

Sensational
Sermon
Snapshots
Matthew

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Donald Cantrell

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

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Introduction

It is with great pleasure I offer you my newest book, Sensational Sermon Snapshots - Matthew, with the hope that you will find these sermon outlines to be beneficial as you do your sermon search. This book is made up of 112 sermon outlines, including a quick snapshot of commentary on the verse(s). I chose to offer simple outlines for your personal study, as well as a chance for you to be inspired to create new sermons.

As a pastor, and for most of my ministry, I was a bi-vocational pastor, so I know how difficult it is to find time to study and to allow sermon ideas to incubate. The rigors of working a full time job and pastoring can take its toll upon a pastor and his family. So, whether you are a vocational pastor or a bi-vocational pastor, I send these out with a prayer that they will help you in your sermon research time.

Each outline is offered as a kind of seed, something that can be planted in your heart as you serve the Lord. Of course, these seeds have the potential of

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blossoming into full blown sermons, and I hope some of them do so in your ministry.

I was sitting in my first Homiletics class back in the early 1980's when the professor said something about the origination of a sermon that, at first, I disagreed with. He said, "Sermons come from here, there, and everywhere." When I first heard his statement I was a bit puzzled and thought to myself, "Sermons have to come from the Bible!" In reality, both of us were 100 percent right in our thoughts. Sermon thoughts originate from all areas of life, but the sermon foundation must be built upon the scripture.

I love to prepare sermons, as I suppose many preachers do as well. I find pleasure in designing and constructing sermons and sermon outlines. I also love to read sermon material from others, and it was in my reading that I found inspiration for many of my sermon snapshots. As you read through this book, I hope that you are inspired to create many sermons from my little snapshots.

I will never forget buying my first sermon book authored by the late, great John Phillips. It was wonderful to sit and read his writings and be inspired to create my own sermons.

One of my favorite preachers and writers is Jerry Vines. I was so excited every time I had the chance to read his sermon material. In the past thirty-three years, I have had the opportunity to read sermon material from some of God's mighty men, and for that I am grateful. It is a joy to be inspired by others and too hopeful inspire others myself.

I hope my humble work herein inspires you as you prepare to preach and teach God's Word. Hopefully,

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this book of 365 sermon outlines will serve to prompt ideas that assist you as you proclaim the wonderful Word of God.

From my pen to yours,

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Snapshots

"Awesome Ancestors – Matthew 1:1 - 17"

Mat 1:1 KJV - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

The first 17 verses of chapter one introduces us to the lineage of Christ. It weaves its way all the way back to Abraham. The beauty of this is that God lays out his genealogy in all black and white, he cuts no corners, nor does he hide any people.

1 – The Notable Greats of his Heritage

He is linked to 17 various generations of people. He is related to Isaac, Jacob, Judas and the other various leaders of God's precious people.

2 – The Notorious Gentiles of his Heritage

It's so refreshing to find the names of Rahab the Harlot, the mother of Boaz, and then we read of Ruth the Great Grandmother of King David. In verse 3 he mentions Tamar, she was the

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incestuous daughter of Judah and a Canaanite, and so we have 3 gentile women in his family tree. Then you read verse 6 and it mentions Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, the one that David murdered.

3 – The Needed Glory of his Heritage

The ultimate link that must be made is Jesus can trace his heritage back to King David and Abraham.

God spared no names in presenting and preserving the ancestral tree of his son. We have many great names of mighty men, and then we read of 5 various women all from different nationalities. I find it refreshing that were all old sinners, needing saved.

“Angelic Anxieties – Matthew 1: 18 – 25”

Mat 1:20 KJV - But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

This chapter deals with the birth of Jesus from the perspective and perplexity of Joseph. I am not sure we can comprehend the pressure he was facing in not abandoning Mary, and just walking away.

1 – Joseph and his Anxious Revelation (18)

2 – Joseph and his Assertive Suggestion (19)

3 – Joseph and his Angelic Visitation (20-23)

4 – Joseph and his Attentive Reservation (24-25)

Joseph was very dedicated in serving God and

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desired to do what was right. He did not want Mary to suffer public shame for being a pregnant unwed mother. He knew this was not his baby and obviously Joseph was hurt and in a bit of dismay as Mary tried to convince him the child inside her womb was the very son of God. One night as he was sleeping Joseph has a vivid dream from the Lord and the angel explains to him the entire events that had taken place with Mary and her pregnancy.

- 1 – Time of Dreadful Despair
- 2 – Time of Deliberate Discussion
- 3 – Time of Detailed Direction
- 4 – Time of Daring Duty
- 5 – Time of Divine Dramatization

“Wandering Worshippers – Matthew 2:1 – 12”

Mat 2:2 KJV - Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The Wisemen were watching the heavenly signs and realized that the star of a king had appeared and they were willing to travel hundreds, if not thousands of miles to find him. I find it odd that the only ones to not know the messiah had been born were those living in the Holy City, Jerusalem.

- 1 – The Long Journey (1-2)**
- 2 – The Loathing Jealousy (3)**
- 3 – The Little Juncture (4-8)**
- 4 – The Looming Jeopardy (8, 12)**
- 5 – The Liberating Joy (9-11)**

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This is an intriguing story of how Wisemen from a far away country came searching for the very Son of God. Herod and his Wisemen were clueless to the signs that the birth of Christ was near or had happened. The world is never ready for Christ.

- 1 – The Thrill that was Inspiring “Say his Star”
- 2 – The Time that was Involved “Long journey”
- 3 – The Terror that was Inflicted “All were troubled”
- 4 – The Test that was Injected “Find him, tell me”
- 5 – The Treasure that was Included “Gifts”
- 6 – The Turn that was Invoked “Different way”

“Angelic Appearing’s – Matthew 2:13-23”

Mat 2:13 KJV - And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt,...

Mat 2:19 KJV - But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Mat 2:20 KJV - Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel:

In this section we find Joseph being visited by an angel on 2 occasions, one telling him to flee and run to Egypt, secondly telling him to flee Egypt and head back to Israel. God’s plans can and will change for our lives and we need to be flexible and willing.

1 – The Desire that was Haunting (13)

2 – The Departure that was Hastening (14)

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3 – The Dictation that was Heeded (15, 17-18)

4 – The Deaths that was Horrific (16)

5 – The Dream that was Honored (19-21)

6 – The Discovery that was Historical (22-23)

It seems that Joseph is experiencing angels every time he turns a corner. This angel is giving him advice that will help direct his steps from evil and massacre at the hands of Herod and his lineage.

1 – Dreams were used to Pronounce Christ's Birth

2 – Dreams were used to Protect Christ's Life

3 – Dreams were used to Prevent Christ's Death

“Pointed Preaching – Matthew 3: 1 – 17”

Mat 3:1 KJV - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Mat 3:2 KJV - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

It had been hundreds of years since Israel had heard from one of God's real prophets. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus Christ and it was his job to prepare the way for Jesus to begin his public ministry. It would have been a sight to behold seeing this man come roaring out of the wilderness wearing all of his prophet's attire.

1 – John and his Manifestation (1)

2 – John and his Message (2-3)

3 – John and his Mantle (4)

4 – John and his Ministry (5-6)

5 – John and his Methods (7-12)

6 – John and his Meeting (13)

7 – John and his Meekness (14-15)

8 – John and his Marveling (16-17)

John was such an oddity to those that saw his wanderings to and from the wilderness. The multitudes flocked to hear his message.

1 – Johns Appearance and Dress

2 – Johns Appetite and Diet

3 – Johns Appeal and Discourse

“Triumphant Tempting – Matthew 4: 1 – 11”

Mat 4:1 KJV - Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Mat 4:11 KJV - Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

In this passage we find that Jesus is being attacked by Satan himself and it is an all out assault upon the very core of who Jesus was and who he would be, He was and is the Son of God.

1 – The Fasting “Ones Denial” (2)

2 – The Fighting “Ones Desire” (1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9)

3 – The Foiling “Ones Defeat” (4, 7, 10)

4 – The Fleeing “Ones Departure (11a)

4 – The Fulfilling “Ones Delight” (11b)

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Jesus faced Satan after he had fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. The Devil sought to attack him at his weakest fleshly moment, but Christ was triumphant over every attack that was hurled his way. I am so thankful we have an advocate that understands how the tempter operates and he teaches us how to be triumphant.

- 1 – Temptation is a Sure Fact
- 2 – Temptation is a Strong Force
- 3 – Temptation is a Subtle Foe

- 1 – Christ Defeated Satan with a Strong Will
- 2 – Christ Defeated Satan with a Scriptural Word

“Christ was Assaulted by Demons, Aided by Angels”

“Capernaum’s Conqueror – Matthew 4: 12 – 17”

Mat 4:13 KJV - And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

Upon leaving the wilderness Jesus hears that John the Baptist has been imprisoned. So, he now decides its time to leave Nazareth and leap headfirst into his public ministry. Up until this time Christ has only been known among his family and I would think that John the Baptist knew he was the chosen messiah. It was now time to move on and begin the long journey that would take him to Calvary.

1 – Jesus and his Ministerial Move (12-13)

2 – Jesus and his Prophetic Platform (14-15)

3 – Jesus and his Radiant Revelation (16)

4 – Jesus and his Mighty Message (17)

It is very interesting to consider all of the various prophecies that Jesus fulfills as he lives his life. The bible is very detailed about how he goes about fulfilling all of the Old Testament prophecies. I read that Jesus fulfilled 351 various prophecies and many of them were fulfilled down to the smallest detail. It is awesome know how accurate the bible is, no details are spared.

Psa 40:7 KJV - Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

Luk 24:44 KJV – And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

“Galilee’s Giant – Matthew 4: 18 – 25”

Mat 4:18 KJV - And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Jesus is walking by the Sea of Galilee and he will pick 4 of his 12 disciples in a matter of minutes. The first set of brothers that he finds is Peter and Andrew, the men were busy fishing, upon hearing his call they immediately leave their nets and follow him. The next set of brothers is James and John, they are working on their nets, they hear his call and they also leave their nets and follow him.

1 – Christ and his Followers “The Called” (18-22)

2 – Christ and his Focus “The Cured” (23-24b)

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3 – Christ and his Fame “The Crowds” (24a-25)

The call of Jesus is a life changing experience. He wanted to teach these men to catch souls rather than fish. The calling of Jesus is much more important, catching fish is temporary but when one catches a person and wins a soul, that's eternal.

1 – Soul Winning is Wise

Pro 11:30 KJV - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

2 – Soul Winning is Warranted

Mar 16:15 KJV - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

“Beautiful Blessings – Matthew 5: 1 – 12”

Mat 5:1 KJV - And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Mat 5:2 KJV - And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

In these 12 verses Jesus discusses the attitude that his followers should strive to attain. If we can learn to incorporate these traits in our everyday lifestyle we would be so much more like Christ. I would portray these verses as victory verses.

1 – The Poor in Spirit – Beautiful Beggars

“Pleasing Poverty” (3)

2 – The Mourners – Wonderful Weepers

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“Soothing Sensitivity” (4)

3 – The Meek – Mindful Ministers

“Honoring Humility” (5)

4 – The Hungry and Thirsty – Successful Seekers

“Satisfying Sincerity” (6)

5 – The Merciful – Helpful Healers

“Moving Mercy” (7)

6 – The Pure in Heart – Lawful Lovers

“Persevering Purity” (8)

7 – The Peacemakers – Peaceful Promoters

“Undaunting Unity” (9)

8 – The Persecuted – Thoughtful Takers

“Everlasting Eternity” (10-12)

“Salty Saints – Matthew 5: 13”

Mat 5:13 KJV - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Jesus now likens his followers to salt; he literally calls them salty saints. In the bible we find numerous references to salt:

- 1 – Binding of covenants (Leviticus 2: 13)
- 2 – Healing and cleansing of water (II Kings 2: 21-22)
- 3 – Enhancing taste of food (Job 6: 6)
- 4 – Bathing for newborn babies (Ezekiel 16: 4)
- 5 – Killing of Lots wife (Genesis 19: 26)
- 6 – Pledging of covenants (Num. 18: 19, II Ch. 13: 5)

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“This custom of pledging friendship or confirming a compact by eating food containing salt is still retained among Arabic-speaking people. The Arabic word for "salt" and for a "compact" or "treaty" is the same. Doughty in his travels in Arabia appealed more than once to the superstitious belief of the Arabs in the "salt covenant," to save his life. Once an Arab has received in his tent even his worst enemy and has eaten salt (food) with him, he is bound to protect his guest as long as he remains.”

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

1 – Salt Insures us to be Pure

2 – Salt Inspires us to be Peaceful

3 – Salt Implores us to be Palatable (To the lost)

4 – Salt Invites us to be Penetrating (In this world)

“Christian Candles – Matthew 5: 14 – 16”

Mat 5:14 KJV - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Jesus is now likening his followers to light; he had just compared them to salt. It is very enlightening to see how Jesus uses extremes to teach biblical truths. Salt and light are both useful and needful, but both are quiet opposite in nature. As Christians we are to be like salt and delay decay in this evil and decaying world, but as light we are to defuse darkness. Salt seems to be so minute but oh the awesome power that it has when put in use. Light is so massive and marvelous and it travels at a speed of 186,281 miles per second.

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- 1 – Salt alter from with in – Light alters from without
- 2 – Salt is not so obvious – Light is very obvious
- 3 – Salt retards – Light reveals
- 4 – Salt relates to our character – light our conduct
- 5 – Salt reveals what we are – light what we do

1 – Light Reveals the Godlessness of this World

2 – Light Reveals the Goodness of our Works

3 – Light Reveals the Greatness of his Word

“Once there was a little boy that was taken by his mother to see a famous cathedral. On the windows were the pictures of various Christians. As he was watching the sunbeams shining through the stained-glass windows, he asked his mother, "Who are those people on the windows?" She said, "They're saints." The little boy looked at the windows and said, "Well, now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through."

“Real Righteousness – Matthew 5: 17 – 20”

Mat 5:20 KJV - For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

In this passage Jesus is going to magnify the importance of the law. The truth of this passage is that Christ is the real deal; he did not come to minimize the law but to magnify its legitimacy. The religious rulers were hypocrites and false, they had diluted the law to manmade rules and regulations. The rulers never let the law get past their heads, it never permeated their hearts.

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1 – The Contradiction “It’s not a bout Doing”

2 – The Transformation “It’s about Becoming”

3 – The Observation “It’s not about Catching”

4 – The Confirmation “It’s about Changing”

1 – Jesus Rectified the Position of the Law

2 – Jesus Represented the Culmination of the Law

3 – Jesus Reassured the Appreciation of the Law

4 – Jesus Recognized the Intention of the Law

5 – Jesus Revealed the Interpretation of the Law

6 – Jesus Rebuked the Dilution of the Law

“Murder Magnified – Matthew 5: 20 – 26”

Mat 5:21 KJV - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

It is a bit thought provoking that Jesus begins his new way of living by bringing up murder. This takes our minds all the way back to the very first crime that was committed against mankind, the murder of Abel. Jesus is going to change the way we think about honoring God. The law taught that murder was done with ones hands, but this new way of living teaches us that murder can be just as bad if perceived in ones heart.

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1 – The Act of Murder is Undesired

2 – The Attitude of Murder is Uncovered

3 – The Analogy of Murder is Unheralded

1 – The Consideration of Anger (22)

2 – The Admission of Anger (23)

3 – The Rectification of Anger (24)

4 – The Retribution of Anger (25 – 26)

Humor: “A Kentucky mountaineer fighting overseas in WW1 kept getting nagging letters from his wife back home. He was too busy fighting to write letters, even to his wife. At last, angered by his wife’s scolding letters, he sat down and wrote her: “Dear Nancy: I been a-gittin yore naggin letters all along. Now I want to tell ye, I’m tired of them. For the first time in my life I’m a-fightin in a big war, and I want to enjoy it in peace as long as it lasts.”

“Impurity Implications – Matthew 5: 27 – 30”

Mat 5:28 KJV – But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

In this passage Jesus is going to discuss the purity of marriage and the proper path we are to take in prompting purity. A lot of people think that the only word God says is no, but that is not true at all. The only time God places a no in our life it is for our own wellbeing and usually for protection. It didn’t take Jesus long to deal with sexual tendencies and the implications of his new teachings. The law specified adultery as an actual act, but this new teaching

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defined adultery as an attitude. The look of lust was just as demeaning and dangerous as someone that is caught in the act of adultery. We find that Jesus gives us specific details on looking and lusting, and then he tells us how to limit the damage.

1 – The Law that is Alarming (27) “The Scriptural Specifics of Sin”

1 – The Look that is Alluring (28a) “The Sneaky Subtleness of Sin”

2 – The Lust that is Adulterating (28b) “The Somber Similarities of Sin”

3 – The Loss that is Affirming (29 – 30) “The Shocking Seriousness of Sin”

1 – Looking is Enticement of Sin

2 – Lusting is the Entitlement of Sin

3 – Plucking is the Escapement of Sin

“Divorce Documents – Matthew 5: 31 – 32”

Mat 5:32 KJV – But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

In the Old Testament times people could literally get a divorce for literally any reason. If you read all of the scriptures about divorce it wasn't conceived by God, it was needful due to the sinfulness of man's hearts. In reality divorce is not something God smiles upon. In reading all of the scriptures on

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divorce we do find that God gives a few clear outlets, if they are violated then the marriage can be dissolved through a written divorce document. The subject of divorce is one of much debate, despair, and dissension. The thing I like is how Jesus steps right into the middle of the debate and gives clarity to his new expectations for his followers.

1 – The Broad Boundaries of Divorce (31)

2 – The Clear Confinements of Divorce (32)

3 – The Fictitious Facts of Divorce

In reading the bible I can only find two justifiable reasons for people to get a divorce. I struggle with a third reason that I wish God had given more insight.

1 – Divorce and Adultery (Matt. 19: 1 – 12)

2 – Divorce and Abandonment (I Cor. 7: 10 – 16)

3 – Divorce and Abuse (This is a tough one)

“Sound Speech – Matthew 5: 33 – 37”

Mat 5:37 KJV – But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

In these verses Jesus gives us a stern warning on our speech and our trustworthiness. If we tell someone something we should not have to back up our words with oaths. It is like making a statement to someone, then having to say things like “I swear” or “I promise it’s true”. In the eyes of God this is neither acceptable nor needful. He is stern in making sure we aren’t qualified to swear by heaven

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or by using God. It is needful that we live a life that others will know that when we say something then our words will stand as truth.

Psa 58:3 KJV – The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

1 – Lying the Natural Bent in Humans

2 – Lying the Notable Blemish in Humans

3 – Lying the Negative Barrier in Humans

1 – Our words should be Truthful

2 – Our words should be Thoughtful

3 – Our words should be Timeful

4 – Our words should be Trustful

5 – Our words should be Tactful

“Retaliation Resistant – Matthew 5: 38 – 42”

Mat 5:39 KJV – But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

It seems as if Jesus is moving into the area of our lives that makes all of us very uncomfortable. He has dealt with our new lifestyle and a new concept of living for his followers. Then he verifies his fulfillment of the law, prods us to consider new standards for adultery and divorce. He challenges us to be honest in our speech but now he delves

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into retaliation and vengeance. The new standard that Christ sets for us minimizes retaliation and magnifies resistance and compassion. This is not a normal manner for human beings; it is engrained in us to retaliate and to stand up to our avengers. This teaching goes against the grain for those that like to be vindictive. Jesus is intertwining this new lifestyle right into the very fiber of our traditional mindset. It is challenging yet very liberating! The moment we grasp this concept our lives will be free.

1 – The Normal Reaction “Limited Control” (38)

2 – The Needful Resistance “Left Cheek” (39)

3 – The Noted Recourse “Last Cloak” (40)

4 – The New Rule “Longer Course” (41)

5 – The Necessary Regards “Liberating Concepts” (42)

“Reversed Rewards – Matthew 5: 43 – 48”

Mat 5:44 KJV – But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

In all reality the Pharisees had diluted the scriptures by adding four little words, “and hate your enemy”. The bible did not say that in the Old Testament, it did say to love our neighbor as ourself, but not to hate our enemy. This statement was very

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startling and shocking to those that heard it for the first time. I think this may have been the driest pill for the crowd to swallow, that of loving your enemies and treating them with kindness. The crowd would be very anxious and argumentative at this point.

1 – The Fallacy of Loving Friends (43) “The Past Standard”

2 – The Freedom of Loving Foes (44 – 45) “The Phenomenal Strategy”

3 – The Focus of Loving Freely (46 – 48) “The Perfecting Stipulation”

- 1 – Loving our Enemies is Perplexing (To us)
- 2 – Loving our Enemies is Preferred (To God)
- 3 – Loving our Enemies is Pleasing (To Jesus)
- 4 – Loving our Enemies is Perfecting (To our Spirit)
- 5 – Loving our Enemies is Perturbing (To them)
- 6 – Loving our Enemies is Puzzling (To others)

“Godly Giving – Matthew 6: 1 – 4”

Mat 6:4 KJV – That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

The crowd that sat before Jesus knew very well what point he was trying to make about the giving of alms. In those days people would stop and exchange their money for lots of small change, so that when they gave everyone could hear their

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money clanging loudly. In the temple there were 13 receptacles placed throughout so that people could give their alms. The 13 receptacles had trumpet shaped openings that were made of brass, so when the Pharisees hurled their money inside, lots of noise would be made and everyone could hear. This is what Jesus is aiming his scope at, those that were haughty, arrogant, and insincere givers. Jesus called these people hypocrites; this became one of his favorite words to identify the Pharisees. The subject of this set of scriptures is giving that is sincere and capable of being blessed by God. If your giving is not sincere, don't expect God to bless you. The Lord is well capable of recognizing our gifts and in turn he can reward us in due time.

1 – Ruined Rewards are Plausible (1) “Sincerity is Required”

2 – Glorious Giving is Detestable (2) “Publicity is Rebuked”

3 – Secretive Sharing is Admirable (3 – 4a) “Confidentiality is Reiterated”

4 – Public Profiting is Tangible (4b) “Perceptibility is Rewarded”

“Heavens Hotline – Matthew 6: 5 – 15”

Mat 6:8 KJV – Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Jesus is now going to teach us how to pray. He begins with telling us how we shouldn't pray. Then he reminds us it's not about longevity, it's not about repetition, but real praying is about talking one on

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one with God. The best kind of praying is the kind that gets straight to the point.

1 – The Pitfalls of Prayer (5)

2 – The Privacy of Prayer (6)

3 – The Plundering of Prayer (7 – 8a)

4 – The Premonition of Prayer (8b)

5 – The Pattern of Prayer (9 – 15)

1 – The Simple Procedure of Prayers (9a)

2 – The Sacred Person of our Prayers (9b)

3 – The Soothing Praise of our Prayers (9c)

4 – The Somber Plea of our Prayers (10)

5 – The Sufficient Portion of our Prayers (11)

6 – The Shared Pardon of our Prayers (12)

7 – The Strong Protection of our Prayers (13)

8 – The Strange Peace of our Prayers (14 – 15)

“Frowning Fools – Matthew 6: 16 – 18”

Mat 6:18 KJV – That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Fasting was mentioned numerous times throughout the Old Testament and was also

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practiced by Jesus, Paul, and many others in the New Testament. I like how Jesus introduces the subject of fasting to us; he assumes that fasting is part of our lifestyle. Jesus says when we fast, not if we fast, I find that rather interesting. Then he tells us if we are in a time of fasting to go about our lives as if nothing was up, don't go around frowning and begging for attention. You are not fasting for human sympathy; you should be fasting for heavenly approval and a breakthrough. The very foundation of fasting is to be done secretly, without everyone applauding what you are doing. God will see what you are doing in secret and reward you in public.

1 – Fasting is a Mindful Discipline “Our Set Agenda”

2 – Fasting is a Physical Deprivation “Our Suppressed Appetite”

3 – Fasting is a Spiritual Desire “Our Spiritual Aim”

1 – The Fleshly Conditions of Fasting

2 – The Faith Concept of Fasting

3 – The Faithful's Compensation for Fasting

“Tainted Treasures – Matthew 6: 19 – 24”

Mat 6:20 KJV – But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

I read a very good illustration about man and money the other day. In our day today living we see

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people that hook their wallets to a chain that's attached to their belt loop. God attaches our wallets to our hearts, there is a huge difference. In America it seems that all of us need to consider our material cravings and desires. The bible is not against us striving to have things, but it is against us allowing things to have us. I know many people that are millionaires and it seems as if they are always worried about getting more, or even more worried that they may lose. I dare say it is not coincidental that Jesus talks about truth in the next few verses. If we are not careful the more that we get, the more that we will want. It is a vicious cycle that will entrap us and enslave a person.

1 – The Truth that is Provided (19 – 20) “Challenged our Material Attitude”

2 – The Treasure that is Protected (21) “Challenged our Material Affection”

3 – The Test that is Proposed (22 – 24) “Challenged our Material Appetite”

1 – Consider the Value of Money

2 – Consider the Vulture of Materialism

3 – Consider the Vagueness of Mammon

“Worry Warts – Matthew 6: 25 – 34”

Mat 6:33 KJV – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The things that most of us worry about will never come to pass and even if it does, it's usually not as

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bad as we assume. We all are prone to be worry warts and to forget that we really aren't in control. This fact is literally disturbing to most people. Jesus uses this passage to minimize our worries; he assures us that we have no reason to get all torn up about the basic necessities of life. The reason for this is that he has it all under control. The fact is we will never catch God in a tizzy, sitting on his throne with his hands rubbing his forehead due to being worried. God has never worried, he will never worry and we can find assurance in knowing he is in complete control.

1 – The Stuff of Life (25 – 31)

2 – The Surety of Life (32)

3 – The Satisfaction of Life (33)

4 – The Sufficiency of Life (34)

1 – Worry is Normal Because We Can't

2 – Worry is Negated Because He Can

3 – God is Bigger than our Barriers

4 – God is Smarter than our Situations

5 – God Is Greater than our Grief's

“Alarming Accusations – Matthew 7: 1 – 5”

Mat 7:2 KJV – For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

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We are always hearing people say the bible says it's wrong to judge, in all honesty that is so untrue. The bible never forbids us from judging others, though most of our judging is rash and unreasonable. The bible gives us very clear and specific standards for judging. The reality is that people do judge each other but we must know that we will be judged with the same perimeters that we use to judge others. Jesus warns us to be very careful in point out flaws in the life of others, when we have even greater flaws in our own life. The true measure of judging is to clean up our own life before judging others.

1 – The Serious Subject of Judging (1)

2 – The Shared Scope of Judging (2)

3 – The Startling Shame of Judging (3)

4 – The Superior Struggle of Judging (4)

5 – The Specified Standard of Judging (5)

1 – Judges are often critical

2 – Judges are rarely commendable

“Pigpen Pearls – Matthew 7: 6”

Mat 7:6 KJV – Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

The insertion of this passage has been so perplexing and puzzling to many readers. It seems that Jesus just deviated from the Sermon on the

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Mount and placed a mysterious message here for some unknown reason. Jesus had been talking about being judgmental and he continues his thoughts here, just in a different perspective. The dogs of biblical days were not what we think of today, they were wild and mostly untamed. The swine was a forbidden animal to all Jews. Jesus is now referring to those that are passing condemning judgment upon the gospel. He tells us that when we present his word to some people they only mock and scoff at its beauty and its like throwing pearls into the muck and mire of a pigpen. This type of people cannot grasp the goodness of God's grace or the magnitude of his mercy, so they trample it under their feet. The message and messenger are hated.

1 – The Scripture Understood “Judging Continued” “Word of Scriptural Interpretation”

2 – The Symbolism Used “Judging Character” “Word of Symbolical Illustration”

3 – The Sacred Undermined “Judging Conduct” “Word of Skeptical Implication”

1 – The Worlds Dogs and Pigs Hate the Message

2 – The Worlds Dogs and Pigs Harm the Messenger

“Knock Knock – Matthew 7: 7 – 11”

Mat 7:11 KJV – If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Jesus now uses an awesome illustration on praying and the benefits of praying. He tells his

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followers that prayer is as simple as asking, seeking, and knocking; when we do it shall be opened. The bible tells us in another place that we have not because we ask not and when we ask we ask for the wrong reason. If we are honestly praying for the right reason, there is no reason God cannot answer our prayers. He tells us that none of us would give our children stones rather than bread or snakes rather than fish. He wants us to know that he treats us even better than we would treat our own children. God loves us and wants the best for us, but he also expects us to ask that doors be opened. The best way to open the doors of heaven is to follow his prescription of prayer, ask, seek, and knock.

1 – The Boldness of Prayer (7) “Prayers Opportunity”

2 – The Benefits of Prayer (8) “Prayers Outcome”

3 – The Benevolence of Prayer (9 – 10) “Prayers Obligation”

4 – The Benefactor of Prayer (11) “Prayers Overseer”

“Loves Law – Matthew 7: 12”

Mat 7:12 KJV – Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

The subject of judging others has been discussed and now Jesus ties it all together. He informs his followers that if we want to judge correctly, we should judge with a spirit of love. The Lord goes all the way back to the Old Testament law to make his

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point. He reiterates that his prophets promoted loving thy neighbor as yourself. He tells us the same standard was the foundation of the Old Testament; we are to be people of love. If we judge someone with a spirit of love then that judgment should be bathed in grace and mercy. This is the standard that Jesus expects his followers to live by, the law of love. If we monitor the life of Jesus we notice that he was a man that modeled love in every phase of his life. He loved his enemies just like he loved his entourage. Jesus made no difference in showing love, he never picked who he would love, and he loved everyone. He displayed love to the servant that Peter cut his ear off the night he was arrested. Even as he was dying on the cross he displayed love and forgiveness. The golden rule was not just a meaningless platitude to Jesus; it really was his life platform. Jesus modeled love in his life and mandated it from his followers.

1 – The Purity of his Law

2 – The Prompting of his Love

3 – The Pattern of his Life

“Deception Detectors – Matthew 7: 13 – 27”

Mat 7:20 KJV – Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

In this section Jesus is judging people, this is the judgment that will determine the eternal destination of all mankind. Jesus gives us various deception detectors in this section. The way to heaven is a narrow way and few will travel on that path. The way to hell is broad and filled with no restrictions; it

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will be running rampant with multitudes of lost people. The reality is that there are only two places, heaven or hell; there will be no other options. Then we see that there will be many false prophets that arise, they are wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. This crowd dresses like innocent little lambs but they will devour anyone that gets in their path. The best way to detect deception is to inspect the fruit that is produced. You can always detect a tree by the fruit that it produces. Good men will produce good fruit, but evil men will produce evil fruit. The professor will not make it to heaven, only those that are truly related to Christ can enter into heaven. If you're a fool your house will crumble, but if you're wise it will get you all the way to heaven.

1 – The Direction of One's Footsteps (13 – 14) “Straight compared to Narrow”

2 – The Inspection of One's Fruit (15 – 20) “Real compared to Rotten”

3 – The Relation of One's Family (21 – 23) “The Possessor compared to Professor”

4 – The Destination of One's Finish (24 – 27) “Wise men compared to Foolish men”

“Completely Cleansed – Matthew 8: 1 – 4”

Mat 8:3 KJV – And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

The descent off the mountain was filled with much exuberance and excitement as the crowds wanted more and more of Christ's time. I find it rather amazing that crowds thrived on every word that

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flowed from the lips of Jesus. The modern day church should learn from this ideology, the world can't ever get enough of Jesus. We live in times that are hard and hardening but if we major on Jesus, he will draw the crowds and save the multitudes. This leprous man knew something was different about Jesus and he done all within his power to have an audience with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The leper's position was tragic and his plea was triumphant.

1 – The Large Multitude (1) “The Faithful Following”

2 – The Leprous Man (2) “The Weeping Worshiper”

3 – The Lepers Miracle (3) “The Tender Touch”

4 – The Lord's Message (4) “The Needful Notification”

1 – Jesus had time for a leper “His Compassion”

2 – Jesus had a touch for a leper “His Cure”

3 – Jesus had a testimony for a leper “His Change”

“Fabulous Faith – Matthew 8: 5 – 13”

Mat 8:10 KJV – When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

This is the second of six miracles that were performed in this chapter. In this one we find that a

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centurion comes to Jesus and asks him to heal his servant that has palsy. Jesus tells him he will come to his home and heal him, but the centurion tells Jesus that he doesn't even need to do that, just speak his healing. The faith of this man was beyond belief and Jesus marveled. We will say more about that in the next snapshot. One of the reasons that Jesus marveled was that the centurion was a Roman gentile. Jesus makes a very indicting statement concerning the nation of Israel. The Lord says that he has never seen this type of faith even among his own countrymen. Upon hearing this mans plea, Jesus healed them man from the very spot he was standing in. The centurion had enough faith that Jesus honored it to heal his servant. In verses 11 and 12 Jesus predicts there will be many gentiles invited into his kingdom.

1 – The Request that was Startling (5 – 6)

2 – The Reply that was Simple (7)

3 – The Response that was Shattering (8 – 9)

4 – The Recognition that was Special (10)

5 – The Recipients that were Strange (11 – 12)

6 – The Reward that was Supernatural (13)

“Marveling Moments – Matthew 8: 10”

Mat 8:10 KJV – When Jesus heard it, he arveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

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Mar 6:6 KJV – And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

In Capernaum Jesus is faced with a gentile that has the most unique faith that he has ever witnessed. Upon leaving Capernaum he arrives in his home city of Nazareth, here he finds a mighty lack of faith. In Capernaum he is mobbed due to his fame, but in Nazareth he is mocked due to his family. I find it so interesting that we only find two occasions where Jesus is said to have marveled, once over the faith of a gentile centurion and the other due to a lack of faith of his given city.

1 – The Master Marveled at a Gentiles Faith

2 – The Master Marveled at a Group's Faithlessness

1 – Capernaum Mobbed Him

2 – Nazareth Mocked Him

3 – Capernaum Received Him

4 – Nazareth Rejected Him

5 – Capernaum Loved his Fame

6 – Nazareth Listed his Family

“Gentile Grafting – Matthew 8: 11 – 12”

Mat 8:11 KJV – And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

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Mat 8:12 KJV – But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In this parenthetical pause of the centurion's servant being healed, Jesus interjects two verses that seem to not fit the story or the setting. We must remember that in this portion of the story a gentile is being recognized for his mighty faith. The onlookers may have been secretly wondering how Jesus could marvel at the faith of this centurion. Jesus in turn throws these two verses in so that he can dispel any thinking that only Jews would enter into the kingdom of God. He makes sure that those within the sound of his voice understands this clearly, there will be guest at the party and many of those that are supposed to be of the commonwealth of Israel would be found weeping and gnashing their teeth. In those days they had feast and parties during the evening time and those on the outside, alone in the dark would be found begging for food and handouts from the party. The Jews would eventually be displaced due to their unbelief and the Gentiles would be grafted in, thankfully were are apart of this current grafting. We that were afar off have the awesome privilege of being saved.

1 – The Kingdom will have Guest

2 – The Kingdom will have Grief

3 – The Kingdom will have Grafting

“Mighty Miracles – Matthew 8: 14 – 18”

Mat 8:17 KJV – That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

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Now Jesus is going to heal the mother in law of Peter. It says that she had a fever and Jesus touched her hand, immediately the fever left her and she arose and ministered to them. This seemed to be so simple yet so significant. The bible tells us to cast all of our cares upon him because Jesus cares for us. The Lord cares for things that many might deem as insignificant, but not so with Christ. Then he turns his attention to the masses, they are filled with demons and many of them were sick. Jesus was willing to spend his time with masses as much as with individuals. The church is a massive organism but it's made up of individual people. The Lord was just as comfortable with large masses as he was with one on one interaction. Jesus had just delivered his sermon on the mount, and then he had healed the centurion's servant, now he was literally exhausted, so he needs a break.

1 – The Mother that was Helped (14 – 15)

2 – The Multitude that was Healed (16)

3 – The Message that was Honored (17)

4 – The Mob that was Heavy (18)

1 – Jesus and his Numerous Requests

2 – Jesus and his Normal Response

3 – Jesus and his Needful Rest

“Pompous Platitudes – Matthew 8: 19 – 22”

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Mat 8:19 KJV – And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

In this story we find that Jesus is about to get onto a boat and go to sleep so he can rest. As they were waiting to get into the boat one of the scribes came and made a brash statement to Jesus. The scribe says that he will follow Jesus wherever he goes; this seemed to be a very brash statement. We must guard against making bold brash statements in a moment of excitement. I wonder if this guy was honest on his intention or was he just making a brash statement to impress Jesus or the vast multitude? In either case Jesus informs him of the hardships of being one of his followers. The path of discipleship is often one of toughness and hardships. I am not real sure how approving Jesus would be of the Richness of Religion in today's society. It seems to be the most popular aspect of religion today, money mongering. Jesus himself could have used his gifts and abilities to become vastly wealthy but he chose to be born poor and in a manger with animals. I think he might disapprove of the money making machine that we see running so rampant especially in the USA. We see preachers and evangelist preaching to multitudes of poor and hurting people, taking their money, offering them false promises as the exit to their million dollar palaces. How would Christ address this today?

1 – The Loose Tongue of Some (19)

2 – The Litmus Test of Serving (20)

3 – The Limited Timetable of Servitude (21 – 22)

“Stormy Seas – Matthew 8: 23 – 27”

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Mat 8:27 KJV – But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

We have witnessed miracle after miracle in this chapter. The lord heals the leper by tenderly touching his hand; this was a touch of grace. Jesus healed the centurion's servant just by verbally speaking it from the roadside in Capernaum. Then he heals the mother of Peter's wife by removing her fever. After this we find him casting out demons and healing the multitudes. Jesus is now tired and enters into a boat hoping to sleep as they journey across the sea. On the other side of this sea he will set Legion free from enough demons to kill 2000 pigs. As he is sleeping a storm suddenly arises and the boat is about to sink. The disciples awaken him and frantically tell him they are all about to perish. We find that he scolded them for their lack of faith then he addresses the storm and rebuked the winds and the sea becomes as calm as glass. How often do we find ourselves forgetting his greatness? The disciples had witnessed his greatness and forgot.

1 – The Sudden Storm (23 – 24a)

2 – The Sinking Ship (24b)

3 – The Scared Shipmen (25)

4 – The Sleeping Savior (24c)

5 – The Stilled Sea (26)

6 – The Shocking Sight (27)

“Delivering Demons – Matthew 8: 28 – 34”

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Mat 8:28 KJV – And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

Jesus has run the gamut of mighty miracles in this swift moving chapter. It ends with him facing two demonic men that dwelled among the tombs. I am under the assumption that these men may have been sitting on the edge of the graveyard and witnessed the events of Jesus calming the raging storm and silencing the winds. This meeting of Jesus and these two men was divinely planned, it was not coincidental. This story gives us insight that Mark does not tell us, here we find two demonic men, in Mark we only read of one man. This depiction of the story is rather quick and doesn't go into a lot of detail like Mark's version. Jesus is approached by the two men and they know that he is there for a reason. The demons beg Jesus to not cast them into the abyss, but rather let them go into the herd of swine that was nearby. Jesus sends them into the swine and the people want him gone.

1 – The Demonic Men (28)

2 – The Divine Meeting (29)

3 – The Directive Mentioned (30 – 31)

4 – The Deliverance Magnified (32)

5 – The Detailed Message (33)

6 – The Departing Moment (34)

“Marveling Multitudes – Matthew 9: 1 – 8”

Mat 9:2 KJV – And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

The ministry of Jesus is now back in Capernaum, which is obviously his new headquarters. In reading Mark chapter two we realize this is where he was when this miracle occurred. It is believed by many that his headquarters was actually based in the household of Peter, Mark 1. Upon arriving in Capernaum he is confronted by a man that is stricken with palsy a disease that affects ones motor skills, the man was basically an invalid. It is noteworthy that this is the second time in Matthew that Jesus heals someone due to another person's faith. The church needs to grasp the importance of having this sort of faith. In healing this man of his Palsy I think Jesus does an even greater miracle, he reads the mind of his critics. The scoffers are accusing him of acting as if he is God, so he proves that he is by reading their minds, a greater miracle.

1 – The Arrival of the Men (1)

2 – The Ailment of the Man (2a)

3 – The Ability of the Master (2b)

4 – The Anger of the Mumbler's (4)

5 – The Ascertainment of their Mindset (4 – 6)

6 – The Arising of a Miracle (7)

7 – The Applause of the Multitude (8)

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“Discipleship Discussed – Matthew 9: 9 – 17”

Mat 9:13 KJV – But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The team around Jesus is still being crafted, we now find him calling Matthew to be his disciple. It is a simple calling, in passing by Matthew, we see him extend an invitation to him. It is intriguing to see that Matthew simply leaves the tax collecting business and follows after Jesus. The scene then moves to Matthew's house where a huge gathering of other tax collectors and sinners are found feasting with the Lord. I am positive that if Jesus was ministering on the earth today, most would be amazed at where he would be found. The Jesus we find in the bible is probably not the same Jesus we try to offer people today in our segregated social religious settings. Jesus always ministered to the sinner before expecting the sinner to change. We seemingly get the cart before the horse. It seems many today want the sinner to come to the church all cleaned up, then and only then will we open up the gospel to them. Jesus went to them, he ate with them, he sat with them, and humorously, he won them. I find that an amazing fact, he won them.

1 – The Follower “His Call” (9)

2 – The Feaster’s “His Crowd” (10)

3 – The Frowners “His Critics” (11)

4 – The Factor “His Calling” (12 – 13)

5 – The Fasters “His Comparison” (14 – 17)

“Happily Healed – Matthew 9: 18 – 26”

Mat 9:26 KJV – And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

The beauty of this passage is almost beyond comprehension and words are limited in portraying the emotional roller coaster. We find Jairus lying in the street begging for Christ to heal his daughter and a woman standing in the street simply reaching out and touching Jesus and she is healed. The daughter was 12 years old and the aged woman had the disease for 12 years. One was beginning her life and the other was well into adulthood. On one hand we find a daughter dying and on the other hand we find Jesus addressing the diseased daughter. Jesus recognized the father of one and the faith of the other. One of the miracles was done publically in the middle of the street and the other was done privately behind closed doors. One of the miracles the diseased touched him and in the other he touched the dying. One of the miracles was done immediately and the other one was delayed. One of the girl's was a daughter of a Gentile and the other one was the daughter of Israel. The detailed differences of this story are so awesome.

- 1 – The Religious Ruler (18a)**
- 2 – The Worshipful Weeper (18b)**
- 3 – The Dying Daughter (18c)**
- 4 – The Perplexing Plea (18d)**
- 5 – The Master Moving (19)**
- 6 – The Woeful Woman (20a)**
- 7 – The Triumphant Touch (20b – 21)**
- 8 – The Wonderful Words (22)**
- 9 – The Musical Mourners (23)**

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10 – The Scornful Scoffers (24)

11 – The Delivered Daughter (25 – 26)

“Blind Believers – Matthew 9: 27 – 31”

Mat 9:28 KJV – And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Once again we find Jesus heading back to Peter’s house, his base headquarters. As he nears the house two blind men are following him and begging him for mercy and healing. The fame of Jesus was spreading all over the land. The fame of Jesus is mentioned eight times in the bible and four of them are here in Matthew. The events that occurred in Peter’s home had spread like wildfire throughout the land. The two blind men had heard the news and they had made their way to the house. The men must have been waiting for Jesus to pass by and when he did, the men would not be denied. In this text we see that Jesus healed the men due to their faith, we need this kind of faith. The power of God is just as powerful today if we have faith.

1 – The Begging Blind “Their Plea” (27)

2 – The Lord’s Location “His Place” (28a)

3 – The Living Lord “His Proposal” (28b)

4 – The Regal Reply “Their Positivity (28c)

5 – The Tender Touch “His Power” (29)

6 – The Magic Moment “Their Perception” (30a)

7 – The Meaningless Mandate “His Privacy (30b)

8 – The Exciting Exit “Their Proclamation” (31)

“Possessed People – Matthew 9: 32 – 34”

Mat 9:33 KJV - And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

This passage records the eleventh miracle in the book of Matthew and the third one dealing with demons in the last two chapters. As the blind men exited the house, others were bringing in another man that was mute and possessed with a demon. The ministry of Jesus was noted for two distinct signs that set him apart from any other man that had ever lived. The first sign that magnified his ministry was that of healing people. The four gospels are filled with various incidences of Jesus healing people. The second magnification of his ministry was that of delivering people from demonic possession. In reality the healing ministry and the delivering ministry were intertwined. It seems that many of those that were healed were healed when they received deliverance. I am confident that many of the ills of society today are nothing more than demonic possession. We live in the most medicated age ever and many times the diagnosis is not mental, physical, but rather spiritual possession.

1 – The Mute Man (32a)

2 – The Demonic Diagnosis (32b)

3 – The Delightful Deliverance (33a)

4 – The Marveling Multitude (33b)

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5 – The Exciting Exclamation (33c)

6 – The Dumb Denunciation (34)

“Demons Discussed – Matthew 9: 34”

Mat 9:34 KJV - But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

The subject of demons is mostly ignored in our modern age. The discussion of demons is usually in one of two areas, those that see a demon behind every tree and those that deny any demonic activity. I think the truth lies much more towards a demon behind every other tree. This subject is not one that we embrace readily due to the lack of knowledge on our part. Jesus never backed down from dealing with demons and everytime we find him dealing with it in the gospels, he always expelled them. The terminology is often confusing in the KJV, because it says devils, unclean spirits, or evil spirits; in most all of those cases it implies demonic possession. The gospels should be our manual on the subject of demons and on how to expel them. Jesus always used his authority when commanding them to leave someone's body. In one case he allowed the demon to speak, but overall he commanded them to be silent. If you dissect biblical cases of demons you will see that they are beings that can talk, think, rationalize, recruit other demons, inflict disease or illness and cause harm to the person they indwell. We need to realize Jesus authorized others to cast out demons also, the twelve could, the seventy could, others outside the circle could, and we can.

1 – Demons Discussed

2 – Demons Defined

3 – Demons Denied

4 – Demons Delivered

“Triple Threat – Matthew 9: 35 – 38”

Mat 9:35 KJV - And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

The ending of chapter nine sums up the earthly ministry of Jesus, it recognizes his teaching, preaching, and healing ministry. The text before us says that he went to all the cities and villages, teaching, preaching the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. I am not sure how many miracles the Lord actually performed in his few years of ministry. The gospel of John tells us the world could not contain all of the books defining his miraculous ministry. The Lord also preaching the gospel of the kingdom, he was presenting himself as The Messiah, The King of the Jews, but of course Israel would not accept him. Jesus looked upon the multitude of people that were begging for his attention and his heart literally ached for them. It is inspiring to see that Jesus was a people person; he never allowed his fame to minimize the need of the masses. Then Jesus tells his disciples that the harvest is ready and ripe, but there were not enough workers. He challenges them to ask God for more laborers so that the harvest could be gathered.

1 – The Kingdom Preaching of Jesus (35)

2 – The Kind Passion of Jesus (36)

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3 – The Keen Prayer of Jesus (37 – 38)

- 1 – His Busy Life
- 2 – His Big Load
- 3 – His Burdened Love

“Apostolic Agents – Matthew 10: 1 – 4”

Mat 10:1 KJV - And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

We now find that Jesus has called all 12 of the men that will form his team. If you look up the various times the apostles names are list in the bible you will find that Peter is always mentioned first and Judas is always mention last, one was noted for being the leader and the other for being the traitor. The disciples would be noted as followers of Christ but when given the title of apostles they would be noted as delegates for Christ. The Lord takes his 12 men and gave them power, this implies that he appointed them to a specific office, this office had a designated position and it offered them distinct power. I do not believe there are any true apostles today, Jesus called these 12, in which one of them was a traitor and the Apostle Paul would replace him. Paul says he was as one born out of due season, he was the man that would fill the apostolic ministry of the traitor, Judas Iscariot. The power that he gave to these twelve was his authority; this was the same authority Jesus had over demons and diseases. The apostles were now his chosen delegates to help him with his ministry. The number twelve represents divine government in

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

biblical terms, 12 tribes, and 12 apostles, 12 gates in New Jerusalem, 12 foundations, and 12 names.

I – The Appropriate Number (1a, 2a)

II – The Authorized Nature (1b)

III – The Apostolic Names (2b – 4)

“Twelve Thoughts – Matthew 10: 2”

Mat 10:2 KJV - Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Check out some interesting 12's in life and the bible:

- 1 – The sum of the digits 12=3 God's number**
- 2 – 12 tribes of Israel**
- 3 – 12 judges of Israel**
- 4 – 12 apostles**
- 5 – Jairus daughter was 12**
- 6 – Woman had issue of blood 12 years**
- 7 – Jesus was 12 years old as he taught in temple**
- 8 – 12 wells of water in Elam**
- 9 – 12 stones in priest's breastplate**
- 10 – 12 cakes were placed in the tabernacle**
- 11 – 12 spies went into Canaan land**
- 12 – 12 oxen pulled the offering to the tabernacle**
- 13 – 12 chargers, bowls, spoons, and rods were found in the tabernacle**
- 14 – 12 stones were taken out of Jordan and 12 stones were placed in Jordan**
- 15 – 12 baskets remained after the loaves and fish**
- 16 – 12 foundations in New Jerusalem**
- 17 – 12 thousand furlongs length of the new city**
- 18 – 12 gates in New Jerusalem**

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- 19 – 12 Pearls made up the gates**
- 20 – 12 types of fruit in New Jerusalem**
- 21 – 12 legions of angels could be called**
- 22 – 12 goats and 12 bullocks for the sacrifices**
- 23 – 12 months**
- 24 – 12 hours of daytime**
- 25 – 12 hours of night time**

“Twelve Travelers – Matthew 10: 5 – 15”

Mat 10:5 KJV - These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Now we find Jesus commissioning the twelve and he informs them to avoid any Gentiles or Samaritans in their journey. Jesus wants the Jewish people to have the first opportunity to accept his message. The Apostles ministry was to preach the Kingdom of Heaven; this ministry is not the ministry of Christians or the church today. It was their duty to offer Jesus as King, we offer him as a savior. Of course the nation of Israel would fully reject this preaching but it was the duty of John the Baptist and the Apostles to offer it to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The 12 men were empowered to heal, to cleanse lepers, to raise the dead, and to cast out demons. This would have been an awesome ministry but it was freely bestowed upon them and it must be freely given to others. The men would find people that would care for their needs.

1 – The Divine Commission (5a)

2 – The Divisive Command (5b)

3 – The Defined Course (6)

4 – The Delightful Charge (7)

5 – The Distinct Characteristics (8)

6 – The Denied Comforts (9 – 11)

7 – The Deliberate Choice (12 – 15)

“Tough Teachings – Matthew 10: 16 – 42”

Mat 10:38 KJV - And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Now we find Jesus informing the apostles of the path that will be traveling. He is sending them as sheep among ravaging wolves. This goes against the teaching of those that portray Christianity as all mushy and light, it is truthfully just the opposite, and it is tough and can be harsh. The Lord lets them know they will face scourging, beatings; the way could be bloody and disheartening at times. He assures them not to worry about what to say, the Holy Spirit will prompt them with the right words. The men are not to be overtaken with worry, God has it all under control, he see all, he knows all, and he can do all. The preaching that is presented to people will be divisive; it will be hard upon families and will cause families to turn one on another. The cost of following Christ often has a huge payment but the rewards are heavenly.

1 – The Way they must Travel (16)

2 – The Wrath they must Take (17)

3 – The Words they must Testify (18 – 20)

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4 – The Warfare they must Taste (21 – 25)

5 – The Worries they must Table (26 – 31)

6 – The Whosoever’s they must Tell (32 – 33)

7 – The Woes they must Test (34 – 37)

8 – The Worthiness they must Target (38 – 42)

“Teaching Tour – Matthew 11: 1”

Mat 11:1 KJV - And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

The example that Jesus sets here is one to be mimicked by other leaders. He had just sent his twelve apostles on a mission of offering the kingdom of heaven to the lost sheep of Israel, now he embarks upon his own teaching tour. This is the best example ever of a servant leader; Jesus was willing to do the same things that he asked his followers to do. The onething we can all say about Jesus is that he loved people, he listened to people, and he liberated people. He was in the people business and he never deviated from this course for his entire ministry. The message that he had was powerful and the public embraced his message. His message was one of power and it had a liberating effect upon those that willfully embraced it. The Lord was one of the greatest teachers the world has ever had, he used the best techniques. Those that heard him teach or preach were often dumbfounded at his knowledge and at the illustrations he often used. Jesus understood the power of illustrative

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

preaching and teaching. He often used profound speech but he also placed the cookies on the lower shelves so all could eat and be filled.

1 – Jesus and his Public Ministry

2 – Jesus and his Powerful Message

3 – Jesus and his Preaching Methods

“Powerful Prophet – Matthew 11: 2 – 15”

Mat 11:11 KJV - Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The passage before us is a bit startling to some readers but it should be comforting to all of us. John is in prison and he is wondering if Jesus was the King of the Jews, if he was why was he not setting the nation free from Roman bondage, and why was he not getting John out of prison. Jesus sends word back to John that things are right on course and he is fulfilling the word of God.

Isa 35:4 KJV - Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Isa 35:5 KJV - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Isa 35:6 KJV - Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

1 – The Lonely Trepidation of John (2 – 3)

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2 – The Liberating Truth of John (4 – 6)

3 – The Lofty Tribute of John (7 – 11)

4 – The Lasting Teachings of John (12 – 15)

- 1 – Consider John's Dress
- 2 – Consider John's Diet
- 3 – Consider John's Duty
- 4 – Consider John's Doubts
- 5 – Consider John's Destiny

“Grumpy Growlers – Matthew 11: 16 – 19”

Mat 11:19 KJV - The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Jesus likens the detractors as children sitting around playing a game, one minute they tag and the next minute they play hide and seek. The point is some are never happy. This group rejected the pointedness of John but on the other hand they rebuked Jesus for his kindness and friendliness. Jesus wants us to know that some people will never be pleased and its best if you know that and move on and leave this group alone. Some people are inflators and some are deflators, we need to figure this out and move on from the detractors. It's not our job to try and please everyone.

1 – The Uniquely Unhappy (16 – 17)

2 – The Forceful Forbidden (18)

3 – The Personable Pummeled (19)

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

- 1 – Some are Never Happy
- 2 – Some are Notoriously Hateful
- 3 – Some are Naturally Hesitant
- 4 – Some are Nefariously Hazardous
- 5 – Some are Notably Heavy
- 6 – Some are Normal Hecklers

“Rejected Repentance – Matthew 11: 20 – 27”

Mat 11:20 KJV - Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

The Lord is now being extremely blunt with the cities that should have been leading the way in recognizing his greatness and kingship. The cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida were located in the north near Capernaum, the home of his headquarters. This group had been up close and personal in seeing his mighty miracles but they rejected him. This group had received his light but they chose to live in darkness. Jesus then reveals a very important matter to those that are given light, he warns these two cities of the danger they will face. He says that Tyre and Sidon will not be judged as harshly as Chorazin and Bethsaida, why is that? Jesus never had a ministry in Tyre or Sidon, to whom much is given, much shall be required. He then turns his anger towards Capernaum his home headquarters, they had seen more miracles than any other group, but the city itself rejected him, woe to them! The gospel of Christ is laid on the lower shelf for each

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and every one of us to partake of and if we don't receive him as our savior, it's not his fault. The light from a small candle can literally be seen for hundreds of yards, and the light of the gospel is bright enough for each and every sinner to become a born again Christian.

1 – The Light they had Received

2 – The Lord they had Rejected

3 – The Love they had Renounced

“Heavy Hearted – Matthew 11: 28 – 30”

Mat 11:29 KJV - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

This passage is an insight into the very mindset and heart of Jesus. He gives an invitation to all of those that feel the weight of the world upon them and seemingly have nowhere else to turn. His invitation is perpetual and powerful, he extended it to all people in all places and for eternity. The Lord offers us rest, teaching, and his help in bearing our burdens. Jesus wants us to step up and yoke up with him. He wants to lighten our load. He will save us; secure us, steady us, and strengthen us. This is the best invitation any person could ever ask to receive. It is free, but it is also freeing. It is personal, but it is also powerful.

1 – The Universal Plea “To the heavy” (28)

2 – The Unique Partnership “From the lowly” (29)

3 – The Untold Peacefulness “For the easy” (30)

1 – The Daring Invitation

2 – The Double Inspiration

3 – The Delightful Implications

1 – The Lord

2 – The Load

3 – The Lightness

“Corn Conflicts – Matthew 12: 1 – 8”

Mat 12:2 KJV - But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

The disciples of Jesus were walking through a neighbors grain fields and they were hungry. The bible allowed them this privilege in Deut. 23: 25, it was okay for them to eat of this grain. The critics saw it and they begin to blast Jesus and his disciples for doing this on the Sabbath.

Deu 5:14 KJV - But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

The Sabbath was meant for mans good, it was not meant to become a legalistic burden. Jesus gave them two illustrations concerning King David and also the Priest working in the temple on the Sabbath. The Lord of the Sabbath was in their midst.

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1 – The Plucked Corn (1)

2 – The Pharisaical Charge (2)

3 – The Past Choice (3 – 4)

4 – The Priestly Commitments (5)

5 – The Present Christ (6 – 7)

6 – The Precious Concept (8)

1 – The Favorable Concept of the Sabbath

2 – The Foolish Contamination of the Sabbath

“Tainted Traditions – Matthew 12: 9 – 21”

Deu 5:14 KJV - But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

The leaders were livid about Jesus breaking the Sabbath rules according to man. Now he is about to heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath and in the Synagogue. This was more than the religious could take, this act would putt them over the edge. Jesus informed them that the Sabbath was made for man, not man made for the Sabbath. This crowd would now plot to kill him, but of course it wasn't his time. Jesus came to fulfill the law of God not the vain useless dead tradition of man. If tradition is scriptural that's great but if its not, then its nothing more than man's preference.

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

1 – The Place (9)

2 – The Person (10a)

3 – The People (10b)

4 – The Proposal (11)

5 – The Purenness (12)

6 – The Power (13)

7 – The Plot (14)

8 – The Prophecy (15 – 21)

“Silly Suggestions – Matthew 12: 22 – 37”

Mat 12:25 KJV - And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

The basic account of this section is that Jesus healed a man that was possessed, deaf, and could not talk. The moment he healed the man one crowd was praising him and the other was accusing him of casting out demons in the power of Satan. Jesus revealed that he was God by reading their minds. It is interesting to me that when he read their minds this crowd never displayed any conviction. The Lord then goes on to prove his point and illustrate the dumbness of their accusations. He then tells them of the coming damnation in attributing his work to that of Satan. Dangerous path to tread!

1 – The Dynamic Ability (22)

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2 – The Dramatic Adoration (23)

3 – The Dangerous Accusation (24)

4 – The Divine Acknowledgement (25a)

5 – The Direct Answer (25b)

5 – The Divided Adversary (26 – 28)

6 – The Dogmatic Association (29 – 30)

7 – The Damnable Attribution (31 – 32)

8 – The Distinguished Affiliation (33)

9 – The Documented Account (34 – 37)

“Sign Seekers – Matthew 12: 38 – 50”

Mat 12:39 KJV - But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

The leaders begin to ask Jesus for a sign and he holds nothing back as he makes it clear how sinful and wicked they were. The only sign they would need is like the sign of Jonah preaching to the lost nation of Nineveh. Then he hints about his coming crucifixion and his eventual resurrection. He tells them that Nineveh repented and will rise up in judgment against them one day. The queen of Sheba travelled for miles to inhale all of the beauty and wisdom of Solomon’s kingdom, but one even greater than Solomon was standing in their midst. The nation of Israel was likened to someone that has had an opportunity to repent but in rejecting their

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

opportunity they have in turn created a backlash that will be seven times worse than before. As he is speaking his family is outside and requesting him to come outside to speak with them. Jesus tells the crowd that his real family is the ones that honor God and do their best to obey him.

1 – The Requested Sign (38)

2 – The Repentance Story (39 – 41)

3 – The Rightful Shame (42)

4 – The Returning Spirits (43 – 45)

5 – The Relational Stance (46 – 50)

“Sowing Seeds – Matthew 13: 1 – 9”

Mat 13:3 KJV - And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

In this parable we find that only one out of four of the seeds came to fruition. I think this depicts that only 25% of this world will become true believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

1 - The Symbolic Setting Illuminated (1 - 2)

The Move & his Departure - Jewish Rejection
“The People that he shunned”

The Multitude & his Decision - Gentile Reception
“The Place that he sat”

2 - The Sowing Saviour Illustrated (3)

The Intent of his Parables – Revelation of Heaven
The Earthly Simplicity of his Parables

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The Eternal Strategy of his Parables
The Interest of these People – Rejuvenation of Heart
The Evident Thirst of this Multitude
The Extreme Thoughts about his Message

3 - The Selected Soils Identified (4 - 8)

The Hard & Indifferent Heart
Seed Flagrantly Rejected (4)
“Stubborn Opposition to the Word”
The Hasty & Impulsive Heart
Seed Fatally Repelled (5 - 6)
“Shallow Penetration of the Word”
The Hazardous & Impure Heart
Seed Forcefully Removed (7)
“Strong Suffocation of the Word”
The Humble & Indwelt Heart
Seed Faithfully Received (8)
“Successful Reception of the Word”

“Selected Soils – Matthew 13: 10 – 23”

Mat 13:18 KJV - Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Jesus tells his crowd the reason he uses parables. Then he begins to identify the four types of soils. It is not hard to understand his teachings on this subject concerning those that reject salvation compared to those that receive salvation. The lost person can readily find many reasons to reject the opportunity to be saved, they are plenteous.

1 - The Sacred Secret Investigated (10 - 17)

The Voicing of this Mystery “The Pondering”
“Desireful Inquiry – Revealed”
The Veiling of this Mystery “The Parables”
“Discernful Identity – Concealed”

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

2 - The Sorrowful Summation Inserted (18 - 23)

The Seed - Rejected by the Majority (Matt. 7: 13)

“A Day of Damnation & Dread”

Simple Excuses can damn a Soul

Sinful Environments can damn a Soul

Satanic Entrance can damn a Soul

The Seed - Received by the Minority (Matt. 7: 14)

“A Day of Salvation & Delight”

The True Way is Narrow

The True Way is Needful

The True Way is Noted

1 – Parables were for Comparative Purposes

2 – Parables were for Curiosity Peaking

3 – Parables were for Challenging Possessors

4 – Parables were for Concealing Posers

“Secret Sowing – Matthew 13: 24 – 28”

Mat 13:27 KJV - So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

In this section we notice that the sower planted good seed in his field but while he slept the enemy came in and planted tares. I think Satan finds great pleasure in planting fake Christians in the church. The only way he can do this is for the church to lull itself to sleep and then he creeps in and plants his imitation seeds. The sad thing was it took someone with a keen eye to detect the tares. The tare was growing right beside the wheat and unless you were keen in what you were looking for, you would invest a lot of time in harvesting a useless tare. One of the

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names of Satan is that of a Liar and a Deceiver, this is how he plants his tares among the chosen. We should not all this to startle us, because Jesus had twelve disciples and one of them was a tare. Judas followed the other eleven, but he did not fool Jesus. If Jesus had tares we will surely have them also.

1 – The Plain Identification of the Sowers (24 – 25)

Total Opposites

The Important Subjects of this Battle

The Implied Seriousness of this Battle

2 – The Pointed Implication of the Sleepers (25)

Timely Opportunity

The Dark Picture of this Age

The Diluted Perversion of this Age

3 – The Planned Infiltration of the Seeds (26 – 28)

Terrible Operation

The Infiltration was Secret & Evasive

The Infiltration was Serious & Exacting

“Imitation Implications – Matthew 13: 29 – 30”

Mat 13:30 KJV - Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

I was studying on the wheat and the tares and contacted a farmer and questioned him about tares and his information was startling. The tares look just like wheat on the outside, but on the inside they are black and empty. The farmer called the tares as “cheats”, this means that they cheated him of his effort in trying to produce a vibrant crop of grain. Then he told me something that was a bit shocking but so relevant to this story. He said that you could walk through his fields and readily see the tares, the tares actually stood straight up, while the wheat had grain on the inside and would bend down to the ground.

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

1 – The Phenomenal Imitation of the Saved

Tactful Opposition

Planted Together - Same Field

Progressed Together - Same Familiarities

Processed Together - Same Formula

2 – The Precise Investigation of the Servants

Truthful Observation

The Inspection of the Wheat

The Inward Possession

The Outward Revelation

The Inspection of the Tares

The Fake Experience of the Tare

The Found Emptiness of the Tare

3 – The Protective Isolation of the Saint (29)

True Origination

The Eternal Security of the Saints

The Elected Safety of the Saints

4 – The Proposed Incineration of the Sinful (30)

Tragic Obliteration

The Foolish Finding of the Tares - Fake Found

The Faulty Finish of the Tares - Guilty Gathered

The Fiery Furnace of the Tares - Bundles Burned

“Flawed Flourishing – Matthew 13: 31 – 32”

Mat 13:31 KJV - Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

We now find Jesus using a very strange and unlikely parable to depict the outward characterization of Christendom. The mustard seed comes from the herb family and it grows in desert lands and is a scraggly shrub. This monstrosity blossoms into a full blown tree and is filled with birds that make its branches their home. Mustard has no food value, which is totally opposite of the

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grain that was planted earlier. The birds in the previous story represented agents of the enemy, they came in and stole the seed that fell by the wayside, and the birds here again represent evil and the evil one. We are seeing the mustard tree monstrosity in full bloom in our current age. It seems that religion is flourishing, it's a mega billion dollar industry, and even in my own Baptist faith, our most prominent ministers are nothing money mongers that use the mustard tree to fill their love of money and power. The Atlanta Falcons used to be called "The Dirty Birds"; well the church of today is filled with many dirty birds that are nothing more than evil.

1 - The Perverted Growth of the Church

"Abnormal in her Size"

2 - The Polluted Greatness of the Church

"Abysmal in her Separation"

3 - The Prophesized Glamour of the Church

"Artificial in her Success"

"Mixed Meal – Matthew 13: 33"

Mat 13:33 KJV - Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

The woman in this story is another agent of evil, due to her hiding the leaven in three measures of meal. This depicts the apostasy of this age and the age before Jesus returns. The hidden leaven is the false doctrine that is allowed to penetrate the church. It is Satan's desire to contaminate and to corrupt the gospel. The idea of a woman cooking shows us how we are deceived by those we would usually trust, this is very dangerous.

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

1 - The Simple Meaning of “The Leaven”

False Misrepresentation of this Parable (For Good)
The Saving Power of the Gospel
Factual Interpretation of this Parable (For Evil)
The Seductive Pollution of the Gospel

2 - The Specific Measuring of “The Leaven”

The Meal Offering is Specifically Recognized
It's Specific Content
The Meal Offering is Sinfully Minimized
It's Spiritual Intent

3 - The Secret Mingling of “The Leaven”

Seductive in her Plan - Hinder the Church
Destructive in her Product - Harm the Church

4 - The Sad Misfortune of “The Leaven”

The Leaven of Modern Day Legalism
One's Rigorous Rules
The Leaven of Modern Day Liberalism
One's Righteous Rejection
The Leaven of Modern Day Materialism
One's Rightful Riches

“Wonderful Words – Matthew 13: 34 – 43”

Mat 13:35 KJV - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Once again we read that Jesus spoke in parables. This was earthly stories with heavenly meanings; they offered clarity to his followers and confusion to his foes. Those that could hear his words found peace, but those that hated his words found perplexity. In speaking in parables Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy of out of Psalms.

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Psa 78:2 KJV - I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Jesus spoke things that were secretive and had never been spoken since the beginning of this world. Then he goes into the house and his disciples inquire the meaning of the wheat and tares parable.

1 – The Parables “What Jesus Said” (34)

2 – The Prophecy “Why Jesus Spoke” (35)

3 – The Place “Where Jesus Stayed” (36)

4 – The Panorama “What Jesus Saw” (37 – 43)

Mat 8:14 KJV - And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

Mat 9:28 KJV - And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Mat 13:1 KJV - The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

Mat 13:36 KJV - Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Mat 17:25 KJV - He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

Mar 1:29 KJV - And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

“Terrific Treasure – Matthew 13: 44”

Mat 13:44 KJV - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

In this passage we find Jesus talking about the nation of Israel, this is not the church and cannot be interpreted as the church and be theologically correct. Let's identify the subjects of this story, in doing that we can interpret correctly. The field is this world, the treasure is the scattered nation of

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

Israel, and the Man is none other than Jesus Christ. Do you know that the greatest population of Jews is not even in Israel; at one time there were more Jews in New York City than in Israel. The Jewish people are hidden all over this world, but one day the man that literally gave his life for them, and paid the ultimate price, will bring them to himself.

1 - The Promising Delight of this Treasure

A Love Story

The Humble Beginning of this Treasure
The Holy Building of this Treasure
The Heavenly Blessings of this Treasure

2 - The Painful Dispersion of this Treasure

A Long Silence

The Prophetic Warning of Israel's Sin
The Painful Woe of Israel's Scattering
The Penalized Word's of Israel's Silence

1 - The Precious Discovery of this Treasure

A Loving Shepherd

The Shepherd Humbly Visited his Treasure
The Shepherd Heartily Valued his Treasure

4 - The Provoked Displacement of this Treasure

A Logical Stance

Israel Shamefully Rejected
Israel Spiritually Replaced
Israel Surely Remembered

“Precious Pearls – Matthew 13: 45 – 46”

Mat 13:45 KJV - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:
Mat 13:46 KJV - Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

The merchant man is not the sinner seeking Jesus or salvation, this interpretation is as unbiblical as any misguided teaching I have ever heard. The lost

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do not seek Christ, he seeks them. What does a sinner have to sell; they are bankrupt and have nothing of value to purchase salvation. The merchant man is Jesus, he was willing to leave heaven and spend all that he had to purchase a pearl. The pearl in this story is none other than the church, the precious pearl he was willing to die for; he paid the ultimate price for her. We that are saved are part of that precious pearl of great price.

1 - The Prominent Pursuing of the Pearl

“The Great Journey of Christ”

“The Diligent Inquiry to Find the Pearl - His Longing”

Its Deep Location – His Intentional Trip

Its Distinct Identification – His Individual Target

Its Deliberate Cultivation – His Inspirational Touch

2 - The Painful Perfecting of the Pearl

“The Grueling Jeopardy of Christ”

“The Dreadful Intrusion to Form the Pearl - His Life”

It’s Problem - The Oyster Grieving “It’s Cut”

It’s Process - The Oyster Giving “It’s Challenge”

It’s Price - The Oyster Glistening “It’s Cost”

3 - The Priceless Purchasing of the Pearl

“The Gracious Joy of Christ”

“The Detailed Information to Feature the Pearl - His Love”

The Intensity of his Crucifixion - “Price of his Purchase”

The Majesty of his Resurrection - “Pleasure of his Purchase”

The Dignity of his Proclamation - “Pearl of his Purchase”

“Somber Separating – Matthew 13: 47 – 51”

Mat 13:49 KJV - So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

Jesus is now summing up all of his teachings concerning the Jews, the Church, and the World. In the future this current age as we know it will end and when it does there will be a somber day of separating. It will be delightful for the believer and

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

dreadful for the unbeliever. The real issue is this, is there a heaven for the saved and a hell for the unsaved? If there is one iota of a chance this is true, then you best be prepared. The truth is that heaven and hell are real places; they are not made up symbols of good and bad. The bible is filled with references to both places.

1 - The Beautiful Casting

“Time of Timely Invitation”

The Symbolism of this Casting

The Net Symbolizes the Gospel

The Sea Symbolizes the Gentiles

The Significance of this Casting

The Reception of this Gospel

The Rejection of this Gospel

The Strategy of this Casting

Mission of Evangelization

Misperception of Christianization

2 - The Bountiful Gathering

“Time of Tremendous Reception”

The Vastness of the Gathering - “It’s Mighty Power”

The Variety of the Gathering - “It’s Mixed People”

The Virtue of the Gathering - “It’s Maintained Purity”

3 - The Breathful Separating

“Time of Truthful Separation”

A Factual Identification - “Sinners Examined”

A Fraudulent Implication - “Sinners Exposed”

A Fiery Incineration - “Sinners Extinguished”

“Foolish Familiarity – Matthew 13: 52 – 58”

Mat 13:57 KJV - And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Mat 13:58 KJV - And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

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In ending his teachings of Matthew 13, Jesus uses a very insightful and indicting illustration. The Lord was the greatest illustrative teacher this world has ever witnessed; his illustrations were so fluid and filled with fascination. He speaks of a home owner that uses old things and new things in doing his everyday household chores. The Jews were so hung up on the old things that they were about to miss the teaching of Jesus. Then he goes back to his homeland, Nazareth. In going to the synagogue we find him teaching and two things happened, on one hand they were amazed at his words, but on the other they were alarmed. The people of his home country could not get over the fact that they watched him grow up and they were familiar with his family and could not accept him for who he really was, it was impossible due to unbelief. Jesus marks their unbelief and will move on from this place and Nazareth goes down in infamy.

1 – The Illustration on Familiarity (52)

2 – The Incomprehension of Familiarity (53 – 54)

3 – The Indignation of Familiarity (55 – 56)

4 – The Inoculation of Familiarity (57)

5 – The Implication of Familiarity (58)

“Condemned Conscious – Matthew 14: 1 – 12”

Mat 14:2 KJV - And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

The fame of Jesus was spreading everywhere and Herod was deeply convicted over killing John the Baptist. Herod had heard of all that Jesus was doing and he believed that John the Baptist had risen from the dead and was now come to trouble him. He was haunted by his conscious and it was troubling him. The bible says that John was very pointed in naming the sin of Herod's adulterous life. One of the main lessons of this story is John was willing to suffer for speaking the truth. Herod teaches us that we should listen to our conscious on the front end and not have to be haunted by it on the back end. If Herod had heeded that voice things could have ended differently. This is a powerful lesson for all of us to consider.

1 – The Perceptive Acknowledgement of Herod (1)

2 – The Psychological Aggravation of Herod (2)

3 – The Persistent Adversary of Herod (3)

4 – The Pointed Accusation of Herod (4)

5 – The Public Accountability of Herod (5)

6 – The Party Atmosphere of Herod (6)

7 – The Powerful Ability of Herod (7 – 8)

8 – The Perplexing Actions (9 – 12)

“Compelling Compassion – Matthew 14: 13 – 14”

Mat 14:14 KJV - And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

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Jesus has just received word of the death of John and it has to be deeply disturbing knowing his friend and cousin was now gone. The bible doesn't give us insight on the childhood of Jesus and John but they obviously had to be very close. Upon hearing the news Jesus gets into a boat and wants to be alone and go to a desert place for some mental and physical refreshing. I think we could all learn from his example, we all need times of refreshing. The minister must learn to care for his mental and physical wellbeing, this is very needful. As he was leaving the masses decided to walk along beside him upon dry land. The boat was making headway towards docking and allowing Jesus to head into the desert, but the multitude of people were not going to give up so easily. Even though he was mourning for John, he decides he must address the needs of this group of people. Jesus looks upon the crowd and has compelling compassion for them. He begins to minister to them, healing their sick. The church of today needs this kind of compassion.

1 – The Mournful Message (13a)

2 – The Mental Moment (13b)

3 – The Marveling Mass (13c)

4 – The Moving Moment (14a)

5 – The Many Miracles (14b)

“Fast Food – Matthew 14: 15 – 21”

Mat 14:20 KJV - And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

The setting of this story is in a desert place, the intended place that Jesus was seeking for rest and refreshment. The crowds have followed him as he traveled by water they walked by land. The day is passing swiftly and the crowd is hungry but the disciples realize they have nothing to offer them and the city is a good distance away. Jesus asks the disciples what they have to feed the crowd and one of his disciples informs him of a lad with five small loafs and two little fishes. Jesus was going to display just how mighty he was by taking this meager meal and feeding over 5000 men not counting the women and the children. The lad gave his meal to Jesus and when all was said and done they have 12 baskets full of leftovers. This miracle incited the nation and the fame of Jesus literally spread like a wildfire throughout the nation of Israel. Jesus can mightily supersize the small!

1 – The Lack (15)

2 – The Lesson (16)

3 – The Lad (17, John 6: 9)

4 – The Loaves and fishes (17)

5 – The Lord (18 – 20a)

6 – The Leftovers (20b)

7 – The Largeness (21)

“Stunned Shipmen – Matthew 14: 22 – 33”

Mat 14:33 KJV - Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

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In this setting we find Jesus sending his disciples to the other side of the sea, knowing a storm was going to cause them much trouble in the coming minutes. Jesus went to the top of the mountain to pray, he always liked to have his time for personal prayer and refreshing. The storm hits and he surprisingly appears, Peter walks on water, and then Jesus stills the winds and the waves.

1 – The Preferred Move (22a)

2 – The Parting Multitude (22b – 23a)

3 – The Praying Master (23b)

4 – The Private Moment (23c)

5 – The Perplexing Melee (24)

6 – The Phenomenal Man (25)

7 – The Planned Meeting (26)

8 – The Peaceful Message (27)

9 – The Powerful Maneuver (28 – 29)

10 – The Plea Met (30 – 31)

11 – The Performed Miracle (32)

12 – The Praising Men (33)

“Miraculous Moves – Matthew 14: 34 – 36”

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

Mat 14:36 KJV - And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Now we find Jesus and his disciples traveling through Genessaret, which is located near the towns of Bethsaida and Capernaum. As soon as people realize he is there they sent out news for everyone to bring the sick and diseased, for Jesus to heal them. I am not really sure we can comprehend how many people Jesus actually healed. The bible often minimizes the magnitude of his heals by saying he healed many, or he healed them all. The reality of this is that Jesus done this for nearly 3 ½ years. The gospel of John says that the world could not even contain all of the books if every one of his miracles were written down. The common man was drawn to Jesus and they mobbed him everywhere that he showed up. In this setting we find them bringing in all of the diseased and all that was required was just to touch the hem of his garment. This would have been an awesome event to witness; the disciples may have made the masses pass by in single file to touch his garment. Once again we are clueless to how many, the text just tells us that as many as touched were healed, how many?

1 – The Prominent Place (34)

2 – The Notable News (35a)

3 – The Challenging Call (35b)

4 – The Targeted Touch (36a)

5 – The Massive Miracles (36b)

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“Tradition Transgressors – Matthew 15: 1 – 20”

Mat 14:36 KJV - And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

The five thousand went away from the desert and were telling anyone that listened about how Jesus had fed them with the meager supply of loaves and fishes. The religious leaders from Jerusalem heard of this miracle and wanted to know how Jesus and his disciples done this in the desert and failed to wash their hands. I find this utterly nauseating knowing this crowd still exists today. Something should be mentioned here, not one time was Jesus ever accused of violating any scripture, they always attacked him for violating tradition. Jesus informed them how they were they hypocrites by dedicating all their money to God, this way they would not have to honor their parents by taking care of them. Jesus informs his followers it's not what goes into a man that defiles him, but what comes out of him. This religious crowd honored Jesus with their lips but they were so far from being saved, it would be nearly impossible for this group to get saved.

1 – The Religious Travelers (1)

2 – The Reported Tradition (2)

3 – The Real Transgressors (3 – 6)

4 – The Rebuking Talk (7 – 9)

5 – The Right Test (10 – 11)

6 – The Repulsive Tares (13 – 14)

7 – The Revealed Truth (15 – 20)

“Gracing Gentiles – Matthew 15: 21 – 28”

Mat 15:27 KJV - And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

This is the first time in the public ministry of Jesus that we find him crossing the borders of Israel. He crossed the boarder from Israel to modern day Lebanon and in doing so he is showing the religious leaders that in reality he will dispose of their vain useless traditions. He had just battled them over violating unclean practices and now he will fully enrage them when he deals with unclean people. This woman was a Canaanite lady and she was of various mixed ethnicity and Jesus is going to heal her daughter. This woman addressed Jesus as the Son of David; this was to be used by those that are God's people, which obviously she was not. Jesus ignores her, but in doing so he is building her faith. Then she worships Jesus as the very Son of God and asks him to help her and her daughter. Jesus tells her his task is for the lost sheep of Israel, but she says that even the dogs are allowed the crumbs.

1 – The Coast Jesus Entered (21)

2 – The Cry Jesus Encountered (22)

3 – The Confusion Jesus Evoked (23)

4 – The Concept Jesus Embraced (24)

5 – The Conditions Jesus Enjoyed (25)

6 – The Compassion that Jesus Emanated (26 – 27)

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7 – The Comfort that Jesus Expelled (28)

“Glorious Gazing – Matthew 15: 29 – 39”

Mat 15:37 KJV - And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

The Lord has made it back to the mountainside of Galilee and he wants to go back up on the mount. Once again we find him trying to rest but the sick and the diseased are striving for his attention, this crowd has been following him for three days now. The text says that it was a great multitude; we do know that the crowd had at least 4000 men not including the women and the children. The crowd was amazed at his miraculous healing powers and in turn the rejoiced and glorified God. Jesus wants to feed the crowd, but his disciples tell him they only have 7 loaves of bread and a few fish, obviously they had forgotten him feeding the 5000 with less food. This is just like mankind; we are so foolish and forgetful of the goodness and the mighty bigness of our Lord. The modern movies show this crowd mobbing him for food, but the text says they were seated and fed in an orderly manner.

1 – The Mountainside Gathering (29)

2 – The Mercy Given (30)

3 – The Mighty Glorification (31)

4 – The Mandated Generosity (32)

5 – The Mindless Generalization (33)

6 – The Master Gesturing (34 – 35)

7 – The Miraculous Giver (36 – 39)

“Dumb Discerners – Matthew 16: 1 – 4”

Mat 16:1 KJV - The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

This is the fourth time the religious leaders would ask Jesus for a miraculous demonstration, but Jesus knew their intent and he never heeded their needless request. The enemy decided to join forces to trick or entrap Jesus. It is odd how common enemies found a common combatant in Jesus Christ. The Lord tells this crowd that they can discern the weather on a daily basis by reading the signs in the skies, but they aren't spiritual enough to read the bible and discern the biblical signs that depict the current times. The Lord accused them of committing spiritual adultery, by forsaking and abandoning God. Then Jesus informs them they will soon have a sign, the sign of Jonah, this was prophecy concerning his crucifixion and his resurrection. Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights, so would Jesus be buried the same amount of time. After three days and three nights Jonah was released and Jesus would rise up from death on his own accord. This is the third time Jesus departs from Galilee, once from Herod, once from the Pharisees and here.

1 – The Secret Setup (1a)

2 – The Sign Seekers (1b)

3 – The Skyward Signs (2 – 3a)

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4 – The Stern Suggestion (3b)

5 – The Scriptural Symbol (4)

“Symbolic Sayings – Matthew 16: 5 – 12”

Mat 16:6 KJV - Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

The disciples had forgotten all of the leftovers from the feeding of the 4000, maybe they were tired or just figured one of the others had taken care of the food. In Mark 8: 14 we read that when they entered the boat they only had one loaf with them. Jesus must have looked at the loaf of bread and wanted to use it as an object lesson. He warns them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The disciples begin to discuss this and they were so wrong in their discussion. The twelve must have thought he was warning them about the bread they would eat or have to soon purchase, to make sure it was clean. Jesus discerned their confusion and scolded them for their lack of discernment. He tells them if it were a matter of needing or having bread he had just done two massive miracles, so obviously it was not about buying bread. Jesus told them it was about the evil doctrine of the religious leaders. It is the desire of evil people to subtly mix in evil doctrine, to hide it and hope it goes undetected until it's too late and the damage is already done.

1 – The Forgotten Food (5)

2 – The Wise Warning (6)

3 – The Dumb Discussion (7)

4 – The Rebuking Reminder (8 – 10)

5 – The Deceitful Doctrine (11 – 12)

“Wondrous Words – Matthew 16: 13 – 20”

Mat 16:15 KJV - He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 KJV - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Once again we find Jesus in Gentile territory and he is going to press his disciples about who others think he is and who they discern that he is. This is still the pressing question of today, who is Jesus Christ. Is he just a good man, one that done miracles and is famous? Is this Christ guy a mighty teacher and leader of a specific religion or is he God? This question is still as important today as it was the day Jesus pressed his disciples for an answer. The disciples told him who the crowds thought he might be, but Peter gloriously told us who he was and whom he is even today. He is Jesus Christ the son of God.

1 – The Gentile Location (13a)

2 – The Grave Question (13b)

3 – The Group Discussion (14)

4 – The Glaring Comprehension (15)

5 – The Great Revelation (16)

6 – The Glorious Suggestion (17)

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7 – The Godly Foundation (18)

8 – The Granted Possessions (19)

9 – The Guarded Admonition (20)

“Suffering Suggested – Matthew 16: 21 – 28”

Mat 16:26 KJV - For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Jesus is now going to take his teaching to a higher level of discipleship for his disciples. He is now going to reveal to them in a clear manner that he will soon die. This was not what his followers expected, they figured he would lead them in a rebellion against Rome and set up his kingdom with pomp and power, but they were so misguided. Jesus would choose suffering and servitude not pomp and power. Peter must have pulled Jesus to the side and begin to scold him, telling him death was not acceptable, but Jesus turned away from him and in turn, he rebuked Peter for his selfish desires. The Lord begins to reveal that suffering would be the demarcation of his followers, it would be deemed as part of his manifesto. The Lord would suffer and so would his army of followers. In time he would return and reward all that truly followed him. The price of discipleship has eternal dividends.

1 – The Suffering Savior (21)

2 – The Disputing Disciple (22)

3 – The Angered Assertion (23)

4 – The Discipleship Definition (24 – 25)

5 – The Eternal Exchange (26)

6 – The Godly Gifts (27)

7 – The King’s Kingdom (28)

“Son Shining – Matthew 17: 1 – 13”

Mat 17:2 KJV - And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

The Transfiguration story is told in the first three gospels but not in John. One striking note about this event is that none of the passages tells us which mountain it occurred on. The obvious choice would be Mount Herman, which was located near Capernaum. The apostle Peter only designates it as The Holy Mount, in his writings.

2Pe 1:18 KJV - And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

The Lord was changed right before the group’s eyes, Peter, James, and John were witnesses of a glorious sight, one that would literally change their lives after his resurrection. The transfiguration was awesome for a display of God’s divinity but also offered hope for man’s humanity.

1 – The Honored Men (1a)

2 – The High Mountain (1b)

3 – The Holy Moment (2)

4 – The Honorable Messengers (3)

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5 – The Hasty Move (4)

6 – The Heavenly Message (5)

7 – The Hushed Mandate (6 – 9)

8 – The Helpful Manifestation (10 – 13)

“Helpless Helpers – Matthew 17: 14 – 21”

Mat 17:15 KJV - Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

Mat 17:16 KJV - And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

The scene now switches from the mountain top to the bottom of the mount and the crowds are waiting for Jesus to reappear. Once again the crowd is huge and it seems they are in rare form for Jesus and his miraculous power. The moment he is in their midst a man comes falling at Jesus feet begging for Jesus to display healing mercy upon his son. The son was depicted as a lunatic, he was really demon possessed and the demon was trying to cause great harm upon the man's son. This is one of Satan's modern day tools, using demonic possession to inflict people to cut themselves, to do other bodily harm and to commit suicide. The dad reveals that the disciples of Jesus could not help his son, so in turn Jesus sternly rebukes their lack of faith. Jesus calls for the possessed son and immediately heals him and sets him free. Then Jesus privately counsels them on why they were helpless.

1 – The Huge Crowd (14)

2 – The Heartfelt Cry (15)

3 – The Harsh Charge (16)

4 – The Heavy Chastisement (17a)

5 – The Helpful Cure (17b – 18)

6 – The Humbling Conversation (19 – 21)

“Faithfully Focused – Matthew 17: 22 – 27”

Mat 17:23 KJV - And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Jesus is preparing the twelve for the events that will soon be coming. The fluid structures of his statements are very detailed and insightful. Jesus tells of his betrayal, isn't it odd that one of his own followers will be the one to enact this prophecy. He next informs them of his impending death and his resurrection. In hearing this news his followers were very heavy hearted. If we read the gospels carefully we realize that most of his statements concerning his death and resurrection were not close to being comprehended until after his death, burial, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit brought it to the forefront after his mighty resurrection. Upon arriving in Capernaum some of them begin to question Peter on whether or not Jesus paid taxes, of course Jesus was an honorable citizen and he made arrangements with Peter to provide some money for their taxes. Jesus sends Peter fishing and tells him the first fish he catches will have a coin in its mouth.

1 – The Plan that was Foreseen (22a)

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2 – The Possibility that was Feared (22b)

3 – The Prophecy that was Forgotten (23a)

4 – The Pain that was Felt (23b)

5 – The Payment that was Forthcoming (24 – 26)

6 – The Provision that was Furnished (27)

“Haughty Humiliation – Matthew 18: 1 – 10”

Mat 18:1 KJV - At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

It seems that the disciples of Jesus had been discussing who were the greatest and who would be the greatest in the kingdom. I would assume that the big three, Peter, James, and John would have been deeply involved in this conversation. The Lord doesn't even attempt to appease their selfish question; instead he picks a small child from the crowd. The Lord then tells them that the only way you can even be in heaven is to become just like a child. If you are saved, you will have child like faith, one that disregards sight and selfishness, and cleaves to childlike faith. The key is that children don't have agendas; they mostly live by trusting others. This simple trust that Jesus is trying to illustrate brings forth a stern accusation to anyone that wants to harm or abuse little ones. You would be much better off to cut off your limbs or pluck out your eyes if they would be used as instruments to harm one of God's little creatures. This is a very stern warning to those that molest children or kids.

1 – The Selfish Question (1)

2 – The Simple Illustration (2 – 3)

3 – The Shocking Elevation (4)

4 – The Somber Affirmation (5)

5 – The Stern Condemnation (6)

6 – The Seething Infuriation (7 – 10)

“Little Lambs – Matthew 18: 11 – 14”

Mat 18:14 KJV - Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

The main ministry of Jesus Christ was to save sinners, it was not to heal the sick or expel the demonic. Jesus reiterates that this is his main agenda, the agenda of saving the lost sinner. In this passage he illustrates the importance of leaving the ninety and nine, and going out to find that one lost lamb. Jesus is teaching us the importance of individual soul winning. It is wonderful to have a church full of saved people, but we must also specialize in going out and finding the stragglers, those that have gone astray of the gospel. This was his main focus and it should be the focus of the modern church age. Upon finding the lost sheep, then and only then could there be true rejoicing. If we are the true church of our God, we will focus on seeing the lost saved, this was what made Jesus rejoice and it should be the focal point of our rejoicing. We also find a stern warning to anyone that wants to violate the innocence of a child, Jesus tells them they would be much better to go out and hang themselves and to be drowned deep in the

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ocean. It is a very serious thing for people to mess with God's little creatures, they are his and he will invoke judgment upon those that harm them.

1 – Christ Saving the Sinner (11)

2 – Christ Seeking the Strays (12)

3 – Christ Shepherding the Sheep (13)

4 – Christ Securing the Small (14)

“Conquering Conflict – Matthew 18: 15 – 17”

Mat 18:15 KJV - Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

The Lord is now going to tell us how to handle conflict between two brothers or sisters within the church. The issue must be addressed one on one and not taken through the gossip circles that we call prayerful discussion. Jesus says that if we are aware that one of our fellow Christians has an issue with us, then we need to go specifically to that one brother or sister and try to clear up the matter. The goal is to reach an accord that will leave the relationship healthy and vibrant, if we achieve this then we have gained a true brother or sister. If this does not work then you need to go and find some trustworthy brethren and ask them to go with you. Upon talking to the other person, once again you want to resolve the matter in a Christian matter. If this does not work and the offense must be brought before the church and a true decision is rendered. If the other party does not obey by the churches decision, then fellowship is broken immediately and

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

that person will be ostracized by the church until the repent and decide to comply with the churches decision. This is the plan that is laid out for us.

1 – Church Conflict Discussed Privately (15) “Private Discussion is Prescribed”

2 – Church Conflict Deliberated Pluralistically (16) “Purposeful Deliberation is Preferred”

3 – Church Conflict Diagnosed Painfully (17) “Personal Discipline is Practiced”

“Discipline Diagnosed – Matthew 18: 18 – 20”

Mat 18:20 KJV - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

If we hastily read through this passage we will not link them to the previous set of scriptures dealing with church conflict. The reality is that this set of scriptures is a continuation on how to administer church discipline. Once the situation has reached the level of administering church discipline, then this is how it should evolve. Jesus tells us that as a church we have binding and loosening powers in heaven and on the earth. If we have to bind someone for disobedience and lack of repentance then that persons discipline has the binding power of heaven. If we see that they have repented then we can loosen them from the discipline and God will accept this in heaven. It is very important that this be done with biblical backing. This action should be done with much prayer and upon praying we find agreement through the leading of the Holy Spirit. In verse 19 we read the word agreement, this has the meaning of being in symphony, it has a musical

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connotation. It implies that the church should be very harmonious in administering church discipline and in what it hopes to achieve from this discipline. If we do this Christ will gather with us, he is pleased.

1 – Church Discipline and our Power (18)

“Our Authority – His Power”

2 – Church Discipline and our Prayers (19)

“Our Agreement – His Plan”

3 – Church Discipline and our Purpose (20)

“Our Aim – His Presence”

“Seventy Sevens – Matthew 18: 21 – 22”

Mat 18:21 KJV - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 KJV - Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

We are still dealing with Christian relationships and conflict. It seems that Peter was grasping the Christian concept that Jesus was trying to teach his followers. The goal of church discipline was not to inflict pain and power but to win a brother and to eliminate sinful behavior. This age must administer truth but it must be bathed in love and humility. Jesus is teaching his followers the importance of humility in our relationships. Peter was like most of us, he wanted a set limit, and he needed a number that could be maximized. In reality love has no limits and it must overlook faults and failures and be anxious to forgive. This is a Christian facet that many are not willing to administer in their lives today, we are quick to judge and to harbor hate,

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

unlike Jesus who was quick to forgive and hasty in loving the sinner. The rabbis taught that three times was adequate, so peter felt good in going to the limit with seven. Jesus said you're not even close, let's try 490 times if you really want to keep tabs. This does not mean we are to be mindless.

1 – The Serious Situation (21a)

2 – The Forgiveness Factor (21b)

3 – The Numerical Need (21c)

4 – The Astronomical Answer (22)

“Ruthless Results – Matthew 18: 23 – 34”

Mat 18:35 KJV - So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

The matter of forgiveness is still being discussed in this passage. The Lord has discussed administering reconciliation with a brother. Then he tells us how to administer church discipline. After this he informs us on how to forgive each other and how to be humble in forgiving each other. Now he gives us a very vivid parable on the importance of forgiving and the implications of not forgiving. Jesus tells us about a man that was in great debt to the king and upon checking his records the king calls the man in to hold him accountable for his debt. The man falls before the king and begs him for more time; the king feels compassion for him and releases him of all his debt. The forgiven man then goes out and finds someone that owes him some money and he cast this man in prison. The king finds out and in turn reenacts this man's former debt and in turn cast this

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man into prison. The emphasis here is that all of us have been forgiven many times by the Lord for our egregious depts. and in turn we best not forget and refuse to offer others this same forgiveness. The act of forgiveness is part of the Christian arsenal, it is one of our greatest attributes and we should use it.

1 – The Account of a Debtor (23 – 27)

“His Great Dept”

2 – The Actions of a Creditor (28 – 30)

“His Grievous Dealings”

3 – The Affliction of a Prisoner (31 – 34)

“His Grave Demise”

“Divorced Discussed – Matthew 19: 1 – 12”

Mat 19:9 KJV - And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Once again we find that the religious leaders are trying to entrap Jesus, but this crowd was not keen enough to do that, he was God and could read their minds. The group wanted Jesus to diminish the teachings on divorce, but he would not diminish it, he would mightily magnify the marriage mandate and promote its purity and purpose. Jesus said of course Moses offered them a decree of divorcement, but it was only due to the hardness of man's heart, divorce was not and is not from God. The Lord gives details on the original marital boundaries and then he upholds marriage by discussing what real adultery is within one's marriage. This was a hard subject for many to grasp, but it is needful.

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1 – The Departing Master (1)

2 – The Delivered Multitude (2)

3 – The Deceitful Motives (3)

4 – The Divine Marriage (4 – 6)

5 – The Divorce Manuscript (7)

6 – The Divisive Matter (8)

7 – The Deep Message (9)

8 – The Disciples Marveling (10 – 12)

“Toddler Time – Matthew 19: 13 – 15”

Mat 19:14 KJV - But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

I find this text to be very refreshing and relevant especially in today's society. It is strange that after discussing divorce that the next passage deals with parents brings their children to the Lord so that he could lay hands on them and pray for them. This is the greatest need of today, getting our children into the very presence of God, it has always been needful and even more so in our busy age. The disciples wanted to disallow this from happening and in doing so they got a very firm scolding from the Lord. Jesus will always allow time for children to come unto him, he loves them and every child is heaven bound until they reach the age of accountability. This is why it is so important to teach them while they are young, and then upon reaching the right

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age, they will ask the Lord to save them. It is awesome how that Jesus cares enough for the little ones that he ensures they will be taken care of eternally until they can decide for themselves. After Jesus scolds his disciples, he then goes onto praying over the little children. The Lord made a huge deal out of children and so should the church today.

1 – The Little Children (13a)

2 – The Limitation Crowd (13b)

3 – The Livid Chastisement (14a)

4 – The Lord’s Crew (14b)

5 – The Loving Choice (15)

“Hell’s Hostage – Matthew 19: 16 – 30”

Mat 19:16 KJV - And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

We find the rich young ruler asking Jesus what he can do to inherit eternal life. The obvious answer is that there is not onething a person can do to get themselves into heaven. Heaven is only accessed by trusting not be trying. Jesus reveals this message to his disciples and informs them that many rich people will never enter heaven. This text implies that many will become hostages of hell due to their enslavement to riches. This man could not let go of his massive wealth and if anything is of more value to you than Jesus Christ, you too could become a hostage of hell, this is something to ponder.

1 – Salvation Myths (16)

2 – Supreme Mandates (17 – 19)

3 – Struggling Mystery’s (20)

4 – Startling Moment (21)

5 – Sorrowful Move (22)

6 – Scary Musings (23 – 24)

7 – Shocked Men (25)

8 – Supernatural Miracles (26)

9 – Sacrificial Ministry (27)

10 – Satisfying Manifestations (28 – 30)

“Satisfied Servants – Matthew 20: 1 – 16”

Mat 20:16 KJV - So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

In this story Jesus is teaching us to be happy with our service. The first workmen of this story wanted to have specific wages before they would do the job. It seems that they would not agree to take the job before an agreement was settled upon. If the laborers had realized how gracious the good man was they would have worked for him and allowed him to set their wages. As the day unfolded the goodman hired other workers and when all was said and done he paid them all the same pay. This infuriated the men that were hired early in the day; they received the same pay as some that only worked for a few hours. Jesus wants us to trust him and to labor for him out of love and

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thankfulness. The good thing about the life of a Christian is that no matter what age you get saved and begin to run the race God will reward you out of a heart of love and grace. The key is we need to be satisfied and happy that we have the opportunity to serve in his fields. The reality is that if we were to reward ourselves for serving him more than likely we would underpay ourselves, he will do more than we could ever comprehend or expect.

1 – The Agreed Wages (1 – 2)

2 – The Additional Workers (3 – 7)

3 – The Approved Worth (8 – 9)

4 – The Angry Workmen (10 – 12)

5 – The Appropriate Way (13 – 16)

“Jerusalem Jeopardy – Matthew 20: 17 – 19”

Mat 20:18 KJV - Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

Mat 20:19 KJV - And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

This passage is squeezed into the middle of a group of men that were angry and unthankful for their wages and the mother of two of his apostles seeking a place of prestige for her two sons. Jesus never allowed all the daily events to distract him of why he came down to this earth. He came down here to get to Jerusalem, namely to get to Calvary, there was no other option, nor another way. He is trying to

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prepare his disciples about his upcoming betrayal, his tainted trial, his scourging, his crucifixion, and his eventual resurrection. This teaching would not be brought to light until after his crucifixion.

1 – The Twelve Men (17)

2 – The Traitor Mentioned (18a)

3 – The Tainted Magistrates (18b)

4 – The Tragic Mandate (18c)

5 – The Throng Mocking (19a)

6 – The Terrible Mangling (19b)

7 – The Treacherous Murder (19c)

8 – The Triumphant Morning (19d)

“Servants Stoop – Matthew 20: 20 – 28”

Mat 20:26 KJV - But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Mat 20:27 KJV - And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Jesus has just emphasized his impending betrayal and death, and then the mom of James and John enters the scene and infuriates his followers. The woman wants Jesus give her sons prominent seats in his kingdom. The other ten heard this and it angered them beyond verbal expression. Jesus wasted no time in setting her straight, and then setting his disciples straight. He informs her that all that truly follow him will drink of the same bitter

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cup that he was drinking from, and most of them would drink the cup of martyrdom. The cup very well could indicate that we all will have our own daily sacrifices, daily struggles, and daily sorrows. The Christian life will afford us many pleasures, joys, and benefits, but on the flip side there will be harsh consequences that will come our way. The follower that is faithful will suffer persecution for his or her faith; it is a fact that should be expected. If we want to be great in his kingdom we need to be servants that are committed to each other.

1 – The Selfish Request (20 – 21)

2 – The Somber Reply (22 – 23)

3 – The Seething Reaction (24)

4 – The Servitude Revelation (25 – 27)

5 – The Son Ransoming (28)

“Donkey Discussions – Matthew 21: 1 – 11”

Mat 21:5 KJV - Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

The Lord is now heading quickly to the cross; his ministry is going to be decisively point to the cross. This particular passage presents him as offering himself as the king to the Jewish people. The key point I want to illustrate in this passage is the colt that Jesus rode upon. Why did he choose to ride upon a colt? The scriptures prophesied he would ride upon a colt, but there are other reasons for this decision. *1Ki 1:33 KJV - The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule,*

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and bring him down to Gihon:. Jesus rode upon a donkey which represented peace; he did not ride upon a horse that represented war. The people well understood the implications of him riding upon this donkey. Some writers say that this was no ordinary donkey but a white one cover in spots.

1 – The Simple Charge (1 – 2)

2 – The Specific Conditions (3)

3 – The Scriptural Clarity (4 – 5)

4 – The Submissive Compliance (6)

5 – The Selected Colt (7)

6 – The Shouting Celebration (8 – 9)

7 – The Serious Concern (10)

8 – The Sure Conversation (11)

“Christ’s Colt – Matthew 21: 1 – 11”

Mat 21:2 KJV - Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

We previously discussed how this colt or donkey was the choice of kings. This colt would be like a king riding in a Rolls Royce in our day and time. The bible prophesied about this little donkey. *Zec 9:9 KJV - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the*

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foal of an ass. The choice of this donkey may also be linked to the story of Abraham and Isaac, as Abraham used a donkey to help him on his journey to Mount Moriah. *Gen 22:3 KJV - And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.* In the days of Israeli Judges they also rode upon donkeys. *Jdg 5:10 KJV - Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way. Jdg 10:3 KJV - And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty and two years. Jdg 10:4 KJV - And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havothjair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead.* Jesus soon judges people in the temple.

1 – The Prophecy of this Colt

2 – The Peacefulness of this Colt

3 – The Perception of this Colt

“Thriving Thieves – Matthew 21: 12 – 16”

Mat 21:13 KJV - And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

This is the second time that Jesus has cleansed the temple, he done it three years earlier at the beginning of his ministry. Now three years later, we find him overturning the tables and chastising those that were making a mockery of his house. In quoting the scriptures to these people Jesus was actually declaring that he was God. The temple was in reality his house, he was God and it was his house. In the midst of doing this he also displays

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his Godly ability by healing the blind and the lame. The court of the gentiles was for foreigners to be allowed into the temple to learn about the one true God of Israel. The wheeling and dealing that was going on inside the temple was making a mockery of true religion and making the High Priest and his sons very wealthy. This religious mafia had a monopoly on the sacrificial turtle doves that would be sold to certain people. The children were still worshipping him and the religious leaders were even more committed to kill him. The Lord reads their minds and confronts them of their evil thoughts.

1 – The Seething Wrath of Jesus (12)

2 – The Scriptural Word of Jesus (13)

3 – The Supernatural Wonders of Jesus (14)

4 – The Sad Woes of Jesus (15a, 15c)

5 – The Supreme Worship of Jesus (15b)

6 – The Shocking Wisdom of Jesus (16)

“Tainted Tree – Matthew 21: 17 – 22”

Mat 21:19 KJV - And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

This is the last week of Jesus and his public ministry; he has just left Jerusalem and stayed in Bethany, house of figs. On his way back to Jerusalem he is hungry and sees a fig tree that looks to have fruit but its barren. Jesus cursed the

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tree and it withered up immediately, this symbolized the nation of Israel that looked to have religion and God but it was all superficial. It would not be but another 40 years or so and the city would be turned upside down by a ferocious enemy. God would reject these people just as they had rejected his son. This story is a depiction of God judging his people.

1 – His Lodging and Dwelling (17)

2 – His Longing and Desire (18)

3 – His Loathing and Denunciation (19)

4 – His Lookers and Discerners (20)

5 – His Likeness and Dialogue (21 – 22)

1 – The Tree and its Symbolism (Israel)

2 – The Tree and its Shame (Fruitless)

3 – The Tree and its Sentencing (Future Destruction)

4 – The Tree and its Suggestion (Power of Prayer)

“Religious Rejection – Matthew 21: 23 – 27”

Mat 21:23 KJV - And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

The religious crowd was going to press Jesus on who gave him his authority. The authority in question was his new interpretation of the bible. The new teachings of Jesus went against everything

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they were trying to lay upon the people. The teachings of this group of leaders were like a heavy yoke of bondage and it was unbearable. The authority of Jesus was so unique that the religious crowd refused to accept it. The nation of Israel had been turned upside down due to the freedom that Jesus was offering them. Jesus pressed this crowd to either accept or reject John. The crowd knew that if they answered him either way they could find themselves in a tough situation.

1 – The Specified Authority (23)

2 – The Strategic Answer (24)

3 – The Significant Appeal (25a)

4 – The Secret Anguish (25b – 26)

5 – The Submissive Appeasement (27)

1 – The Reception of John that was Needful
“John and his Authoritative Ministry”

2 – The Rejection of John that was Noted
“John and his Approved Murder”

“Kingdom Keepers – Matthew 21: 28 – 32”

Mat 21:32 KJV - For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Jesus is stepping up his indictments against the damnable self righteousness of the Jewish leaders. This parable magnifies the sinful hearts of the

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religious leaders. When John the Baptist presented his ministry he was immediately rejected by these same leaders, but the wayward sinners readily received his message. This was an indictment upon this self righteous group. The numbers tell us that between 75 and 80 percent of most cities in the USA are not affiliated with any religious organization. In reality I wonder how many of those that sit upon our church pews week after week are truly saved. I dare say 99.9 percent of all church trouble comes from religious self righteous church members.

1 – The Subtle Rebuke (28)

2 – The Sinner Repenting (29)

3 – The Self Righteous (30)

4 – The Sobering Revelation (31)

5 – The Shameful Rejection (32)

1 – The Facts of this Parable

2 – The Foolishness of this Parable

3 – The Fear of this Parable

“Vineyard Violence – Matthew 21: 33 – 46”

Mat 21:41 KJV - They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

1 – The Symbolism that was Mingled (33 – 41)

2 – The Servants that were Mauled (34 – 36)

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3 – The Son that was Murdered (37 – 39)

4 – The Sentence that was Mentioned (40 – 41)

5 – The Stone that was Magnified (42 – 44)

6 – The Saying that was Measured (45 – 46)

1 – The Householder is God

2 – The Vineyard was Israel

3 – The Husbandmen were the religious leaders

4 – The Servants were God’s prophets

5 – The Son that was sent was Jesus

6 – The Other Husbandmen is the Church

7 – The Stone was none other than God’s Son

Scriptures to offer insight:

Isaiah 5: 1 – 7

Psalms 118: 22 – 23

“Wedding Weepers – Matthew 22: 1 – 14”

Mat 22:8 KJV - Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Once again Jesus is displaying the sinful self righteousness of the religious rulers of Israel. The nation of Israel had first dibs to the wedding but of course they were too busy in living their selfish sinful

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lives than to honor God with their presence and allegiance. Jesus goes on to illustrate how evil they were by showing how they had slain his servants and rejected his invitations on numerous occasions. The Lord also gives Israel an insightful hint into the coming judgment that was coming their way. Then the Lord shows that upon Israel's rejection the invitations would now be sent to the Gentiles, this had to be shockingly painful as the religious hypocrites heard his indicting words.

1 – The Wedding Request (1 – 3a)

2 – The Willful Rejection (3b – 5)

3 – The Wicked Reaction (6)

4 – The Wrathful Retribution (7)

5 – The Worldly Recipients (8 – 10)

6 – The Watchful Ruler (11)

7 – The Warranted Robes (12a)

8 – The Wordless Response (13)

9 – The Wise Recourse (14)

“Troubling Taxation – Matthew 22: 15 – 22”

Mat 22:17 KJV - Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou?
Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Mat 22:18 KJV - But Jesus perceived their wickedness,
and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

We are about to see three questions offered up to Jesus from his arch enemies. The first question is a political question that brought together two factions

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that found common ground in hating Jesus. The Pharisees were against any taxation against the Jewish people but the Herodians supported this taxation. The two enemies came together to plot against Jesus. It was their intent to either force Jesus to speak publicly against Caesar and denounce the poll tax or to get him to agree with the poll tax and turn the common man against him. We find some very insightful information in the answer that Jesus offered to their deceitful question. I find it insightful that Jesus had to ask someone in from the crowd to show him a penny. I wonder how Jesus would look upon those that have used religion in today's society to become filthy rich. Jesus gave them some wise advice, he looked at the coin and told them to give unto Caesar his part and make sure to honor God with his part. The roads they traveled were built by Caesar, pay him his part.

1 – The Hidden Plot (15)

2 – The Herodian Partnership (16)

3 – The Hellish Proclamation (17)

4 – The Hypocritical People (18)

5 – The Helpful Proposal (19 – 22)

“Resurrection Revelations – Matthew 22: 23 – 33”

Mat 22:28 KJV - Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

Mat 22:29 KJV - Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

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The Sadducees did not even believe in the resurrection of the dead. This group proposed to Jesus a very foolish question about a woman that was married to a man that died and each of his six brothers also married her upon the death of each brother. This was called a Levirate Marriage and more information can be found in Deuteronomy 25: 5 – 10. This word has nothing to do with the Levites, but comes from a Latin word meaning husband's brother. Jesus informed this group that they had no knowledge of the scriptures or of the power of God. Jesus then tells this group of unbelievers that in the resurrection things will not be the same as they are upon the earth. In the next life there would be no need for marriage and there would be no deaths. The reality was that this group used untruths to try and paint insight snapshots about the future. Jesus said all of your evaluations hinged upon death, I am not focusing upon death but upon life, God assured us of life not death.

1 – The Foolish Illustration (23 – 27)

2 – The Fraudulent Question (28)

3 – The Final Authorization (29 – 30)

4 – The Factual Resurrection (31)

5 – The Favorable Summarization (33)

“Neighborly Notions – Matthew 22: 34 – 46”

Mat 22:37 KJV - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mat 22:38 KJV - This is the first and great commandment.

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Mat 22:39 KJV - And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The Pharisees were enjoying the moment of Jesus silencing their religious rivals. The Sadducees were licking their wounds, so the Pharisees decided to throw one of their lawyers into the mix. Obviously this chosen man was one of their best and brightest lawyers, so they felt comfortable that he could entrap Jesus concerning the law. This prominent man proposed an age old question to Jesus, which law is the greatest. The religious leaders had broken the law into two various classifications, the heavy laws and the light laws. This crowd diminished Gods laws, into these two groupings, so that you could major on the heavy and ignore the light. Jesus gave the wisest answer a man could give to this crowd. The first thing you had to do was love God and in loving God you would in turn love your neighbor. Upon confronting this group none of them would ask him any more questions.

1 – The Pleasure of a Multitude (34)

2 – The Plot of a Mocker (35 – 36)

3 – The Prominence of a Message (37 – 40)

4 – The Preference of a Man (41 – 45)

5 – The Power of a Moment (46)

“Religious Rejects – Matthew 23: 1 – 39”

Mat 23:3 KJV - All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

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Jesus is now inflicting an onslaught of truth to bring the hypocrites deceitful ways to light. He is not going to hold back, from this point on it is him against all of them. The hypocrites will no longer question him, but he will prod them continuously until he is on the cross. Jesus is removing every ounce of hypocrisy in their lives and in the end they will attack him like a pack of hungry wolves. The teachings of Jesus set men free but the teachings of the hypocrites only bound men and weighed them down. This was not acceptable to the leaders and war had been declared to destroy this man Jesus.

1 – The Stolen Seats (1- 2)

2 – The False Front (3)

3 – The Binding Burdens (4a)

4 – The Hesitant Helpers (4b)

5 – The Scenic Sightings (5)

6 – The Prominent Posturing (6)

7 – The Notable Names (7)

8 – The Christian Concept (8 – 12)

9 – The Warranted Woes (13 – 36)

10 – The Passionate Prayer (37 – 39)

“Mountain Mutterings – Matthew 24: 1 – 51”

Mat 24:3 KJV - And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and

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what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus is now going to deal with the coming events that will involve Israel and their future. This entire chapter is targeting the Jewish people and the events that will greatly impact them for eternity. Jesus gives them insight about the soon destruction of their temple and the coming tribulation. He gives them clear and concise information.

1 – The Temple and its Destruction (1 – 2)

2 – The Tribulation and its Discussion (3)

3 – The Teacher and his Deception (4 – 5)

4 – The Troubling and its Description (6 – 14)

5 – The Troubler and his Devastation (15 – 22)

6 – The Testing and its Dramatization (23 – 26)

7 – The Truth and its Declaration (27 – 31)

8 – The Tree and its Demarcation (32 – 35)

9 – The Time and its Duplication (36 – 44)

10 – The Trusting and their Dedication (45 – 47)

11 – The Tainted and their Desolation (48 – 51)

“Insightful Illustrations – Matthew 25: 1 – 46”

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Mat 25:13 KJV - Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This chapter deals with the wise and the foolish, the profitable and the unprofitable, and then it deals with the saved and the lost. This world has been hearing the teachings about Jesus coming back for more than 2000 years and as of now Christ still has not returned. In the story about the 10 virgins I find it interesting that they all had fallen asleep. In this modern day age, even many Christians have been lulled into a deep sleep about the Lord's soon return. We must not be negligent about his coming; we must keep the wicks on our lamps clean and burning brightly. The Christian must be profitable with the talents God has placed in each of our lives. He expects us to be studious and faithful. It is not all about how much we do for him, but how faithful we are with what he has given us. The Lord also warns us about that day when the sheep and the goats will be separated. The Lord himself will oversee the division of that day.

1 – The Ten (1 – 13)

2 – The Talents (14 – 30)

3 – The Throne (31)

4 – The Throngs (32 – 33)

5 – The Trustful (34 – 40)

6 – The Terror (41 – 46)

“Calvary's Coming – Matthew 26: 1 – 75”

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

Mat 26:2 KJV - Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Mat 26:4 KJV - And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.

Mat 26:54 KJV - But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

1 – The Coming Crucifixion (1 – 2)

2 – The Murderous Meeting (3 – 5)

3 – The Precious Pouring (6 – 7)

4 – The Greedy Gazers (8 – 9)

5 – The Memorial Moment (10 – 13)

6 – The Treacherous Traitor (14 – 16)

7 – The Passover Preparation (17 – 19)

8 – The Bitter Betrayal (20 – 25)

9 – The Symbolic Supper (26 – 29)

10 – The Scattered Sheep (30 – 35)

11 – The Prayerful Place (36 – 45)

12 – The Fraudulent Friend (46 – 50)

13 – The Struck Servant (51 – 56)

14 – The Fallen Follower (57 – 75)

“Christ Crucified – Matthew 27: 1 – 66”

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Mat 27:35 KJV - And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

1 – The Shunned Silver (1 – 10)

2 – The Muted Master (11 – 14)

3 – The Anxious Appeal (15 – 26a)

4 – The Battered Body (26b – 31)

5 – The Chosen Carrier (32)

6 – The Mentioned Mount (33)

7 – The Crucified Christ (34 – 36)

8 – The Two Thieves (37 – 40)

9 – The Mocking Men (41 – 44)

10 – The Dreadful Darkness (45)

11 – The Public Pain (46 – 50)

12 – The Cut Curtain (51)

13 – The Believers Bodies (52 – 53)

14 – The Soldiers Statement (54)

15 – The Daring Disciples (55 – 66)

“Sensational Sunday – Matthew 28: 1 – 8”

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

Mat 28:6 KJV - He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

This is the most exciting day in the history of mankind. It had just been three days earlier that Satan and his cohorts celebrated their greatest achievement, the death of God. Now it was God's time to celebrate, the entire universe had to stand in utter awe as Jesus walked out of that tomb and the angel rolled the rock away for the entire world to see. This is the landmark event of history, the day that Jesus Christ left the tomb and walked once again before his disciples and mankind. I heard something from one of my friends that went to the Holy Land. He said that the tour guide told them they were almost positive that the tomb they were about to enter was the original tomb of Jesus. The key word here is almost, they are not 100 % sure about this because He is not there! This is enough to make me shout and have an old fashioned spell, He is not there, He is gone, He is alive.

1 – The Anxious Arrival (1)

2 – The Angelic Appearance (2)

3 – The Awesome Appearance (3)

4 – The Alarming Actions (4)

5 – The Alluring Announcement (5 – 6a)

6 – The Affirmed Assessment (6b)

7 – The Appointed Assignment (7 – 8)

“Galilee’s Greatest – Matthew 28: 9 – 20”

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Mat 28:10 KJV - Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Mat 28:16 KJV - Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

The women are headed to tell his disciples and they encounter the Lord. It says that they worshipped him at his feet. I can think of no greater place to be found than at the feet of our Lord and Master. Upon worshipping him, the Lord then sends them onto to deliver the message to the eleven. When all is said and done, the Lord and his disciples have worked their way back to Mount Olivet, this was the place they had gathered many times with him. This would be their last gathering with Jesus, a cloud would descend upon the mount and Jesus would be carried away. I find it interesting that Matthew informs us that some still doubted, even though Jesus was standing right there before them. He is alive! Amen and Amen!

1 – The Majestic Meeting (9)

2 – The Meaningful Message (10)

3 – The Mute Money (11 – 15)

4 – The Mountain Moment (16)

5 – The Moved Men (17a)

6 – The Mentioned Malcontent (17b)

7 – The Mandated Ministry (18 – 20)

Conclusion

Sermon Snapshots – Matthew

I hope these sermons have been helpful and useful to you in your ministry. I also want to invite you to check out my other sermon material. I have numerous sermon materials which might be useful to you in your ministry.

Please feel free to contact me for more information about my material.

Thank you,

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