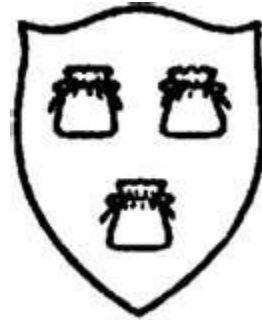


# *The Gospel of Saint Matthew*

## Points of Interest

The symbol for Matthew reflects his former occupation. The three moneybags (purses) remind us that he had been a tax collector before he became a gatherer of souls in the Savior's Kingdom: Sometimes the symbol for Matthew is an ax, the instrument of his beheading. Other symbols for this apostle depict a book, indicating his authorship of a gospel.



Matthew (gift of the Lord) also called 'Levi', former occupation – Tax Collector (Publican)

“Matthew bridges the four-century gap between the Old Testament and the New. He clearly demonstrates that Jesus came, not to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Christianity is not a new religion to replace Judaism; it rather fulfills the promises of the Old Testament all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Matthew makes this clear by directly quoting or alluding to more than 60 Old Testament prophecies and indicating how they were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.” (People’s Bible, p. 1)

Original Recipients would have been familiar with the Old Testament

Main point of the Writing – Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah who was promised  
Late 50 AD or 60’s (Jesus ascended in 30 AD)

Common Points with the Other Gospels:

Mention of John the Baptist  
Christ’s early ministry in Galilee  
Feeding of the 5000  
Peter’s Confession  
Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem  
Palm Sunday

The Last Supper  
The Garden of Gethsemane  
Betrayal by Judas  
Denial by Peter  
Jesus’ crucifixion, death, resurrection

“Praise the Lord, for him whose Gospel / Your human life declared, / Who, worldly gain forsaking, / Your path of suffering shared. / From all unrighteous mammon, / Oh, raise our eyes anew / That we, like faithful Matthew, / May rise and follow you.” (CW 552:18)

*To God be the Glory!*

## Chapter 1

The legal lineage of Jesus is recorded, Abraham to Joseph and Mary

Luke (ch. 3) has the bloodline emphasis, back to Adam – connected to the whole human race

1<sup>st</sup> 14 people – point to the Jewish heritage, plus the entire list is made up of what kind of people?

How is that answer a comfort to us?

2<sup>nd</sup> 14 people have what in common, other than sinful?

3<sup>rd</sup> 14 people noted for role after the Exile ... Possible significance?

The Birth of Jesus (Hebrew – Joshua) (Jesus = God saves)

Mary with child before married, although engaged to Joseph

Joseph described as a ‘righteous man’                      Meaning what?

Joseph told to take Mary as his wife still

Note vs. 21-23

His purpose?

Some still think His purpose was/is what?

Why mention the fact that Joseph had no union with Mary until...? (vs. 25)

If we take away the virgin birth, what harm is there in doing that?

## **Chapter 2**

Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 (contemporary of Isaiah)

The visit of the Magi

How would they have known about this event in the first place?

Jesus taken to Egypt ... Herod (the Great, 37 – 4 BC) kills the babies two years old and under (15 to 30)

Is Herod’s killing of these babies any worse than people today aborting their child? Explain.

Herod killed his wife, three sons, mother/brother-in-law, uncle, plus others

Herod built many theaters and the like, along with the temple in Jerusalem (68 year project)

In the first couple of chapters already we see how God fulfills His Word...

The census ... Jesus born ... Down to Egypt ... Return to Nazareth ...

## **Chapter 3**

John the Baptist introduced

Main Message = Repent

Define Repentance.

How often ought we repent?

What do you notice about his clothing and his diet?

Baptism of John and that of Jesus essentially the same, Jesus puts the focus on all nations to be baptized and the saving aspect of Baptism

John makes it clear that there is only way one way to heaven and it is not how people think.

Explain that last thought.

The Baptism of Jesus

He did not need to repent of any sin so why be baptized?

He is clearly identified as the ‘One’

## **Chapter 4**

Jesus tempted

Satan knows our weak points and is not afraid to attack them

Jesus did not have any weak points yet Satan tried to find some...hunger, fate, power

The key to temptation resistance is...

Is temptation itself a sin?

Luther and birds...

What is the difference between 'fatalism' and 'Christian faith'?

*"Fatalism is the attitude that everything is preordained and nothing we do will make any difference. Christian faith trusts God to make everything work out for our good and blessing despite our failures and mistakes. It includes the responsibility of being conscientious caretakers of all the Lord's blessings, including the days and years He allots to us." (People's, p. 52)*

Busy first year ... see John 1 – 4 ... Wine, Temple Cleared, Samaritan Woman

Calling of the Disciples

How is fishing and the Gospel ministry alike?

How did Jesus show Himself to be the promised Messiah?

Why do you think Jesus encountered so much sickness, disease, possession, etc.?

## **Chapter 5 (Read through)**

The Sermon on the Mount

The Beatitudes (reasons to be 'happy' ... consider oneself blessed)

Opposite of worldly virtues

How are we able to be like salt and light?

What certainties are noted in vss. 17-20?

What is something that separates the Christian (Bible) message from other religious messages?

Righteousness attained by \_\_\_\_\_ and not by \_\_\_\_\_

*Lifestyle – Murder, Adultery, Divorce, Oaths, Eye for Eye, Love for Enemies*

Is there such a thing as a 'righteous anger'? Explain.

What is the motive to put into practice the words of this chapter? (48 – able by grace)

## **Chapter 6 (Read through)**

Christian Lifestyle encouragement continues

*Lifestyle – Needy, Prayer, Fasting, Treasure Priority, Worry*

When it comes to doing good works we should not be concerned about what?

Sum up Jesus' thoughts on our prayer life.

If God knows what we need, why pray?

What has the Lord's Prayer become for some people (negative sense)?

What is one of the main lessons taught through this model prayer (6 to 1)?

Key aspect to keep in mind when we pray, and for life in general is... (14)

How does the Rosary fit in with this section on prayer?  
Where is your security, what is it in?  
People have their security in a variety of things such as...  
Why not a good idea?  
What is the distinction between 'ambition' and 'obsession'?  
What are some of the things of this world that we enjoy?  
Who is the Source of much of this created enjoyment?  
What does He charge us to enjoy it?  
Yet how much of our life is spent chasing after the 'wind' for what purpose?  
While God has given us Christian liberty, such still needs to be guided by Christian \_\_\_\_  
Warning also in that we can spend time concerned about how others use their possessions  
without taking an honest look at how we are using our own

Define 'worry'  
How would you rephrase vs. 33, say when talking to a friend?  
Jesus says we can expect what while in this world?  
While we can expect such things, what else can we expect - from Him?  
A little less \_\_\_\_\_ and a little more \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps. 118:1 for a hint)

## **Chapter 7**     *more Christian Lifestyle*

### Judging

Based not on what but on what?  
Is there such a thing as 'absolute truth?' How can you be so sure about that?  
When it comes to pointing out sin, what are we to do?  
Let's discuss vs. 6

### Ask – Seek – Knock

Persistence in prayer  
Trusting our prayers will be answered, but not necessarily how and because?  
Be the example (rise above)

### Narrow & Wide Gate

What is the difference?  
How can one tell which is which and if one is on the correct one?

### Tree & Its Fruit

What is the warning in this section and why is it given?  
Nothing new under the sun ... Apply that with these verses  
Why will some people be kept out of heaven?

### The Wise & Foolish Builders

What does Jesus have to say to those who are looking for shortcuts in life?  
Attacks come from all sides, but as long as we stand on the Word, what is the result?  
Why were people amazed at His teaching?  
The way to erode society is by doing what?  
What can we be doing to slow or stop the erosion?

## **Matthew 8**

### Man with Leprosy

Note how the man was cured

### Faith of the Centurion

What do you appreciate about this man's faith?

What 'unusual' about it (where is the focus)?

Power of the Word

### Jesus Heals Many

Including whom?

Significance of this information...

### Cost of Following Jesus

What is the point here, especially with vs. 22?

### Jesus Calms The Storm

We can relate with the 'little faith.' What situations for us highlight this truth?

### Healing of Two Demon-Possessed

This was a big problem for many reasons such as ...

Unusual request to be sent into the pigs. Why?

## **Matthew 9**

### Heals a Paralytic

Note the first thing Jesus does in this situation.

People today still challenge Jesus' authority.

### The Calling of Matthew

Another name by which Matthew is known is \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Pharisees have issue with and why did they?

Put Jesus' response in your own words

### Jesus Questioned on Fasting

What was/is the purpose of fasting?

Can the Gospel and the Law be mingled together? How so or why not?

### Raising of a Dead Girl and Healing of a Sick Woman

Also found in Mark and Luke

What do you find remarkable about the sick woman?

How do people react today when you tell them death is but a sleep?

### Healing of the Blind and Mute

What did these people in need know about Jesus?

How did Jesus heal them?

Note the Pharisees' response to the power of Jesus. Sound familiar?

The Workers are Few

One of the main points of Jesus' ministry on earth was what (and still is)?  
How can we send out more workers for harvest purposes?

### **Matthew 10**

Sends out the Twelve

Names of the Disciples mentioned (Bartholomew = Nathanael)

Note the instructions in verses 5-10

verses 11-16

verses 17-20

What can we expect as we represent Christ in our life? (21ff)

Explain vss. 28

Key words in 32-34, 38-39

### **Chapter 11**

Jesus and John the Baptist

What was John's concern? Or, wasn't his concern?

People do not know what they want and so on their own miss Jesus/what they need

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

What was the difference with these cities versus Sodom?

How will it be more bearable for Sodom?

Rest for the Weary (**Read through**)

Scripture makes it clear: if you know God the Father you also know whom and vice versa?

What is the rest we need in this life and how does it help us?

### **Chapter 12**

Lord of the Sabbath

Is it ok with God to work on Sunday?

Compassion over Strict Enforcement

God's Chosen Servant

Further approval of Jesus' purpose given by God the Father

Jesus and Beelzebub

Jealousy of the Pharisees comes through again

The unforgiveable sin, 31-32

Do you see evidence that we as a society do not take verse 36-37 seriously?

Sign of Jonah

Note the terms Jesus has for the Pharisees

Would Jesus refer to an event if it did not happen? Point being what with that question?

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

Who ultimately is His brother?

### **Chapter 13**

#### Parable of the Sower

The seed represents what...

The path

Rocky places

Thorns

Good soil

#### Parable of the Weeds

While we live on this side of heaven, what do we Christians have to live with as well?

#### Parable of the Mustard Seed and Yeast

What happens to the kingdom of heaven and how so?

#### Parable of Weeds Explained

Heaven and Hell are real places, 42-43

#### Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

What is the point of these parables?

#### Parable of the Net

What is the Judgment scene according to this section?

Can we ever know the Bible enough, 52?

#### Prophet without Honor

Similar reason why called workers encouraged not to serve where he/she grew up

Since the people did not believe in Him, what didn't Jesus do among them?

### **Chapter 14**

#### John the Baptist Beheaded

Why was John arrested?

Why was he killed?

#### Jesus Feeds 5000

About a year before His death

Amidst His solace Jesus is interrupted and yet maintains what kind of attitude?

What word would you use to sum up this miracle?

#### Jesus Walks on Water

What statement of Jesus jumps out at you?

How can we relate to Peter?

### **Chapter 15**

#### Clean and Unclean

What truth were the Pharisees missing?

God does not just want the right action, He wants what from us?

Note vs. 14

It is not what we do but what \_\_\_\_\_ has done for us.

Faith of Canaanite Woman

What is the point with the 'dog' talk?

So this woman saved herself, right, because of her faith?

Jesus Feeds 4000

Only in Matthew and Mark

What did the disciples forget from the last time people were hungry?

## **Chapter 16**

Demand for a Sign

The Pharisees keep hammering the same issues

Yeast of Pharisees and Sadducees

Sadducees did not believe in what teaching?

How much yeast does one need to ruin the recipe?

Peter's Confession of the Christ

The identity of Jesus is discussed and so who is He?

On Peter Christ has built His church. Agree or Disagree.

Again, why not tell people who He is?

Jesus predicts His Death

He always aware of the bigger picture, including His reason for being on earth in flesh

Can we blame Peter for his action here?

Big point again, 24ff (**Read through**)

## **Chapter 17**

The Transfiguration

What truth about who Jesus is comes out in this account (He never gave up what)?

What is the significance of Moses and Elijah being present?

Note the Father's approval once again. When did He say something similar?

Jesus was not a glory seeker. How can we tell this about Him?

How were Elijah and John the Baptist similar?

The Healing of a Boy With a Demon

Summarize Jesus' sentiment towards the people at this particular moment and why this is so?

The disciples did have faith so what 'faith' was Jesus referring to when He said they were lacking it?

We have the second prediction of His death

The Temple Tax



Two-drachma tax =  
Here the Giver of all makes what point with His paying the tax?

## **Chapter 18**

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

Who is really great in the eyes of God?

Note the harsh illustration Jesus uses to make His point about misleading directions.

Jesus recognizes what is in the world?

But that is no excuse for what?

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

How important is even one person to God, and so for us too?

A Brother Who Sins Against You

Church Discipline Guideline – recall the steps

Is there an exact timeline for the process to be completed?

Why the witnesses?

The entire motive behind such action is what?

The results of our action could lead to what?

But we are to act

What is the lesson on prayer in this section?

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Peter asks a good question because by nature we might think what?

10,000 Talents =

100 Denarii =

Why do you think the ‘forgiven’ servant acted the way he did toward the one indebted to him?

Consider the words of the 5<sup>th</sup> Petition – “Forgive us...”

What are we asking God with these words?

## **Chapter 19**

Divorce

There were (and still are) two school of thought when it comes to ‘marital unfaithfulness’

With what information does Jesus start off His reply?

What is the definition of ‘adultery’?

Is it better not to marry? Why or why not?

The Little Children and Jesus

Why would the disciples rebuke the parents from bringing their children to Jesus?

What are some ways we ‘rebuke’ parents and their children?

In Mark 10 Jesus emphasizes believing in the kingdom like a child. Explain His thought process.

The Rich Young Man

Opinio Legis ...

Explain why Jesus is not contradicting the Bible truth by grace alone in vs. 17.

Vs. 18 – typical answer. Discuss.

What was/is the point Jesus was driving home with this young rich man?

Over and over again the Bible is clear – saved by God’s doing. And then we add the ‘but...’  
What promise does Jesus make to His followers?  
How is this a source of comfort for you in this life?

## **Chapter 20**

### The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

What were the working stipulations mentioned in this account?

What was the complaint by some of the workers?

Did they have a valid complaint? Explain.

The point Jesus was/is making with this parable is what?

What is our attitude regarding this point?

What are we doing about it (the point and our attitude)?

### Jesus Again Predicts His Death

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time recorded

Note the details Jesus lays out before His disciples regarding what He has to ‘look forward to’ in Jerusalem.

### A Mother’s Request

What do you think was the mother’s motive in asking the question?

If Jesus is God, why can’t He make the decision on where the two will be in heaven?

What likes to flare up when special treatment is mentioned?

How does Jesus put ‘this’ in its rightful place?

Discuss vs. 28 ... Its implications for us today.

### Two Blind Men Receive Sight

Further proof Jesus is who He says He is ... the Messiah, the One promised.

What is notable about the way these men addressed Jesus?

Who might be the ‘crowd’ in our day and what is to be our response to them?

What did Jesus see in these men (not that this is what saved them)?

Can’t there be a little bit of doubt? (see James 1:6,7)

## **Chapter 21**

### The Triumphal Entry

Why the details about where came from and where going?

Note a couple of things that stand out to you regarding verses 2-5.

What is significant about the donkey Jesus used for this event?

What do you think the people were thinking that they would go all out for Jesus on this occasion?

Hosanna = Save (us) ... an expression of praise

### Jesus at the Temple

A possible second cleansing of the Temple

Why was Jesus upset since people needed certain animals for the various sacrifices?

The Jewish leaders should have been excited with the Messiah in flesh but what is their reaction?

The leaders hated Jesus with a passion yet what could they not do with Jesus at this time?

### The Fig Tree Withers

What was wrong with the tree that Jesus cursed it?

The lesson for us is ...

What can prayer in Jesus' name do for you?

### The Authority of Jesus Questioned

What would you say the Jewish leaders were more concerned about at this moment?

Make the case for why Jesus was not being defiant with His answer.

Can you think of a way we can use the same logic in our witness?

### The Parable of the Two Sons

Jesus still addressing the Jewish leaders.

The word 'son' used here puts the emphasis on the fact the dad encouraged the sons to work, he did not force them.

Why were the Jewish leaders like the 2<sup>nd</sup> son?

### The Parable of the Tenants

In what ways is this parable speaking about the Jewish people?

What are ways that people today still 'kill' the Son?

Note again what was stopping the Jewish leaders from taking action against Jesus.

## **Chapter 22**

### The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

The kingdom of heaven is not the visible church but rather all that Jesus has to offer such as...

How has God made heaven so available to people and yet (finish the thought) ...

What reality is taught in verse 13?

Explain verse 14.

Will there be more people in heaven or in hell? Explain.

### Paying Taxes to Caesar

Note the difference between the

Pharisees

Sadducees

Herodians

Sanhedrin

How was their intent evil in the question they posed to Jesus?

What is the truth Jesus lays out for us in verse 21?

### Marriage at the Resurrection

The Levirate Law (Deut. 25) –

What was the error of the Sadducees?

What is significant about the answer Jesus gave them?

How is that a comfort to you while on this earth?

### The Greatest Commandment

What do you say is the greatest Commandment and why?

1<sup>st</sup> Table of the Law and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Table of the Law ... Which ones fall into the categories?

Which Table is the key to the other and why?

How would you describe the love that is mentioned here?

How does the Book of James fit in with this discussion?

If works do not save us, why the emphasis on them?

#### Whose Son Is the Christ

Jesus goes on the offensive ... The point of His question is what?

The dispute was not over the human line of Jesus, it was over what?

Jesus was not concerned about obtaining an earthly throne but the heavenly one. This is taught in which of the words in this section?

### **Chapter 23**

#### Seven Woes

Find the warning and the motive Jesus provides behind the actions of the Jewish leaders.

In verses 8-12 Jesus is not condemning the use of titles but of what rather?

What is Jesus condemning in verses 13-15?

Jesus often calls these Jewish what and why is that fitting? (16, 24)

“I desire mercy not sacrifice.” Explain this truth.

How was it not being practiced here?

Think of ways it is not practiced today?

Another term Jesus has for them is what? (27)

Were the ‘good old days’ all that good for Israel? Explain.

Note the terms used in verse 33.

The consequences of their actions would be what?

What indication do we have that Jesus did not want this outcome for them, or anyone?

If Jesus wanted them to be saved, why didn’t He just save them?

### **Chapter 24**

#### Signs of the End of the Age

What does Jesus say to pique the interest of His disciples?

What warning does He give them? How does this apply to us?

Not to worry because ... vs. 8.

It is going to get ugly ... vss. 9-14

What is our hope through all this ugly time?

Why do people predict and fall for the date of the end of this world?

How will we know the End has come?

What else offers you comfort in this section?

#### The Day and Hour Unknown

How can the Son not know the date of the End?

Describe when and how the End will come upon the world.

What is the Rapture? Is that taught here in this section?

The encouragement our Lord leaves us can be summed up in two words, they are...

### **Chapter 25**

### The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Describe the foolish ones.

Who are such today?

Describe the wise ones.

Who are such today?

Will there be a second chance or opportunity to be saved when the End comes?

### The Parable of the Talents

Summarize the first part of the Parable.

What did the servants do with the talents they had been given?

Is there a great difference between the one given 5 and the one given 2?

How does Jesus regard the person who was given 1 talent?

Summarize the point of this Parable.

### The Sheep and the Goats

Why is Jesus the One through His angels to separate the sheep from the goats?

What do the sheep receive and why?

What do the goats receive and why?

Jesus, then, is advocating a work-righteous approach to get into heaven. Agree?

If not, what then is His point with vs. 40, for example?

The Lord does not hide or back down from what important truth, as noted throughout these last few sections?

In light of these words, how is 1 John 5:3 still true for us as people of God?

## **Chapter 26**

### The Plot Against Jesus

Why was the Passover to be celebrated each year?

What gives it away that the leaders of the Jews knew they were not doing right?

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

What did the disciples have issue with in this account?

Any examples of 'extravagant giving' in our day some make become indignant over?

We see what Jesus said about this woman has come true on the pages of Scripture.

What kind of church legacy would you like to leave the future generations?

### Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

30 silver coins = 4 months wages

What could have been Judas' motive?

In what ways do people (we) sell out Jesus?

### The Lord's Supper

What example of Jesus' glory do we see in use here?

What warning does the Lord indirectly give to Judas?

Telling the hard truth is never easy, not even for the Savior, but it needs to be done. What is that hard truth we need to speak?

Representation ... Transubstantiation ... Real Presence

Key Words when it comes to the Lord's Supper are ...

### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

How could Peter do such a thing? And you say what to that question?

#### Gethsemane

Explain why Jesus would be full of sorrow since as God He knew the what and the why.

Think of times we have fallen asleep when the Lord has asked us to stay awake.

Can we resist temptation? Explain.

What lesson(s) do we learn from the prayers Jesus offered up to His Father?

If you were one of those disciples, what do you think would be going through your mind given the last couple of days and the closing words of this section?

#### Jesus Arrested

Why the show of force on the part of the religious leaders?

Note how Jesus addressed Judas knowing what Judas had betrayed Him.

Note too the compassion Jesus shows toward His enemies.

Jesus had not come to establish an earthly kingdom as evidenced by what facts?

Do things happen without God's awareness?

Explain why God does not intervene when bad things happen.

#### Before the Sanhedrin

What was the point of this trial?

How can people reach such a level of hatred, Caiaphas for example?

What claim did Jesus not back down from?

The more things change the more they stay the same. Where do we see that true in this section?

#### Peter Disowns Jesus

Was Peter better than Judas?

What is the difference between Peter and Judas, as noted here?

### **Chapter 27**

#### Judas Hangs Himself

Lack of repentance on the part of Judas led to what emotion and motive in him?

Could Judas have been forgiven for his act of betrayal?

The religious did not care about whom? Who did they care about?

Any lessons in that for us today?

Scripture fulfilled again in connection to the money.

#### Jesus Before Pilate

Note how Jesus carries Himself before Pilate.

Think about it...these were the same people for whom Jesus was going to the cross.

Did Pilate really set himself free from any and all blame in this matter?

In what way(s) do you think what the Jews asked to be upon them has come true?

#### The Soldiers Mock Jesus

What more can one add when we read and contemplate these words? (answer if you want)

#### The Crucifixion & The Death of Jesus

What was unusual with this particular crucifixion?  
Significance of the temple curtain being torn in two would be what?

#### The Burial of Jesus & The Guard at the Tomb

Why would Joseph risk his life by giving Jesus a burial plot?  
Would you say the religious leaders were a little paranoid?

Proof.

### **Chapter 28**

#### The Resurrection

Yeah! Explain that reaction.  
Did Jesus let Himself out or did the angel do that?  
What was the role of the angel at this point in time?  
What can imitate from the angel?

#### The Guards' Report

Normally what would have happened to these guards under these circumstances?

#### The Great Commission

What promise to His disciples did Jesus keep?  
Why would some doubt?  
God the Father and God the Son are working off of the same page...key truth.  
Go ... implies what?  
What is a disciple?  
How does one go about making disciples?  
What here emphasizes that Christianity is a way of life, not just a moment in time?  
What promise does Jesus leave with His disciples of all time?

*What do you appreciate about the Gospel of Matthew?*