

# BA Study Guide: Matthew 17-20

## Overview

Matthew 17–20 is a spiritual gut-check. It moves from the glory of the Transfiguration to the hard, real, gritty stuff—demon possession, radical humility, divorce, money, entitlement, and the cross. Jesus is preparing His men for battle. These chapters answer a single, unavoidable question:

**Are you willing to follow Jesus when it costs you everything?**

## Chapter Breakdown

### Matthew 17 – Glory on the Mountain, War in the Valley

- **Transfiguration:** Jesus reveals His divine glory to Peter, James, and John.

"This is My beloved Son... listen to Him."

- **Reality check:** They come down and face a demonic crisis the other disciples can't handle.
- Jesus rebukes their lack of faith. They had proximity to power but lacked real spiritual authority.

#### Key Truth

You're not strong because you saw the mountain—you're strong when you stand in the valley.

#### Reflection Question

Where have you been spiritually passive, expecting results without intimacy with God?

### Matthew 18 – True Greatness Is Low to the Ground

- The disciples ask, "*Who's the greatest?*" Jesus points to a **child**—a picture of humility, dependence, and trust.
- Jesus warns about sin—*radically*.

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off..."

- He tells the **Parable of the Lost Sheep**, showing the Father's relentless pursuit of the straying.
- Then He teaches about **forgiveness**:

Not 7 times... but *seventy times seven*.

#### Key Truth

Kingdom greatness starts with humility and leads to **radical repentance and forgiveness**.

### Action Step

What's one hidden sin you've tolerated that Jesus says to "cut off"? Confess it. Deal with it.

## Matthew 19 – Marriage, Manhood, and Misplaced Treasure

- Jesus reinforces God's design for **marriage**:

"What God has joined together, let no man separate."

- He blesses children—and rebukes those who try to block them from coming close.
- The **rich young ruler** walks away when asked to give up everything and follow.

### Key Truth

You can't cling to control and follow Christ at the same time.

Jesus wants *all* of you—wallet, future, comfort, pride.

### Reflection

What's your "rich young ruler" moment? What's Jesus asking you to lay down that you keep justifying?

## Matthew 20 – Kingdom Power Means Servant Posture

- Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard—all paid equally, regardless of hours.

"The last will be first, and the first last."

- James and John try to secure top spots in the kingdom. Jesus replies:

"Can you drink the cup I'm going to drink?"

- Jesus defines leadership by **service and sacrifice**, not status:

"The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve..."

### Key Truth

Kingdom masculinity is servant-hearted, not spotlight-driven.

### Check Yourself

Are you more concerned about being noticed—or being faithful?

## God's Character Revealed

- **Glorious** (Matt. 17 – Transfiguration)
- **Just and jealous for holiness** (Matt. 18 – dealing with sin)
- **Faithful and unchanging** (Matt. 19 – upholding marriage)
- **Generous, merciful, and sovereign** (Matt. 20 – vineyard parable)
- **Servant-King** (Matt. 20:28)

## What This Confronts in Me

- My addiction to spiritual mountaintops without doing the work in the valley
- My tendency to want influence without sacrifice
- My excuses for tolerating sin I should be killing
- My resistance to a Jesus who leads by suffering, not status

## Memory Verse

### Matthew 20:28

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

**This is the blueprint for biblical manhood.**

Not passive. Not domineering. *Sacrificial and submitted.*

## Today's Battle Plan

- **Confess** one area where pride has kept you from serving
- **Memorize** Matthew 20:28 and pray it over your day
- **Initiate** a conversation with your wife, brother, or son about one area of obedience you're stepping into
- **Fast from comfort** for 24 hours and ask God to expose what's been owning you more than Him

## Evangelism Tip

People don't need to hear how good you've been—they need to hear how Jesus wrecked your pride and rebuilt you in grace. Share your scars. That's where the power is.

## Disciple-Making Tip

Ask the guy you're discipling:

“What cup is Jesus asking you to drink right now?”

Then remind him: *Jesus drank His first.*

## Final Charge

You've seen the mountain. You've read the Word.

Now get back in the valley and walk it out.

Sacrifice your ego.

Serve without applause.

Repent ruthlessly.  
Obey immediately.

The world doesn't need more religious men.  
It needs **cross-carrying kingdom warriors**.

