

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

MATTHEW



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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The Gospel of Matthew

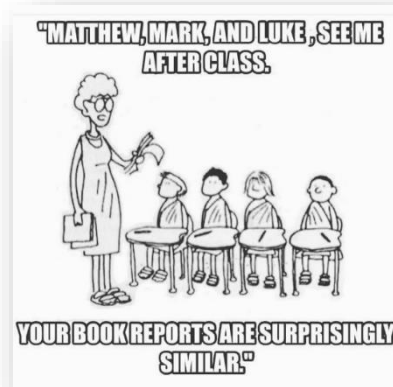
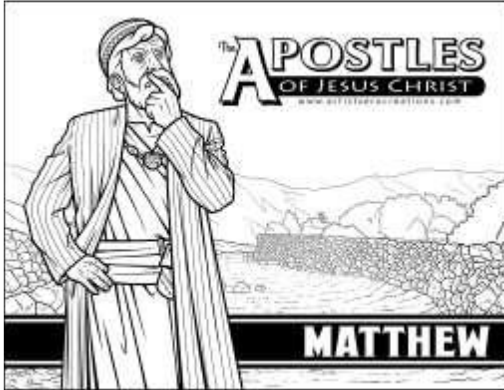
This is an account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, authenticating Jesus as the King of the Jews. Written for a strict Jewish audience. Matthew traces Jesus' family lineage all the way to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the father of the Jewish people, (the nation of Israel). Matthew references at least 7 prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ. These Old Testament references include the books of Psalms, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Author: Matthew, he was a tax collector before Jesus chose him.

In Matthew – Jesus is the Messiah, King of the Jews

Matthew 5:44

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."



TEACHER: 28 CHAPTERS

Matthew is the 1st of the synoptic Gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the synoptic Gospels because they are written with generically the same point of view, or in "sync". It was most likely placed in the 1st position in the New Testament because it was most likely the 1st Gospel written, and the majority of the early church were Jews both in Israel, and in the diaspora. It was written to win the Jews to Christ. It contains all the Messianic requirements the Jews would be looking for, and displays the areas in Christ's life that fulfilled prophecy, including, but not limited to, His family tree all the way back to Abraham.

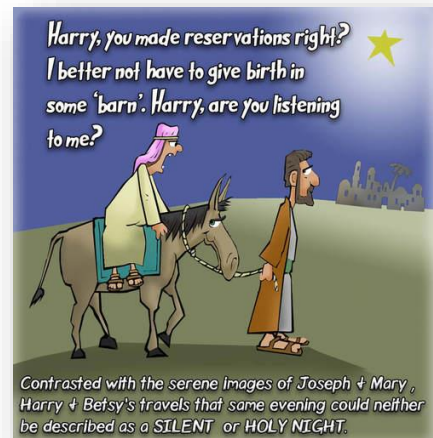
CH. 1

STUDENT:

¹ The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ² Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;...⁶ And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; ⁷ And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;...
¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. (KJV)

TEACHER:

The 1st chapter ends with the Christmas story.



STUDENT:

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. (KJV)

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TEACHER:

Think about this for a second. How many people do you know that bad mouth their spouses? Their kids? Jobs? For all Joseph knew, he was justified in putting Mary to public shame, but because he was JUST, he sought to put her away privately, and this was in his heart *before* the Angel appeared to him. Zero desire for revenge, no payback, no hurt feelings, he had her dead to rights. And his only thought was to spare her public disgrace. He was pondering how to protect her. This all happened between betrothal (engagement ceremony) and the wedding night. In Judaism at the time, the parents would typically arrange the marriage long ahead of time. When they became of age, should no problems arise, they would be married. At this time they would be husband and wife, but not consummate the marriage yet. The groom would return to his father's house and prepare a home for them, and she would stay at her parents' home and gather things she would need to maintain the home such as towels, sheets, dishes etc. Then at a time no one knew, the groom would return and take his bride. Jesus refers to this type of marriage ritual in Matthew 25 in the parable of the 10 virgins. Mary was found to be pregnant during the space from betrothal to the wedding night. But being JUST he sought no ill recourse, no revenge. Being in that correct frame of mind, left his heart open for what would happen next.

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STUDENT:

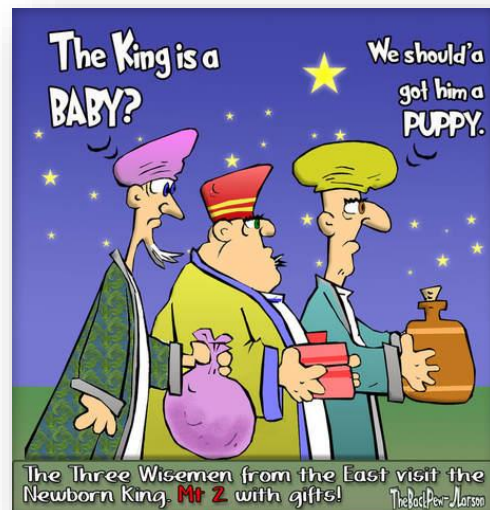
²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. ²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ²⁵ And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. (KJV)



TEACHER:

Chapter 2 tells the story of the three wise men, then Joseph taking his young family to Egypt, to escape Herod killing all the babies, and then returning after Herod dies and moves near Galilee, to the town of Nazareth.

CH. 2

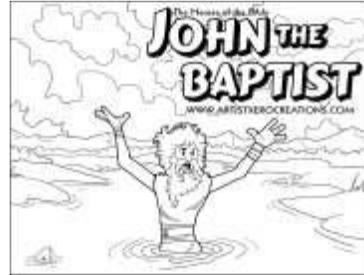


Chapter 3 tells a little about John the Baptists ministry.

STUDENT:

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan. (KJV)



TEACHER:

Chapter 3 ends with John baptizing Jesus and we see a beautiful picture of the Trinity at the occasion.

STUDENT:

¹³ At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased." Good News Translation (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 4 Jesus is tempted of the Devil. Then He begins His earthly ministry. Interesting note here, He is led "by the Spirit" into the desert to be "tempted by the Devil" that was the purpose.

STUDENT:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

TEACHER:

Adams failure in the garden of Eden, lust of the eyes (see that the fruit is beautiful) lust of the flesh (taste it that it is good) and the pride of life (you will be like God knowing good and evil) are here repeated, lust of the eyes (Satan shows Him all the kingdoms of the world, they will be yours he says), lust of the flesh, (turn these stones into bread), and the pride of life (Throw yourself down if you are Gods son he will give His angels charge over you to catch you) The same old Devil, The same old Lies, The same old tricks.

I love my earthly father Adam, but I wish he was more like Jesus. DH
Adam probably would say the same about you. SH

CH. 3

CH. 4

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STUDENT:

²³ Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom, and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness. ²⁴ The news about him spread through the whole country of Syria, so that people brought to him all those who were sick, suffering from all kinds of diseases and disorders: people with demons, and epileptics, and paralytics—and Jesus healed them all. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee and the Ten Towns, from Jerusalem, Judea, and the land on the other side of the Jordan. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Matthew Chapters 5-7 covers the most important sermon ever preached. Every word falling from the lips of Jesus. To make it even more interesting, we will also draw parallels to The 10 Commandments.

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CH. 5

The Sermon on the Mount

STUDENT:

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. New King James Version (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

“The Sermon on the Mount.” “The 10 Commandments.” Both falling from the same pair of lips, and both spoken by the second person in the Trinity, (*according to Hebrews 12:25-26*).

The Beatitudes can be understood as:

The 1st Commandment.

I. There is One God, Him only shalt thou serve.

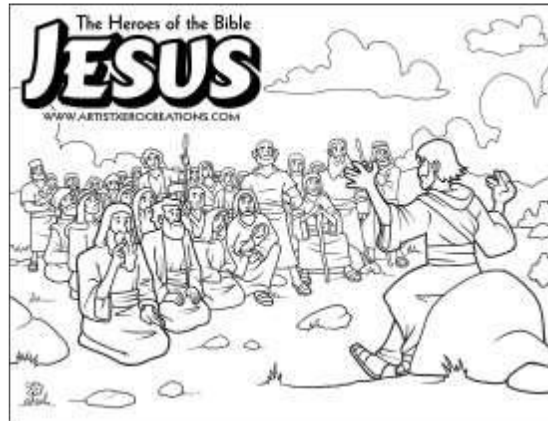
In the Beatitudes Jesus isn’t just saying what might happen, He is saying what He will do. He is saying who He will allow into the kingdom of heaven, who gets comforted, who inherits the earth, who will be filled, who gets mercy and who will see God. Then He says, “if you are persecuted because you are righteous, you get heaven.” Then He ups the ante, “if they revile you and persecute you for MY sake, rejoice....for GREAT is your reward in heaven.”

We know Jesus is the architect of creation. (*Colossians 1:16, Revelation 3:14*). After each day of creation He says it is good, except Monday, because Monday is rough. After He creates Adam and Eve He say it is very good. But here... the same guy, Jesus, says.....“if they revile and persecute and lie about you for My sake? GREAT is your reward. Great. The 1st commandment? There is only One God, serve Him. The Beatitudes tells us how.

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STUDENT:

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (NKJV)



TEACHER:

The 2nd Commandment.

II Thou shalt make no idols, to worship them.

When we refuse to “salt the earth”, “turn on the lights”, and not just in our homes only, why? He uses two different light analogies. 1st a candle, and then a city. We are to light our homes, and our cities. When we don’t, why don’t we? Are we afraid of the reviling? The persecution? A loss of standing? Because we don’t care enough about Jesus to tolerate the drama? What is our Idol? Is it what people think of us? The last verse read....”so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Thou shalt make no idols, to worship them.

TEACHER:

The 3rd Commandment.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in Vain.

Watch what you say when you talk about God. In all these commandments Jesus has amplified the meaning. This is no exception. Don’t take the name of God in vain, or perhaps, if you don’t mean to serve God, don’t say you will, (if you’re going to call yourself a Christian, act like it). That’s another way to define it. But in this next passage He refers to the line of speech that softens God’s intentions. This is a mistake. God has chosen the foolishness of preaching to save sinners, so we must tell the truth. If we don’t preach, who will? We must call sin, sin. Carefully listen to this next passage in that context.

STUDENT:

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

Did you see that word again? “Whoever does and teaches them will be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven.” Now the next commandment, the 4th, is “honor the Sabbath Day” but Jesus like all great teachers goes on a **tangent**. Do you know why? Because all great teachers go on tangents. Next time I’m barreling down a hill and my wife is trying to keep the wheels on the stage coach remember Matthew chapter 5. It happens to the best of us.

Skipping ahead to

The 6th Commandment.

Thou shalt not murder.

STUDENT:

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

The 7th Commandment.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.

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STUDENT:

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³¹ "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Skipping up to the:

The 9th Commandment
Thou shalt not bear false witness.

What is bearing false witness? Lying. Jesus takes it to heaven and back.

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STUDENT:

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

The 8th Commandment
Thou shalt not steal.

In keeping with Jesus teaching amplifying the 10 commandments, here the Lord bends the paper back on itself. Not only do not steal, but don't even defend yourself from someone else taking advantage of you! Yikes. In the O.T. we hear Thou shalt not steal, (don't make someone else's possessions more important than God). In the N.T. don't make your possessions more important than God.

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STUDENT:

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

The 4th Commandment

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.

You will think I'm reaching on this one, but trust me. This next paragraph refers to keeping the Sabbath Day.

STUDENT:

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

How is that about the Sabbath Day? In the Old Covenant, we were to keep the Sabbath Day Holy to the Lord.

In the New Covenant we are to keep every day Holy to the Lord. Re-read verse 48 above,

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

We are to be keep 7 days a week, Holy to the Lord.

STUDENT:

"Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. ³ But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. ⁴ Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

STUDENT:

⁵ "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. ⁷ "When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. ⁸ Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ This, then, is how you should pray: (GNT)

ENTIRE CLASS IN UNISON:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. (KJV)

STUDENT:

¹⁴ “If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do. They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. ¹⁷ When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair, ¹⁸ so that others cannot know that you are fasting—only your Father, who is unseen, will know. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹⁹ “Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. ²⁰ Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. ²¹ For your heart will always be where your riches are. ²² “The eyes are like a lamp for the body. If your eyes are sound, your whole body will be full of light; ²³ but if your eyes are no good, your body will be in darkness. So if the light in you is darkness, how terribly dark it will be! (GNT)

TEACHER:

The 10th Commandment.

Thou shalt not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

STUDENT:

²⁴ “You cannot be a slave of two masters; you will hate one and love the other; you will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵ “This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? ²⁷ Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁸ “And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹ But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. ³⁰ It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! (GNT)

STUDENT:

³¹ “So do not start worrying: ‘Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?’ ³² (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. ³³ Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things. ³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings. (GNT)

STUDENT: Chapter 7

“Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, ² for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. ³ Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? ⁴ How dare you say to your brother, ‘Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you have a log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶ “Do not give what is holy to dogs—they will only turn and attack you. Do not throw your pearls in front of pigs—they will only trample them underfoot. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁷ "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock. ⁹ Would any of you who are fathers give your son a stone when he asks for bread? ¹⁰ Or would you give him a snake when he asks for a fish? ¹¹ As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹² "Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets. ¹³ "Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. ¹⁴ But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹⁵ "Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. ¹⁷ A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do. (GNT)

TEACHER:

5th Commandment.
Honor your father and mother.

STUDENT:

²¹ "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. ²² When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!' ²³ Then I will say to them, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!' (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁴ "So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

²⁶ "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!"

TEACHER:

In the 10 Commandments we are to honor our earthly father and mother. In the Sermon on the Mount, we are to honor our Heavenly Father. How? By building our house on the rock of faith in Jesus whom He sent. Remember the parable of the rich man who sent his son as a messenger and they killed him? Plead the 5th. To finish chapter 7 and the Sermon on the mount we read,

²⁸ When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowd was amazed at the way he taught. ²⁹ He wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority. (GNT)

TEACHER CONTINUE:

In Chapter 8

Jesus performs many miracles, and great multitudes were following Him. He heals a leper, a Centurions servant sick of the palsy, Jesus said the Centurion had more faith than anyone in all of Israel, Peter's mother-in-law was healed, it says many demon possessed and sick people were healed. He was sleeping in their boat during a storm and He calmed the waves, then He cast demons into a herd of swine after the boat arrived ashore.

In Chapter 9

CH. 9 Jesus forgives a man that was paralyzed and heals him upsetting the scribes, but the crowds loved it and glorified God. He also heals the woman who said if I can just touch the hem of his garment I will be healed, Jesus said “your faith hath made you whole” Then He raises a young maiden from the dead, and the a blind man. He does a lot more then He closes with this.

³⁷ The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. (KJV)

In Chapter 10

Jesus equips his disciples with super-natural power and sends them out to heal the sick and cast out demons in all of Israel. Lets read a passage from Chapter 10

CH. 10 STUDENT:
²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. ³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)

TEACHER:

In Chapter 11 Jesus fame is spread abroad because of the miracles He and His disciples are performing and John the Baptist who has been in prison for a while now sends his followers to Jesus to ask if He is the Messiah, again. Interesting how He asks John to believe. He wants to be judged by his works. Let’s read.

CH. 11 STUDENT:
² Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, ³ And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? ⁴ Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (KJV)

STUDENT:

⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is *he* of whom it is written:

‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

¹¹ “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (NKJV)

TEACHER:

Jesus calls John the Baptist the greatest prophet ever born. Do you remember the last lesson in the Old Testament? Malachi 4. The prophesy of Elijah who is to come? Jesus said this was John the Baptist.

What was his ministry according to Malachi 4:5-6? It was two-fold.

1. To make straight the way of the Lord,
2. To turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents.

If you take only one thing away from this lesson take this. Do you want to be the greatest? Preach against sin, and restore a family's hearts to each other once again. Do that, and you will get God's attention.

Start with your own family. Lead by example.

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TEACHER:

In Chapter 12 Jesus is working miracles and teaching, and He is coming up against more and more resistance against His work. The Scribes and Pharisees are starting to organize against Him by saying that He is casting out demons and working miracles by the power of Satan. This is his response.

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CH. 12

STUDENT:

²⁶ And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

²⁷ And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

²⁹ Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house. ³⁰ He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. ³¹ Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. ³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. (KJV)

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CH. 13

TEACHER:

Chapter 13 Starts with the parable of the sower, and then an explanation of the parable along with an explanation of why He speaks in parables. In verses 13-14 He says, "

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STUDENT:

¹³ Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive." (KJV). He also tells the parable of the tares and the wheat, the mustard seed, leaven, then in verse 34 He reiterates, "³⁴ All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: ³⁵ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. (KJV).

He next preaches on hell, the parable of the pearl of great price, and He closes the chapter with this.

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STUDENT:

⁵⁴ And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? ⁵⁷ And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. ⁵⁸ And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (KJV)

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TEACHER:

Note how that their unbelief due to familiarity prevented Him from doing more for them. Chapter 14 tells the story of John the Baptists martyrdom. He is already dead at this point, these are the details.

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STUDENT:

At that time Herod, the ruler of Galilee, heard about Jesus. ² "He is really John the Baptist, who has come back to life," he told his officials. "That is why he has this power to perform miracles."

³ For Herod had earlier ordered John's arrest, and he had him tied up and put in prison. He had done this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ For some time John the Baptist had told Herod, "It isn't right for

CH. 14

you to be married to Herodias!" ⁵ Herod wanted to kill him, but he was afraid of the Jewish people, because they considered John to be a prophet.

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STUDENT:

⁶ On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced in front of the whole group. Herod was so pleased ⁷ that he promised her, "I swear that I will give you anything you ask for!" ⁸ At her mother's suggestion she asked him, "Give me here and now the head of John the Baptist on a plate!" ⁹ The king was sad, but because of the promise he had made in front of all his guests he gave orders that her wish be granted. ¹⁰ So he had John beheaded in prison.

¹¹ The head was brought in on a plate and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. ¹² John's disciples came, carried away his body, and buried it; then they went and told Jesus. (GNT)



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TEACHER:

Jesus feeds a second multitude, sends the disciples in a ship, and He goes to the mountain to pray. He goes to catch up with them, waking across the sea. Lets read the story.

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STUDENT:

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. ²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? ³² And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. ³³ Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. (KJV)



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TEACHER:

In chapter 15 Jesus is arguing more and more with the scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem regarding their misuse of the Law. He says, quoting Isaiah 29:13 starting in verse 8.....

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STUDENT:

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ¹⁰ And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: ¹¹ Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Jesus heals a woman's daughter, feeds 4000 more people again, and we are on to chapter 16. Jesus is starting to hold them accountable, let's read.

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CH. 16

STUDENT:

¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. (KJV).

TEACHER:

So right after this, Jesus starts teaching His disciples that He must suffer and be put to death. And Peter goes from hero to zero.

STUDENT:

²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (KJV)

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 we have the mount of transfiguration, the child delivered whom the disciples could not help, you remember the story, Jesus said "this kind cometh out not but by prayer and fasting" and of 'course, Jesus pays His taxes.

In chapter 18 Jesus talks of the importance of children in the kingdom of Heaven, tells the parable of the lost sheep and leaving the ninety-nine. The most ignored law in the dispensation of grace is in verses 15-17.

STUDENT:

¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. (KJV).

TEACHER:

And then the flip side of that coin.

STUDENT:

¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (KJV)

TEACHER:

So here we have what to do if things go wrong between brothers, and what we are capable of if things go right! The last half of chapter 18 is on forgiveness. In chapters 19 to 25 Jesus shares some of His deepest teachings, as you know when people age, and see the end of their lives approaching, they talk about the things most important to them. The big picture stuff. Let's look at one passage from each of these chapters.

CH'S
17-18

STUDENT:

CH. 19

³The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? ⁴And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? ⁶Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ⁷They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. (KJV).

TEACHER:

Any thoughts?

STUDENT:

CH. 20

For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. ²And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? ⁷They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. ⁸So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. ⁹And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. ¹⁰But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. ¹¹And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, ¹²Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. ¹³But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? ¹⁴Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. ¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? ¹⁶So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

TEACHER:

Any thoughts on Matthew 20? My take is don't be lazy, and mind your own business.

SUDENT:

CH. 21

¹⁷And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there. ¹⁸Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. ¹⁹And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. ²⁰And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! ²¹Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. ²²And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (KJV)

TEACHER:

Discuss. My take? When Jesus comes to expecting fruit, don't provide shade. Sometimes Jesus comes to you in the form of people. He sends us, on occasion, people who are hungry for the truth and we would be remiss in providing shade.

CH. 22

STUDENT:

³⁴ But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

³⁵ Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (KJV)

TEACHER:

That reading is funny to me. The Pharisees and Sadducees are not friends. They disagree on many issues regarding right and wrong. Jesus answers their question with a poke at this truth. Love God, and your neighbor.

STUDENT:

²³ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. ²⁴ Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. (KJV).

TEACHER:

I'm telling you Jesus has a sense of humor. This would be said today, "you tithe on how much salt you put on your french fries, and ignore judgement, mercy and faith." The camel line is epic. It is on par with the burn in Malachi, "you don't have enough money to get drunk."

CH. 24

STUDENT:

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (KJV)

TEACHER:

Discuss. My take, you do your job, let God do His.

STUDENT:

CH. 25

³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: ³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷

STUDENT:

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? ³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? ³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

STUDENT:

⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? ⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. ⁴⁶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (KJV).

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CH'S
26-28

TEACHER:

In chapter 26 we have the upper room, then Jesus is betrayed, Peter cuts off the solders ear, and denies Christ. In chapter 27 the crucifixion, and Chapter 28, the resurrection. In closing I will read from chapter 28.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)

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NEXT LESSON MARK

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"You have received without paying, so give without being paid."

Matthew 10:8b

A 2nd century fragment
from Matthew.



The Book of Matthew Parables

Parable of the Lamp - Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Parable of the Speck and The Log - Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Parable of New Cloth on Old Garment - Matthew 9:16-17

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Parable of The Divided Kingdom - Matthew 12:24-30

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Parable of The Sower - Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Parable of The Weeds Among the Wheat - Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Parable of The Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Parable of The Leaven - Matthew 13:33-34

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.

Parable of Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Parable of Pearl of Great Price - Matthew 13:45-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Parable of The Net - Matthew 13:47-50

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Parable of The Heart of Man - Matthew 15:10-20

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

Parable of The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Parable of The Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:23-35

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Parable of Laborers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out

again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. 'He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 'When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 'The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 'But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Parable of The Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 'Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. 'Which of the two did what his father wanted?' 'The first,' they answered. Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.'

Parable of The Tenant Farmers - Matthew 21:33-45

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. 'The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. 'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 'Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,' they replied, 'and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."

Parable of the Marriage Feast - Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Parable of The Budding Fig Tree - Matthew 24:32-35

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it[a] is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Parable of Faithful vs. Wicked Servant - Matthew 24:45-51

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Parable of The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Parable of Ten Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

