



First Lutheran Church

Gospel of Matthew

Summer 2026 Reading Challenge



Introduction

Week 10: Matthew chapters 19 and 20

	Chapter Outline
Matthew 19:1-15	Family in the new community
Matthew 19:16-20:16	The Last will be First, the First will be Last
Matthew 20:17-28	The third prediction of the passion, the disciples misunderstand
Matthew 20:29-34	Two blind men are healed

What to Expect

Chapters 19 and 20 bring Jesus geographically back to Judea for the first time since chapter 4. Jesus is nearing Jerusalem, and will take an opportunity to predict his passion for the third and final time. Ahead of that, Jesus continues to teach about family and community in terms of his kingdom values.

Jesus begins with a section on divorce, remarriage, and celibacy. Matthew's gospel is written 30 to 40 years after Paul was very intent on everyone staying celibate, and the community is wrestling with that concept as well as how to do marriage and divorce. The Kingdom is not about just tossing people aside. The kingdom is about caring for the family as a root center space where people are honored and valued.

Children, in the same way, are to be honored and valued in this Kingdom. Cultural forces around ancient Israel and ancient Rome had little value for children, they had value when they could work or bring value to the family from being married off. This contrasted that notion.

The Kingdom is also not about position or status. It isn't about when you joined, how long you have worked for the Kingdom, how long you believed is not a status symbol against another. Jesus is again, toppling world views held in most cultures about how status is assigned. This Kingdom is a space where all are equal.

After Jesus tells the disciples once more about his passion, James and John, through their mother, demonstrate the continued dissonance with the disciples as they ask for a space of honor in Jesus' Kingdom. Jesus is frustrated that they do not understand. But then in Jericho, two blind men beggars ask for their eyes to be opened -- and Jesus heals their eyes so they can follow and with their eyes open, chapter 21 begins as Jesus enters Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.

Gathered by God, we live our faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy

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2026 Summer Reading Challenge

Throughout this summer, First Lutheran Church will engage the Gospel of Matthew.

Each week we will read 2 chapters of Matthew.

Resources will be available along the way, including:

- An introduction to the week
- A Deep Dive into a big theme of Matthew's Gospel
- A Deep Dive into one part of this week's reading
- A Devotional based on one part of this week's reading
- A Video to read along with Pastor Jamie.

Check out our website and our Facebook page for weekly and daily postings related to this reading challenge.