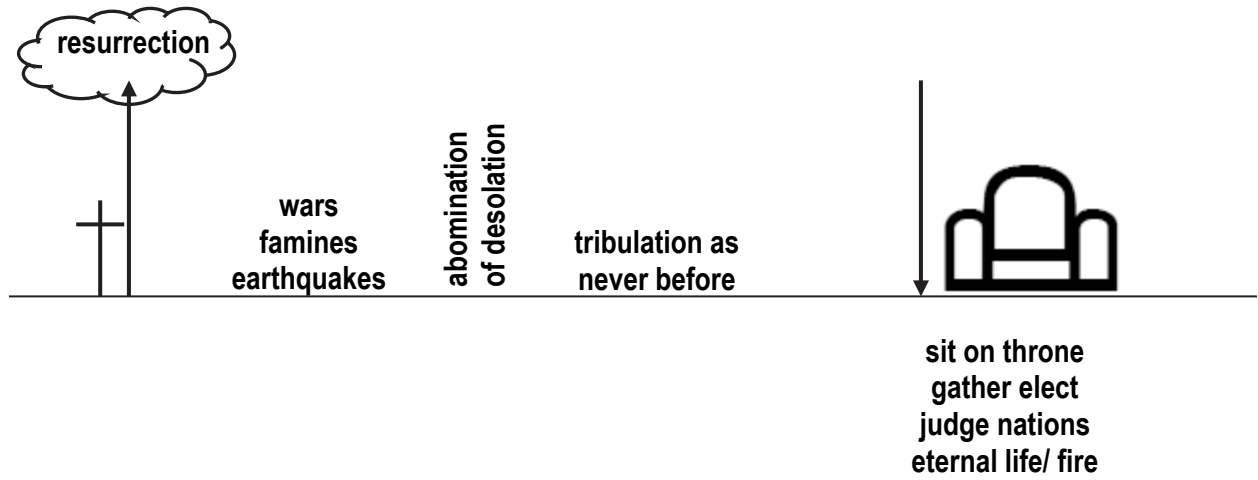
Righteous, blessed, inherit the kingdom and go into eternal life.

Unrighteous, accursed ones, depart from Him into eternal fire, eternal punishment.

To end this discussion you can ask what the main points are that Jesus wanted His disciples to know. How do they relate to daily life for believers now?

Just as the prophecies about Jesus' first coming were fulfilled as Matthew says, so will the prophecies about His second coming.

Ask your group if they are ready, faithful, alert.





## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 7**

### **Lesson emphasis**

- Matthew 26
- Passover and covenant
- Jesus' arrest fulfilled Scripture

### **REVIEW**

You might begin this discussion by asking your group how Matthew 26 begins.

Then review the main segments. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 His authority / He instructed and sent out 12 to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–25 Left Galilee to Judea/ to Jerusalem

Then review what Jesus knew from Matthew 16:21; 17:22–23; and 20:17–19.

What did Jesus tell His disciples in Matthew 24–25 that encouraged them?

He's coming again.

### **MATTHEW 26**

What did Jesus say to the twelve disciples in verses 1–2?

Again He told them that He would be handed over / delivered up.  
This time He added...in 2 days  
for crucifixion.

Why did He tell the disciples these things? Why did He tell them about His return?

To prepare them for His death and their continued ministry of being fishers of men

#### Verses 3–5

Who are these verses about and what happened?

Caiaphas, the high priest, along with the other chief priests and the elders, gathered at his house / palace to plot Jesus' seizure / arrest and death.

They wanted it to be a private thing so the people weren't upset by it.  
The time they planned was to be after Passover festival for fear of the people rioting.

What is "Passover"? What significance did it have for Jesus' time? Today?  
Tell your group to look at the chart from the lesson about the Feasts.

God instituted the Passover as one of the holy feasts for Israel.  
It was the time when He led His people out of bondage from Egypt.  
He delivered them from death at that time.

If a lamb's blood was put on the doorposts and lintel, then death passed over that house.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed—He's the Lamb of God whose blood was shed for all. This Lamb's blood was shed at Passover in Jerusalem. Christians are to celebrate this redemption in sincerity and truth.

Verses 6–13

What are these verses about?

Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany. It's very close to Jerusalem.

A woman poured costly perfume / ointment on Jesus' head. It bothered the disciples, but He said that she actually anointed Him for burial. From chapter 16 on, He had been preparing them for His death.

This account is in all four Gospels, verse 13.

Verses 14–16

What's the action in these verses?

After the event at Bethany, Judas went to the chief priests and asked what they would pay him to betray Jesus. 30 silver pieces were enough for him to do it.

He, one of the 12 disciples, became part of the plot to do away with Jesus.

Verses 17–29

When/ where did the events of these verses take place? What happened?

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as a visual aid for the rest of this discussion.

On the first day of the festival week, sometimes called Passover and sometimes Unleavened Bread, Jesus' disciples prepared the Passover meal for them to eat.

Jesus told the 12 as they ate that one of them would betray Him.  
He prepared them for the soon coming events of that night.

Ask your group what they learned from marking “betray” in these verses.

Judas did it for money.  
He dipped his hand in the bowl at dinner with Jesus.  
It would have been better for Judas if he’d not been born.  
Judas asked Jesus if it was him. He knew the answer.

What did Jesus say about covenant? Discuss relevant cross-references.

He related His body—coming death—to broken bread.  
Jesus broke bread for His disciples and said that it was His body...eat it.

He said the cup was His blood of the covenant.  
Then He told them to drink from the cup...His blood of the covenant poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

He was the Passover sacrifice which saves from sin’s penalty of death.

Jeremiah 31

Israel broke the old covenant God made with them when they came out of Egypt.

The new one was not like the old.  
His law within, written on hearts.  
He’ll be their God and they His people.  
They’ll all know Him.

Iniquity forgiven.  
Sin remembered no more.

Paul wrote that all believers are to remember what Jesus did on the cross as they take the bread and the cup—remember His death for the new covenant of forgiveness. Proclaim it until He comes.

Give time for your group to discuss any application here.

What did Jesus make reference to in verse 29?

The day when He will be with them in the Father’s kingdom.  
His life on earth was about to end, and He kept telling them in different ways.  
But He will return. The kingdom was not about to end.

Verses 30–56

What happened in these verses? What's the application for believers now?

Jesus told the eleven what they would do that night—scatter, fall away that night. Again it was Scripture fulfilled.

They all said they would die with Him, but they did as He said and scattered.

He predicted Peter's three denials that night.

Jesus prepared the disciples for all that was to happen.

Even in Gethsemane after they slept instead of prayed, He told them about the weakness of the flesh.

Watch and pray...the spirit is willing  
Keep watching and praying—continual action—so not enter temptation, 6:13.

Trials and tribulation face all Christians. Jesus called His followers to endure in those times. Being alert and prayerful are keys to endurance and not giving in to the flesh's weakness. He's the example in all of this.

He prayed about:

Going to the cross—doing the Father's will.

He knew what was ahead of Him.

He submitted to His Father's will.

He didn't give in to the weakness of His flesh. Believers can do the same.

He was truly willing to die for those He loved and had compassion for—  
His disciples, along with other sinners.

What did He say to His disciple who used the sword?

Put the sword away.

Scripture has to be fulfilled...it had to happen that way.

What did He say to the crowd? You could bring in cross-references from Matthew here.

Though they'd heard Him teach in the temple, they hadn't seized / arrested Him. They came to arrest Him with swords and clubs. But it had to happen that way to fulfill Scripture.



12:14—The Pharisees conspired against Jesus.

21:46—The chief priests and Pharisees hadn't seized / arrested Jesus in the temple, because they feared the people who considered Him to be a prophet.

22:15—The Pharisees plotted to trap / ensnare Jesus in what He said.

What happened?

Ungodly men plotted and came with swords and clubs to seize Jesus. He could have called legions of angels to do whatever He needed. Yet He willingly submitted to the arrest—because it was His Father's will, written in His Word. The Lord was always in control—not the crowds nor Judas nor the chief priests and elders.

Then all the disciples left Him alone.

#### Verses 57–75

Where did the events of these verses take place? What happened?

Jesus was taken from Gethsemane to Caiaphas.  
Peter followed at a distance.

Two men witnessed that Jesus said He would destroy the temple.  
John 2 tells what Jesus actually said about His body the temple. They would destroy it, but in 3 days He would raise it up.

The high priest asked if He was the Christ, Son of God.  
Jesus answered and told of His coming as the Son of Man, Daniel 7.  
He said that He would sit at the right hand of Power, Psalm 110:1.

They understood what He meant and claimed that He blasphemed.  
That was worthy of death.

In the courtyard Peter did as Jesus had said, he denied Him 3 times before the rooster crowed in the early morning. Peter realized how weak his flesh was.

How does Acts 4:24–28 relate to this chapter?

It was all as God the Father planned.  
Peter quoted this from Psalm 2 just 50 days after Jesus' resurrection.

He understood then what he'd not understood when it happened.  
Sometimes believers go through trials and don't completely understand until it's over.  
Many times there is no understanding except that trials strengthen our faith.

Application is to be alert and submit to the Father's will in everything.



## **Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 8**

### **Lesson emphasis**

- Matthew 27–28
- Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

### **REVIEW**

To briefly review Matthew, you might ask what it's about.

Jesus—the King, Messiah, Son of God / Man; compassionate Savior

His kingdom—for those who repent, the righteous

Then you might ask about the main segments of Matthew 14–28.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 He instructed 12 to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–23 Jesus went to Judea, to Jerusalem / Woe to hypocrites
- 24–25 The Coming of the Son of Man
- 26–28 Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Resurrection

You might ask your group what they specifically learned from this study and how it has affected their lives.

Then ask about the last segment of Matthew 26–28. When was it? Where did this take place? Use the map of Jerusalem from Lesson 7 as a visual aid for this discussion.

At the beginning of Matthew 26, Jesus was in Jerusalem with His twelve disciples.

The segment began two days before Passover, but most of the events of Matthew 26 take place on the first day of the feast in the evening and at night.

Judas betrayed Jesus and led men to seize Him in Gethsemane.  
The other disciples fled, but Peter followed at a distance.  
Peter then denied three times that he knew Jesus.

Caiaphas the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God.

All was to fulfill Scripture.

## **MATTHEW 27**

### Verses 1–2

When did the events of this chapter begin?

The morning after Jesus was betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane, He was then taken before the high priest.

Next He was sent to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate’s headquarters in Jerusalem was at the Praetorium.

### Verses 3–10

What / who are these verses about?

Judas felt remorse, but the text does not say he repented.

He realized Jesus’ blood was innocent, but the text does not say he believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

After he hung himself and the chief priests had the returned money, they thought it unlawful to put it in the temple treasury—the price of blood.

It’s easy to understand from this why Jesus referred to them as hypocrites and deadly vipers.

Even the Potter’s Field was fulfillment of Scripture. Jeremiah spoke of the potter’s field, verse 7. But the quote in verse 9 is from [Zechariah 11:12–13](#).

### Verses 11–26

What question did Pilate ask Jesus? How did Jesus answer?

Compare this with Matthew 26:63–64.

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews.

The title of “King” was interesting to him as a governor.

The high priest had asked if He was the Christ, the Son of God.

He asked about the “religious” titles.

Jesus answered them both the same way.

Jesus is the King, Messiah, Son of God and Man.

Matthew established all of those titles for Jesus beginning in chapter 1.

What was Pilate's reaction to Jesus not answering His accusers?

Compare Matthew 27 with Psalm 22:1–18 and Isaiah 52:13–53:12 as the discussion progresses.

He was amazed at Jesus' silence.

Pilate knew the reason for Jesus being handed over to him. It was because of envy.

Pilate's wife sent a message about Jesus. Have nothing to do with that righteous man.

Knowing that Jesus was a righteous man handed over to him because of envy, Pilate let himself be persuaded to crucify Him.

The crowds were persuaded by the chief priests and elders to ask Pilate to crucify Jesus.

He knew that Jesus had done no evil, but he still didn't release Him when they called for His crucifixion.

Pilate declared himself innocent of Jesus' blood...but was he?

He had Jesus scourged, then handed over for crucifixion.

Compare this with Isaiah 50:6.

What did the people there say about Jesus' innocent blood?

Ask your group what they learned from other references about this.

Let it be on us (the Jews there) and our children.

### Acts 3

Peter spoke to the people who 50 days earlier were the ones in Matthew 26–27. They put to death the Prince of life, the Holy and Righteous One.

He called them to repent and return so their sins would be wiped away.  
That day about 5,000 of them did repent and were saved in Jerusalem.

### Acts 4

This was the believers' response when Peter and John were released from jail.

Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Jews participated in Jesus' death.  
All happened as planned and prophesied by God.

### Acts 5

The Council, high priest, and chief priests accused the apostles of intending to bring Jesus' blood upon them. The apostles only spoke the truth.

### Acts 7

This might have been a year or two later.

Stephen confronted the Council again about putting Jesus to death.

He said that they'd become Jesus' betrayers and murderers.  
His blood was on them.

Verses 27–44

Who did what in these verses?

Pilate's Soldiers, Romans

Stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him and crown of thorns  
Mocked Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"  
Spat on Him  
Beat His head with the reed  
Took off the scarlet robe, dressed Him in His own clothes  
Led Him to be crucified, a place called Golgotha  
Made Simon of Cyrene to carry His cross  
Gave Jesus wine with gall to drink  
Crucified Him  
Cast lots for His garments  
Kept watch over Him at the cross  
Put over His head the charge, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

Two robbers crucified with Jesus

One on the right and one on the left  
Both insulting / reviled Him

Those passing by

Hurling abuse at Him (ESV—derided him)  
Wagging their heads  
"Save Yourself"  
If God's Son, come down from cross

Chief priests, scribes and elders

Mocking...can't save Himself  
Let God rescue Him, if His Son

Give time for your group to discuss relevant application.

Verses 45–61

What happened in these verses? Compare this with Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53.

Darkness for three hours, then Jesus gave up His spirit—He died.

Jesus cried out quoting Psalm 22 about being forsaken by God.  
This Psalm has much in it which describes His crucifixion, as does Isaiah 53.

John 19:30

Jesus said, “It is finished!” before He gave up His spirit.

*teleō*—complete, fulfill; carry out, pay out<sup>1</sup>

Ask your group what they learned about this statement from other references in the lesson.

The sin debt was paid in full.

He canceled the certificate of debt against us—nailed it to the cross.

His body sacrificed, the offering for sins, took away sins.

There is no more offering for sins—He brought forgiveness.

God remembers our sins no more.

Direct the discussion back to the events surrounding Jesus’ death in Matthew 27:51–54.

The temple veil / curtain was torn from top to bottom.

Hebrews 10:19–22

The veil / curtain was His flesh, torn to give believers the new way to come before the Father with confidence. Hearts clean.

John 14:6

No one comes to the Father but through Him.

The earth shook and rocks split. Tombs were opened.

After Jesus’ resurrection, those raised were seen in Jerusalem.

The centurion and others with him realized from the events that He truly was the Son of God.

What happened in verses 55–61? Who was involved?

James and John’s mother was there looking at what happened from a distance, along with the other two Marys.

At evening of that day, a disciple named Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus’ body so he could bury it. He buried Jesus in his own new tomb and rolled a large stone over the entrance. Two of the Marys were there sitting opposite the grave.

Verses 62–66

What happened in these verses?

The next day

---

<sup>1</sup>Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993). 3:346.

Chief priests and Pharisees told Pilate that Jesus—called Him “that deceiver / imposter”—said He would rise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. So they asked him to place guards at the grave. He told them to use their own guards.

## **MATTHEW 28**

What happened in verses 1–10?

At dawn on the first day of the week, the two Marys went to the tomb.

An angel had rolled away the stone to the entrance causing a great earthquake.  
The guards became like dead men when they saw the angel.

He told the women that Jesus had risen as He said...they were to tell the disciples.

As they went to report to the disciples, Jesus Himself met them and told them the same thing the angel had said. The disciples were to go to Galilee and wait for Jesus.

In Matthew 26:31–32, He quoted the prophecy of His, the Shepherd’s crucifixion and the sheep being scattered, and told them He would go ahead of them to Galilee after He had been raised.

What happened in verses 11–15?

The guards reported what happened to the chief priests who bribed them to tell a different story which circulated through the Jews of the time.

The story was that the disciples had stolen Jesus’ body.

How did Matthew end his gospel, verses 16–20?

The eleven disciples went to Galilee as Jesus had instructed them.

They worshiped Him, as the women had, but some were doubtful.

He commanded them what to do, because He had all authority in heaven and on earth.

Go and make disciples of all nations  
Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
Teaching them to observe all He commanded

He told them that He was with them to “the end of the age.”

They were obedient.



Who else took the message? To whom?

Acts 8:4–5, 12

Philip went to Samaria proclaiming Christ.

Acts 28:23–31

Paul preached the gospel in Rome to Jews and Gentiles.

What's the message of 1 Corinthians 15? What's the gospel message?

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

He was buried.

Christ was raised the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the Scriptures.

He appeared to many.

Encourage your group to take the message of Matthew to all who will listen.

That's how one makes disciples...teaching them to observe all Jesus commanded.

If you have time, ask your group what lessons for life they learned from studying Matthew.