

# MATTHEW

## LESSON 1



**Purpose:** To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed and promised eternal King.

**Author:** Matthew (also known as Levi)

**Original Audience:** Primarily Jews

**Setting:** Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. This gospel forms the connecting link between the Old and New Testament because of its emphasis on the fulfillment of prophecy.

### **Outline (Chapters)**

- I. Preparation: 1 - 4
- II. Preaching: 5 - 7
- III. Proof: 8 - 17
- IV. Practice: 18 - 20
- V. Purpose: 21 - 28

## **I. PREPARATION OF THE KING (1:1-4:25)**

### **A. Jesus' Genealogy (1:1-17)**

Jesus Christ is presented as the rightful Messiah by tracing His legal lineage through Israel's history. It begins with Abraham, the recipient of God's covenant promise, and centers on King David, emphasizing Jesus' royal qualification as the promised Son of David.

Matthew intentionally structures the genealogy into **three sets of fourteen generations**:

1. From Abraham to David
2. From David to the Babylonian exile
3. From the exile to Christ

**Note:** The genealogy includes women, such as Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, many of whom were Gentiles or connected to scandal. Their inclusion underscores God's grace, His willingness to work through broken situations, and the universal scope of salvation.

Overall, the genealogy declares that Jesus is:

- The fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham
- The legitimate heir to David's throne
- The culmination of God's redemptive plan through imperfect people

Matthew's genealogy is not merely a list of names; it is a theological proclamation that God

- keeps His promises,
- rules over history, and
- brings redemption through grace.

## **B. Jesus' Birth (1:18-2:23)**

The Scripture explains how and why Jesus was born, emphasizing divine initiative, fulfilled prophecy, and early opposition.

### **1. The Virgin Birth (1:18–25)**

- Jesus' birth occurred through the work of the Holy Spirit, not human effort, affirming His divine origin.
- Joseph, a righteous man, initially planned to divorce Mary quietly, but an angel instructed him to take Mary as his wife.
- Jesus is named in obedience to God's command, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) that the child would be called Immanuel ("God with us").
- This establishes Jesus as both fully human and fully divine.

### **2. The Visit of the Magi (2:1–12)**

- Wise men from the East (Magi) came seeking the newborn "King of the Jews," guided by a star.
- Their worship contrasts sharply with the hostility of Herod the Great, revealing that Gentiles recognize Jesus' kingship while many in Israel do not.
- Their gifts, including gold, frankincense, and myrrh, symbolize kingship, deity, and suffering.

### **3. Flight to Egypt and Herod's Violence (2:13–18)**

- Warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod's massacre of infant boys in Bethlehem.
- This fulfills prophecy (Hosea 11:1) and presents Jesus as a new and greater Israel, God's Son called out of Egypt.

### **4. Return and Settlement in Nazareth (2:19–23)**

After Herod's death, the family returns but settles in Nazareth, fulfilling prophetic expectation that the Messiah would be despised or humble ("He shall be called a Nazarene"). (Isaiah 53:2-3, Psalm 22:6)

### **Key Themes**

- God sovereignly fulfills prophecy
- Jesus is the promised King, Savior, and Son of God
- From birth, Jesus faces rejection and suffering

God protects and advances His redemptive plan despite opposition

***Jesus' birth was intentional, prophetic, and contested, setting the stage for His mission and ministry.***

## **C. Jesus' Baptism (3:1-17)**

Jesus' baptism was the public inauguration of His ministry; it revealed His identity and mission.

### **1. The Ministry of John the Baptist (3:1–12)**

- John the Baptist appears in the wilderness preaching repentance and preparing the way for the Messiah, fulfilling prophecy.
- He calls Israel to genuine repentance, warning that religious heritage without obedience will not avert judgment.

### **2. Jesus' Baptism by John (3:13–15)**

- Jesus comes from Galilee to be baptized, not because of sin, but to "fulfill all righteousness."
- By submitting to baptism, Jesus identifies with sinful humanity and affirms God's redemptive plan.

### **3. Divine Confirmation (3:16–17)**

- As Jesus is baptized, the heavens open, the Spirit of God descends like a dove, and the Father's voice declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- This moment publicly confirms Jesus' identity as God's Son and anointed Messiah, revealing the Godhead at the outset of His ministry.
- Jesus being baptized, The Spirit descending, and God speaking.
- Jesus entered His mission fully approved and empowered by God.

## **D. Jesus' Temptation (4:1-11)**

### **1. The Setting and Purpose of the Temptation (4:1–2)**

- Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be** tempted by Satan after forty days of fasting.

- The setting recalls Israel’s forty years in the wilderness and establishes the temptation as part of God’s redemptive purpose, not a detour from it.

## **2. The Three Temptations (4:3–10)**

Satan tempted Jesus to misuse His divine authority:

- i. Turn stones into bread: a temptation to satisfy legitimate needs apart from trust in God.
  - ii. Test God by jumping from the temple: a temptation to force God’s hand and seek public spectacle.
  - iii. Gain the kingdoms of the world through worship of Satan: a temptation to obtain glory without suffering.
- Each time, Jesus responds by quoting Scripture from Deuteronomy (8:3, 6:16, 6:13), demonstrating perfect obedience and complete reliance on God’s Word.
  - All three quotations come from Deuteronomy 6–8, Israel’s wilderness instruction
  - Where Israel failed in obedience, Jesus succeeds perfectly
  - Jesus defeats temptation not by displays of power, but by submission to God’s Word
  - After Jesus resists every temptation, Satan departs, and angels come to minister to Him. Jesus proves to be the faithful Son who remains obedient under testing.
  - Jesus is fully qualified to begin His ministry: tempted, tested, and victorious.

## **E. Jesus Calls His Disciples (4:12-25)**

### **1. Ministry Begins in Galilee (4:12–17)**

- After John the Baptist is arrested, Jesus withdraws to Galilee, settling in Capernaum. This move fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 9:1-2) that light would dawn in a region associated with darkness.
- Jesus begins preaching the same core message as John: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### **2. Calling the First Disciples (4:18–22)**

- Jesus calls four fishermen—Simon Peter, Andrew, James son of Zebedee, and John son of Zebedee—to follow Him.
- They respond immediately, leaving their nets and families, illustrating the **authority** of Jesus’ call and the cost of discipleship.
- Jesus promises to make them “fishers of men,” redefining their purpose.

### **3. Widespread Ministry Impact (4:23–25)**

- Jesus travels throughout Galilee teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease.
- Large crowds follow Him from across the region, showing the growing reach and power of His ministry.

## II. PREACHING OF THE KING (5:1-7:29)

### A. Kingdom Principles (5:1-2)

#### 1. Setting and Context (5:1)

- Jesus goes up on a mountainside, sits down, and draws near the crowd.
- Sitting indicates a formal teaching posture, showing He is about to deliver instruction of eternal significance.

#### 2. Audience and Approach (5:2)

- Jesus begins to teach His disciples, emphasizing that His instructions are meant for those who have chosen to follow Him.
- The teaching is not for casual listeners, but for committed learners who will internalize and live out kingdom values.
- The kingdom has principles to be learned and applied.
- True learning comes from a posture of attention, humility, and obedience.
- Jesus establishes Himself as the authoritative teacher, just as God gave the Law to Moses.
- Kingdom life begins with listening, learning, and a heart ready to obey God's ways.

### B. Kingdom Priorities (5:13-48)

- Jesus teaches the attitudes, values, and behaviors that define life in God's kingdom.
- Jesus contrasts kingdom priorities with worldly thinking, showing how His followers should live differently.

#### 1. Salt and Light (5:13–16)

- **Salt:** Believers preserve moral and spiritual integrity in the world.
- **Light:** Believers reflect God's truth and love publicly, influencing others for His glory. (Matthew 5:16)
- Principle: Kingdom citizens have a visible, transformative influence.

#### 2. Fulfillment of the Law (5:17–20)

- Jesus clarifies that He did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it.
- True righteousness goes beyond external compliance; it must exceed that of the Pharisees, reflecting inward transformation.

#### 3. Heart-Level Obedience (5:21–48)

Jesus contrasts traditional interpretation with kingdom priorities. He reinterprets the Law with a heart-focused ethic.

<b>Topic / Antithesis</b>	<b>Old Teaching (“You have heard...”)</b>	<b>Jesus’ Kingdom Teaching (“But I say...”)</b>	<b>Kingdom Principle</b>
<b>Anger &amp; Reconciliation</b> (5:21–26)	“Do not murder; anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.”	“Whoever is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment... Reconcile quickly.”	Kingdom righteousness goes <b>beyond actions to the heart</b> ; prioritize reconciliation.
<b>Lust &amp; Purity</b> (5:27–30)	“Do not commit adultery.”	“Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart.”	Kingdom obedience addresses <b>thoughts and desires</b> , not just behavior.
<b>Divorce</b> (5:31–32)	“Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.”	“Anyone who divorces his wife except for sexual immorality makes her commit adultery.”	Kingdom relationships honor <b>God’s design for marriage</b> .
<b>Oaths &amp; Honesty</b> (5:33–37)	“Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord what you have	“Do not swear at all... Let your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no.”	Kingdom integrity is <b>honest and trustworthy speech</b> ,
<b>Retaliation / Revenge</b> (5:38–42)	“Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”	“Do not resist an evil person... turn the other cheek... go the extra mile.”	Kingdom citizens respond to wrongdoing with <b>grace, mercy, and generosity</b> , not
<b>Love for Enemies</b> (5:43–48)	“Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”	“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”	Kingdom love extends <b>beyond friends to enemies</b> , reflecting God’s perfect love.

- Jesus reframes the Law to focus on **heart, motivation, and love**.
- Kingdom priorities focus on **inner transformation, not just outward behavior**.
- Kingdom priorities often **invert worldly values**, calling for radical obedience.
- Obedience is motivated by **love for God and others**, not fear of punishment.
- Jesus calls His followers to **live radically different lives**, rooted in love, humility, and holiness, demonstrating the **values of God’s kingdom in every area of life**.

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## LESSON 2



### C. Kingdom Practices (6:1-18)

Practice	Worldly Approach	Kingdom Practice	Scriptural Referenc
<b>Giving / Charity</b>	Give publicly to be praised or recognized by others	Give <b>secretly</b> , with God as your rewarder; motive matters	6:1–4
<b>Prayer</b>	Pray to be seen or admired; long, showy prayers	Pray <b>privately, humbly, sincerely</b> ; follow God’s pattern	6:5–15
<b>Forgiveness</b>	Focus on personal rights; hold grudges	Forgive others, because God’s forgiveness depends on it	6:14–15
<b>Fasting</b>	Make fasting obvious to gain respect	Fast <b>quietly</b> , maintaining a humble, authentic devotion to	6:16–18

#### Key Takeaways:

- Kingdom practices emphasize **heart over appearance**.
- Spiritual disciplines are **for God’s eyes, not human admiration**.
- True devotion is **private, sincere, and obedient**, producing lasting spiritual growth.
- God sees the unseen and **rewards authenticity**.

## D. Kingdom Perspectives (6:19-7:29)

Topic	Worldly View	Kingdom Perspective	Scriptural
<b>Treasures</b>	Store up wealth and possessions on earth	Store up treasures in heaven; prioritize eternal values	6:19–21
<b>Serving</b>	Pursue wealth, comfort, or power	Serve God alone; heart follows what you treasure	6:22–24
<b>Anxiety / Worry</b>	Obsess over food, clothing, life circumstances	Trust God as provider; seek first His kingdom	6:25–34
<b>Judging Others</b>	Criticize, condemn, or compare yourself to others	Examine your own heart first; avoid hypocrisy	7:1–6
<b>Prayer</b>	Treat prayer as ritual or display	Pray sincerely, persistently, and humbly; God responds	7:7–11
<b>Golden Rule</b>	Self-interest governs relationships	Treat others as you want to be treated	7:12
<b>Paths / Obedience</b>	Easy, wide path; disregard God's commands	Narrow path; obedience and discernment required	7:13–14
<b>True Fruit</b>	Outward appearance can deceive	True faith produces good works and godly fruit	7:15–23
<b>Foundation</b>	Build life on temporary, unstable principles	Hear Jesus' words and act on them; build on rock	7:24–27

- Kingdom perspective **reorients the heart, mind, and priorities**, teaching that life's value is measured by God's standards, not the world's.
- Trust, obedience, and eternal focus are the hallmarks of a kingdom-minded life.
- Jesus calls His followers to **see the world and life through God's lens**, making eternal priorities, trusting Him fully, and building life on obedience rather than worldly wisdom

## III. PROOF OF THE KING (8:1-17:27)

### A. Jesus' Miracles (8:1-9:34)

Jesus performs a rapid series of miracles that demonstrate His authority over disease, nature, demons, sin, and death.

These acts confirm His identity as the Messiah and reveal the nature of His kingdom.

#### 1. Authority Over Disease and Disability

- Cleanses a leper (8:1–4), restoring both physical health and social inclusion.

- Heals the centurion's servant from a distance (8:5–13), highlighting the power of faith.
- Heals Peter's mother-in-law and many others (8:14–17), fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant.
- Heals a paralytic (9:1–8), first forgiving his sins—showing authority over both body and soul.
- Restores sight to two blind men (9:27–31).
- Heals a mute demon-possessed man (9:32–34).

## **2. Authority Over Nature**

Calms a violent storm (8:23–27), revealing divine power that causes even the winds and sea to obey Him.

## **3. Authority Over Demons and Evil**

Drives demons into a herd of pigs in the region of the Gadarenes (8:28–34), demonstrating complete dominion over spiritual forces.

## **4. Authority Over Death**

- Raises Jairus's daughter (9:18–26), showing that death itself is subject to Him.
- Heals a woman with a twelve-year hemorrhage (9:20–22), emphasizing faith as the means of restoration

## **B. Jesus' Authority (10:1-12:50)**

### **1. Authority Delegated (10:1-42)**

- Jesus gives His authority to the twelve disciples.
- They are empowered to heal, cast out demons, and proclaim the kingdom.
- The mission requires dependence on God.
- Rejection and persecution are expected.
- Disciples are called to courage and faithfulness.

### **2. Authority Affirmed (12:1-50)**

- Jesus openly affirms His authority amid growing opposition.
- He declares Himself Lord of the Sabbath, superior to religious tradition.
- Jesus exposes the hardness and hypocrisy of the Pharisees.
- He casts out demons by the Spirit of God, signaling the arrival of God's kingdom.
- Jesus emphasizes that actions reveal the true condition of the heart.

## **C. Jesus' Parables (13:1-53)**

### **Definitions of a Parable:**

- A short, simple story designed to communicate a spiritual truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.
- A figure of speech in which truth is illustrated by a comparison or example drawn from everyday experiences.
- An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

The parables of Jesus are simple, story-based teachings that reveal profound spiritual truths (mysteries of the Kingdom). Through **everyday experiences and familiar imagery**, they illustrate the nature of God’s kingdom, the principles of righteousness, the cost of discipleship, and the heart of God toward humanity. They invite listeners to reflect, discern, and respond, challenging them to live faithfully and in alignment with God’s will.

<b>Parable</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Main Point</b>
Parable of the Sower	13:1–23	The response to God’s word depends on the condition of the heart.
Parable of the Weeds	13:24–30, 36–43	Good and evil coexist until final judgment, when God will separate them.
Parable of the Mustard Seed	13:31–32	God’s kingdom begins small but grows powerfully.
Parable of the	13:33	God’s kingdom works quietly but thoroughly from
Parable of the Hidden Treasure	13:44	The kingdom of heaven is worth giving up everything to obtain.
Parable of the Pearl of Great Value	13:45–46	The kingdom’s value surpasses all earthly possessions.
Parable of the Net	13:47–50	Final judgment will separate the righteous from the
Purpose of Parables	13:10–17, 34–35	Jesus uses parables to reveal truth to believers and conceal it from hardened hearts.

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## LESSON 3

### IV. PRACTICE PROMOTED BY THE KING (18:1-20:34)

In these chapters, Jesus emphasizes that living under the King's authority transforms how we relate to others: greatness is shown in humility, relationships flourish through grace, and leadership is proven through servanthood. Kingdom life is countercultural. Power is measured by love, not control; success is measured by service, not status.

#### A. Greatness in Relationships (18:1-35)

True greatness in the kingdom of God is measured by humility, not status or authority.

- Jesus teaches that we must become like children to enter the kingdom (18:1-4).
- He emphasizes forgiveness and reconciliation in relationships (18:15-35).
- Kingdom greatness is rooted in humility, reconciliation, and mercy in personal relationships.
- The parable of the unforgiving servant shows the importance of extending grace to others as God extends grace to us.

#### B. Grace in Relationships (19:1-20:16)

- Teachings on marriage and divorce underscore the sanctity of covenant relationships (19:1-12).
- Jesus blesses and welcomes children, showing the value of care and attention to the vulnerable (19:13-15).
- The story of the rich young ruler warns against letting wealth hinder obedience and reliance on God (19:16-30).
- The parable of the laborers in the vineyard illustrates God's generous grace, which is not earned but freely given (20:1-16).
- Kingdom living requires reflecting God's generosity and grace in every relationship.

## **C. Servanthood in Leadership (20:17-34)**

- Leadership in God’s kingdom is defined by service, not domination or self-promotion.
- : Kingdom leadership is expressed through humility, sacrificial service, and compassion.
- Jesus predicts His death and resurrection, modeling servant leadership through sacrifice (20:17-19).
- He teaches that true authority is measured by serving others, not lording over them (20:20-28).
- The healing of two blind men shows that compassionate service impacts lives and brings glory to God (20:29-34).

## **Kingdom Living & Relationships (Matthew 18–20)**



1. How do I define “greatness” in my own relationships? Does it reflect humility like Jesus taught?
2. Are there people I need to forgive or reconcile with? What steps can I take this week?
3. In what ways am I demonstrating servanthood in my leadership at home, work, or church?
4. Am I showing God’s grace generously, or do I hold back out of fear or self-interest?

## **V. PEOPLE OF THE KING (21:1-28:20)**

### **A. Presentation as King (21:1-23:39)**

Jesus’ presentation as King shows His messianic authority and divine mission. While welcomed by the crowds, He confronts and exposes religious hypocrisy, teaching that true allegiance to God requires humility, faith, obedience, and integrity. His kingship is spiritual, transformative, and rooted in God’s justice and mercy.

#### **1. The triumphal entry (21:1-11)**

Jesus publicly enters Jerusalem as the promised Messiah and King.

- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 and signaling humble kingship.
- Crowds welcome Him with palm branches and shout “Hosanna,” recognizing His authority (21:8-9).
- The event emphasizes Jesus’ messianic identity and sets the stage for His confrontation with religious leaders.

Jesus' entry demonstrates that His kingdom is not political power but spiritual authority, marked by humility and divine purpose.

## **2. Challenged by the Religious Leaders (21:12-22:46)**

Jesus asserts His authority and exposes the spiritual blindness of the leaders.

- Jesus cleanses the temple, rebuking its misuse for profit (21:12-17).
- He engages in teaching, parables, and debates with Pharisees, Sadducees, and other leaders (21:23–22:46). Key lessons include faith, forgiveness, obedience, and recognizing God's authority.
- Parables like the two sons and tenants reveal judgment on unfaithful leaders (21:28-46).

## **3. Condemnation of the Religious Leaders (23:1-39)**

Jesus denounces hypocrisy and corrupt practices of the religious elite.

- Pronounces “woes” on scribes and Pharisees for legalism, pride, and neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness (23:1-36).
- Predicts judgment for their rejection of God's messengers and their hardened hearts.
- Ends with a lament over Jerusalem, expressing sorrow over the city's resistance to God's salvation (23:37-39).

Leadership without humility and integrity leads to judgment, and God's kingdom values faithful, sincere devotion over outward religiosity.

## **Jesus as King & My Response (Matthew 21–23)**



1. How do I respond to hypocrisy or corruption around me? Do I act with discernment or passivity?
2. When faced with Jesus' authority, do I submit willingly, or do I try to control outcomes like the religious leaders?
3. Are my spiritual practices—prayer, worship, obedience—genuine expressions of love for God, or just outward performance?
4. How do I react when God's Word challenges my comfort, pride, or status?

## **B. The Signs of the End and the Call to Watchfulness (24:1-51)**

Matthew 24 is Jesus' prophetic discourse on the end times, combining warning, encouragement, and instruction:

**Warning:** Deception, persecution, and tribulation will precede the end.

**Encouragement:** God's people who endure in faith will be saved.

**Instruction:** Watchfulness, discernment, and obedience are essential; the timing of Christ's return is unknown.

**Hope:** Despite turmoil, Jesus will return visibly in glory, gather His people, and establish eternal justice.

This chapter highlights the prophetic signs and the need for vigilance.

### **1. Jesus Foretells the Destruction of the Temple (24:1-2)**

- Observation: Jesus leaves the temple and His disciples admire the buildings.
- Declaration: He predicts the temple's destruction: "Not one stone here will be left on another; all of them will be thrown down."
- Significance: This prophecy signals both a coming judgment on Israel and a call to spiritual vigilance.

### **2. The Disciples' Questions (24:3)**

Setting: The disciples ask Jesus privately on the Mount of Olives:

- When will the temple be destroyed?
- What will be the sign of Your coming?
- What will be the sign of the end of the age?

Purpose: Jesus uses these questions to teach about future events, trials, and ultimate redemption.

### **3. Signs of the End of the Age (24:4-14)**

- False Messiahs & Deception: Many will claim to be Christ and lead people astray.
- Wars & Rumors of Wars: Nations will fight; kingdoms will rise and fall.
- Natural Disasters & Persecution: Famines, earthquakes, and persecution of believers will occur.
- Lawlessness & Love Fading: Sin increases, and love grows cold among many.
- Gospel Preached Worldwide: Despite trials, the gospel will be proclaimed to all nations.

These signs are preparatory warnings, not immediate fulfillment of the end. "But the one who endures to the end will be saved." (24:13)

### **4. The Abomination of Desolation & Great Tribulation (24:15-28)**

Jesus points to Daniel's prophecy: the "abomination that causes desolation" standing in the holy place.

Warning:

- Those in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- Tribulation will be unprecedented, "such as has not been from the beginning of the world."
- Deception will be rampant. False prophets and false Christs will perform signs and wonders.

God's people must discern truth and remain faithful.

## 5. The Coming of the Son of Man (24:29-31)

Cosmic Signs:

- Sun and moon darkened, stars falling, heavens shaken.
- Appearance of Christ:
- Jesus comes visibly, with power and glory.

Gathering of the Elect:

- Angels will gather God's people from all corners of the earth.
- Unlike secret deceptions, Christ's return will be unmistakable and triumphant.

## 6. Lessons from the Fig Tree (24:32-35)

- Analogy: The budding fig tree signals that summer is near; similarly, the signs Jesus described indicate that His return is near.
- Certainty: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Believers must recognize the spiritual "signs of the times" and trust Jesus' promises.

## 7. The Necessity of Watchfulness (24:36-51)

- The Unknown: No one knows the day or hour, not even the angels or the Son, only the Father.
- Exhortation: Be ready and watchful at all times.
- Parables for Readiness: The faithful and wise servant (v. 45-51) versus the wicked servant illustrates accountability and preparedness.

Kingdom living requires constant vigilance, obedience, and faithful stewardship.

## End Times Awareness & Readiness (Matthew 24)



1. How vigilant am I spiritually? What distractions might be dulling my awareness of God's activity in my life?
2. Do I trust God fully even when trials, chaos, or uncertainty surround me?
3. How am I living in a way that prepares others for Christ, while remaining faithful myself?

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## LESSON 4



### **C. Passion of the King (26:1-27:66)**

#### **1. The Plot to Kill Jesus (26:1-5)**

- Context: Jesus predicts His suffering and death as the fulfillment of God's plan.
- Response of the Leaders: The chief priests and elders begin plotting to arrest and kill Him, fearing the crowds and their influence.

Even before the events unfold, opposition against Jesus is organized and determined, highlighting the inevitability of His sacrificial death.

#### **2. Jesus Anointed (26:6-13)**

- Event: A woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume at Bethany.
- Significance: Jesus interprets this act as preparing Him for burial.
- Jesus praises the woman's devotion, highlighting extravagant love and worship over His disciples' criticism of wastefulness.

True devotion honors Christ, even when misunderstood by others.

#### **3. Judas Betrays Jesus (26:14-16)**

- Event: Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver.
- Significance: The betrayal shows human greed and the fulfillment of prophecy.
- The betrayal sets the stage for Jesus' arrest.

#### **4. The Last Supper (26:17-35)**

- Event: Jesus celebrates the Passover with His disciples.
- Key Elements: He identifies the one who will betray Him and establishes the Lord's Supper with bread (body) and wine (blood) as a covenant remembrance.
- Jesus teaches humility, service, and love, predicting Peter's denial.

Jesus institutes a lasting memorial of His sacrifice and calls His followers to faithfulness and servant-hearted living.

## 5. Gethsemane (26:36-46)

- Event: Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Highlights: He expresses deep anguish, asking the Father if the cup of suffering can pass, yet submits to God's will.
- Disciples struggle to stay awake and pray.

Even the Son of God experiences anguish and obedience, modeling surrender under trial.

## 6. Arrest and Trial (26:47-27:31)

- Events: Jesus is betrayed by Judas, arrested, and brought before the Sanhedrin.
- False witnesses accuse Him; Peter denies Him three times.
- Jesus is mocked, beaten, and sent to Pontius Pilate.

Jesus faces suffering and humiliation willingly, exemplifying sacrificial obedience.

## 7. The Crucifixion (27:32-56)

- Event: Jesus is crucified at Golgotha.
- Highlights: Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross; soldiers mock and crucify Him between two criminals.
- Jesus' death is marked by supernatural signs: darkness, temple veil torn, earthquake.
- Centurion and many recognize Jesus as the Son of God.

The crucifixion is the ultimate act of redemptive love, fulfilling God's salvation plan.

## 8. The Burial (27:57-66)

- Event: Joseph of Arimathea asks for Jesus' body and buries it in a new tomb.
- Significance: A large stone seals the tomb; guards are posted to prevent tampering.
- This sets the stage for the resurrection.

## Passion of the King – Obedience & Faith (Matthew 26–27)



1. Do I submit to God's will in difficult moments, like Jesus in Gethsemane, or do I resist?
2. Are there areas in my life where I've betrayed or denied Christ through inaction, compromise, or sin?
3. How can I model humility and sacrificial love in my daily decisions, relationships, and responsibilities?

## **D. The Resurrection of the King (28:1-20)**

### **1. The Empty Tomb (28:1-7)**

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visit Jesus' tomb. Jesus was already risen when they got there.

- A violent earthquake occurs; an angel rolls back the stone and sits on it.
- The angel announces that Jesus has risen from the dead and instructs the women to tell the disciples.
- The resurrection confirms Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the grave, fulfilling prophecy.

### **2. The Risen Christ Revealed (28:8-17)**

The women leave in fear and joy to tell the disciples.

- Jesus meets them personally, greeting them and affirming His resurrection.
- Reaction of the Disciples: Some worship Him, some doubt, but all are confronted with the reality of His living presence.

### **3. The King Issues His Great Commission (28:18-20)**

- Event: Jesus meets His disciples in Galilee and gives the Great Commission.
- Instructions: Go and make disciples of all nations.
- Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Teach them to obey everything He commanded.
- Promise: Jesus assures His continuous presence: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The resurrection empowers believers for global mission, grounded in Christ's authority and presence.

### **Resurrection & Mission (Matthew 28)**



1. How does the reality of Jesus' resurrection change my attitude toward fear, doubt, and despair?

2. Am I actively participating in making disciples, sharing the gospel, or serving others in His name?

3. How conscious am I of Christ's presence with me daily, guiding and empowering my life?

4. What practical steps can I take this week to obey Jesus' commands more fully?