

THIRSTY FOR SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW

Matthew 1

What do you learn about Jesus from the genealogy (vv. 1-17) and the narrative (vv. 18-25)? What is the significance of the titles given to Jesus in vv. 1, 21, and 23?

What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is “God with us”? Take time to praise Jesus our Messiah, our savior, our Immanuel.

Matthew 2

Note the reaction to Jesus from the various people and groups.

What is the significance of Jesus being called “King of the Jews” in v. 2 and “a ruler and shepherd of Israel” in v. 6, and yet his first worshippers being from a different part of the world?

Join the astronomer/kings in offering yourself in worship to King Jesus.

Matthew 3

Notice everything you can about John the Baptist; his location, words, dress, ministry, and results. Summarize John the Baptist’s message.

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and highlight any areas needing repentance.

Matthew 4

What do you notice about the Scripture as it is spoken, taught, and preached?

What do the words and actions of Jesus say about his view of the authority of Scripture and his own authority?

What is your view of the authority of Scripture? How is this lived out in the way you read, study, and obey the Word?

Matthew 5:1-16

List the qualities of character that Jesus wants His disciples to have and the results of each of these qualities.

How would these promises contribute to the followers of Jesus being the light of the world?

Prayerfully pick one of these qualities and ask God to work it deeper into your life in practical ways.

Matthew 5:17-48

List each law or tradition that Jesus mentions and how he reinterprets it.

How do these reinterpretations show that Jesus is fulfilling the real meaning of the law (v. 17)?

Ask Jesus which of these commands you need to practice today and not set aside.

Matthew 6:1-18

Compare and contrast Jesus' comments about these spiritual disciplines. Why does Jesus want each discipline to be done "in secret"?

Pick one of these spiritual disciplines and do it today without telling anyone.

Matthew 6:19-34

Make a list of the positive and negative commands, i.e. "do" and "do not". How does v. 33 summarize Jesus' whole teaching in this passage?

What does it mean for you to "seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness" today in both big and small ways?

Matthew 7:1-12

Note everything Jesus says about relationships between people and with God.

How would these promises contribute to the followers of Jesus being the light of the world?

Prayerfully pick one of these qualities and ask God to work it deeper into your life in practical ways.

Matthew 7:13-29

List all the images and figurative language.

What warning is Jesus making by using these images?

What Scriptures have you read or studied in the last week? How are you doing at obeying it with specific action?

Matthew 8:1-22

List each person that Jesus encounters in this passage, what they ask of him, and how he responds.

What part does faith and trust in Jesus and his authority play in these encounters?

In what specific situation can you exercise faith and trust in Jesus today?

Matthew 8:23-9:8

What dangers or challenges are described here?

What do we learn about Jesus from his responses to these dangers and challenges?

What dangers and challenges in your life do you need Jesus to address? Ask for his intervention.

Matthew 9:9-34

What does Jesus do or say to each person in this passage? How do they respond?

How are Jesus' interactions like new wine and new cloth?

How has Jesus surprised or challenged your prior expectations of him?

Matthew 9:35-10:23

What exhortations, promises, and warnings does Jesus give to his disciples?

How does Jesus prepare the disciples to handle opposition?

Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into the harvest (realizing you may become the answer to your own prayer, as the disciples were in 10:1).

Matthew 10:24-42

What situations that invoke fear are addressed here?

What is Jesus' perspective of those situations?

Meditate on vv. 29-31, thanking God for his care for you.

Matthew 11:1-24

How does Jesus describe his ministry?

What about Jesus' ministry causes offense?

What have you seen of Jesus recently, and how are you responding to him?

Matthew 11:25-12:21

What does Jesus say and show about himself?

How does Jesus embody the quote from Isaiah (v. 18-21)?

How would you like Jesus to give you rest for your weary soul? Ask him for it.

Matthew 12:22-50

How do the different groups react to Jesus' miracle and teaching?

How does Jesus challenge each group's assumptions?

What does it mean for you today to do the will of Jesus' Father in heaven (v. 50)?

Matthew 13:1-23

Compare and contrast the four soils using the parable and Jesus' explanation.

How does the parable of the soils relate to Jesus' comments about the purpose of the parables (v. 10-17)?

Which soil describes you? Which do you want to be? What changes must you make to become that soil?

Matthew 13:24-52

List the images used in these parables.

What do those images illustrate about the Kingdom of heaven?

Which of these parables most speaks to your life? Why?

Matthew 13:53-14:12

Who was offended by Jesus and John, respectively?

Why were they offended?

When have you experienced rejection because of following Jesus?

Matthew 14:13-36

How does Jesus use his power in these stories?

What do these stories teach about faith?

Think of a situation where you started to doubt. How did Jesus come to you and meet you in that situation?

Matthew 15:1-20

Note the questions asked in this passage and how Jesus answers.

What is Jesus teaching about the "mouth" and the "heart"?

Pray that everything that comes out of your mouth today will edify rather than defile.

Matthew 15:21-39

List and describe the various characters.

How does Jesus demonstrate compassion to each?

Today, who can you treat with compassion? Specifically, what will you do?

Matthew 16:1-20

Contrast what Jesus says to and about the Pharisees and Sadducees with what he says to Peter.

What would it mean to the disciples that Jesus is the “Messiah” (the “anointed” or “chosen” one) and the Son of God?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?

Matthew 16:21-17:13

Notice everything Peter says in these two stories. What response did he elicit?

How are the joys and challenges of following Jesus, the Son of God, illustrated in the events and teachings here?

What does it specifically mean for you to “take up your cross and follow Jesus”? How will you live that out?

Matthew 17:14-27

What requests and questions are made of Jesus?

From Jesus’ responses, what can the disciples understand about Jesus and themselves?

What does it mean to you that, if you are a believer, you are a child of the King?

Matthew 18

Note each command and each promise that Jesus makes through his direct teaching and his parables in this chapter.

What do these teachings say about God’s mercy and the need for the disciples to have mercy and humility?

In what ways can you demonstrate humility and mercy today?

Matthew 19

List all the ways Jesus’ teaching surprises people.

What do Jesus’ counter-cultural ways reveal about the goodness of living in his Kingdom?

Where do you need to let go of being among the “first”?

Matthew 20

Compare the four parables and stories. What do they have in common?

How does each parable or story bring out the theme that “the first will be last and the last first”?

Who can you serve in a practical way today? What will you do?

Matthew 21:1-22

List the things that facilitate or hinder people's access to worship.

How is the fig tree incident related to Jesus' encounter with the temple?

What structures or systems in our world today hinder people from knowing and worshipping God? Pray to God that these would be 'withered' and rendered powerless.

Matthew 21:23-46

List the actions of each character in the two parables.

How are these two stories a response to the temple leaders' question about Jesus' authority?

With which character in the parables do you most identify? Why?

Matthew 22:1-14

What are the various responses to the king's invitation?

In this parable what does it mean to be "invited" and what does it mean to be "chosen"?

What does it mean for you personally to "come to Jesus' banquet," receive the "wedding clothes" (a symbol for salvation), and enjoy His presence there?

Matthew 22:15-46

In what ways do the Pharisees and Sadducees try to "trap Jesus in his words" (v. 15)?

How does Jesus respond to the traps?

How can you love God and love others in practical ways today?

Matthew 23

Make a list of Jesus' criticisms of the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

What are some of the basic underlying problems in the hearts of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

How do you see those basic underlying problems (hypocrisy, formal religion with no love, etc.) in your own heart? What can you do about it?

Matthew 24:1-31

Note the various signs that will occur before the end of the age. How does Jesus instruct his followers to handle these difficulties?

Whether you live in a situation of persecution or spiritual attack, or a situation of relative safety, what do vv. 12-14 mean to you?

Matthew 24:32-25:13

Note all the words and phrases related to time.

What choices do the characters in the parables have, given that the master/bridegroom's time of arrival is unknown?

What choices could you make today to "be ready" for his return?

Matthew 25:14-46

Compare and contrast the actions of those who are reward and those who are punished.

What does the Master value and why?

Think of one "course correction" you can make in your day to more purposefully align your actions with his values.

Matthew 26:1-16

Compare how the chief priests and elders, the woman, the disciples, and Judas respond to Jesus.

What is the significance of the woman's response to Jesus?

How can you demonstrate extravagant love for Jesus today?

Matthew 26:17-29

Note each of Jesus' statements.

What is Jesus teaching about himself?

How does this passage encourage you?

Matthew 26:30-56

Compare what Jesus says and does to what Peter and the disciples say and do.

What does this say about Jesus' faith and his character? What does it say about the disciples' faith and character?

Think about a time you made a great commitment to Jesus but didn't keep it. What can you do to renew that commitment?

Matthew 26:57-75

How do the high priest, the chief priests and the Sanhedrin, and Peter respond to Jesus? How is their view of Jesus different than what he says about himself in v. 64?

Picture Jesus coming in glory on the clouds of heaven. How does meditating on his return impact you?

Matthew 27:1-14

Compare and contrast Judas' words and actions in this passage with Jesus'.

How could Jesus, who just got rich, be so troubled and Jesus, who is about to be killed, be so calm?

Think of a situation that you feel guilty or depressed about. Rather than being weighed down, take it to Jesus.

Matthew 27:15-31

How do the various characters respond to Jesus?

Why does Pilate condemn Jesus to crucifixion?

Elsewhere in the Bible it says that Jesus went through that suffering and pain in your place, taking the punishment you deserve. Take time to thank him for his sacrifice for you. If you have never committed yourself to him as your Lord and Savior, consider doing so now.

Matthew 27:32-50

In what ways was Jesus mocked and misunderstood as he was crucified? What is the significance of Jesus feeling forsaken on the cross?

Think of a time you felt forsaken by God. How does knowing Jesus experiences something similar impact how you view that time in your life?

Matthew 27:51-66

Note the various responses to Jesus' death.

What is revealed by each of these responses?

Today as you reflect on Jesus' death, how do you respond to Jesus' death?

Matthew 28

How did the women, the guards, the chief priests, and the disciples each experience the resurrection of Jesus?

What is significant about the way Jesus wanted his disciples to respond to his resurrection and his authority in vv. 18-20?

What specific role has Jesus called you to play in carrying out his Great Commission, vv. 18-20?