

Introduction

In this section of Matthew's Gospel we see Christ as the King of heaven, who is rejected by His own people. Jesus is moving relentlessly toward the hour of His suffering and death. The hostility of the Jewish leaders is growing. Every event and conversation in these tense, final days affords the Lord one more opportunity to shine the light of God's truth into the world's darkness. He contrasts legalistic religion with the grace and truth of God, the values of earth with the realities of heaven.

Matthew 26 begins the final and most pivotal section of this Gospel. Everything else has been a prologue, an introduction to the great conclusion, which focuses on the cross of Jesus Christ—the culmination of this book, the culmination of redemptive history, and the only eternal hope of fallen mankind. Everything in the sacred story of God's redemptive plan does indeed center on the cross. It is through the cross of Christ alone that the Lord has provided the way for sinners to be saved and united with Him, the holy God. there is no salvation, no gospel, no biblical Christianity apart from the cross of Christ.

John MacArthur

Matthew: The Coming of the King, p. 105 and 139

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:4:
"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us..."

Day One

Read Matthew 21–23, The Triumphal Entry

1. What encouraged or convicted you from last week's lesson or lecture covering Christ's rejection?

2. From Matthew 21:1–6 (quoting Zechariah 9:9), what was Jesus claiming by entering Jerusalem on a donkey?
 - a. In verses 8–11, what was the people's response? Do you think they understood the significance of this event? Explain your answer.

3. From verses 12–17, how did Christ's cleansing the temple and healing the lame and blind support His Messianic claims and divine authority?
 - a. What was the response of the Pharisees and Sadducees?

4. In the three parables Jesus taught in Matthew 21:28–22:14, how did He rebuke the Pharisees?

5. From Matthew 22:15–46, how did Jesus respond to the Pharisees and Sadducees' attempts to trap Him?
 - a. According to verses 34 and 46, what was the effect?

6. From Matthew 23, in your own words, briefly summarize Jesus' main argument against the Pharisees.

- a. Examining your own life, are you more concerned with outward appearance instead of the heart? What can you do to change?

Day Two

Read Matthew 24–25; The Olivet Discourse

Note: Jesus' message in these two chapters is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse and its theme is Christ's second coming at the end of the present age to establish His millennial kingdom on earth. Christ's answer to His disciples' question is the longest answer given to any question in the New Testament.

1. From Matthew 24, *briefly* summarize the signs that will take place before Christ's return.
2. In Matthew 24:44–47, what instruction is given for believers? What does it look like to be faithful while waiting or the Lord to return?
3. From Matthew 24:36–25:13, what is taught about the timing of Jesus' return?
4. In Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus taught the disciples the importance of being faithful while they waited for His return. Consider one area that the Lord has entrusted to your care, and write several specific ways to strengthen your oversight and stewardship.

Day Three

Read Matthew 26; The Last Supper and the Betrayal of Jesus

1. From Matthew 26, list some ways Jesus demonstrated that He was in control of the crucifixion. Cite specific verses to support your answer.
2. In verses 6–13, how did Jesus respond when the disciples protested the woman's anointing Him?
 - a. **Dig Deeper:** Jesus did not negate the importance of ministry to the poor, so what do you think He was emphasizing? (Remember that you can use study notes or commentaries for help with this question.)
3. In Matthew 26:26–29, what did Jesus establish?

- a. **Dig Deeper:** How does this text connect with Hebrews 9:11–14?
4. In verses 36–46, why did Jesus pray, and what was His plea to the Father?
- a. What principles of prayer can Christ’s example teach believers today?
- b. How can you grow and improve your own prayer life? Write out two or three practical steps you can take.
5. From Matthew 26:47–75, identify the responses of Christ and His disciples to betrayal, arrest, and trial.

Day Four

*Read Matthew 27; **The Crucifixion***

1. Read Isaiah 53 and write down specific fulfillments of these prophecies from Matthew 27. Who does Matthew show is the servant Isaiah described?
2. Read Psalm 22 and Psalm 69 and identify how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus’ death.
3. What did Christ accomplish in His death on the cross? Cite Scripture to support your answer.
4. Take time to meditate on the crucifixion, and write out a brief prayer of praise to God for His great salvation.

Day Five

*Read Matthew 28; **The Resurrection and the Great Commission***

1. In Matthew 28:1–10, what takes place and why is this significant for believers?
 - a. Find one or two other Scriptures that deepen your understanding of the significance of this event.
2. In Matthew 28:16–20, what did Jesus command?
 - a. How can believers today obey this command?

- b. What changes in do you need to make in your life to better fulfill this command?

3. Take a few minutes and review your lessons and notes on Matthew's Gospel, then write a 3–4 sentence summary of what Matthew is trying to impart to his readers, and what you found compelling in your personal study.

Questions for Additional Study:

1. In what specific ways can studying and reflecting on Bible prophecy, that which has been fulfilled and that which is yet to be fulfilled, motivate believers to live differently?

Matthew 22–28

- I. The King's Prayer
- II. The King's Crucifixion
- III. The King' Resurrection
- IV. The King's Command