



Matthew

BOOK 2

*Long Live the
Blessed King!*

Study Guide Notes:

Each week will be split up into five sections. Here is a guide to each section.

SERMON NOTES

Each Sunday morning, we will be studying a part of the passage in detail during the services. This area is designed for notes and to write down any questions you might have for later study. If you miss a Sunday, you can watch the sermon on our YouTube page at @fellowshipchurchplumcreek.



Reading the Scripture Together:

We will start out time together with reading through our Scripture passage for the week,

Walking thru the Scripture Together:



We will dive into more study and follow up questions in this section. This section will take you the longest to complete but will give background on the passage and cover more thoroughly the passage than a Sunday morning will allow.



Let's Sit and Talk Together

We have designed some questions for discussion in your group or with others to dive deeper into understanding the book of Matthew.



We will be looking at Jesus Christ our Blessed King throughout this series. This section is designed to give you a glimpse into the kingship of Jesus and to point out the way the world, unknowingly, copies the design of Jesus.

A resource of fellowship church @ plum creek

Matthew – Long Live the Blessed King

Matthew 8:27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Week 8	Matthew 8:18-34	Cost Analysis:	pg. 4
Week 9	Matthew 9:9-13,10:1-15	The Call of the Disciples	pg. 10
Week 10	Matthew 9:14-38	Healing of the Broken	pg. 17
Week 11	Matthew 10:16-42	Handling Persecutions	pg. 23
Week 12	Matthew 11:1-12:14	Learning to Rest	pg. 30
Week 13	Matthew 12:15-50	Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit	pg. 38
Week 14	Matthew 13:1-43	Parables Explained	pg. 46
Week 15	Matthew 13:44-58	More Treasures	pg. 53
Week 16	Matthew 14:1-33	Jesus Walking	pg. 60
Week 17	Matthew 15:1-31	Dealing with Traditions	pg. 67

Week 8 ... Cost Analysis:



Following Jesus

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 8

WEEK 8 . . . Cost Analysis: Following Jesus



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 8:18–34

The Cost of Following Jesus

[18] Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. [19] And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." [20] And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." [21] Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." [22] And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

Jesus Calms a Storm

[23] And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. [24] And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. [25] And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." [26] And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. [27] And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Jesus Heals Two Men with Demons

[28] And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. [29] And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" [30] Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. [31] And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." [32] And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. [33] The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. [34] And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Walking thru the Scripture Together



When one thinks of following a King, one could easily dream up all kinds of creaturely comforts and perks. However, King Jesus creates some discomfort even in His replies to two would-be disciples.

[19] And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” [20] And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

When Jesus replied about foxes and birds, His point was that even the Son of Man doesn’t have a home, much less any perks. To Jesus, discipleship is quite inconvenient and uncomfortable. Therefore, He embraces it because of its worth!

What do you think of Jesus’ reply to the one who said he needed to bury his father? Make as many observations as you can.

[21] Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” [22] And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

Does it seem harsh? What, possibly, was Jesus’ point? What is His point to you today?

Then the disciples followed Jesus into a boat resulting in quite a fearful experience. Following King Jesus could very well be more than just inconvenient or uncomfortable. It could be dangerous.

[23] And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. [24] And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. [25] And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” [26] And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. [27] And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

What were your thoughts on how this scene played out?

After the stormy experience, Matthew writes about two demon-possessed men. The disciples had followed Jesus into uncomfortable situations, dangerous circumstances, and now a scary scene involving the supernatural.

There were three characteristics about these demon-possessed men that most demoniacs portray:

1. They had a thing about death – living among the tombs.
2. They had supernatural strength – fierce enough to drive everyone away.
3. They had supernatural knowledge – they knew that Jesus was the Son of God, and they knew the plight of their future.

Luke describes this scene in **Luke 8:35** as follows: “Then the people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.”

How has Jesus changed you so that you find yourself sitting at His feet? How can you use your story to encourage another person struggling with life?

Luke 10:38–42 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. [40] But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” [41] But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, [42] but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

How does this story encourage you to sit at Jesus’ feet?

The country of the Gadarenes was populated mostly by Gentiles whose economy was supported by pork. What happened to the pigs in this scene?

These Gentiles begged Jesus to leave. What seemed to be more important to these Gentiles even after they saw that Jesus had performed this miracle?

How does economy, money or other things get in the way of people in the modern world when it comes to accepting Jesus?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

Talk with your group about Jesus' reply to the disciples when they woke Him in the boat. How would you have reacted to the storm? How would you have responded to Jesus' remarks about you having little faith?

How would you rather respond to present day "storms"?

It is not a sin to be comfortable. Jesus' point in this passage is not that we should seek suffering in order to please Him. He gives us good gifts to enjoy. (See James 1:17) However, comfort can become an idol. What comforts get in the way of following Jesus for you?

Being saved from the penalty of sin requires us to believe in Jesus. (See John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9) Following Jesus as a disciple requires the believer to be willing to give up things that hinder us from following. This is hard to do. We need wisdom, guidance from the Holy Spirit, council from other believers, and much prayer for strength. Now is a good time to pray for one another regarding these things.



Kingdom Thoughts:

Following a king is vital to the working of a kingdom and is necessary to the functioning of the kingdom,

- Following Jesus, the King, is more important than our comfort. It will cost us comfort.
- Following Jesus, the King, is more important than our safety. It could cost us physically.
- Following Jesus, the King, is more important than our security. Thank God, our true security is in King Jesus, Himself!

*Week 9 ...
The Call of
the Disciples*



SERMON NOTES – WEEK 9

WEEK 9 ... The Call of the Disciples



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 9:9–13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. [10] And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. [11] And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” [12] But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. [13] Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (ESV)

Matthew 10:1–15

[1] And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. [2] The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; [3] Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4] Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

[5] These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, [6] but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [7] And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. [9] Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, [10] no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. [11] And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. [12] As you enter the house, greet it. [13] And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. [14] And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. [15] Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Walking thru the Scripture Together



The word “calling” is often misunderstood in the church today. This week, we will be looking at Jesus as He calls his disciples to follow him.

How would you define the calling of God?

Here is a proposed definition of calling:

Calling – def. God’s initiating invitation to participate in His redemptive work

What do the Scriptures below teach us about calling?

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **Romans 11:29** For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- **2 Peter 1:10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
- **John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

When Jesus began to call the disciples, he called them all in similar way. He said “Follow me.” In your mind, what does this invitation mean?

One of the most controversial invitations into the group of twelve was Matthew, the tax collector. Let's glance back at it again.

Matthew 9:9–13 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. [10] And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. [11] And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" [12] But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. [13] Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Tax collectors were considered traitors to the nation. Look at these two rabbinical quotes:

- *The rabbis taught that tax collectors were disqualified witnesses in court, societal outcasts, and utter disgraces to their own family (see Sanhedrin, 25b).*
- *The rabbis excommunicated tax collectors from the synagogue (Nedarim 3.4).*

Jesus called an outcast to be a part of his twelve. There were other outcasts too.

Matthew 10:1-5 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. [2] The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; [3] Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4] Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Which names above would you consider outcasts?

We have a zealot and we have a bunch of fishermen who were not good enough to follow a rabbi, so they worked with their father on the boat. God can and does call the forgotten and the hated to be His followers.

Have you ever felt like an outcast? When?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

Have you ever felt a calling of God? If so, explain below.

Jesus not only called the disciples, but he sent them out.

Matthew 10:5-15 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, [6] but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [7] And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. [9] Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, [10] no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. [11] And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. [12] As you enter the house, greet it. [13] And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. [14] And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. [15] Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

What part of Jesus’ instructions for going out is the most interesting to you? Why?

For me, God sent them out with a clear message and nothing of this world. They had to trust in God’s provision in each village. In Mark 6, we see the excited disciples return. Notice Jesus’ response to them.

Mark 6:30–31 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. [31] And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

Jesus told them to get away and rest. We are going to talk about rest in a few weeks but how do you spend your down time at home to rest?

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

A king, no matter how great or small, brings in an inner circle of advisors and counsellors to be by his side to reign more effectively. Leaders must do the same. Kings and leaders without a support will fall.

Jesus modeled this idea but not because he needed help.

Jesus called the twelve to train them to carry on the mission of God after he ascended into heaven. To make a long-lasting impact, a good king develops leaders to carry on the mission.

What is your mission as a disciple of the King?

Jesus, the Blessed King, that reigns forever, developed his apostles to lead on His behalf through the power of the Holy Spirit. We, as His children, are called to carry on this gospel centered discipleship and mission.



Week 10 ...

Healing of the Broken

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 10

WEEK 10 . . . Healing the Broken



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 9:14–38

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” [15] And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. [16] No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. [17] Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

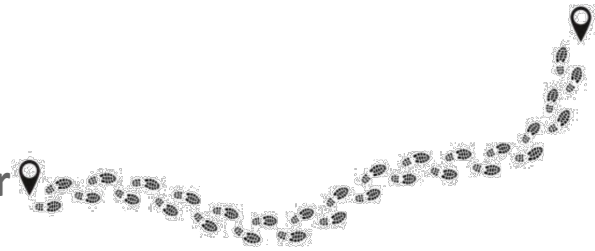
[18] While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” [19] And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. [20] And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, [21] for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” [22] Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. [23] And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, [24] he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. [25] But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. [26] And the report of this went through all that district.

[27] And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” [28] When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” [29] Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” [30] And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.” [31] But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

[32] As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. [33] And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” [34] But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Walking thru the Scripture Together



Jesus' compassion fills this text as he ministers to the people in Capernaum. When John's disciples came to Him regarding the question of fasting, Jesus' reply led to illustrations of His ministry versus the Pharisees' ministry. Let's look more closely.

When John's disciples asked Jesus why His disciples did not fast, what was Jesus' reply in your own words?

There is no need for mourning when the King is present!

Then Jesus gives two illustrations that reveal the difference between His ministry and that of the Pharisees, whom John's disciples brought up in their question. What is the relation between the new patch and the old garment? The new wine and the old wineskins?

Jesus' ministry did not fit the ministry of the Pharisees. They were incompatible with each other. The Pharisees taught salvation by works, and Jesus taught salvation by grace.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
- **Titus 3:5**, "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

Jesus has such compassion for us! It is solely by His grace that we can be saved by faith. Our works have nothing to do with being saved from the penalty of sin and made ready for heaven. If our works could help save us, then Jesus' death was insufficient. Praise God that His death satisfied God's wrath for sin! It is only by faith that we can be saved.

The next few verses show Jesus' compassion as He heals five people: a dead daughter, a hemorrhaging lady, two blind men, and a demon-oppressed mute. There is something common among these five instances: they each approached Jesus. His presence means He is always approachable. He desires for us to come to Him, sit at His feet, worship, seek His heart, know Him, and be healed by Him.

In Matthew 9:35, Jesus is doing three things. What are they?

Each of those things are others-oriented. Jesus spent most of His time meeting the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional needs of people. In your own words, why did Jesus have compassion on those people?

Jesus was not alone when this happened. Who was with Him?

Jesus is passionate for people, especially those who suffer. His response to the suffering Jews in Capernaum was nothing less than extraordinary. He did not establish a fundraiser, create a protest march, or seek legislation change for the suffering. Their suffering was deeper than that. It was spiritual abuse and emotional trauma. They were beaten down by religious leaders who twisted the Old Testament to remain in control.

What specifically was Jesus' response—His plan to eliminate their suffering?

The area surrounding the Sea of Galilee was the healthiest place on the planet. Jesus had healed all their sicknesses and diseases! He definitely cares for their physical wellbeing. However, it was their spiritual poverty that broke Him emotionally in front of His disciples. They saw incredible compassion for the hearts of people and that compassion began to change them.



Let's Sit and Talk Together

What do we, Christians in small groups, normally ask for prayer the most?

Jesus said that His disciples did not need to fast (mourn) because He was with them on earth. They would fast when He is taken away from them. Read what Paul stated in **2 Timothy 4:8** regarding those who love Jesus' coming:

"Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

What was Paul confident in as he looked lovingly forward to the coming of Jesus?

What do you think he meant by “loved his appearing”? How do we love His appearing?

Jesus was passionate for people so much so that He willingly sacrificed His life for His people. This is what made Jesus tick. It’s what drove Him. Glorifying His Father by loving people compassionately. Let this motivate your prayer requests tonight.

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

A compassionate king is a rare gift to a kingdom. Many times, kings get caught up in the affairs and duties of a leader and forget about the people. Not Jesus! Sometimes the church can forget about the people all around them that need the compassion and love of Jesus.

Kingly Challenge this Week:

- Can we commit to praying for the spiritual poverty of our community, that God would send out more laborers to reach them. And we must realize that we are the answer to our own prayer!
- Can you share the love of Christ with someone this week?
- How can you share the compassion of Christ with someone this week?



Week 11 ...

Handling Persecution

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 11

WEEK 11 . . . Healing the Broken



Reading the Scripture Together

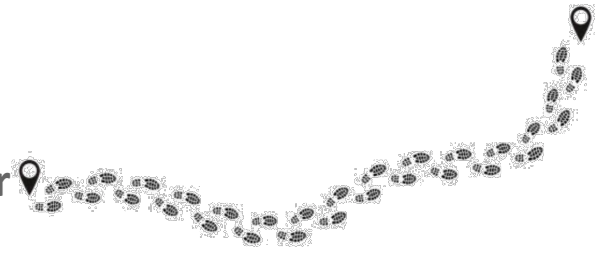
Matthew 10:16–42

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. [17] Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, [18] and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. [19] When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. [20] For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. [21] Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, [22] and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [23] When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. [24] “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. [25] It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

[26] “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. [27] What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. [28] And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30] But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. [32] So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, [33] but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. [34] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. [35] For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. [36] And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. [37] Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

[40] “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. [41] The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. [42] And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Walking thru the Scripture Together



In the opening verse of this week's Scripture, we see an interesting phrase.

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

What do you think this means?

Many people recoil at this simile because of the serpent reference. Typically, in Jesus' day a serpent was considered crafty and persuasive while a dove is considered innocent and pure. We all want to be a dove, but Jesus is contrasting the two. Remember his reference to wolves and sheep in the beginning of the verse. Jesus is telling us to be persuasive and smart while living above reproach in our methods.

What emotions come forward when you think about persecution for your faith?

[24] "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. [25] It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household."

Jesus lines out the calling of a disciple in these verses. What does it mean to be a disciple?

We are called to be like Jesus. Jesus faced opposition and so will we as followers of Him. Do you have a fear of what verses 16 through 25 are describing? Which part causes you the most alarm?

Persecution is one of those things that we have to endure but not enjoy.

[26] “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. [27] What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. [28] And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

What is Jesus encouraging us to do in the above verses?

Jesus is referencing back to the Sermon on the Mount to encourage us in these next few verses.

[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30] But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

We have value in the kingdom of God. How are these verse comforting in the midst of persecution?

This week’s passage is full of challenging verses. Look at verse 37-39 below.

[37] Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What is Jesus teaching us in these verses?

The key to enduring persecution is the love we have for Jesus. Is Jesus our #1? Do we follow Jesus for the approval of others or as long as the sailing is smooth, or is Jesus our focal point of life? How would you answer that question?

When you love Jesus beyond everything of this world then we will be better husbands, wives, mothers and fathers, friends and neighbors. Jesus is the key to love and compassion. How does loving Jesus first make you better in these areas?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

The challenge of loving Jesus with all our heart, mind, soul and strength in today's world is distractions. What things in your life distract you from following Jesus 100%?

How do the verses below encourage you in maintaining focus?

- **Psalm 119:15** I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
- **1 Corinthians 7:35** I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Steps in Avoiding Distractions:

1. Recognize the activity and its effects on you. (if this is difficult ask someone close to you to help)
2. Take practical steps to avoid the activity.
3. Memorize Scripture to help with the battle in your mind.
4. Share your conviction with a friend to help hold you accountable.

The biggest challenge in avoiding distractions is YOU and ME. We do not want to get rid of our distractions because we do not love Jesus that much. We love our distractions more if we are honest. Do you think this is true about you?

At the end of our Scripture passage today, we see the idea of eternal rewards.

[40] "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. [41] The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. [42] And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

What is your idea or concept of heavenly rewards from this passage?



Kingdom Thoughts:

A good king rewards those who faithfully serve him. We understand this concept from our work place environment. We know those who work hard and deserve the promotion and it is shocking when someone else ascends to the position.

Jesus is a good and blessed King. He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

- **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)
- **James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
- **Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

How do these verses encourage you today?

Week 12 ...

Learning to rest

R E S T

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 12

WEEK 12... Learning to Rest



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 11

[1] When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

[2] Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3] and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” [4] And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5] the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. [6] And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

[7] As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [8] What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. [9] What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10] This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

[11] Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12] From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered 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 accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15] He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

[16] “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, [17] “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ [18] For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ [19] The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

[20] Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. [21] “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [23] And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [24] But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

[25] At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; [26] yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. [27] All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. [28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (ESV)

Matthew 12:1–14

[1] At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. [2] But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” [3] He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: [4] how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? [5] Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? [6] I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. [7] And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. [8] For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

A Man with a Withered Hand

[9] He went on from there and entered their synagogue. [10] And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. [11] He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? [12] Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” [13] Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. [14] But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

What part of the passage was most meaningful to you?

Walking thru the Scripture Together



Jesus started our section of Scripture with an interesting verse.

When Jesus finished instructing the twelve disciples...

Jesus was constantly instructing the disciples in the Way. Oh, how I wish we could have been part of those discussions. John, the beloved disciple, even mentions this at the end of his gospel.

- **John 21:25** Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

What do you think it was like following Jesus in the flesh?

When John, while he was imprisoned by Herod, heard about all that Jesus had done he asked Jesus, through his own disciples, a question. Are you the One? What did he mean? Are you the King?

**And Jesus' answer was yes but his kingdom is not of this world.
Not yet at least!**

Jesus puts together a quote using several different Old Testament passages. His message is “Look at what I am doing? I am bringing a mixture of hope and offense.” Notice his quote out of Isaiah 8 below.

- **Isaiah 8:14** And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

How do people "take offense" at Jesus in today's world?

It seems like it doesn't matter what Jesus does because the Pharisees have made up their minds because Jesus is shaking up the system.

[7] As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [8] What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9] What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10] This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

[11] Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12] From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered 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 accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15] He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

What a proclamation of Jesus about John. What sticks out to you from the passage above?

Jesus points out their hypocrisy in the next few verses, [18] For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' [19] The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets, who lived a clean and radical life was called a demon. Jesus who does even greater works than John, comes living as one of them and they spit insults at him. They think they are seeing but they are blind guides.

We all have blind spots. Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you see the areas where you have seen things wrong. Journal your thoughts out below.

Jesus makes a remarkable statement to end our week of study.

[21] "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [23] And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [24] But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

Write down the comparisons listed in the passage above:

_____ & _____ vs _____ & _____
_____ & _____

Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum – base camp for most of Jesus' ministry around the Sea of Galilee, also the hometown of Peter, Andrew and Philip

- [John 1:44](#) Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- Feeding of the 5000 and healing of the blind man all took place here

Tyre and Sidon – Phoenician cities, enemies of Israel, that were overthrown by Babylon and Greece were considered cursed by God but they were willing to hear Jesus.

Sodom - many people have heard about the depravity in Sodom and Gomorrah. You can read more about it in Genesis 19. God's judgement ends in destruction.

What do you think Jesus meant by the comparisons in these verses?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

Speaking of comparisons, do you struggle with comparison in your life? **Yes or No!**

In what areas does comparison typically show up?

What does the Bible say about comparison? Look through the verses below and comment on what each one is teaching about comparison.

- **2 Corinthians 10:12** Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.
- **Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Why is comparison a dangerous thing to focus on in our lives?

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

The world likes to compare nations, kingdoms and kings. It is natural to make lists and to look for the GOAT (greatest of all time). The Bible makes sure that there is no argument about the GOAT.

Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. no one compares to Him.

- **Jeremiah 10:6** There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and great is Your name in might.
- **1 Samuel 2:2** "There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

What makes Jesus the greatest for you personally?

Week 13 ...

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit



SERMON NOTES – WEEK 13

WEEK 13 . . . Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit



Reading the Scripture Together

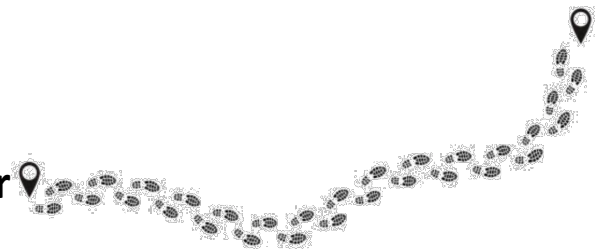
Matthew 12:15–50

God’s Chosen Servant

[15] Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all [16] and ordered them not to make him known. [17] This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: [18] “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. [19] He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; [20] a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; [21] and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

What does this section from Isaiah teach us about Jesus and His character?

Walking thru the Scripture Together



Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

[22] Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. [23] And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” [24] But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” [25] Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. [26] And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? [27] And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. [28] But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. [29] Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. [30] Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. [31] Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32] And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is one of the most interesting topics to talk about in the New Testament.

There is mystery surrounding the topic so let's jump straight into it.

Blasphemy - calling something God that is not God.

Jesus was accused of this as He was walking on the earth. I have heard atheist make the accusation that Jesus never claimed to be God and that His Deity is just a part of myth or legend. Currently, I (Chris) am on a plane typing this lesson and I just finished the DaVinci Code, a book that shook some in the church because of its supposed historicity. Dan Brown, the author, claims that the council of Nicaea invented Jesus' deity to protect Rome and the church. I guess they have never read the Bible.

Read the passage below and see if you can spot Jesus' claim to be God.

John 8:48-59 The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

This is not the only "I am" statement that Jesus makes. He makes seven in the book of John alone. "I am" is the name God gave Moses for Himself. The crowd picked up stones to kill Jesus because they believed he was blaspheming in claiming the I AM name. Here is another interesting passage that we read earlier in our study.

Mark 2:3-12 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic- 11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

How does this next passage point to Jesus claiming to be God?

Perhaps you used Verse 10 where it says "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and only God can forgive sins. Or maybe verse 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" The people present believed He was committing blasphemy by claiming to be God. Why don't we believe it?

There are many more examples throughout Jesus' ministry that we could point to, but Jesus claimed to be God and proved his claim by conquering death and rising from the dead.

The context of our main passage for this week is the healing of the blind and mute man. People began to ask the question, "Can this be the Messiah, the son of David?" The Pharisees make a bold insult towards Jesus, which they became fond of as time went on, that he is healing by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons.

These verses would seem to imply that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is attributing the works of God through the Holy Spirit to satan our enemy.

Let's look back at our passage.

25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"

Remember, Jesus just healed a demon possessed man. His point is that kingdoms fall when the leadership is divided,

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

Jesus does a clever thing here. He makes a simple point. Are you going to use the same criteria for your sons when they do the miraculous, you cannot call one a work of God and the same act a work of the enemy.

28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

If Jesus is from God, they have a problem because they are opposing the work of God and the kingdom of God is at hand.

29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

The analogy here is that the one who casts out demons must be stronger than the one he tells to leave. Jesus and the spirit of God at work in him is more powerful than the demons. We know that they are different degrees of demons. Verses like Ephesians 6:10-18 point out that our battle is against the rulers, authorities, cosmic power, elemental spirits and more. But Jesus is greater than all.

30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

The warning here is that we need to be careful not to miss the work of God and especially not praising pagan things for what God Himself is doing. This could be as obvious as our passage today where they are literally claiming Jesus is using the power of the devil or as subtle as taking credit for what God is doing in our lives (pride) instead of giving Him the praise.



Let's Sit and Talk Together

A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

[33] “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. [34] You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [35] The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. [36] I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, [37] for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Give a practical example of the idea behind “a tree is known by its fruit.”

Jesus challenges us that we will all give an account for every careless word. Does this give you comfort or alarm? Explain.

The Sign of Jonah

[38] Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” [39] But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40] For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41] The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. [42] The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Jesus is prophesying about His death and resurrection in these verses. He uses two main examples. First example was Jonah and the people of Nineveh.

- **Jonah 3:1–5** Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, [2] “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” [3] So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. [4] Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” [5] And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

Something greater than Jonah is here. How does the story of Jonah point out this fact?

The second example is of the queen of the South, better known as the Queen of Sheba.

1 Kings 10:1–5 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. [2] She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. [3] And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. [4] And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, [5] the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

How can you tell from the passage that she was blown away by the wisdom of Solomon?

Something greater than Solomon is here. JESUS!

Return of an Unclean Spirit

[43] “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. [44] Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. [45] Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.” [46] While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. [48] But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” [49] And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! [50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

When have you seen people take credit for the things that God was doing in their life? Can you think of an example?

In the story of the healing of the paralytic, what part of that story is the most inspiring to you and why? Was it the friends ripping off the roof to bring their friend, or Jesus’ calm answer to dissenting, or the joy of the paralytic who has new life in Jesus?

The I AM statements of Jesus

I am the bread of life - John 6
I am the light of the world - John 8
I am the door - John 10
I am the good shepherd - John 10

I am the resurrection and the life - John 11
I am the way, the truth and the life - John 14
I am the true vine - John 15

Which of these is most meaningful to you? Why?

Challenge: Try memorizing the seven I am statements of Jesus with their reference in John.

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

The name of the king is important information to know. No king likes to have his work attributed to another. Especially his rival or nemesis. Jesus is no different. Satan deserves no praise.

Jesus has no rival!

...get one taste of it, but others would (see 20:9-19; see also note on Mt 21:41).
14:26 hate father and mother. A vivid hyperbole, meaning that one must love Jesus even more than one's immediate family (see Mal 1:2-3 for another use of the

... See Mt 10:37 and note on Mal 1:3.
14:27 carry their cross. See 9:23; Mt 10:38
14:28 estimate the cost. Jesus did naive commitment that expected a builder estimates costs or a king expects of his followers before they come to him.

PARABLES OF JESUS

PARABLE	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	PARABLE	MATTHEW	MARK
Lamp under a bowl	5:14-15	4:21-22	8:16; 11:33	Ten virgins	25:1-13	
Wise and foolish builders	7:24-27		6:47-49	Bags of gold (minas)	25:14-30	
New cloth on an old coat	9:16	2:21	5:36	Sheep and goats	25:31-46	
New wine in old wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38	Growing seed		4:26-29
Sower and the soils	13:3-8, 18-23	4:3-8, 14-20	8:5-8, 11-15	Watchful servants		13:35-37
Weeds	13:24-30, 36-43			Moneylender		12:7-4
Mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19	Good Samaritan		10:3-11:5-
Yeast	13:33		13:20-21	Friend in need		12:16-13:6-9
Hidden treasure	13:44			Rich fool		14:7-14:16-2
Valuable pearl	13:45-46			Unfruitful fig tree		14:28-30
Net	13:47-50			Seats and invitations		15:8-10
Owner of a house	13:52			Great banquet		15:11-32
Lost sheep	18:12-14			Cost of discipleship		16:1-8
Unmerciful servant	18:23-34	15:4-7		Lost coin		16:19-31
Workers in the vineyard	20:1-16			Lost (prodigal) son		17:7-10
Two sons	21:28-32			Shrewd manager		18:2-8
Tenants	21:33-44			Rich man and Lazarus		18:10-14
Wedding banquet	22:2-14	12:1-11	20:9-18	Master and his servant		
Fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-29	21:29-31	Persistent widow		
Faithful and wise servant	24:45-51		12:48	Pharisee and tax collector		

Week 14 ... Parables Explained

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 14

WEEK 14... Parables Explained



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 13:1–43

The Parable of the Sower

[1] That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. [2] And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. [3] And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. [5] Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, [6] but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. [7] Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. [8] Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. [9] He who has ears, let him hear.”

[10] Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” [11] And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. [12] For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [13] This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. [14] Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “‘You will indeed hear but never understand, you will indeed see but never perceive.’” [15] For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’”

[16] But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. [17] For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

[18] “Hear then the parable of the sower: [19] When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. [20] As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. [22] As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. [23] As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Parable of the Weeds

[24] He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. [26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. [27] And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ [28] He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ [29] But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. [30] Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

The Mustard Seed and the Leaven

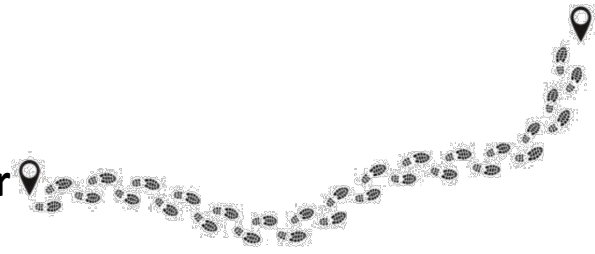
[31] He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

[33] He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” [34] All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. [35] This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

[36] Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” [37] He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

What part of the passage was most meaningful to you?

Walking thru the Scripture Together



This week, we are doing things a little bit differently. Here are some prompts for you to research in the text because Jesus gives us the answers to the symbolism of His parables. Have fun!

The Sower –

The Seed –

Soils:

The Path –

The Rocky Soil –

The Thorny Soil –

The Good Soil –

Bonus Round:

The Fruit –

Which soil would you consider your own heart and life? Explain below.

What is the primary purpose of this parable in your opinion?

The Parable of the Weeds:

Master of the Field –

Good Seed –

Weeds –

Servants –

Enemy –

Reapers -

What is the primary purpose of this parable in your opinion?

The Parable of the Mustard Seed:

Mustard Seed –

Birds –

What is the primary purpose of this parable in your opinion?

The Parable of the Leaven:

Leaven –

Flour –

What is the primary purpose of this parable in your opinion?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

Which of these parables was most interesting to you? Why?

How does the enemy work in these different parables against God's plans?



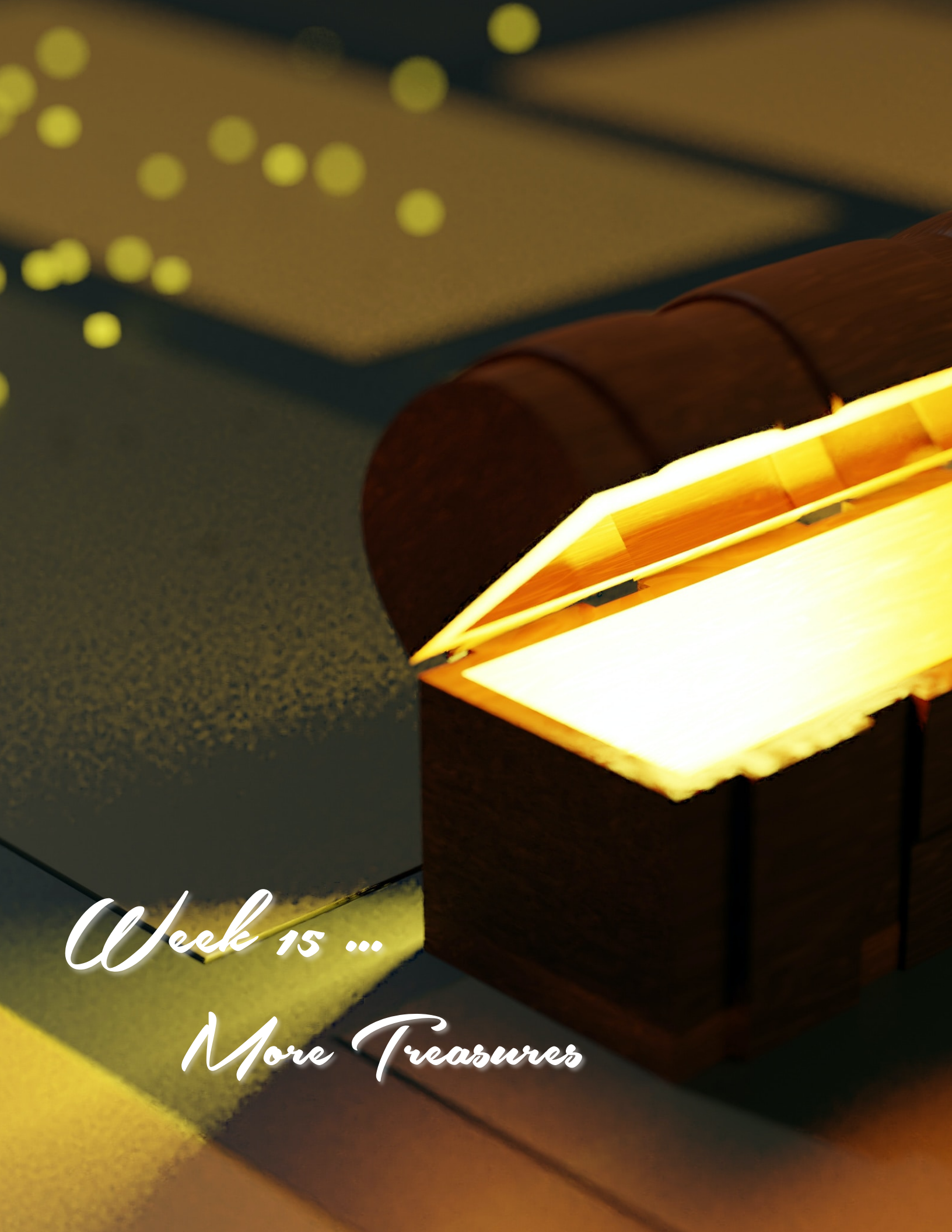
Kingdom Thoughts:

Jesus is the Master of the field. Jesus is the Sower of seeds. A good king teaches those in the kingdom right and wrong and enforces the morality of the kingdom on his people. This is why Romans 13 tells us to be subject to kings and rulers.

Romans 13:1-3 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. [2] Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. [3] For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

Is it hard to be under authority of a government you do not agree with? Why?

Jesus is the perfect King who not only revealed morality to us but came and lived under the same rules and without sin. He is the Blessed King because He lived according to the same rules he enforced.



Week 15 ...

More Treasures

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 15

Walking thru the Scripture Together



There are two possible interpretations for the Parable of Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl.

#1 That believers should look to the kingdom as one who finds a great treasure or an expensive pearl. The believer in Jesus should desire His Kingdom so much that he is willing to sacrifice everything for it.

The Kingdom to which Jesus refers is the reign of Christ. Entrance into His Kingdom is by faith alone in Christ alone. However, reigning in the Kingdom is gained by faithfulness to Christ as we walk in obedience to His Word. (For “reigning” see 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21.)

In these two parables, what did the man have to do in order to gain the treasure or the pearl?

Since salvation is by faith alone apart from works, the “kingdom of heaven” which Jesus is talking about cannot mean entrance into heaven. It must mean something else in the Christian’s afterlife.

What do you think these parables are pointing to in the kingdom?

#2 Another possible interpretation of these two parables is that the man is Christ. He has sacrificed everything in order to obtain the treasure and the pearl, which is His people. You are the treasure!

Which one of these two ideas is most compelling to you?

Either way, the King’s Kingdom is to be sought after at all costs! He sought after us at all costs! Then, Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a fish net that catches fish of “every kind.” What do you think He means by “all kinds”? What does Jesus say angels will do with mankind at the end of the age?

Some have tried to teach that there is no Hell, and that God is loving and will not send anyone to eternal punishment. However, what does Jesus, Himself, say will happen to the evil ones at the end of the age?

When you think of hell, what words or descriptions come to mind?

How do these verses shed light on that idea?

- **Revelation 21:8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
- **Matthew 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- **Matthew 25:46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

How does knowing this make you feel about those neighbors, friends, co-workers, or family members who do not know Christ as Savior?

Next, Jesus asked His disciples if they understood all He had been telling them. They answered “yes,” but it was unlikely they truly understood everything. Jesus identified Himself as a master of a house who brought out both old and new treasure. He had told both old and new truths to the disciples. Some of these truths they knew already, such as the unrighteous will be punished in the end times. But Jesus also told them new truths they had been unaware of, such as the fact that the kingdom will grow gradually from an insignificant beginning.

Read verses 53-58. [53] And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, [54] and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? [55] Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? [56] And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” [57] And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” [58] And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. Put yourself in the shoes of one of Jesus’ half-brothers.

Why did you question Jesus' ministry?

How did Jesus respond to those family members and friends who "took offense at him"? Why do you think He responded that way?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

How would you rate yourself in evangelism? 1 is no interest and 10 is every day I am ready.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Why are so many people hesitant to evangelize?

I recently read a book called 101 Tips for Evangelism by R. Larry Moyer and here are some tips I enjoyed.

- Evangelism starts with obedience.
- Whether or not you have the gift of evangelism is not the issue
- Being in love with Jesus makes a huge difference in evangelism
- The sovereignty of God should comfort you in evangelism not discourage you from evangelism
- Don't take rejection on your shoulders
- Interpret Scripture accurately and carefully more than method

Which of these is most meaningful to you?

Who in your life needs to know Christ?

The kingdom of God, the areas where Christ reigns, are near to those who love Him. Does Christ reign in our hearts, minds and soul?

Which area do you need to let Jesus reign more in personally?

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

King Jesus will reign on the earth in the great millennium! But He reigns now over spiritual things in the heavenly realm seated at the right hand of God.

He told us He wants us to reign with Him. It is worth putting aside sin and everything that distracts us from pursuing that Kingdom.

The King is calling us to lay down every weight that entangles us and to run with Him in freedom!

Week 16 ...

Jesus Walking



SERMON NOTES – WEEK 16

WEEK 16... Jesus Walking



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 14

The Death of John the Baptist

[1] At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, [2] and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." [3] For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, [4] because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." [5] And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. [6] But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, [7] so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. [8] Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." [9] And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given. [10] He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, [11] and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. [12] And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

[13] Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. [14] When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. [15] Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." [16] But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." [17] They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." [18] And he said, "Bring them here to me." [19] Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. [20] And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. [21] And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

[22] Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. [23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

[25] And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

[28] And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

[34] And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. [35] And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick [36] and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Walking thru the Scripture Together

John the Baptist did not hold back when it came to preparing the way for Jesus. Even if it meant telling the truth to the wicked king of the land, he stood on truth despite the cost.

This should remind us of Jesus' words from chapter 5:11-12 –

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Perhaps John had these words in mind when he challenged the king in his sin.

What was Jesus' response to the death of John the Baptist?

Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone?

What was His response when He couldn't be alone due to the crowds?

This is but another passage that talks about the compassion that Jesus had on people. How does this convict you?

How would you have responded to the crowd showing up when you wanted to be alone? Or when your disciples suggested sending them away to buy food?

The number of men was about 5,000. When we include women and children, it could very well have been around 10,000-15,000 people! Jesus fed thousands of people with one box lunch. If you saw that, how would you respond? Would you ever fear anything in the future if Jesus was present?

So, then we have the very next miracle in the midst of fear. Jesus was finally able to spend time alone with the Father as His disciples went out to sea on their boat. Even after seeing the miraculous feeding of thousands, Peter was still afraid as he walked on water in the presence of the King of kings! What are your thoughts about Peter's fear?

Peter's cry to Jesus was simple: "Lord, save me!" In your opinion, what do you think about Jesus' response to that? Do you think Jesus was disappointed in Peter? Or do you think He was sympathetic and understanding? What are your thoughts?

Apparently, Peter and Jesus walked on the water all the way back to the boat. Afterward, in Gennesaret, the disciples saw the great faith of the people who believed that just a touch of Jesus' garment would bring them healing. How do you think that might have impacted the disciples after the last couple of days they had experienced?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

It hurts to lose a friend or loved one. What can we learn from Jesus in handling grief?

[31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

How is your faith?

In what areas of your life do you take your eyes off Jesus and focus on the storm?

I ask myself this question when I read this story about Peter. Would I have even asked to get out of the boat or would I just stand by? What would you have done?

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

The King of all creation is like us and then He just isn't. This week is a reminder of the power of our King. Yes, Jesus walked on the earth, just as we did, but He was different. He fed the 5,000 with a small lunch because He can multiply the resources as He sees necessary. He is compassionate and extends that to His people.

He can suspend gravity to walk on water. He can stop the storm. He is the Creator and Hebrews 1 says He upholds everything by the word of His power. This is a good King to follow.

Jesus, our Blessed King, also saves. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and began to perish but Jesus raised him back up again. If you are in despair or hurting, turn your eyes upon Jesus and cry out to our King. He has the power to lift you out of the pit into His marvelous light.



Week 17 ...

Dealing with Traditions

SERMON NOTES – WEEK 17

WEEK 17... Dealing with Tradition



Reading the Scripture Together

Matthew 15:1–31 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, [2] “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” [3] He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? [4] For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ [5] But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” [6] he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. [7] You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: [8] “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; [9] in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

[10] And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: [11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” [12] Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” [13] He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. [14] Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” [15] But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” [16] And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? [17] Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? [18] But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. [19] For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. [20] These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

[21] And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [22] And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” [23] But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” [24] He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” [25] But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” [26] And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” [27] She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” [28] Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

[29] Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. [30] And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, [31] so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

Walking thru the Scripture Together



Here's a trick question: in verse one, what commandment did the Pharisees and scribes say Jesus and His disciples had broken?

The "tradition of the elders" was the unwritten commands and teachings of rabbis whom they honored from the past; the authoritative source of scribal teachings. Obviously, the Pharisees and scribes held this tradition as equal to the Law of Moses. Leviticus 22:1-16 gives the commands of proper washing for certain reasons, but it had nothing to do with the tradition of the elders.

Explain, in your own words, Jesus' response to their confrontation.

Jesus challenged them for "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." We can see this in our current times in the church. What are some examples you have seen or experienced of "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"?

Sometimes we want to confront and "uproot" those who use Scripture for their own gain, just as the Pharisees and scribes were doing. What did Jesus say to His disciples regarding the proper response to these religious leaders of their day?

While the Pharisees and scribes were concerned with their own petty traditions, Jesus was concerned with the heart.

His point in this passage is that evil behaviors come from an evil heart (verse 19). Washing our hands before we eat has nothing to do with the condition of our hearts, much like some of the traditions we may hold to today. So again, just as in the Beatitudes, Jesus is concerned with the condition (or the motive) of the heart rather than the outward look of a person. We can change our behavior but still possess an evil heart.

Thank God for **1 John 1:9**, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Do you remember our comparison to Tyre and Sidon in an earlier week? Here Jesus shows us the response of the people of Tyre and Sidon.

[21] And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [22] And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." [23] But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." [24] He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." [25] But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." [26] And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." [27] She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." [28] Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

What do you think of Jesus' first response to the Canaanite woman crying out after Him?

Jesus called the Jewish people the "lost sheep of Israel." What does that make Jesus in relation to them?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. As a kingly shepherd, Jesus showed compassion on the Gentile woman and healed her daughter due to her faith. There are three great contrasts between the Canaanite/Gentile woman and the Jewish religious leaders.

1. The Gentile woman recognized Jesus as the rightful heir to David's throne by calling Him the Son of David. (vs. 22) However, the Pharisees and scribes refused to see this truth.
2. The Gentile woman accepted Jesus' remark of Gentiles being called dogs, thus showing her humility to the King. (vs. 26) However, the pride of the Pharisees and scribes were evident.
3. The Gentile woman exercised faith in Jesus. (vs. 28) However, the Pharisees and scribes rejected Jesus yet again.

A Gentile undeserving of Jesus' miracle in contrast to His own people rejecting Him... what thoughts do you have regarding these three contrasts above?

[29] Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. [30] And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them,

Verses 29-31 describe the people glorifying God after Jesus had performed many miracles. What things have you seen Jesus do in your life or the lives of others you love that you can give the God of Israel glory?



Let's Sit and Talk Together

Are there any specific traditions you hold that are good and glorify God?

Are there any traditions you hold that you should examine to see if it truly honors God? What are those?

It's time to be a little vulnerable for the sake of growth. Describe the condition of your heart today. In what areas would you like prayer for growth?

We have seen through this study, people following Jesus. They sit and listen to His teaching, parables and witness His miracles. We have seen Him pull aside the disciples to teach them more and to clarify His parables for them. What does following Jesus look like in your life and what role does discipleship play in it?

How can we pray for you this week?



Kingdom Thoughts:

Over the first half of our study of the book of Matthew. How would you describe Jesus as a Blessed King?

What kingly attribute are you most thankful for that are found in Jesus?



Appendix A

