

DID YOU HEAR WHAT JESUS SAID?

Focusing on the sermons and conversations of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

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STUDY SUGGESTIONS for this series:

As You Begin – Find a quiet place where you can hear Jesus clearly with as few interruptions or distractions as possible. Have your Bible, paper and pen, along with your study guide ready. Take some deep breaths and begin to focus on the Lord – the One who is waiting to show you His love and His desires for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up your mind and heart to listen to Jesus, the King.

Looking at the Big Picture

As you come to the Gospel of Matthew, you will read many of the sermons and conversations that Jesus had during the three years of His public ministry. It is very important that you consider the setting and the people. You may want to read the same chapters in a few different translations or listen to an audible reading in order to hear the message in new ways. It is also helpful to read the passage out loud, as if you could really hear His voice.

Considering Some of the Details

Here are some basic questions to ask yourself as you meditate on the words of Jesus.

1. What did He really say? Try to summarize briefly the content of His message.
2. When and where did He say those things? Why did He talk to that person or group?
3. What did He hope to accomplish?
4. What was the response of the listeners? Or of those standing near to them? Or of others?

Responding Today to the Words of Jesus

All Scripture is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that God’s people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Bible study is much more than an intellectual exercise, so let God’s words move from your head to your heart. What does He want you to KNOW, to BELIEVE, and then to DO? What will your response be to the King of Kings and Lord of All – Jesus Christ?

BONUS – Why a creative challenge? It’s your opportunity to reinforce some aspect of the lesson using your imagination and mind. It will reinforce the ideas and cement them in your memory. Besides that – it is just plain fun to be creative. You will be blessed.

DID YOU HEAR WHAT JESUS SAID?

Lesson One – WHY LISTEN TO JESUS?

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matt. 4: 17
"Come, follow Me", Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4: 19

As you begin – When Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples wrote His Gospel, he wanted his Jewish audience to grasp that fact that Jesus Christ was truly Israel's Messiah-King. He often explained how Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and truly was the One who had come to be their Redeemer. Before you begin reading this Gospel, take some time to think about who you believe Jesus is and what He came to this earth to do. Talk with Him about your relationship to Him today.

Looking at the Big Picture – Read Matthew 1 – 4.

As you read about the various events that Matthew chooses to describe in these opening chapters of his story of Jesus' life, why are these particularly important to him? (Mark and Luke also describe John the Baptist, the baptism and the time of temptation - Mark 1 and Luke 3 and 4)

Considering Some of the Details

1. Matthew 1: 1 – 17 – Jesus' Genealogy
Why was this an important way for Matthew to begin his presentation of the life of Jesus?

Matthew 1: 18 – 25 – Jesus' Birth
In Luke's Gospel, the focus is on Mary. Matthew really centers his story on Joseph. Why?
2. Matthew 2 – The Visit of the Magi and To Egypt and back
How many Old Testament prophecies are quoted in this chapter?
Why do you think this was important to Matthew? What does it indicate to you?
3. Matthew 3 – John the Baptist comes and Jesus' Baptism
How many Old Testament prophecies are quoted in this chapter?
What do you learn about who Jesus, God the Father and the Spirit of God in these accounts?
4. Matthew 4: 1 – 17 – Jesus' Time in the Wilderness, Calling 4 Disciples, Early Travels and Ministry
How do these stories add to the evidence that Jesus really is the Messiah-King?

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus –

1. As you read about the birth and beginning of Jesus' ministry, what does God want you to KNOW?
2. What truths does He desire to impress on your heart? What does He want you to BELIEVE?
3. Is there something that He is asking you to DO? To accept? To incorporate into your life?

Bonus – What would you say to someone who asked you, "Who do you believe Jesus Really Was?"

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Lesson 2 – “Blessed are you . . .”

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7: 24

SERMON #1 - Read Matthew 5, 6, and 7

As you begin - Find a quiet place without distractions or interruptions, where you can hear clearly what Jesus is saying to His disciples and also to the crowd which gathered around Him on the hillside. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up both your mind and your heart to listen, to really hear the King.

Looking at the Big Picture

1. If possible, listen to this message from Jesus being read audibly. Try to picture yourself on the that mountainside. In your imagination, what do you think that His first disciples were feeling? What was it like to be a spectator?
2. Take time to read the whole sermon out loud, with expression and emphasis – as if you had an audience.
3. What do you think that Jesus wanted His audience to KNOW that day? To grasp with their mind?

What do you think that Jesus wanted the disciples and the people to BELIEVE? To accept with their heart?

What do you think that Jesus wanted them to DO? Was He asking them to make any decisions with their will?

4. Throughout this discourse, Jesus often said, “You have heard that it was said, but I tell you . . .” What do you think Jesus was trying to accomplish in this lecture? What might have been His main goal or purpose?
5. Take note of any references to “the kingdom” and to God, the Father.

Considering Some of the Details -

1. Make a list of all of the topics that Jesus presented to His audience in this sermon. How would hearing this message from Jesus have helped them to consider the idea that He might be the Messiah for whom they were eagerly waiting?
2. As you review the content of His presentation, what are some of the rewards or promises that might have captivated the listeners or have made them eager to learn more about who Jesus was and what He had to offer them.

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus -

1. As you read this impacting message that Jesus spoke very early in His public ministry, what did the Holy Spirit impress on your mind? What does God want you to KNOW?
2. What truths does He desire to impress on your heart? What does He want you to BELIEVE?
3. Is there something that He is asking you to DO? To change? To live out?

Bonus – Write an editorial for the local newspaper or a letter to a friend, describing that day on the hillside with Jesus.

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Lesson 3 - "Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9: 36

CONVERSATIONS, MIRACLES and a CHALLENGE – Read Matthew 8, 9 and 10

As you begin – Find a quiet place where you can focus on how Jesus talks to a variety of people and what He wants to teach His closest companions – the 12 disciples.

Looking at the Big Picture

Part One – Traveling with Jesus - Matthew 8 – 9: 34 – Summarize briefly the 11 vignettes in these 2 chapters.

Part Two – A Mandate for His Disciples - Matthew 9: 35 through Chapter 10 –
What did Jesus want the disciples to do and to experience? (Mark 6: 8 – 11, Luke 9: 3 -5 and 10: 4 – 12)

Considering Some of the Details

1. As you re-read chapters 8 and 9, try to picture each one of the scenarios in your mind. What happened and what did He communicate to the individual or group of people? How did this establish his identity and desires?
2. As the disciples traveled with Jesus and watched these miracles and listened to His conversations, how would His words to them in Matthew 9:35 – 38 have helped them to understand His heart?
3. In Chapter 10 Jesus gives many foundational principles and guidelines to His chosen disciples for ministry. Spend some time discovering what He promised them, what He asked them to do, and what to expect.

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus –

1. As you review these accounts in Jesus life, what are some of the things that you feel He would want you to re-affirm that you KNOW to be true about who He is and what He came to do?
2. As you look at His miracles and the way that Matthew described Him, what would be some important concepts that are foundational to your understanding of Jesus' character and desires? What do you BELIEVE?
3. The words that Jesus spoke to His disciples in Matthew 10: 32 – 42 are very direct and challenging to anyone who wants to take them seriously. Are they true for you (for all believers) today? What are the implications? What is your response? What are your concerns? Is it time to hear what Jesus might be saying to you?

Bonus - Imagine that you are one of Jesus' disciples. Write a letter home to a friend, explaining the challenge, risks, and adventure that Jesus has asked you to do.

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Lesson 4 – “Come to Me . . .”

“Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.’” Matthew 11: 4 – 5

Questions and Answers - Read Matthew 11 and 12

As you begin – As you come to hear what Jesus says, find a quiet place where the noise and pressures of your life can be set aside for this important appointment with The King of Kings. Give Him all of your attention and He will meet with you.

Looking at the Big Picture –

Matthew 11 – Part One – Answering the question from John the Baptist and more about John’s identity

Matthew 12 – Part Two – More Lessons, Miracles and Conversations with the Pharisees

Considering Some of the Details

Part one – Matthew 11 (Luke 17: 18 – 35 and Luke 10: 13 – 15 and 21-22)

1. What do you remember about John the Baptist? (John 1: 6-34, 3:24-36 and Matt.14: 1 – 12)
How did Jesus satisfy John’s question concerning His identity as the Messiah, their King?
2. This may be the harshest words that Jesus has yet spoken to the crowd. What is He saying?
Why now? What are his warnings? What do you learn about the Kingdom of heaven?
3. There must have been others in the crowd who were ready to believe and needed encouraging words.
What does Jesus offer to them as He concludes His speech?

Part two – Matthew 12 – The Opposition Begins to Escalate (Mark 3: 20 – 35)

1. Why do you think the Pharisees are beginning to challenge the credibility and authority of Jesus?
What are the 4 accusations which they make against him in this chapter?
2. As you listen to Jesus respond to these religious leaders, what do you think his tone of voice and actions are communicating to them? How do the miracles add credence to His words?
3. What was Jesus communicating to the crowd and to His disciples in verses 46 – 50?

Responding Personally to the Words of Jesus -

Maybe you have some questions for Jesus, too. You might as well ask Him now because He already knows your thoughts. Many of our questions center on our willingness to submit to His authority, His way of doing things, or the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Go ahead. He wants you to listen and to give you some of the answers. Are you willing to wait and listen?

Bonus – Can you create a cartoon featuring the Pharisees’ questions or would you rather write a letter to the editor of the “Daily News”?

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Lesson 5 – The Kingdom of Heaven is Like . . .”

“And the disciples came and said to Jesus, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’

He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the

mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’” Matthew 13: 10 – 11

Seven Parables, More Miracles and Some Insights – Read Matthew 13, 14 and 15

As you begin – Find a quiet place where Jesus can tell you His stories. Why don’t you invite the Holy Spirit to come and help you unwrap the specific truths about God’s kingdom that are inside the simple and informal package of each story? His invitation is clear to those who will “understand with their ears and turn so that He can heal them”.

Looking at the Big Picture –

Matthew 13 - Seven Parables about the “Kingdom of Heaven” – Simple stories with profound truth

Matthew 14 and 15 – Six additional events, miracles and insights (Mark 6, 7 and 8)

Considering Some of the Details – What did Jesus say about His kingdom? What did He accomplish?

1. As you re-read each parable, think of your own name for it. What might Jesus be trying to illustrate in each one?

Parable 1

Parable 2

Parable 3

Parable 4

Parable 5

Parable 6

Parable 7

2. As you go back to chapters 14 and 15 –

How does Matthew picture Jesus in these 6 scenes? What are the disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders learning about Him?

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus –

As you reflect on both the parables and the miracles that Jesus performed as He moved toward His ultimate goal, what do you think He wants you to KNOW (in your mind) and to BELIEVE (in your heart)? How will these convictions influence your choices today and tomorrow?

Bonus– Take one or more of the events in Chapter 14 or 15 and illustrate it in some way – a picture, a sketch, or perhaps a collage of some kind. There are 7 options and they are all dramatic and visual!

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Lesson 6 – “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Matthew 16: 21

Advanced Discipleship Training – Read Matthew 16, 17, and 18

As you begin – How serious are you about receiving God’s instructions so that you are ready for the things “he has prepared for you”? Find a quiet place to study His Word and to hear what Jesus has to say about Himself, His kingdom and you.

Looking at the Big Picture –

Beginning in chapter 16 everything seems to intensify. Jesus begins to focus on the reality of His death and resurrection. The opposition is increasing. The disciples are coming to grips with the truths that Jesus is trying to teach them. It can’t be easy for anyone! Put yourself in the place of each group of people and try to imagine what they are able to hear and to understand. What are some of your observations and reactions?

Considering the Details – What did Jesus say to His disciples? What did He want them to understand?

1. Matthew 16: 5 – 12
2. Matthew 16: 13 – 20
3. Matthew 16: 21 – 28
4. Matthew 17: 1 – 13
5. Matthew 17: 14 – 23
6. Matthew 17: 24 – 27
7. Matthew 18: 1 – 9
8. Matthew 18: 10 – 14
9. Matthew 18: 15 – 20
10. Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus –

There’s so much to think about, isn’t there? Ask the Lord for 1 or 2 things on which to focus and spend time with the One who wants you to know Him intimately and to feel secure in His identity and His deep love for you.

Bonus – Try looking at life from Peter’s viewpoint at this time. He is named by Matthew in several of the events in these 3 chapters. He has had some very unusual experiences in the last few months. Write down some journal entries in his journal for him.

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Lesson 7 – “What Do You Want Me to Do for You?”

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

Matthew 20: 28

People, People, and More People - Read Matthew 19 and 20

As you begin – In that quiet place, why don't you take some time to think about your answer to His Jesus question – “What do you want Me to do for you?” Then talk over some of your thoughts, ideas and hopes with Him?

Looking at the Big Picture - Several Conversations

Jesus always seems to be able to balance the crowds, the small groups, and the individuals. How did He do it? When the disciples try to exert their influence and protect Him from the children, He welcomes them. When the crowd tries to quiet the blind men, He had compassion on him. As you read, think about the value that Jesus places on people and relationships.

Considering Some of the Details - What did Jesus say? What did He accomplish?

Six conversations with very different groups and individuals. Try to summarize what Jesus is communicating in each conversation. Be sure to notice the setting of each conversation.

1. Matthew 19: 1 – 12 – With the Pharisees
2. Matthew 19: 13 – 14 – With the disciples
3. Matthew 19: 15 – 20: 16 – With the Young Man and the disciples
4. Matthew 20: 17 – 19 – With the disciples
5. Matthew 20: 20 – 28 – With the mother of James and John
6. Matthew 20: 29 – 34 – With the 2 blind men

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus –

There seems to be an emphasis in some of these conversations about position, service, wealth, and rights. What other words would you add to these? Listen with your heart and your mind to what God may be wanting to show you. It would be a risk, but if you're willing, you could even ask the Lord as the rich young man did, “What do I still lack?” Do you want to hear His answer?

Bonus – How could you re-write the parable of the workers in a current setting for today?

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Lesson 8 – “What Do You Think about the Christ?”

“When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew He was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest Him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that He was a prophet.”
Matthew 21: 45 – 46

BIG QUESTIONS and HONEST ANSWERS - Read Matthew 21 and 22

As you begin – Find your quiet place where you can hear the words of Jesus, where you can listen with your ears, your mind, and your heart. Ask Him to speak to you through His Word today.

Looking at the Big Picture –

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the adoration of the crowds further infuriated the religious leaders. They become even more intent on finding a way to incriminate Him. As you study their questions, think about how Jesus answers them and in the process teaches everyone about His kingdom, His attitudes and His identity.

Considering some of the details – What did Jesus say? What did He accomplish?

The Sadducees counted on their wealth, power and status. The Pharisees counted on their education and position. The scribes and chief priests were often lawyers and interpreters of the law.

Question #1 – From the crowds – Matthew 21: 1 – 11

Question #2 – From the chief priests – Matthew 21: 12 – 17

Question #3 – From the disciples - Matthew 21: 18 – 22

Question #4 – From the chief priests - Matthew 21: 23 – 27 –

Parable # 1 – Matthew 21: 18 - 32

Parable # 2 – Matthew 21: 33 – 46

Parable # 3 - Matthew 22: 1 – 14

Question #5 – From the Pharisees and Herodians – Matthew 22: 15 – 22

Question #6 – From the Sadducees - Matthew 22: 23 – 33

Question #7 – From the Pharisees - Matthew 22: 34 – 40

Question #8 - Jesus asks a question of the Pharisees – Matthew 22: 41 – 46

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus -

What are your questions? It is safe to express them. He is ready to listen and to help you discover some answers. Is there anything that distracts you from believing Jesus? Let Him reassure you today of His goodness, His mercy, and His love for you.

Bonus – How can you create a sign, poem, song or something that will help you focus on God’s first and greatest commandment? Or would it be more helpful to concentrate on the second one? (Deuteronomy 6: 4 – 9)

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Lesson 9 - "Woe to You!"

"For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'"
Matthew 23: 38

Exposing the Hypocrisy of the Religious Leaders - Read Matthew 23

As you begin – If you're ready to be corrected by the Lord, tell Him that you are willing to listen to His words of instruction, correction, and admonition. It might not be easy, but it will be worth it! He will gather you under His wings and take care of you in very special ways.

Looking at the Big Picture –

"Our Lord reserved His strongest and longest sermon not for struggling sinners, discouraged disciples or prosperous people, but for hypocrites, glory hogs, and legalists." (Swindoll) Why do you think this is so important to read?

Considering Some of the Details – What did Jesus say? What did He accomplish?

1. Jesus explains his grievances against the teachers of the law and the Pharisees to the crowd and the disciples.
Matt. 23: 1 – 12

2. Jesus then speaks directly to those whom He is accusing – the religious leaders.

Accusation #1 – 23: 13 – 14

Accusation #2 – 23: 15

Accusation #3 – 23: 16 – 22

Accusation #4 – 23: 23 – 24

Accusation #5 – 23: 25 – 26

Accusation #6 – 23: 27 – 28

Accusation #7 – 23: 29 – 32

An additional warning - 23: 33 – 36

3. Finally, Jesus shows a very tender spirit towards those who have so despicably rejected Him - Matthew 23: 37 – 39. Why do you think He did that? What gave Him the strength to do it?

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus -

Where do you see the possibility that some of these tendencies might be in our churches and in sincere believers today? Are there any accusations that you might want to consider more carefully? It might take some quiet meditation and an honest heart before you're ready to admit your need.

Bonus – How could you respond creatively to this lesson? Surprise yourself – and maybe all of us!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT JESUS SAID?

Lesson 10 – “Therefore, Keep Watch”

They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.
He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call and will gather His elect . . .” Matthew 24: 31

A Look In To the Future - Read Matthew 24 and 25

As you begin – Just as the disciples came to Jesus privately with their questions with their questions about the future, you are invited to come and sit with Him so that you can talk together. How do you want to open up your conversation today?

Looking at the Big Picture – (Parallel passages are found in Mark 13 and Luke 21)

The disciples are probably asking one question, not two, because they would have assumed that with the destruction of the temple, it would mean the end of the age and the time when the new kingdom would be established. We know that there has been a major time gap between those events, so the second part of their question, the part that Jesus’ describes in these 2 chapters, is still in the future.

Considering Some of the Details – What did Jesus say? What did He accomplish?

1. Be careful! – What are the specific warnings that Jesus gives to His disciples?
2. Be watchful! – How does Jesus describe the time of His return?
3. “Keep watch” illustrated – Parable 1 – Matthew 25: 1 – 13 – What is the point?
4. “Watch out” illustrated – Parable 2 – Matthew 25: 14 – 28 – What is the point?
5. Be ready! – Matthew 25: 29 – 46 – What is Jesus clearly telling His disciples their actions?
6. Take time to go back and read these 2 chapters again. Reading them out loud would be helpful. What do you think the disciples heard the most clearly from this time together?

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus

“Coming Again! Coming Again! Maybe morning, maybe noon, maybe evening and maybe soon!”

The hymn writer captures some of the impact of our study, doesn’t He? What would the Holy Spirit like to impress on you in the circumstances of your life right now? Listen to His voice . . . and then take heed!

Bonus – What do you want your grandchildren (or great grandchildren) to know about heaven and about the second coming of Jesus? How does the promise of His return bring you hope, joy and comfort? Write down some of your thoughts and put the paper in a file for the next generations to read some day.

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Lesson 11 – “Your Will Be Done”

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, He said to His disciples, 'As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'"

Matthew 26: 1 – 2

Intimate Moments with Jesus - Read Matthew 26

As you begin – Think back on the things that Matthew has explained to you about who Jesus is and what He, the Son of God, came to do so that you could have a restored relationship with Him. With gratefulness and awe, spend some time reflecting on Jesus' love for you and for the world.

Looking at the Big Picture – (Parallel passages in Mark 14 and Luke 22)

Imagine what these few days were like for the disciples as they listened to Jesus and watched Him deal with the realities of the escalating opposition and then the arrest. What did they recall in these hours that Jesus had told them?

Considering Some of the Details –

These stories are familiar but take your time to be present with Jesus and His disciples during these final hours before His death. What did He want His disciples to know, to believe, to experience? How did He prepare them for what was coming?

1. Some counsel for His disciples – 26: 1 - 13
2. What happened to Judas? – 26: 14 – 16
3. During the Passover Supper – 26: 17 – 30 (Mark 14: 12 – 31, Luke 21: 7 – 13, 22: 14 – 34)
4. A moment of truth – 26: 31 - 35
5. in Gethsemane with His disciples - 26: 36 – 46 –
6. The Arrest of Jesus – 26: 47 – 56 – In these intense moments of purpose and determination, how does Jesus respond to Judas, to His opponents and to the crowd?
7. With Caiaphas, the high priest, and the Sanhedrin – 26: 57 – 67
Why did Jesus use silence and only a simple statement in response to their accusations? What were His options?
8. What happened to Peter? – 26: 69 – 75

There is a startling verse in Matthew 26: 56. Why did the disciples leave Him? Could it be a warning?

Responding Personally to the words of Jesus

Why was Jesus willing to leave His place and position in The Kingdom of Heaven? Take it in – every day. Think about it. Talk about it with your friends and family. What is your response to Him?

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Lesson 12 – “My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.” Matthew 27: 50

Will He rise again? - Read Matthew 27

As you begin – The chief priests and the Pharisees were successful. Pilate allowed the pressure of the crowds and the religious leaders to influence him. But, in the end, it was Jesus who willingly came from heaven to become a man, to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to this earth, and to allow Himself to be crucified in order to pay the penalty for your sinfulness and mine. How could it be? For you – He died. For you!

Looking at the Big Picture – (Parallel passages – Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 18:29 – 19:16)
Here’s the heart of what it means to be a believer in Jesus, the Son of God. Read this chapter as many times this week as you possibly can – morning, noon and night – so that you begin to absorb the reality of Jesus’ suffering and death.

Considering Some of the Details –

It’s not what Jesus said, but what He didn’t say during these excruciating hours. What are your observations?

1. A sad story – Matthew 27: 1 – 10
2. With Pilate, the governor – 27: 11 – 26 – One sentence and then silence. Why?
3. Cruelty and the Crucifixion – 27: 27 - 44
4. It’s the end and yet the beginning – 27: 45 – 56
5. Jesus’ Burial and the Need for a Guard – 27: 57 - 66

Big questions - Now what? What’s next?

Responding Personally to the One who gave His life for you -

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh – Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid – Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain.

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my Light, my Strength, my Song.
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

In Christ Alone! – Have you placed your trust in Him? Do you trust Him with your circumstances even today?

Bonus- How can you creatively illustrate the events of that night?

DID YOU HEAR WHAT JESUS SAID?

Lesson 13 – “Go and Make Disciples”

“Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell. . .’ ” Matthew 28:9 – 10

Jesus Is Alive and Well - Matthew 28

As you begin – Some people are surprised and thrilled and will never be the same again. Other people are equally shocked but once again, they are content to live their lives in deception and denial. How do you want to live your life? Talk with the Savior about your heart’s desires and your need for Him to give you His truth and His strength.

Looking at the Big Picture – (Parallel passages in Mark 16: 1 – 8 and Luke 24: 1 – 10)

“Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory sin’s curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death – this is the power of Christ in me.
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

Considering Some of the Details –

1. To the women – The angel and Jesus both spoke to them at the empty tomb – 28: 1 - 15
What do you think this experience was like for them? How did they respond?
2. Jesus’ final instructions – Matthew 28: 16 – 20
His first words were – “All authority” – what do you think this meant to the disciples?
3. What do the following passages add to Matthew’s account?
Mark 16: 14 – 18

Luke 24: 36 – 49

John 20: 19 – 23

Acts 1: 6 – 89
4. What are the 4 instructions in the Great Commission?
5. What is the wonderful promise Jesus gave to His disciples? Did this motivate and encourage them?

Responding Personally to the challenge given by the Risen Christ -

How seriously do you take these final instructions given by Jesus? Are they for you and me today?

Bonus – Think about the whole Gospel of Matthew. This is your chance to put into words some of the ways this study has influenced your thinking about The King and His Kingdom.

“May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Matt. 6: 10 NLT