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Survey of Matthew

by
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Survey of Matthew

**A study of the book of Matthew for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Matthew

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Matthew. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you have written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Matthew. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course, you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses you will be reading. After each paragraph, you will usually have three questions. The questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson, there will be an opportunity to write down something you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons, three things will happen in your life:

First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.

Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses you have studied.

Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally communicated in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

Survey of Matthew

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Survey of Matthew
Lesson 1
Matthew 1:1-2:23

Today, we are beginning a study of the four Gospels. Each one of the Gospels emphasizes particular things about the life of Christ. In Matthew, we see Christ the King. In the book of Mathew, king or kingdom is used 46 times to refer to Christ. As we study the first two chapters of Matthew today, we will see that these two chapters emphasize the fact that Christ had the legal right to be the King. We will also see that the birth of Christ fulfilled several Old Testament promises. As we study what Matthew teaches us about the early life of Christ, we will see why Herod was anxious to know where to find Christ. We will also see that the Lord led Joseph so that Joseph recognized that he was obeying God in the things that he did.

As you study the first two chapters of Matthew, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson today, you should be able to:

- Tell what each Gospel emphasizes about Christ.
- Explain why Herod was angry when the wise men came.
- Explain how God protected Christ form Herod.
- List four places where God spoke to Joseph.

In the introduction we said that Matthew presented Christ as King. Each of the other Gospels also emphasizes a particular thing about Christ. Mark presents Christ as the Servant. Luke presents Christ as the Son of Man. John presents Christ as the Son of God. Since each Gospel emphasizes a different thing about Christ, we get a more complete picture of Christ by studying all four gospels.

1. Read Matthew 1:1-17 and write down what each Gospel emphasizes about Christ.
2. Explain why it will be important to understand that Matthew presented Christ as the King as you study this book.
3. Explain why you think that God chose to have four writers and not just one write about the life and ministry of Christ.

In Matthew 1:1-17, we have the legal family of Christ. Notice in verse 16 that it says that Joseph was the husband of Mary instead of saying that he begot Jesus. This verse emphasizes the fact that Mary was a virgin and had never known a man before the birth of Christ. This is emphasized again in verse 25. However, since Joseph was from the family of Abraham and David, he was legally entitled to be a king. When we come to the family line of Mary in Luke we will see that she also came from the family of Abraham and David. As a result Christ had the right to be a king because he was from the family of David.

4. Read 2 Samuel 7:16 and write why it is important that Christ was from the family of David.
5. Explain how Matthew 1:1-17 shows that God fulfilled the promise that God made to David?
6. Explain why it is important that God gave the promises about the coming of Christ to Abraham and David.

There are four women mentioned in Matthew 1:1-17 besides Mary. One is called, “her that was the wife of Uriah.” The one who had been the wife of Uriah was Bathsheba. In 2 Samuel 11 we read about the sin of David that he committed with Bathsheba. In the next chapter we see the consequences of that sin. Sin will always have negative consequences. However, we also see the mercy of God as He forgave David. In fact David is later called a man after God’s own heart. This shows that God forgives sin even though the sin has serious consequences. The key was the fact that when David was confronted with his sin that he repented and asked God for forgiveness.

7. Read Matthew 1:1-17 and write down the names of the other three women that are included in this genealogy.

8. Explain what these verses teach you about the fact that God is willing to forgive all those who come to Him with an attitude of true repentance.
9. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that there are consequences for sin but that that God also forgives when you come to Him in repentance.

Perhaps you are wondering why these four women are included in the list of the men of the family of Christ. WE read in the Old Testament that God chose to show His love for all the chosen people of God, the Jews. However, the three women named, Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth, were from a foreign country and were not Jews. The fact that their names are included shows that Christ came to die for people of all nations. Tamar, Rahab and Bathsheba were involved in terrible sin. However, God included them in the family of Christ to show that God will forgive even the worst sinner who asks for forgiveness.

10. Read Matthew 1:1-17 and write the number of generations between the time of Abraham and the time of David.
11. Explain why it is important that God chose to include both Jews and Gentiles in the family line of Christ.
12. Explain what you have learned about the love of God from the fact that He included these particular women in the line of Christ.

In Matthew 1:18-25, we see that God tells Joseph about the coming birth of Christ. Joseph was engaged to Mary. In their country they had an engagement period of one year. During this time they were considered husband and wife but they did not live together and they did not have marriage relationships until the year was over. During that time Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph loved Mary and because he was a just man, he did not want to make it hard for Mary. He decided to break their engagement privately. However, God showed Joseph in a dream that Mary had not been unfaithful. Instead, she was going to have a child by the Holy Spirit. This child would be Jesus, the Son of God.

13. Read verses 18 through 25 and write down the name that Joseph was to give to the baby when the baby was born.
14. Explain why it was probably a difficult day for Joseph when he found out that Mary was pregnant and before he received the dream from God.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the obedience of Joseph to God in this situation.

In verses 18 through 25 we learn several things about the character of Joseph. We see that Joseph was a just man. The word that is translated just is translated righteous about half of the times that it is used. It speaks of a person whose life is approved and acceptable to God. Since we cannot be righteous through our own efforts, the word speaks of a person that has repented of his sins and placed his trust in the promises of God. For us today that means that we have repented of our sin of unbelief and placed our trust in Christ. It means that we believe that Christ is righteous and could pay the penalty for our sin. It means that we believe the Father showed that He was satisfied with the payment of Christ by raising Christ from the dead.

16. Read Matthew 1:18-25 and write what God told Joseph that Jesus would do.
17. Explain why it is important for every person to understand that the only way that a person can become righteous is to repent of sin and place their trust in Christ, the Righteous One.
18. Explain why you think that God wants every person in the world to hear how he or she can receive the righteousness of Christ.

God also reminded Joseph of a promise that Isaiah had made about the coming of Christ. Isaiah said that a virgin would have a Son and that the name of the Son would be Immanuel. The name Immanuel means "God with us." John 1:14 tells us, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Christ became a man and lived among us so that mankind could see the glory

of God. Christ lived among us so that Christ could pay the penalty for sin. Christ lived among us so that He could show the disciples how to carry the message of forgiveness to the ends of the world.

19. Read Matthew 1:18-25 and write what Joseph named Jesus when He was born.

20. Explain why it is important that God sent Christ to live among us.

21. Explain how your life has been changed because of the fact that Christ came to be with us.

As we come to Matthew 2:1-12 we see the coming of the wise men to visit Christ. Pictures and songs have given us several wrong ideas about the birth of Christ. If you will read this section carefully you will notice the following things. It does not say that the wise men were kings. It does not say that there were only three wise men. In fact there may have been ten or fifteen or more. It says that the wise men visited Christ in a house according to verse 11. From Luke 2:21-25 we learn that Christ was at least 40 days old and Matthew 2:16 tells us that He was less than two years old when the wise men came. This is why the wise men came to a house to see Christ and not to a stable. In Luke we will see that it was the shepherds who came to the stable. Christ had been born for many weeks or months before the wise men came so Mary and Joseph had moved out of the stable and into a house by the time they came.

22. Read Matthew 2:1-12 and then tell the youngest and the oldest ages that Christ could have been when the wise men came.

23. Explain why it is important to understand that the wise men did not come to visit Christ until He was at least 40 days old.

24. Explain why you think that pictures and songs have caused people to misunderstand several things about the birth of Christ.

Matthew 2:4 tells us that Herod was troubled and that the people of Jerusalem were also troubled when the wise men came to Jerusalem. Herod was troubled because he was always fearful that he would lose his power to someone else. Over the years that he ruled, he killed many people to maintain his power and control. The people were fearful because they knew the anger of Herod and they were afraid for their own lives whenever he was troubled. Herod tried to conceal his fear by telling the wise men to go and find Christ and then come and tell him where Christ was so that he could also worship him. Later in the chapter we will see that his real plan was to kill Christ.

25. Read Matthew 2:1-12 and write who Herod called together to tell him where Christ should be born.

26. Explain how God used this event to let the chief priests and other religious leaders know about the birth of Christ.

27. Explain why you think Herod and the people of Jerusalem were worried when the wise men said that they were seeking the King of the Jews.

The wise men came looking for the King of the Jews. These men had studied the Old Testament. Numbers 24:17 promised that a Star would come out of Jacob and that person would be a Scepter (this showed that He would be a King). In Matthew 2:11, we see that the wise men gave Christ three different kinds of gifts. The Lord provided these gifts so Mary and Joseph would have something to provide their needs when they fled to Egypt. The first was gold. The second gift was frankincense, which is very expensive perfume. The third gift was myrrh, which is a very expensive spice. Here, we see that these were gifts that were fit for a king.

28. Read Matthew 2:1-12 and see if you can find one thing which shows that the wise men knew Christ was God.

29. Explain how the wise men showed that they were real students of the Old Testament.

30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to really get to know the Word of God.

The wise men showed by what they did that they recognized that Christ is God. When the wise

men came with these gifts, they got down in front of Christ and worshiped Him. Here, we see that these wise men recognized the greatness of Christ. They chose to worship Him to show that they knew that He was God. Here, we see the attitude that all Christians should have toward Christ. We need to worship Him both in our spirit and in truth according to John 4:24-25. Just as the wise men did, we show our love for Christ by our worship of Him.

31. Read Matthew 2:1-12 and write why the wise men did not go back to tell Herod where Christ was.

32. Explain how these wise men showed that they recognized that Christ is God.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you to worship Christ both in your human spirit and according to truth.

The Lord also warned Joseph in a dream that he and Mary needed to take Christ and flee to Egypt because Herod would try to kill Him. We see that Joseph was obedient and left immediately to take Mary and Christ to Egypt. God had said through Hosea in Hosea 11:1 that He would call His Son out of Egypt. Here, we see that God was fulfilling several Old Testament prophecies by the birth and early events in the life of Christ. Matthew recorded these events so that every person would be able to know that the coming of Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies.

34. Read Matthew 2:13-23 and write whether Herod was telling the truth when he said that he wanted to worship Christ also.

35. Explain why God wanted every person to know that Christ fulfilled the Old Testament in His birth as well as in His life, His death and His resurrection.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that Christ fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies that were made about Him.

Herod was angry when he saw that the wise men did not return to tell him where to find Christ. Herod immediately sent his soldiers to Bethlehem with instructions to kill all of the children in the area of Bethlehem that were two years and under. Here, we see that Herod was controlled by fear because even the thought of a child being born that was to become a King caused Herod to become a murderer. Here, we see an example of the fact that people can become totally controlled by fear. The fact that he killed these children fulfilled a prophecy given in Jeremiah 31:15.

37. Read Matthew 2:13-23 and write how many more times God spoke to Joseph with a dream to tell him what to do.

38. Explain why people that have not trusted Christ will be controlled by fear.

39. Explain how repenting and placed your faith in Christ has helped you to have more and more victory over fear in your own life.

God used a dream to tell Joseph that it was safe to come back to the land of Israel. Then, God gave him another dream to show him that he should return to live in the area of Galilee. This was to fulfill another Old Testament prophecy. Joseph also gives us a good example by his obedience to God. Whatever God told him to do, Joseph was obedient and did it. Now, read the following verses again: 1:22-23, 2:5, 2:15, 2:17-18, 2:23. In each one of these verses and verse groups you will notice that it says that it is fulfilling something that was spoken by the prophets. This means that it was completing a promise made by God in the Old Testament.

40. How many promises from the Old Testament are completed in Matthew 1 and 2?

41. Explain why it is important to understand that God allowed everything that happened to fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament.

42. Explain why the example of the obedience of Joseph gives you a good example for your own life.

Now, re-read Matthew 1:1-2:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 2
Matthew 3:1-4:25

Today, we will be studying Matthew 3:1-4:25. In these two chapters we meet John the Baptist. The third chapter tells us that John the Baptist came before Christ to announce the coming of Christ. In the last part of chapter three John baptized Christ. In the first part of chapter four we will be studying about the way that the devil tempted Christ out in the wilderness. Christ shows that He is God by defeating the devil each time. Then, Christ goes to Capernaum and begins to preach. We also see that Christ began to call His first disciples.

As you study Matthew 3 and 4 today, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you finish this lesson today, you should be able to:

- Tell why John the Baptist came before Christ.
- Explain the difference between a Pharisee and a Sadducee.
- Tell why John the Baptist baptized Christ.
- Tell what happened when Christ called four men to follow Him.

As we begin chapter three, we see the message of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-12. In verses two and three we see that his message is taken from Isaiah 40. First, he tells the people to repent. Repent means to be sorry for your sins and turn from them. Then, he tells the people to prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight. When a king was going to travel through the country he would send a messenger ahead to tell the people that the king was coming. Then, all of the people in each village would go out and fix the road. They would fill all the holes and remove the bumps. We see that God sent John the Baptist to go ahead of Christ and tell the people that Christ was coming. Instead of telling the people to fix the road, John told the people to repent.

1. Read Matthew 3:1-12 and write what John the Baptist did when the people confessed their sin.
2. Explain why it was important for John to go ahead of Christ telling the people to get their hearts prepared for the coming of Christ.
3. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to tell people to prepare their hearts and place their trust in Christ.

We read that John the Baptist told the Pharisees and Sadducees that he baptized with water those who repented of their sins and turned from them. Then, he said that there was one coming after him who was greater than he. That one is Christ. Christ would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He would gather those who trusted Him to be with Him. Those who would not trust in Him would be burned in a fire that would never be put out. Some people may ask the question, what does it mean to be baptized with fire in verse 11? However, this is explained by looking at verses 7 through 12. Three times it speaks of repentance and the gathering of those who trust in God. Three times it speaks of fire. In verses ten and twelve the fire speaks of judgment. The baptism with fire is the fire of judgment of those who refuse to believe in Christ as Savior and Lord.

4. Read Matthew 3:1-12 and write the names of the two groups of religious leaders who are called vipers (snakes).
5. Explain why John the Baptist warned the Pharisees and Sadducees about the coming of judgment.
6. Explain why you are thankful that John the Baptist promised that Christ would baptize all that trusted in Christ with the Holy Spirit.

Since we will read about the Pharisees and Sadducees many times in our study of Matthew we should find out more about them. The Pharisees were proud. They were very religious and

believed that they could earn their way to heaven by keeping the Law. They thought they were so good that they did not even think that they were sinners. They were the group that worked the hardest to kill Christ. The Sadducees were another Jewish religious group. However, they did not believe in angels or miracles. They refused to believe in the resurrection. During the time of Christ they were the religious group in charge of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. They helped the Pharisees plan how to put Christ to death.

7. Read Matthew 3:1-12 and write what John the Baptist said Christ would use to burn up those who were like chaff.

8. Explain why John the Baptist came before Christ preparing the way for Christ.

9. Explain why it is important for you to be able to explain to others the need to repent and confess their sins to Christ.

In Matthew 3:13-17, we have the baptism of Christ. Christ came to John the Baptist and asked to be baptized. John the Baptist immediately recognized that he was the sinful person and asked Christ to baptize Him. Christ said it was important for John to baptize Him to fulfill all righteousness. Then, John the Baptist agreed to baptize Christ. Jesus did not have any sin but He wanted to show His willingness to be identified as a man. Christ became a man like us so that He could die for us. When Jesus came up out of the water the heavens opened and God gave two proofs that Christ was His Son.

10. Read Matthew 3:13-17 and then write the two proofs that God gave to prove that Christ was His Son.

11. Explain why John the Baptist did not want to baptize Christ at first.

12. Explain why it is important to you that Christ chose to show His willingness to be identified as a man by being baptized.

Matthew 3:16-17 is the first place in the New Testament where the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all mentioned together. We will be learning much more about each member of the Trinity as we study the Bible together. Here, we see that the Father made it very clear that He was pleased with His Son. He wanted those who were present to know that this was His Beloved Son. Here, the Father shows us at the beginning of the public ministry of Christ that He had a perfect love for His Son. At the same time it also shows us that the Father has a perfect love for us because He was willing to send His Son to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.

13. Read Matthew 3:13-17 and write when the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove.

14. Explain why it is important to see that the relationship of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit was introduced at the beginning of the ministry of Christ.

15. Explain why the fact that the Father would send His Beloved Son to pay the penalty for your sin shows the greatness of the love of the Father for you.

As we start our study of the first part of Matthew 4, we have the temptation of Christ. When Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis 2, we see that Satan tempted Adam to satisfy His flesh, satisfy His eyes and to show pride. Adam and Eve failed in all three areas. They saw that the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good for food, it was pleasant to the eyes and it was a tree to be desired to make one wise. In these verses, we will see that Satan tempted Christ in the same three areas. However, we see that Christ answered with Scripture each time He was tempted.

16. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and write how long Christ had fasted before He was tempted.

17. Explain why it was important for Christ to have victory over temptation in the same three areas where Adam and Eve failed.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ had victory in every area where Adam failed.

Notice that each time the devil tempted Christ that Christ answered, "It is written." Each time

Christ answered the devil by quoting a verse from the Old Testament. We can have victory over the devil also if we have memorized the Word of God so that we can answer the temptations of Satan with the Bible. All three of the answers to the devil came from the book of Deuteronomy. If we know the Word of God real well, we will be able to answer the devil and still have many verses left for the next time that the devil comes to tempt us. Now, look at each one of the temptations. The first is given in Matthew 4:1-4. Jesus had been without food for forty days and was very hungry when the devil came to tempt Him. The devil told Christ to make the stones into bread. He was telling Christ that if He was the Son of God, He did not need to be hungry. The devil showed that all he was concerned about was satisfying himself. However, Christ showed by His answer that it is more important to obey God than to satisfy self.

19. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and write down the first answer that Christ gave to Satan.
20. Explain what these verses show about the importance of memorizing and meditating on Scripture so that we have many Scriptures in our minds and in our hearts.
21. Explain how having Scriptures in your heart has helped you when you are tempted to sin.

In the second temptation the devil showed that he knows the Bible too. However, he quoted a verse without quoting the verses around it. By doing this he took the verse out of its context. Taking a verse out of context means using a verse in a way that does not agree with the verses in the rest of the chapter or the rest of the Bible. By reading the rest of the verses in the chapter, it is easy to see that the devil was not saying what the Bible taught in that chapter. This is one of the favorite tricks of the false religions. When someone quotes a verse and what he says about the verse does not sound right, turn to the verse and read the six verses before that verse and the six verses after that verse. The verses around it will usually show whether the person was telling the truth or not.

22. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and write down the answer of the Lord to the second temptation.
23. Explain how these verses show that Satan can misquote verses from the Bible to deceive those who do not know the Bible very well.
24. Explain why these verses give you an example of understanding the context around a verse and not just reading a verse by itself.

We go on to read about the third temptation of Satan. This time Satan offers to give all the nations of the world to Christ if Christ will worship him. The devil is telling Christ that He can have everything in the world without dying on the cross to gain it. The only requirement of Satan was for Christ to worship him. Satan was trying to get Christ to compromise and receive the world without dying for the sins of the people in the world. If the devil cannot succeed any other way, he will do the same thing to us. He will try to get us to compromise. Christ immediately told Satan to leave because God is the only one that is to be worshiped.

25. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and write how Christ answered the third temptation of Satan.
26. Explain why Satan will try to use both pride and compromise to get Christians to sin.
27. Explain why it helps you to understand that Satan uses pride to get you to compromise and sin.

Matthew goes on to tell us that John the Baptist was put into prison. He had completed his work of preparing the way for Christ. Christ then went to Galilee to the city of Capernaum so that he would fulfill another promise in the Old Testament. The promise was that those who sat in darkness would see a great light. In the book of John, Christ says that He is the Light of the World. Christ also began to preach at this time. We see that the message of John the Baptist and the message of Christ were exactly the same. The message of John the Baptist is given in Matthew 3:2.

28. Read Matthew 4:12-17 and then write down the message that Christ preached when He began His public ministry.
29. Explain why it is important that John the Baptist and Christ preached the same message as

they went from place to place.

30. Tell how you would explain the word “repent” to a person that is not a Christian.

The prophecy quoted from Isaiah says, “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” Christ came to bring light to people who are living in spiritual darkness. He is the One who is the Light. Today, there are many people around us who are still in spiritual darkness. Christ is just as concerned that people today learn about the fact that He is the Light. That is why we also need to encourage people to repent of their sin. To repent means to turn from sin and to turn to God.

31. Read Matthew 4:12-17 and write where people are still sitting today.

32. Explain why people today need to learn that Christ is the Light and that He will give them spiritual light if they will repent and put their trust in Christ.

33. Explain what you can do to help people begin to understand that Christ is the Light and that He came to remove their spiritual darkness.

In Matthew 4:18-25 we read about Christ calling His first four disciples. By comparing the book of John, we see that these men had already known Christ for about a year. In John 1 Christ had invited these men to come and get acquainted with Him. They traveled many places with Christ during that year. Now, Christ is inviting them to spend even more time with Him so that they can grow and learn how to serve Him. Christ promised they would learn how to lead other people to Christ. These men had earned their living by fishing. Now, Christ promised them that He would show them how to do a new kind of fishing.

34. Read Matthew 4:18-25 and write what Christ would show them how to become as they followed Him.

35. Explain why Christ shows us by His example that the best way to equip others to lead people to Christ is to show them how to do it and not just tell them what to do.

36. Explain why you will learn to serve the Lord more effectively if other Christians will show you how to serve Him and not just tell you that you need to serve Him.

These four men had already spent quite a bit of time traveling with Christ. However, they had just gone with Him and observed what He did. Now, Christ is promising to show them how to become fishers of men. During this period we will see that they begin to participate with Christ. This period will last for about nine months and will include a larger group of disciples. Twenty-one months after Christ first met these men we see in the other Gospels that they are part of a larger group of disciples. Luke 6:13 says, “And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” The last 21 months of Christ’s ministry before His crucifixion would be spent training these men and the rest of the Twelve to lead the church.

37. Read Matthew 4:18-25 and write the first thing Christ did with the disciples after he promised to show them how to become fishers of men.

38. Explain why it is important that Christ promised that He would show the disciples how to become fishers of men.

39. Explain why it is important for you to either learn how to become a fisher of men or to begin showing others how to become fishers of men.

Galilee had 203 towns and villages with a synagogue. This meant that the disciples heard Christ teach in many different synagogues. They saw how Christ built relationships with people. They heard him answer the questions of people in many different places. As a result, they were being shown what to share and how to share it. Later when Christ would send them out, they would know what to say. They would know how to answer the questions of others because they would be hearing the same questions that they had heard Christ answer as they traveled with Him.

40. Read Matthew 4:18-25 and write what else Christ did in addition to preaching.

41. Explain why it was important for the disciples to listen to Christ answer the questions of the people.

42. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to be shown how to build relationships with people and to be shown how to answer their questions.

Now, re-read Matthew 3:1-4:25 and write down three lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 3
Matthew 5:1-48

Today, we will be starting a study of one of the sermons of Christ. It is usually called the Sermon on the Mount because Christ gave it while sitting on a mountain. Christ was concerned about teaching His disciples. He was beginning to prepare and train His disciples for the work which He later gave them to do. Although there was a large group of other people listening, Matthew 5:1-2 emphasizes the fact that Christ is teaching His disciples. Christ was showing by His example the importance of training future leaders.

In the chapter we will be studying today, we will see that Christ promises us blessings, Christ gives us responsibilities, and Christ explains the true meaning of some of the commandments given in the Old Testament. By the time you finish this lesson today, you should be able to:

- Name six or more of the blessings.
- Explain the responsibilities that Christ gives us.
- Explain what Christ says about anger, adultery and divorce.
- Explain what Christ teaches about loving our enemies.

In Matthew 5:1-12, Christ promises blessings to eight groups of people who trust in Him. These are written especially for the Jews who will live on the earth when Christ is King on the earth. However, each one applies equally to each of us who are living right now. The first group is those who are poor in spirit. These are men who are not proud before God. They have realized that they have nothing to offer for their salvation and so they have asked Christ to forgive their sins. They are promised the kingdom of heaven. The second group is those who mourn. To mourn means to be sorrowful for our sins and for the sins of others. Because our sins are forgiven, we now have comfort. As we see others become Christians when we witness to them about Christ, we are to be meek. To be meek means to have a true picture of self. Since the first two blessings emphasize not being proud before God and being sorry for sin, a meek person will not boast about himself. Instead, he will seek to bring glory to Christ. Then, no matter what happens, he will be able to rejoice in the Lord and live an exciting life here on the earth.

1. Now, read Matthew 5:1-12 and write down the first three groups that are promised blessings by God.
2. Explain in your own words what it means to be poor in spirit.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your life to have a true picture of yourself as God sees you.

The fourth group that is promised blessings is the group that hungers and thirsts for righteousness. This is the group who are right with God because their sins are forgiven. Then, they want to see all men right with God. The only way men will be right with God is to have their sins forgiven. As we tell others about Christ we are filled with joy and happiness when some of them become Christians. The fifth group promised blessings is the merciful. Mercy means to show love and kindness to others. We must love others and show kindness to them. Then, others will be able to understand the love of Christ. The sixth group are those who are pure in heart. The only way a person can be pure in heart is to keep his eyes and thoughts on Christ. As we think about Christ and how to please Him, we will have a pure heart.

4. Now, read Matthew 5:1-12 and write down the second three groups that are promised blessings in these verses.
5. Explain what makes a person righteous in the sight of God.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that you are pure in heart.

The seventh group that is promised blessings are the peacemakers. The only person who can

have peace is one who is right with God because his sins are forgiven. A peacemaker is one who helps others to find peace with God. He tells sinners how to become Christians and he tells Christians how to have their peace renewed by confessing any sin in their lives. The eighth group are those who are persecuted. In verse 11 it tells some of the ways that men will persecute us. Two reasons are given telling why men do evil to Christians. Sinful men do not like to see men who obey the Word of God and do right because it shows sinful men that they are sinful. The second reason why men do evil things to Christians is due to the fact that sinful men do not like to hear about Christ.

7. Read Matthew 5:1-12 and name the two groups who are promised blessings in these verses.
8. Explain why it is important to learn how to become a peacemaker that can help people learn how to have peace with God.
9. Explain why it is important to you to understand that if you are persecuted for Christ it is because people reject Christ and that you do not need to take it personally.

In Matthew 5:12, we see what we are to do when men do evil things to us. It tells us in this verse that we are to be very glad and full of joy when men do evil things to us. We realize that they are doing evil because they do not know Christ. They are slaves to sin and so they will do sinful things. When we are persecuted for righteousness sake, we are to rejoice. Happiness depends on what is happening around us. Joy depends on what is going on inside us in our relationship with Christ. That is why we can have joy even when we are experiencing persecution.

10. Read Matthew 5:1-12 and write what kind of a reward we are promised if we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.
11. Explain why Christians will experience blessing if they have the right attitudes in their lives.
12. Explain why you think that Christ wants you to continue to develop these attitudes in your life.

In Mathew 5:13-16, we are given responsibilities. We are told to be the salt of the earth. Salt does several things. Salt causes thirst. Salt keeps things from spoiling. Salt flavors food and makes it more enjoyable. As Christians we are to do each of these things. By our testimony we should cause a thirst for the Word of God. Although the world is very sinful, the lives of Christians keep the world from becoming completely evil. Since Christians have something to live for and a purpose in life, the message of the Gospel certainly adds joy to the life of everyone who becomes a Christian.

13. Read Matthew 5:13-20 and write what salt is good for if it loses its savor.
14. Explain why Christ says that Christians are to be like salt to the world.
15. Explain why it is important to you in your life to realize that Christ will give you His power to make an impact on the world around you.

We are also told to be the light of the world. As we tell others how to become Christians, we are making it possible for them to have real joy and peace. Light gets rid of darkness. Light and darkness cannot be present in the same place at the same time. As Christians we are told to live for Christ and witness for Christ. As our lives and our words tell others about Christ, then it is possible for them to become Christians. We show others the change that Christ came to make in their lives by the changes that happen in our lives. We tell people how they can have that same light when they ask Christ to take control of their lives.

16. Read Matthew 5:13-20 and write what cannot be hidden.
17. Explain why Christ says that Christians are to be like light in the world.
18. Explain why it is a great privilege to know that Christ has called you to be light in the world by both your actions and your words.

We see that we are not to try and hide the light that Christ has given to us. Instead, we are to be like a lamp that has been placed on a lamp stand so that it can give light to all those who are

around it. In these verses, we see that we cause that light to shine in the world around us as people see our good works. Good works speaks of those things that are good in their character and beneficial in their effect. That means that good works are things that are pleasing to God. Good works are also beneficial to those whose lives they affect.

19. Read Matthew 5:13-20 and write what Christ said is the result of good works.

20. Explain why Christians have to depend on the Lord to give them strength so that their works will be beneficial to others.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that the Lord chose to work through your life by giving you the opportunity to be one of His lights in the world.

Christ also said that He came to complete the Old Testament. In verse 18 He says that even one letter or a part of a letter will not pass from the law until it is completed. Then, Christ showed that it is impossible for men to be good enough by themselves to go to heaven. Those who are following God are to show their obedience to the Word of God both by what they do and by what they teach. Here, we see that we are to be an example of what we teach. Those who hear us teach the Word of God will become what we are whether that is good or bad.

22. Read Matthew 5:13-20 and wrote down the two parts of the Old Testament that Christ said He came to fulfill or complete.

23. Explain why Christians are to show what they teach by the way that they live.

24. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to teach others both by your example and by what you teach.

In Matthew 5:21-26, Christ teaches about anger and forgiveness. He teaches that anger will be judged just as murder is judged. Christ wants us to realize that anger and bitterness in our heart toward another person is as serious in His sight as murder. Christ also teaches about the importance of asking forgiveness when we do or say something wrong. We are to ask forgiveness of the other person and also of the Lord. God cannot bless us when we have done something to someone else and have not asked that person to forgive us. The final instruction in these verses is to agree quickly when someone disagrees with you. Then, you will not need to worry about being punished.

25. Read Matthew 5:21-32 and write how quickly we should settle a disagreement between ourselves and another person.

26. Explain why Christ teaches that anger and bitterness in a heart is just as serious as killing another person.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your life to deal with inner anger and not let it continue and develop into bitterness.

In Matthew 5:27-32, Christ teaches about adultery and divorce. In these verses, Christ says that for a man to look at a woman with lust or a sinful desire is to commit adultery in his heart. Women should also remember that when they cause men to lust by the way they dress or act, they are as guilty as the men. Christ then said that it is better to get rid of a part of body that causes continual sin than to let that part keep you from having eternal life. A blind person who has eternal life has a far better life than a person who sees but refuses to become a Christian. Here, we see that Christ is showing us that the attitudes in our heart cause us to be guilty.

28. Read Matthew 5:21-32 and tell to what thing Christ compares a lustful look.

29. Explain why lust in the heart is compared to adultery.

30. Explain what you learn for your own life about the importance of right attitudes in the heart.

In the last part of Matthew 5:27-32, Christ teaches about divorce. He points out that there is only one reason where divorce is even allowable and that is fornication (adultery). Any other reason for divorce is sin. However, Christ teaches in other passages that we are to forgive and seek to be reconciled even when someone has committed adultery. As we look at these verses, we see that many people want an excuse to cover their own sin instead of learning to forgive

one another as Christ has forgiven us. It is the desire of Christ that each Christian would learn to follow the example of Christ.

31. Read Matthew 5:21-32 and write what it would be better to cut off than to go to hell.
32. Explain why Christ teaches that Christians are not to look for an excuse for a divorce.
33. Explain why it is important in your life to recognize that the desire of Christ is for a couple to become one until they are separated by death.

We also go on to see that Christians are not to give a false oath. Instead, we are to keep our promises and carry out what we have promised. Christ teaches us what to say. He tells us we should not use strong words when we make a promise. We cannot control heaven, earth, a city or even the color of our own hair by our words. That is why Christ said that we should not swear or make a promise by anything. Instead, our promises should just be yes and no. We want to be known for our godly character that is demonstrated by the fact that we do what we say and not by the fact that we swear by various things. This prevents the devil from having a reason to tempt us to sin.

34. Read Matthew 5:33-48 and write down the four things by which Christ emphasizes that we are not to swear or promise.
35. Explain why it is important for Christians to be people that can be depended on because of their integrity and not because of their oaths.
36. Explain why you think that it is important for you to be example to others by saying what you mean and doing what you say you will do.

Christ also teaches us that we should love those who hate us. First, Christ talks about those who want to fight. If someone hits us on one side of the face, we are to let him hit the other side also. If someone takes us to court to take our coat or part of our other possessions, we are to let him have more than he wants. If someone forces us to carry a heavy burden a mile for him, we should be happy to carry that burden a second mile. In these verses, we see that Christ says that we are to do more than we are asked. We are to respond as Christ responded to others.

37. Read Matthew 5:33-48 and whether we should fight back when others want to fight with us.
38. Explain why Christians are to do more than others demand in our relationships with them.
39. Explain why you think that this kind of an attitude will cause people to realize that you are different from people that do not know Christ.

We are also told to give thanks for those who say evil things about us. Christ then says to love those who hate us. Christ tells us to pray for those who hurt us and make it hard for us. Christ said that we should do these things because we are the sons of the Father. The Father shows kindness both to the just and the unjust. Because we are His children, we are to show that same kindness to all. People who are controlled by sin show love to their friends. However, they do not show love to those who treat them as enemies. In contrast, we are to follow the example of the Father.

40. Read Matthew 5:33-48 and write who is to be our example in our relationships with others.
41. Explain why Christians are to return love for hate to those who do not know Christ and may even persecute Christians.
42. Explain why you think that it is important for you to follow the example of the Father instead of following the example of the world.

Now, re-read Matthew 5:1-48 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 4
Matthew 6:1-34

Today, we will be studying the second part of the sermon of Christ on the mountain. In this chapter we see that Christ is continuing to teach His disciples while the crowds listen. Christ knew that the traditions of many religious people cause them to do things so that other people can see them. That is not the reason why we should do what we do if we are true followers of Christ. As a result, Christ taught the disciples what they should do instead. Five things are emphasized in this chapter: the right way to give to the Lord; the right way to pray; the right way to fast; the way to have rewards in heaven; and the way to get rid of worry.

As you study this lesson today, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you finish this lesson you should:

- Know the right way to give to the Lord.
- Know more about the right way to pray.
- Know the proper way to fast.
- Know how to have treasure in heaven.
- Know seven reasons why you should not worry.

Christ begins this section by teaching about the right way to give money to the Lord. Today, there are many churches where people want others to see what they give. They do not do what Christ taught. Christ said that our left hand should not even know what our right hand gives. In some churches one person will jump up and say that he will give a certain amount of money and ask all those who will give the same amount to raise their hands. Everyone can see how much each person promises to give. In other churches people give their offering in such a way that everyone can see how much they give. The entire church can watch to see what each person gives.

1. Now, read Matthew 6:1-8 and write what these verses teach about the proper way to give.
2. Explain why many people want to give their gifts to the church in such a way that everyone will know how much they have given.
3. Explain why these verses show that you are giving with the wrong attitude if you want others to see how much you give.

During the time of Christ some of the religious people made sure that everyone knew how much they gave to others. Their reward was to hear other people talk about how much they gave. Christ said that would be their only reward because they were not giving quietly to show their love for God. Christ then says that if we give in secret, He will reward us. Here, we see that we are to seek the praise of God rather than seeking the praise of men. God is the One that rewards those who have the right attitude about giving. The purpose of giving to the Lord is never to try and get people to give praise to us for what we have given.

4. Read Matthew 6:1-8 and write whose example we are not to follow when we pray.
5. Explain what these verses teach about the right way to give to the Lord if people want to receive blessing from the Lord.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your life to please the Lord by the way that you give to the Lord.

Christ also teaches about the right way to pray. In verses five and seven Christ tells about two ways of praying that are wrong. The first wrong way is to pray to impress people. When some people pray in public, they use big words and fancy phrases to impress people with the way they pray. Their prayers are worth nothing. God would rather hear a one-sentence prayer where a person really prays from the heart and means it than a thirty-minute prayer of big words and fancy phrases which the person does not mean. The second wrong way to pray is to repeat

the same thing over and over again in order to make a long prayer. In many religions of the world people repeat the same phrases over and over again. People do this because they hope that then their gods will hear them. Verse seven calls this vain (empty) repetition. Some Christians also pray this way. They repeat certain phrases over and over in their prayers. Before long these phrases just become a habit and the person does not really mean them.

7. Read Matthew 6:1-8 and write what Christ said about the right way to pray.

8. Explain why some people in the world will pray with fancy words to impress others.

9. Explain why you think that Christ wants you to pray to Him from your heart.

Christ told us that God hears and answers our prayers when we pray to Him from our hearts. God knows our needs and He is ready to answer even before we pray. However, He wants us to pray so that we learn to trust Him to answer our prayers. As a result, Christ went on to give an example by explaining the various areas that should be included in prayer. This next section is known as the Lord's Prayer but it is really the prayer that Christ gave as an example for us. We will explain the various parts of this prayer section by section. *Our Father in heaven*. In this beginning phrase of this prayer we see our relationship with God – He is our Father – and we see that He is in heaven. This points out the fact that He is over all things.

10. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and write what we are told about the name of God.

11. Explain why Christians can know that God knows our needs even before we bring them to Him in prayer.

12. Explain why it is important to you to understand that God is your Father and that He cares for you personally when you pray to Him.

The next phrase says, "*Hallowed be Your name.*" Here, we see that we are to recognize the fact that God is pure and free from sin. Because He is free from sin that means that He can forgive our sins. Next we read, "*Your kingdom come.*" Here, we see we are to pray for God's work to be completed in the world so that His eternal kingdom can come. This would include the needs of your church and other churches, missionaries, the needs of other Christians, and everything else related to the Lord's work here on earth. After praying for the work of God, we are to pray for the will of God. The will of God is always done in heaven. That is why the next phrase says, "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" Here, we see that we are to pray that in the same way that we are to pray for His will on earth.

13. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and write the phrase that tells us that we should pray for our own needs.

14. Explain why it is important for Christians to pray for the work of God throughout the world.

15. Explain why it is important for the will of God to be done in your life as well as in the rest of the world.

The next phrase of the prayer says, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" In this phrase we see that we are to pray for our own personal needs. God knows our needs and wants to meet those needs so He invites us to tell Him about those needs so that He can show His love as our heavenly Father by meeting those needs. The prayer goes on, "*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*" Here, we see that we are to ask God to forgive our sins. Notice the fact that you are to forgive those who have done wrong things to you. Here, we see that we will not feel forgiven unless we also forgive others. The next part of the prayer says, "*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil one.*" Here, we see that we are to ask God to give us the strength to do what is right and keep from doing wrong.

16. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and write to whom all glory and power belong.

17. Explain why Christians will not feel forgiven if they refuse to forgive others.

18. Explain why it is important for you to know that you can bring your daily needs to the Lord in prayer.

The prayer concludes by saying, "*For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory*

forever. Amen.” Here, we realize that God is the Creator of all things. He is the one to whom everything belongs. God is also the One who has all power. We realize that in our own strength that we are powerless. That is why we will only be effective in our service for the Lord as we pray and ask Him to work in our lives and through our lives. As He works, it is His power that is working. Because God is the Creator of all things and is the One that has all power, we see that all glory is to be given to Him. He is the One who will rule forever.

19. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and write what God says He will do if we forgive others.

20. Explain why Christians are to realize that they will only be able to serve the Lord as they depend on His power instead of their own strength.

21. Explain why you are thankful that Christ put the Holy Spirit in your life at the moment of salvation so that you have His power working in you.

After giving this example of how to pray, Christ went on to teach us that we must forgive others if we expect God to forgive us. If we refuse to forgive others, God cannot forgive us. This is the reason that some Christians are living unhappy lives. They have never forgiven some person for what that person has done. As a result they cannot have joy in their Christian life.

When Adam sinned, he felt fear, guilt and shame. A Christian that does not forgive others will continue to live with guilt because that person cannot feel like he is forgiven when he refuses to forgive others. When that person forgives others, then that person will feel forgiven.

22. Read Matthew 6:9-15 and write what we must do if we want God to forgive our sins.

23. Explain why it is important for Christians to forgive others if they want to feel forgiven in their own lives.

24. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you can choose to be set free from guilt by choosing to forgive others.

Christ went on to teach about fasting. In Scripture we see several purposes for fasting. A study of the Bible will show the following reasons for fasting: a discipline led by the Holy Spirit; to seek God’s will in a specific matter; in repentance for sin; for concern for the work of the Lord; for deliverance or protection; to humble oneself before God; as a part of worship; as a result of deep sorrow. However, in the time of Christ there were many that did not understand the purpose of fasting. As a result, they had a wrong attitude toward fasting just as they had a wrong attitude toward giving and praying.

25. Read Matthew 6:16-24 and write down the group that tried to impress other people by the way they fasted.

26. Explain why a Christian needs to understand the various purposes why Scripture says that people might fast.

27. Explain why you are thankful that you can feel free to fast if you so desire when you want to know the will of God about a particular thing in your life.

These verses also explain the way to fast. Today, there are individuals who fast the wrong way. This was also true in the time of Christ. Some men would make their faces look disfigured and sad so people would know that they were fasting. Christ tells us that we are not to let anyone know when we fast. Anyone who goes around telling how many days he has fasted is disobeying Scripture because he is trying to get his reward from men.

28. Read Matthew 6:16-24 and write down the two things Christ says to do so that people will not know that you are fasting.

29. Explain why Christians are told to make giving, praying and fasting something that they do secretly instead of trying to get the praise of people.

30. Explain why you can look forward to the reward of the Lord if you choose to give, pray and fast in secret.

Christ went on to teach about how to have treasure in heaven. Christ shows that it is impossible to serve the things of this world and also serve the Lord. Many people want to serve the things

of this world: money, pleasure, or some other thing and also be a Christian. However, they love those things more than they love the Lord. As a result, they are so busy working to earn those things that they have no time to serve the Lord. Instead, Christ tells us to lay up our treasure in heaven. Christ says that we do not need to worry about our treasure if we are storing our treasure in heaven. Things gathered here on earth will cause us to worry that they will be stolen or destroyed. Treasures gathered in heaven cannot be taken away from us.

31. Read Matthew 6:16-24 and write what these verses tell us about our heart.

32. Explain why many people that are gathering their treasures here on earth spend their time living in fear.

33. Explain why it is important to you to store treasure in heaven by your obedience and service to the Lord.

Christ teaches about worry in the last part of Matthew 6. In verses 25 through 34 Christ teaches us that the Christian should not worry. In these verses, He gives seven reasons why we should not worry. Notice the reasons given in these verses. First, we see that Christ gives us life. Since Christ is the One that has given us life, He will certainly provide the daily needs that we have in our lives. Second we see that God takes care of the birds. If God takes care of the birds, certainly He will take care of us because we are much more important to Him than the birds. Third, we see that worry does no do any good anyway. Worry will never make us grow taller.

34. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and write what God clothes with great beauty.

35. Explain why Christians need to realize that they can trust the Lord to provide for their daily needs.

36. Explain why it is important to you to know that you will never change any problem by worrying about it.

Fourth, we see that God gives great beauty to the lilies and other flowers. Even kings cannot make themselves look as beautiful as the flowers. God takes care of the grass also. He gives the grass life even those it will only last for a short time. God says that we are much more important than the flowers or the grass. Fifth, we see that God knows what we need. We need to remember that God knows all things. Since He is a loving Father who cares for His children, He promises that He will bless us and supply our needs.

37. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and write what we are to seek first in our lives.

38. Explain why Christians should be reminded that God will supply their needs every time that they see a flower.

39 Explain why it is important to your in your life to know that God knows what you need even before you know.

Sixth, we are told that if we seek God and His righteousness that He will bless us and supply our needs. This means that we are to seek God moment by moment in our lives. It also means that we are to seek the righteousness of God. To seek His righteousness is to seek the things that are pleasing to Him. Seventh, we are not to worry about tomorrow because we have no idea what will happen tomorrow. In fact the Lord may come to take us to heaven before tomorrow even comes. Many people spent much of their time worrying about things that might never happen. Instead, we are to have our trust in Christ.

40. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and write why Christians do not need to worry about tomorrow.

41. Explain why many people spend much time worrying about things that will never happen.

42. Explain why you are thankful that you know that if you seek the Lord first that He will supply your daily needs.

Now, re-read Matthew 6:1-34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 5
Matthew 7:1-29

Today, we will study the last part of the sermon of Christ on the mountain. In this part of the sermon Christ warned about the danger of judging others. He also reminded the disciples and the rest of those who were listening of the importance of prayer. As we study this sermon we see that Christ finished the sermon by giving the people a choice of two ways. We will also see that Christ warned about the danger of false teachers and told how to recognize them. Christ finished the sermon by telling the disciples that they had a choice to build on either of two foundations and what would be the results of each. The final verses tell us that the people were amazed because they had never heard a teacher like Jesus.

As you study this chapter today, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Christ teaches about judging others.
- Tell how you know that God answers your prayers.
- Explain what Christ teaches about the two ways.
- Explain what Christ teaches about the two kinds of teachers.
- Explain the two types of foundations.
- Tell the results of the teaching of Christ.

As Christ continued His sermon, He warned about the danger of judging others. He warns us not to judge others because we will be judged in the same way. Christ told the people that the standard that they used to judge others would be the standard that would be used to judge them. The repayment that people chose to give others for things that they had done wrong would be the same repayment that they would receive for their sins. Here, we see why judging others is so serious. We will receive the same repayment that we have given to others when we judged them. Since none of us are perfect, we are only asking to be judged when we judge others.

1. Read Matthew 7:1-6 and write what we are told to get out of our own eye before we try to get the mote out of the eye of our brother.
2. Explain why Christ warned that those who judge others are placing themselves in danger of being judged.
3. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to make sure that you are not judging others.

A mote is a very tiny piece of wood. A beam is a very large piece of wood. We are to make it our goal to examine our own lives rather than the lives of others. There are many things that we do in our own lives that are also sin. When we judge others it is like trying to take a very tiny piece of wood out of the eye of our brother while we have a very large piece of wood in our own eye. As a result, we cannot see clearly to take the tiny piece out of the eye of our brother. We are guilty when we judge others. When we deal with our own sin, then we will help our brother instead of judging him.

4. Read Matthew 7:1-6 and write what a person is called when he judges others without first examining his own life.
5. Explain why it is important for people to examine their own lives instead of trying to judge the lives of others.
6. Explain why you will have a different attitude and will seek to restore another person instead of judge that person if you examine your own life first.

Matthew 7:6 teaches us that there is a difference between judging others and knowing when men are shaking their fists in the face of God. Today, there are many people who know how to become Christian and yet they refuse to trust in Christ. Instead, they look for opportunities to

argue and fight with Christians. When men want to argue about the Bible, we are told not to argue with them because they are no better than dogs or pigs. To try and argue with such a person just gives that person another opportunity to make fun of Christ. Christ says that they will trample the Word of God under their feet. They will also try to destroy those who are talking with them.

7. Read Matthew 7:1-6 and write what Christ calls those people who know the Word of God but continue to make fun of the Bible and argue against it.

8. Explain why Christ compares those who mock and make fun of God and His Word to dogs and pigs.

9. Explain why it is important for you to recognize and avoid arguing with those who just want to make fun of God.

In Matthew 7:7-12, Christ teaches us that God will answer our prayers. In these verses, Christ tells us to do three things: ask, seek, and knock. We are promised in these verses that if we ask God, He will answer our prayers. If we seek the will of the Lord, we will find it. When we knock and want to know what God wants us to do, He will open a door for us. Many times Christians do not ask for the things that they need to help them grow in their spiritual lives. In James 1:6 we are told that if we lack wisdom that we need to pray and ask God to give us wisdom because He will give to us generously. Here, we see that it is possible to fail to grow spiritually because we never ask God for the things that will help us to grow.

10. Read verses 7 through 12 and write the three things God wants us to do.

11. Explain why Christians need to be encouraged to pray and ask the Lord to give them the things that they need to grow in their spiritual lives.

12. Explain why you think that it is important for you to understand that God wants to answer your prayers.

Christ shows that He will answer our prayers with several illustrations. He asked them how many parents would give their children a stone when they are hungry? How many parents would give their children a poisonous snake instead of a fish when they are hungry? Of course no parent would think of giving children a stone or a poisonous snake when the children are hungry. If we as sinners will give good things to our children, God who has no sin certainly will give us the things we need when we pray for them.

13. Read Matthew 7:7-12 and tell what we are to do to other men.

14. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that God is a loving heavenly Father and wants to give Christians the things that they need to grow.

15. Explain why you know that God has a much greater love for you than you could ever have for your own child.

Before we became Christians we were slaves to sin. If we had a choice to do something that would please God or something that is evil, we chose to do the evil because we were sinners. Still when we had children, we know how to give them good gifts. However, God does not have a sin nature. As a result, He will give us the things that He knows are good for our lives if we will ask Him. He also tells us how we should treat people now that we have become Christians. Whether they respond or not, it should be our attitude that we will do good to others because that is the way that we would like to be treated in our own lives.

16. Read Matthew 7:7-12 and write what we fulfill when we treat others the way that we would like to be treated.

17. Explain why we can know that God will give good things to Christians when they ask Him.

18. Explain what you learn for your own personal life about the fact that God will answer your prayers.

Beginning with Matthew 7:13 Christ gives three illustrations of the choices that all men face. The first of these illustrations is the choice of the two ways. The first way is the wide gate and

broad way that leads to destruction in hell. To enter the wide gate people do not have to do anything. Since all people are born with a sin nature, they will sin and do evil. As a result, they just keep going that way. That is why many people are going through this gate. The second way is the narrow way that leads to life. Very few people are going through this gate. To enter the narrow gate a person must make the choice to repent of their sin and place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ for life.

19. Read Matthew 7:12-20 and write what Christ warns the people to beware of.

20. Explain why people do not have to do anything to enter the wide gate.

21. Explain why you are thankful that someone chose to explain to you how you could enter the narrow gate and receive eternal life.

People think that the wide way is the easy way. They think that the hard way is to trust in Christ. The reason that people think like this is due to the fact that they are dead in sin. In many parts of the world, people get part of their food by fishing in the rivers and streams. It is easy to catch the dead fish because they float down the river. However, the good fish are alive and able to swim up the river even when the water in the river is going very fast. People think that the wide way is the easy way because they are dead in their sins and are just like the dead fish floating down the river. Their end is death in hell. However, the Christian is promised eternal life because God has given him life.

22. Read Matthew 7:12-20 and write what to what Christ compares false prophets.

23. Explain why people that have never trusted in Christ are still dead in their sins.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to lead others to the narrow way that leads to life.

We go on to read that there are false prophets or false teachers. These false prophets pretend to be like sheep that are unable to hurt anyone. Their teachings sound good to those who are depending upon their own opinions and ideas. However, false prophets are really like hungry wolves. Their goal is to destroy others. They will teach people what they want to hear instead of the truth. That will allow them to continue to live to please themselves. In the process they will destroy them. In contrast, good teachers want to teach what is good to help others. As a result, they share the things that help people to trust Christ and then grow in their spiritual lives.

25. Read Matthew 7:12-20 and write how you can tell the difference between false teachers and good teachers.

26. Explain why false prophets and false teachers are able to deceive many people by their false teachings.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to make certain that you are asking to the Lord to give you the wisdom to teach people how to come to Christ and then grow spiritually.

Those who are false teachers will produce bad fruit and destroy others by their teaching. These verses also emphasize the fact that we will produce good fruit if we are Christians. We see that every good tree will produce good fruit. However a corrupt tree cannot produce good fruit. A false teacher will always produce followers that follow his evil ways because he is teaching them to satisfy their own evil desires. The final judgement of a false teacher will be like that of a tree that is rotten and corrupt. False teachers will be destroyed and cast into the fire of eternal judgment.

28. Read Matthew 7:12-20 and tell how you can know whether a teacher is a true teacher or a false teacher.

29. Explain why it impossible for false prophets to produce good fruit.

30. Explain why it is your desire in your life to produce good fruit that shows that you are a follower of Christ.

Christ went on to talk about some that have pretended to be followers of God but had never

repented of their sins. Some of these people have even preached, cast out demons or done various kinds of miracles. They thought that they were good because of their own efforts. Today, we also have many people who say they are Christians and even do miracles. However, they will never say that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin with His blood to save them from their sins. They never tell people of the need to repent of their sin. Instead, these people depend on their own efforts. One day, they will go to hell because they are false teachers and have not repented and asked Christ to forgive their sins.

31. Read Matthew 7:21-29 and write what Christ will say to such false teachers.

32. Explain the difference between good teachers and false teachers.

33. Explain why you are thankful that Christ warned you as well as many others about the danger of being deceived by false teachers.

In the final part of His sermon on the mountain, Christ teaches about the two kinds of foundations. The first man built his house on a rock. The second man built his house on the sand. Both houses may have looked the same as long as the weather was good. However, one day it rained and the wind blew very hard. A flood also came. The rain and the flood washed away the sand around the second house. Then, the wind blew the house over. The house fell with a great crash. The house on the rock was not hurt because the rock could not wash away.

34. Read Matthew 7:21-29 and write what a person has to do to be like the man that built his house on the rock.

35. Explain why many people that hear the Word of God are still like people that build their houses on the sand.

36. Explain why these verses show you the importance of obeying the Word of God and not just hearing the Word.

A true Christian is one that both hears and obeys the Word of God. Those who hear the Word of God but do not obey it and instead depend on themselves are described in verses 21 through 23. They think they will get to heaven because they have heard the Word of God. However, we see that they must make a choice to build on the right foundation by both hearing and obeying what Christ says. In several places Christ is called the Rock. He is the one that is the foundation for every Christian. If we have trusted in Him, we will also want to obey Him. We do not need to worry about losing our salvation and falling because our foundation is the Rock. The Lord will protect us from every storm in life.

37. Read Matthew 7:21-29 and write what the fall of the house on the sand was like.

38. Explain why it is possible for people to have been taught the Word of God but still have not made Christ their foundation.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be able to explain to others the difference between hearing the Word of Christ and doing nothing and hearing the Word of Christ and obeying it.

When Christ finished His sermon, the people were all very surprised because they had never heard anyone teach like that before. The scribes taught others by telling what other scribes said about the Word of God. In contrast, Christ explained the meaning of the Word of God. Christ helped people to understand what the Word of God says. He helped people to realize that they must make a choice either to accept or reject the Word. When we read and explain what the Word of God says, we will also be able to teach with authority because the Word is living and powerful. Our opinions and the opinions of others mean nothing.

40. Read Matthew 7:21-29 and write down how the teaching of Christ was different from the scribes.

41. Explain what it means to teach the Word of God with authority.

42. Explain why you are thankful that the Word is living and powerful and that as you explain and apply the Word instead of giving your own opinions that the Word will transform lives.

Now, re-read Matthew 7:1-29 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 6
Matthew 8:1-9:38

Today, we will be studying chapters eight and nine of the book of Matthew. In the previous three chapters we have studied the chapters that are known as The Sermon on the Mount. When Christ came down from the mountain He did a number of miracles to verify the fact that He is God. As a result, most of our study today will be about miracles that Christ did while He was here on the earth. These miracles proved to the people that Christ was the Son of God. The miracles also caused the religious leaders to turn against Christ because they were afraid of losing their power. As a result, the leaders will soon begin doing everything possible to keep the people from believing in Christ.

As you study these chapters today, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you finish this lesson today, you should be able to:

- Tell how Christ has control over sickness, disease and death.
- Tell how Christ controls demons and storms.
- Explain what happened when a dishonest tax collector followed Christ.
- Explain what Christ taught about the need for more laborers.

In Matthew 8:1-17, Christ healed three people and then many other people also came and were healed. The first person that Christ healed is a man who was a leper. There was no cure for leprosy. As a result, a leper could not live near other people because they were afraid that they would also get leprosy. Leprosy is a terrible disease that causes large open sores. Leprosy can completely eat away the nose, ears, toes, fingers and even hands of a person who has it. The disease will eventually kill and destroy the person. Leprosy is a real picture of sin. It will completely destroy a person physically just like sin will destroy a person spiritually. Just like leprosy, no person can get rid of his or her own sin.

1. Now, read Matthew 8:1-17 and write what Christ did and said to the man with leprosy.
2. Explain why leprosy gives us a picture of sin and the consequences of sin.
3. Explain why it is important to you to understand that Christ can cure sin just as He cured leprosy.

The second man that Christ healed was a servant of a Roman soldier. In these verses, we are given a real example of faith. A centurion in the Roman army was in charge of one hundred Roman soldiers. He had a servant that was very sick. The centurion was so concerned about the sick servant that he asked Christ to heal him. Jesus said that He would be glad to come to his house and heal the sick man. When the Roman centurion heard Jesus say that He would come to his house, the centurion suddenly became very ashamed. He realized that Christ is God and much greater than the Roman governor. He knew that he could never ask the Roman governor to come to his house because he was only an unimportant soldier. Certainly he should not ask anyone who was even more important than the Roman governor to come to his house. Then, the Roman captain told Jesus that as a Roman centurion all he had to do was give an order and his soldiers would obey the command. Since Christ has all power, He could heal the servant just by speaking the word. The centurion told Christ to only speak the word to heal the servant because the centurion did not feel he was good enough to have Christ come to his house.

4. Read Matthew 8:5-13 and explain what Christ meant when He said that He had never seen so great faith in all Israel.
5. Explain how the Roman centurion showed that He recognized that Christ is God and has the power and authority to do anything.
6. Explain how the faith of the Roman gives you an example of faith for your own life.

The third person that Christ healed in Matthew 8 was the mother of Peter's wife. Peter was one

of the three disciples closest to Christ. We see that the mother of Peter's wife was so sick that she had a fever. As soon as Christ healed her she was completely well and she was able to begin her work immediately. Most people who have a high fever are very weak for several days after the fever goes away. However, when Christ healed a person, He also gave them strength because Christ completely healed the person.

7. Read Matthew 8:14-17 and write what the mother-in-law of Peter did as soon as she was healed.

8. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ healed the mother-in-law of Peter completely.

9. Explain why the mother-in-law of Peter gives you an example of the importance of serving others.

We go on to read that some people that said that they wanted to become disciples but they never followed Christ. One man said that he would follow Christ anywhere. Christ knew the heart of the man and knew that the man only wanted to follow Christ for his own gain. As soon as Christ told the man that He did not even have a house that was His own, the man immediately changed his mind about following Christ. Christ told him that He had nothing to offer the man and the man chose not to follow Christ. A second man said that he would follow Christ as soon as he buried his father. Although both men said that they would follow Christ, the Scripture does not mention that either one ever followed Him. Many people talk about following Christ but they have an excuse for not following Christ immediately.

10. Read Matthew 8:18-22 and write the excuse of the second man which kept him from following Christ.

11. Explain why there are people that say that they want to follow Christ but only because they want benefits in this world.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that you truly follow Christ and not just talk about following Christ.

The second man said that he would follow Christ as soon as he buried his father. At first this sounded like a good reason. However, the Jews always buried a person immediately after he died. Since this man wanted to bury his father first, he meant that he was going to wait until his father died before he would think about following Christ. Many people are just like this man. They have all kinds of excuses for not following Christ right now. They say that they will follow Christ when they get old. However, we never read that this man followed Christ.

13. Read Matthew 8:18-22 and write the answer of Christ to the excuse of this man.

14. Explain why some people say that they will follow Christ when they get old but that they are not ready to follow Him now.

15. Explain what caused you to realize that you needed to place your trust in Christ and not wait until a later time.

The next miracle of Christ was the stopping of the storm. The disciples were taking Christ across the Sea of Galilee in a small boat. Christ was tired and so He went to sleep. Suddenly, a terrible storm started and the waves started to become very high. Soon, the waves were filling the boat with water. The disciples were filled with fear because they thought the boat would sink. Here, we see that they were depending on themselves. As a result, they became controlled by fear.

16. Read Matthew 8:23-34 and write what the disciples told Christ when they awoke Him.

17. Explain why people will be controlled by fear when they are depending on their own strength.

18. Explain some of the ways that learning to depend on Christ has taken away the fear that you used to have in your life.

The disciples were afraid of death because they were not depending on Christ. Christ taught the

disciples the importance of trusting in Him. He stopped the storm with His word. He also showed the disciples that if they would depend on Him they did not need to be controlled by fear. Christ helped them to understand that their real problem was that they had a weak faith. They could place their faith in Christ. He would take care of them. The disciples were amazed when Christ stopped the storm. They were realizing more and more the greatness of Christ.

19. Read Matthew 8:23-34 and write the final miracle that Christ did in these verses.

20. Explain why this miracle caused the disciples to understand in a new way the power of Christ.

21. Explain how studying the Word of God has helped you to grow in your own understanding of the greatness and power of Christ.

The final miracle in Matthew 8 shows the control of Christ over demons. Two men were possessed with demons and were so dangerous that the people of the area were afraid to go near them. Christ commanded the demons to leave the men. When the demons went into the pigs, the pigs immediately went crazy and ran down the side of the mountain and into the Sea of Galilee where they all drown. Their owners hurried into the city to tell the other people. The people of the city immediately asked Christ to leave. Those people were more concerned about their pigs than they were about the two men who had been controlled by demons. There are many people who are just the same. People with those attitudes are lost and dying without Christ.

22. Read Matthew 8:28-34 and write what the people asked Christ to do.

23. Explain how these people showed that their pigs were more important to them than people.

24. Explain why you think many people are like that and have a greater concern for their own possessions than they have for other people.

As we begin Matthew 9, we read about another miracle of Christ. We see that some men brought a man to Christ that had palsy and was unable to move. We see that Christ recognized the faith of the friends that brought this man to Christ. Christ told the man that his sins were forgiven. The religious leaders started thinking evil things about Christ because He told the man that his sins were forgiven. They knew that Christ had to be God in order to forgive sins and they did not want to admit that Christ is God. In order to prove to those religious leaders that He is God, Christ then told the man to get up and walk. The man got up and went home.

25. Read Matthew 9:1-17 and write the name of the man that Christ invited to follow Him.

26. Explain why Christ knew what the religious leaders were thinking in their hearts when Christ told the man that his sins were forgiven.

27. Explain why you think that Christ chose to tell the man that his sins were forgiven.

We go on to read about Christ calling Matthew to become a disciple. When Christ called Matthew, Matthew was a tax collector. All of the tax collectors of that time were thieves who got rich by charging extra taxes and then kept the extra money for themselves. However, Christ did not tell Matthew he was wrong or that he should work to make himself better. The only thing Christ said was, "Follow me." Many times people spend most of their time telling people that are not Christians about all of the things that they are doing wrong. The person who is not a Christian knows that he cannot stop doing those wrong things and so he feels that he is too bad to be forgiven. Instead, we need to emphasize the fact that Christ says, "Follow me." When a person follows Christ, Christ forgives those sins and the person is able to ask Christ to give him victory over sin.

28. Read Matthew 9:1-17 and write the question the Pharisees asked the disciples' of Christ when Christ ate with Matthew and his friends.

29. Explain why the way that many Christians try to witness has actually caused many people to feel that they are too bad to be forgiven.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your life to help others understand how they can have forgiveness of sin.

As the Pharisees and the disciples of John were standing there, Christ went on to teach them several lessons. He pointed out that He came to call people to repentance that realized their sin and their need for salvation. He also told why His disciples did not fast at that time. Then, Christ gave two illustrations to show that He was not coming just to make the Jewish religion a better religion. You do not put a new piece of cloth on an old coat because the new cloth will shrink and make the hole in the coat larger. You do not put new wine in old skin bags because that would break the old bags. In the same way Christ did not come to make the Jewish religion better. He came to bring new life through His death on the cross. This is why He was glad to eat with tax collectors and sinners so that they could learn to repent and receive forgiveness of sin.

31. Read Matthew 9:1-17 and write what Christ said when He was asked why His disciples did not fast.

32. Explain what these verses show about the love of Christ for all people.

33. Explain why you think that Christ chose a thief like Matthew to be one of His disciples.

In Matthew 9:18-38, we see that Christ healed several more people. We see that Christ was asked to come and raise a dead daughter back to life. One the way a woman touched the clothes of Christ and was healed without anyone knowing. However, Christ chose to honor her faith by telling her that her faith had made her well. Christ then went with the ruler to his house. The people mocked when Christ said that the girl was not dead. Christ put them out of the house and raised the girl from the dead. This caused his fame to continue to spread.

34. Read Matthew 9:18-38 and write what problem two men had that met Christ.

35. Explain why Christ chose to honor the faith of the woman by telling her that it was her faith that made her well.

36. Explain why you think that Christ chose to show His power over death by raising the young girl from the dead.

Two blind men began walking after Christ. They cried out and asked Christ to show mercy to them. After Christ came into a house, He asked if they believed He could heal them. They said that they believed Christ could heal them. Christ touched their eyes and said that their faith had healed them. Later a man that could not talk because he had a demon was brought to Christ. Christ cast out the demon and the man was then able to speak. The Pharisees accused Christ of casting out demons by the prince of demons.

37. Read Matthew 9:18-38 and write the things that Christ was doing as He visited their cities and villages.

38. Explain what the two blind men showed about their faith by their request of Christ.

39. Explain why you think that the Pharisees accused Christ of casting out demons by the prince of demons.

In Matthew 9:36-38, Christ was moved with compassion as he saw the spiritual needs of the people. The need is the same today as it was in the time of Christ. People are lost in their sins and are like sheep with no shepherd to lead them. Christ also said that there is a great need but very few workers. We are told to pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest. This means that we should pray that Christ would send people to take the Gospel to those who are not Christians. However, you better not pray that Christ will send men to take the Gospel unless you are willing to go yourself. When we study the next chapter we will see that the disciples who prayed were the first men to be sent.

40. Read Matthew 9:18-38 and write what we are supposed to do to help meet this need.

41. Explain why Christ said that people are faint and scattered abroad like sheep having no shepherd.

42. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to also have compassion and begin to see people as Christ sees people.

Now, re-read Matthew 8:1-9:38 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 7
Matthew 10:1-42

Today, we will be studying about the first time that Christ sent the disciples out to preach. As they went out to preach, Christ gave them instructions about the things that they should do as they went. He also warned the disciples about men who would hate them and even kill them. These things happened to them after Christ went back to heaven. Christ gave the disciples all of these instructions before He sent them out in Matthew 11:1. Today, Christians can still face danger and even death in many countries of the world. However, we do not need to fear if men hurt or kill us because we have a great reward in heaven.

As you study this lesson today, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you complete your study, you should be able to:

- Name the five things the disciples were told to do.
- Tell what we should do when someone persecutes us.
- Tell why it is important to make Christ known to others.
- Tell why it is important to serve the Lord.

In Matthew 10:1-4, Christ chose His twelve disciples. We have read about some of these men earlier in the book of Matthew. In Matthew 4:18-22, we read that four of the disciples were fishermen. If you cannot remember which ones were fishermen, turn back to Matthew 4:18-22 and read the verses again. One other disciple that we met in our last lesson was Matthew who was a tax collector and a thief. Simon the Canaanite was a man who had been a part of a group trying to get rid of the Roman government. None of them were important or well known. Acts 4 tells us that the religious leaders considered them to be ignorant and uneducated. However, these were the men that Christ chose to be His disciples.

1. Read Matthew 10:1-15 and write the names of the four who were fishermen.
2. Explain why Christ did not choose these men because of their education or background but because of what He knew He would help them become.
3. Explain why you realize that Christ can use you to impact the world just as He used poor and uneducated men when He was here on earth.

In Matthew 10:1-15, Christ gave instructions to the twelve disciples before He sent them out. He told them to go only to the people of Israel and not to the Samaritans or Gentiles on this first trip. We cross four barriers as we learn to share the Gospel. The first is the barrier of our own fear. The other three barriers are the barrier of making contacts in our own culture, the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group and the barrier of language. Christ had shown the disciples what to teach and how to teach it. Later He would promise to give them the power to teach. Those are the three things needed to cross the barrier of fear. As Christ sent out the disciples this time, He was teaching them to cross the barrier of making contacts in their own culture.

4. Read Matthew 10:1-15 and write to whom Christ told the disciples to go.
5. Explain why Christ sent the disciples out in teams of two with instructions to cross only the barrier of making contacts.
6. Explain why it is important for you in your life to learn to cross the barrier of fear before you try to learn to cross any of the other barriers.

Christ had spent about 21 months showing the disciples what to share and how to share it before He sent them out on their own. They were only to cross one additional barrier this time. When Christ returned to heaven, He gave His final instructions and told the disciples to go to everyone of every race and tribe. The reason Christ told the disciples to go to the people of Israel first is because they are the chosen people of God. Christ also knew the disciples must

witness to their own people first or they would never be able to witness to people of other nations. As the disciples went, they were told to do five things. The first thing they were told to do was preach that the kingdom of God is at hand.

7. Read Matthew 10:1-15 and write the other four things they were told to do.

8. Explain why Christ was also training the disciples to help others learn to cross one barrier at a time by His example.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Christ taught the disciples by His example how to train others to cross one barrier at a time.

As the disciples went on this first trip they were told not to take any money, food, or extra clothes. Christ wanted to show them that He could provide for their needs. This is one of the first lessons every Christian needs to learn. When we know that the Lord will supply our needs as we serve Him, we will not worry about how Christ will choose to supply our daily needs. As a result, we will serve the Lord more effectively because we will not be spending our time worrying about these things. Instead, we will know that Christ knows our needs and He will supply them as we are obedient to Him.

10. Read Matthew 10:1-15 and write what the disciples were supposed to do when a person or a city refused to listen.

11. Explain why it is very important for every Christian to learn that Christ will supply their needs as they are obedient to Him.

12. Explain some of the ways that the Lord has shown you in your own life that He will supply your needs.

When the disciples went to a city they were to find out who was worthy and respected in that town and then stay with that person as long as they were in that town. This is important to remember when you take the Gospel to a new area. If you work first with an individual who is not respected by the rest of the people in the area, the other people in the area may not even listen to you. This is why it is also important to begin working with the men immediately rather than just with the women or children. Otherwise a man may feel that the Gospel is only for the women and children and he will refuse to listen. This makes it very difficult to ever reach the entire family. In recent church history many churches and missionaries have not been effective reaching men for this very reason.

13. Read Matthew 10:1-15 and write what the disciples were to do if a city rejected them.

14. Explain why Christ told the disciples to stay at the home of one who was worthy and respected.

15. Explain why you think that a respected person will probably have many relatives, friends and acquaintances with whom you will be able to share the Gospel.

In Matthew 10:16-23, Christ warned the disciples about the persecution that would come after He returned to heaven. He told them that they were like sheep among wolves so they must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. A snake will always try to use his wisdom to stay out of danger. A dove will never fight when it is caught. Christ said we should be like both. We should not try to start unnecessary fights and conflicts with political leaders and leaders of other religions. Our responsibility is to preach the message of the Gospel. However, if men do not like the message of salvation and put us in jail, we should be gentle and kind even in the jail. In this way men will see the love of Christ in us.

16. Read Matthew 10:16-23 and write the two kinds of rulers the disciples would tell about Christ.

17. Explain why Christians are to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your personal ministry to avoid unnecessary fights and conflicts with others.

Christ told the disciples that they did not need to worry if they were jailed and put on trial

because they were followers of Christ. Christ promised that God would give them the words to speak as they stood before the judges and rulers. Christ will do the same thing for us. This is a wonderful promise because it reminds us that we do not need to depend on our own efforts to serve Christ. Instead, we can just trust Christ to give us what we need. Some Christians might give up and stop witnessing when they are beaten and put in jail. However, we are commanded to keep right on witnessing. God promises us that He will give us the words to speak as we stand before the judges and rulers.

19. Read Matthew 10:16-23 and write who will really be speaking in that situation.

20. Explain why Christians can know that Christ will give them the words to speak if they are persecuted for Christ.

21. Explain why you are thankful that you can depend on the promises of God if you are persecuted for your faith.

Christ also warned that believers might even have their own families turn against them. In some cases family members may even cause family members to be put to death for their faith in Christ. Christ even warned that a time would come when believers would be hated by all men for His sake. Christ later told the disciples that if people hated Him that they would hate the disciples also. Christ also told them what to do if they were persecuted. We can follow those same instructions. When we are persecuted in one place, we are to go to another place and continue witnessing there.

22. Read Matthew 10:16-23 and write who Christ warned would hate the Christians in the future.

23. Explain why it is important for Christians to realize that if people hate Christ that they will also hate Christians.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your life to treat people with love even if they show hate toward you.

Matthew 10:24-33 tells us God will reward and care for us when men do evil things to us. We should not be surprised when men do evil things to us. Men killed our Savior because they hated His message. As His servants, we should rejoice when we have the privilege of suffering for Him. Sinful men may also call us terrible names. We are not above our Lord. In fact these verses call for us to be like our Teacher. Here, we see that a true disciple will follow the example of Christ even during times when the world is showing its hatred toward Christ.

25. Read Matthew 10:24-33 and write the name that they called Christ.

26. Explain what it means for a disciple to be like his Teacher.

27. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ.

Although men may do evil things to us and may even kill us, we can rejoice because God is taking care of us. In fact, God even knows exactly how many hairs we have. Christ also promises us if we tell others about Him, He will speak for us before God. Christ was speaking to the disciples privately. However, He told them to speak boldly to others about the things that Christ had taught them. Christ also told the disciples that they did not need to fear those who would kill the body. Once a person kills another there is nothing more that such a person can do. Instead, the disciples were told to fear the One that can destroy both the soul and body in hell. Here, we see that if we fear and reverence God that we will not need to fear people.

28. Read Matthew 10:24-33 and write what Christ told the disciples about their hair.

29. Explain why it is more important to have fear and reverence for God than to be fearful of people.

30. Explain why you are thankful that Christ can give you the strength to speak boldly the things that you have learned about Him.

Christ also taught the disciples about the love and care of the Father. Christ said that the Father

knows each time that a bird falls to the ground. Then, Christ said something even more amazing. Christ said that the Father knew how many hairs each of them had. The same is true for us. God is so concerned about you that He even keeps track when you lose a hair and He knows how many hairs you have at this very moment. Christ told the disciples that they were of much greater value than many birds. Christ said that He will speak to the Father about those who speak for Him. He also gave a warning to those who would deny Him.

31. Read Matthew 10:24-33 and write what Christ said He would do for those who denied Him.
32. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand the great concern of the Father for every single individual.
33. Explain why you are thankful to know that Christ will speak for you as you are faithful in telling others about Christ.

In our final section of Matthew 10 we see the importance of loving the Lord with all our heart. It is possible that some of the members of your own family may hate Christ. As a result, they hate you because you talk to them about Christ and their need to repent and receive forgiveness of sins. Even though we may experience great anger against us, we are told to love Christ even more than we love our own families. Christ said that if people hate Him that they will hate us also. As a result, we should not take it personally when family members speak against our faith in Christ.

34. Read Matthew 10:34-42 and write what happens if we love our family more than Christ.
35. Explain why the message of Christ can bring division in a family until the other members are drawn to Christ by seeing His love in us.
36. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to continue to love Christ regardless of how family members respond.

If we try to keep our life for ourselves we will lose it. If we give complete control of our life to Christ, He will give it back to us again. In ourselves we will always fail. Only in Christ can we really live and have a life filled with joy. We are also promised rewards for faithfulness in serving the Lord. Even if the Lord only gives you a small and seemingly unimportant task to do for Him, He will not forget to reward you. These rewards will be eternal and not like the rewards of this earth. That is why we can be thankful that we can take the cross and follow Christ.

37. Read Matthew 10:34-42 and write what we are promised for faithful service to the Lord.
38. Explain why Christ has promised to give rewards to Christians whether others notice our service or not.
39. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord has given you the privilege of serving Him in this world.

Christ promised the disciples that He will even give rewards to a person who gives a child a cup of cold water in His name. This reminds us of the fact that Christ is very anxious to give rewards to all those who serve Him. We also see that Matthew 11:1 is actually the concluding verse of this section. In this verse, it tells us that Christ finished telling His disciples what to do and sent them out. Because Christ sends out the disciples in Matthew 11:1, that is how we know that all of chapter 10 included instructions that Christ gave just before He sent the disciples out to minister.

40. Read Matthew 10:34-11:1 and write the two things Christ did while the disciples were gone.
41. Explain why Christ is so anxious to give rewards that He will even reward one who gives a child a cup of cold water in His name.
42. Explain why you think that Christ gave the disciples such detailed instructions before He sent them out to minister without Him physically present with them.

Now, re-read Matthew 10:1-42 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 8
Matthew 11:1-30

Today, we will be studying what Christ said about John the Baptist. Herod had put John the Baptist in prison. While he was in prison, John heard many things about Christ so he sent two of his disciples to talk to Christ. This provided an opportunity for Christ to talk to the people about John the Baptist and what he taught. Christ also spoke about the cities that had heard Him teach many times and had continued to reject Him. Christ said that those cities would have a greater judgment. Christ also gave individuals a personal invitation to come to Him and be yoked together with Him.

As you study this chapter today, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you complete this chapter, you should be able to:

- Explain why the disciples of John the Baptist came to Christ.
- Summarize the message of John the Baptist.
- Explain the attitude of the people toward John the Baptist and Christ.
- Explain the joy we have in fellowship with Christ.

In Matthew 11, we see that the chapter begins as Christ was sending the Twelve out to share the message that they had heard Christ share many times. Meanwhile Christ also continued to teach and preach in their cities. As Christ was teaching and preaching He was visited by some of the disciples of John the Baptist. John had sent them to talk to Christ. John the Baptist had been put in prison because of his preaching. John had heard about the works of Christ while he was in prison. However, John the Baptist had also predicted judgment on evil men and now he was in prison and the evil men were not being judged yet. As a result, John sent his disciples to find out more about Christ. John was discouraged and needed some encouragement from Christ.

1. Read Matthew 11:1-6 and write the question the disciples of John asked Christ.
2. Explain why the fact that John the Baptist was discouraged shows that any Christian can become discouraged when that person is going through difficult times.
3. Explain why the encouragement of another person has been a great help to you in your own life when you were discouraged.

Christ had the disciples of John watch and observe Him for a period of time. They heard the things that Christ taught. They saw the miracles that Christ did. Then, Christ sent them back with instructions about what they were to tell John. Christ told the disciples of John the Baptist to tell him what they saw and heard. They saw Christ heal the sick and raise the dead. They heard Christ preach the Gospel. Here, we see that Christ trained the disciples of John the Baptist in the same way He had been training the Twelve. Christ had them observe what He taught and what He did. Then, Christ sent them with instructions to tell John what they had seen and heard.

4. Read Matthew 11:1-6 and write to whom they had seen Christ preach the Gospel.
5. Explain how Christ shows us the importance of training others by example by the way He prepared the disciples to answer John.
6. Explain why you think that it will make a great difference in your own teaching and training if you will show people what to do instead of just telling them what to do.

in these verses, we see that John the Baptist was discouraged. Jesus knew that John needed encouragement. Instead of telling John he was a failure because he had doubts, Christ sent him a message of encouragement. This is our responsibility when we meet discouraged Christian brothers. People do not need to be told that they are failures when they have doubts. Instead, they need words of encouragement. Here, we see that Christ gives us an example of how to

encourage other Christians during their times of discouragement. As we follow the example of Christ, the Lord will use our words of encouragement to strengthen other Christians.

7. Read Matthew 11:1-6 and write how Christ told John the Baptist that he could be blessed even though he was in prison.

8. Explain why it is very important to help a discouraged Christian brother or sister and encourage them in their times of discouragement.

9. Explain what ideas Christ gives you in these verses about the way to minister to other Christians in their times of discouragement.

When the disciples of John the Baptist left to tell John what they had heard and seen, Christ began to talk to the people about John the Baptist. Christ pointed out that John was not a reed shaken by the wind. He was not dressed in fancy clothing like those who lived in the houses of kings. Instead, he was a real man of faith that really trusted the Lord. He was a prophet who spoke for God and prepared the way for Christ. In fact Christ said that John was even more than a prophet. His ministry was a greater ministry than the ministry of any of the prophets in the Old Testament. Here, we see that it was not the length of the ministry that made John so great. Instead, it was the nature of the ministry that he carried out during that short time.

10. Read Matthew 11:7-15 and write what the verses say John did for Christ.

11. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ does not evaluate a ministry by its length but rather by whether the person was obedient to what God called him to do.

12. Explain why you think that Christ said that John was a great prophet.

Christ said that no man on earth had been greater in his ministry than John the Baptist. However, Christ said that even those who are least in the kingdom of heaven will have a greater privilege than John the Baptist. This is due to the fact that John the Baptist lived before the death and resurrection of Christ. Even the least important Christian has had the privilege of knowing how Christ paid the penalty for sin and provides forgiveness to all who trust in Him. Christ will be in complete control of the kingdom. He will be able to show His glory and power in the kingdom. That is why each one of us can rejoice in the great privilege that has been given to us.

13. Read Matthew 11:7-15 and write who John the Baptist would have been if the people would have received the message about the kingdom.

14. Explain why every Christian has been given a greater privilege than John the Baptist had even though he was a great prophet.

15. Explain why it is an even greater privilege for you personally to be able to tell other about the death and resurrection of Christ than the privilege that John had to prepare the way for Christ.

The reason John the Baptist would have been Elijah would be to fulfill the promise given in Malachi 4:5. In that verse God promised the Jews that Elijah would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. Christ came the first time as a Savior. He will come again a second time to bring judgment on the earth. The book of Revelation tells us that the great and terrible day of the Lord includes the time just before Christ comes back to this earth to set up His kingdom on the earth for 1000 years. Because the people refused to accept the kingdom that Christ offered, the kingdom where Christ will reign as King is still future.

16. Read Matthew 11:7-15 and explaining why those in the kingdom of heaven will be greater than John the Baptist.

17. Explain why Christ said that John offered the kingdom that had been promised by Malachi.

18. Explain why it is important to you to know that there is a coming judgment on the earth before Christ comes back to rule on the earth for 1000 years.

In Matthew 11:16-19, we see a picture of the way people talked about Christ and John the Baptist. John lived in the desert, ate locusts and wild honey and wore a coat of camel hair.

Because John the Baptist was different from the other people both in what he ate and in the way that he dressed, the people said that he had a demon. Then, when Jesus came and lived like the rest of the people, they said He ate too much and had the wrong friends. This shows that people who do not want to believe Christ will use any excuse so they will not need to hear about their sins. Here, we see that people will look for every excuse to avoid facing their own sin.

19. Read Matthew 11:16-19 and write what they said John the Baptist had.

20. Explain why the people failed to listen to John the Baptist and instead accused him of having a demon

21. Explain why you think that the religious leaders were so upset because Christ chose to be a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

Christ said that the people were just like a group of children sitting in the marketplace. In that day people would take their crops to the marketplace. They would sell what they had raised to others. Then, they would buy the things that they needed from others. During the time that the parents were buying and selling the children would play together. However, when children are playing together they will often complain because the other children will not do what they are telling them to do. Christ said that the Jews were just like these complaining children. They found something that gave them an excuse to complain about John the Baptist. When Christ came, they found something different that they could use to complain about Him.

22. Read Matthew 11:16-19 and write what the religious leaders said about the way that Christ ate.

23. Explain why Christ said that the religious leaders were acting like a group of children in the marketplace.

24. Explain what you think was the real reason that the religious leaders complained about both John the Baptist and Christ.

The people said that Christ was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. They said this to make fun of Christ. However, what they said tells us a lot about the love of Christ for us. The proud religious leaders thought they were very good. They did everything possible to avoid talking or showing friendship to those who were not a part of their group because they thought other people might make them bad. They did not realize they were already evil. Christ is glad to be our friend and show His love for us even if we were terrible sinners.

25. Read Matthew 11:16-19 and write how Christ said wisdom is justified.

26. Explain why you think that many of the close friends of Christ were either poor or terrible sinners.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Christ reached out to both the poor and to terrible sinners.

Christ went on to talk about the coming judgment for those cities that refused to believe the miracles that Christ did. Tyre and Sidon were two of the cities whose destruction was predicted in the Old Testament because of their sin. Tyre and Sidon were located next to the Mediterranean Sea. The book of Ezekiel tells us in chapter 26 that Tyre would be destroyed and every building removed. The only thing left would be a large flat rock where fishermen could dry their nets. Today, the fishermen in that area still use the flat rock to dry their nets. This was the judgment of the cities of Tyre and Sidon because they refused to trust God and tried to destroy the people of God.

28. Read Matthew 11:20-30 and write the names of the two cities that will receive worse judgment than the cities of Tyre and Sidon.

29. Explain why Christ said that the judgment of these two cities would be greater than the judgment of Tyre and Sidon.

30. Explain why these verses show you that everyone must make choices and that those who make wrong choices will be judged.

In Genesis 19, we read how God destroyed Sodom. Sodom was a very immoral and sinful city. Finally, God could take their sin no longer and He destroyed Sodom with fire and brimstone. Brimstone is rock that is so hot that it melts and runs like water. The destruction of Sodom was so complete that the remains of the city are now under the Dead Sea. However, Christ said that if He had done His miracles in the city of Sodom that the city would have repented and remained until the day that He was speaking. He had done many of those miracles in one particular city.

31. Read Matthew 11:20-30 and write the name of the city that will receive greater judgment than the city of Sodom.

32. Explain why the judgment of the city of Sodom was a very great judgment on that city.

33. Explain why you think that Christ said the city of Capernaum would receive a much greater judgment.

The judgment of the people in the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum show us the greatest sin any person can commit is rejecting Christ. The people of those cities saw Christ do many miracles but they refused to ask Christ to forgive their sins. Because they heard the way to turn from their sins and refused to turn from sin, they will receive greater judgment than cities that were known for their terrible sin. A person today who understands how to become a Christian and refuses to ask Christ to forgive his sins will receive greater punishment than the person who never heard that Christ died for his sins.

34. Read Matthew 11:20-30 and write for what Christ thanked the Father in His prayer.

35. Explain why it is so important to help a person realize the judgment he will receive if he refuses to ask Christ to forgive his sins.

36. Explain why these verses help you to realize that a person that rejects Christ will receive a very great judgment.

The last section of this chapter includes a prayer and an invitation. The prayer is a prayer of thanks. Christ thanked His Father for showing the Word of God to men who are uneducated and became like little children. God cannot speak to us from the Bible when we are proud of our own knowledge. Instead, we must ask God to give us wisdom and understanding. Then, God can speak to us and teach us the lessons we need to learn. In His prayer Christ also says the Father is the only one who really knows the Son (Christ). Christ is also the only one who knows the Father.

37. Read Matthew 11:20-30 and write how we can know the Father.

38. Explain why God reveals the full meaning of a Bible passage only to those who have placed their trust in Christ and not to those who have worldly intelligence.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom to understand the Word of God.

Christ also gave an invitation to all those who have heavy loads of sin. Christ says He will give rest to those with heavy loads. As we follow the teachings of Christ and learn from Him, we will have rest for our souls because our sins are forgiven. Christ says that those who follow Him no longer need to carry a heavy load of sin. Christ removes the load of sin and gives us His rest. We are then able to enjoy the peace of God that passes all understanding. Christ invites us to take His yoke so that He is able to bear our burdens with us. Christ says that as we share our lives with Him that we will find that the burdens become light.

40. Read Matthew 11:20-30 and write what Christ promises to all that come to Him.

41. Explain why Christians do not need to continue to carry their heavy loads of guilt and fear once they place their trust in Christ.

42. Explain why you are thankful that Christ promises that He will bear your burdens with you as you come to Him with your burdens.

Now, re-read Matthew 11:1-30 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 9
Matthew 12:1-50

Today, we will study about the attitude of the Pharisees toward the miracles of Christ. The Pharisees had refused to believe in Christ. In this chapter we will see that they are already looking for some excuse to put Christ to death. As a result, they were looking for every opportunity to accuse Him. We will also find out what Christ says about the unpardonable sin. When the scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign, Christ pointed to His death and resurrection even though they did not understand. Then, we will see how man fails every time when he tries to improve himself rather than asking Christ to change him. Finally, Christ shared about the new relationship that His disciples had with Him.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this chapter, you should be able to:

- Tell why the Pharisees said that the disciples of Christ were breaking the law.
- Tell why the Pharisees planned to kill Christ.
- Explain what Christ teaches about the unpardonable sin.
- Tell what happens when a man tries to make himself better without the help of Christ.

The Pharisees in this chapter begin to look for every excuse to accuse Christ. In Matthew 12:1-8, we see that they find their first excuse to accuse Christ. One Sabbath as the disciples were walking through the grain fields with Christ they became hungry. They broke off a few heads of grain, rubbed them together in their hands, blew away the husks and ate the grain. Deuteronomy 23:25 tells us that people were allowed to do this in their neighbor's fields if they were hungry. However, the Pharisees saw it as an opportunity to condemn Christ. They said that the disciples were breaking the law because they were working on the Sabbath.

1. Read Matthew 12:1-8 and write who ate the showbread (the bread used in worship in the tabernacle).
2. Explain why the Pharisees began looking for every possible opportunity to accuse Christ.
3. Explain why you think that the Pharisees were actually deceiving themselves when they accused the disciples of working on the Sabbath.

When the Pharisees accused the disciples of working on the Sabbath by breaking off the heads of grain, Christ gave three examples to show the Pharisees that they were wrong. The first example is David and his men who ate the bread used in worship in the tabernacle which was only supposed to be eaten by the priests. However, God allowed great human need to be met even though the bread was usually reserved for the priests. The second example is the work of the priests on the Sabbath. They were allowed to work for God on the Sabbath without being guilty. Certainly the disciples who were working for God as they helped Christ were not guilty of sinning. The third thing Christ told the Pharisees was the true meaning of Hosea 6:6. The Pharisees had a religion but they did not have a right attitude in their hearts toward God and other men. If they had a right attitude toward God, they would not condemn the disciples.

4. Read Matthew 12:1-8 and write who Christ said was the Lord of the Sabbath.
5. Explain why the real problem of the Pharisees was the problem of their attitude.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your life to have an attitude that is pleasing to the Lord.

The Pharisees tried to say that Christ was a sinner because He worked on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the Jewish day of rest and was the seventh day of the week, Saturday. The priests carried out their work in the temple of the Sabbath. They were not condemned for serving the Lord. Christ told the Pharisees that if they understood the meaning of mercy they would not have condemned the guiltless. Our day of rest and worship is Sunday because that is the day Christ arose from the dead. Since Sunday is our day of rest and worship, we should use that

day to serve the Lord. It is also a day when we can take time to witness to those we do not see during the week.

7. Read Matthew 12:1-8 and write of what the Son of man is Lord.

8. Explain why you think that God gave us one day to rest, serve Him and worship Him.

9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to set aside time to worship and serve the Lord.

In Matthew 12:9-23, Christ healed several people. This gave the Pharisees another opportunity to plan the death of Christ. One Sabbath Christ went into the synagogue (the Jewish place of worship). There was a man whose hand was paralyzed--he could not move it. The Pharisees immediately watched Christ to see if He would heal the man on the Sabbath. They wanted to use that as an excuse to accuse Christ of working on the day of rest. Since Christ knew what the Pharisees were thinking, He asked them a question. Christ asked what they would do if one of their sheep fell in a hole on the Sabbath. He knew they would not leave a sheep in a hole on the Sabbath especially if there was water in the hole. If men are so concerned about their sheep that they will help them on the Sabbath, certainly Christ should be able to help a man without being condemned. Then, Christ healed the paralyzed hand.

10. Read Matthew 12:9-23 and write what the Pharisees did after Christ healed the man.

11. Explain why Christ showed the Pharisees that it was important to show mercy to a person any day of the week.

12. Explain why it is important for you in your life to make sure that you do not criticize others for showing mercy.

Since the Pharisees were planning to kill Christ, Christ went to another place. This fulfilled the Old Testament statement that said that Christ would not fight with men. Some Christians need to be more like Christ instead fighting all the time. The Lord has plenty of work for us to do without taking time to fight. Our responsibility is to preach the Gospel and not fight and debate with men. As Christ went to another place, He healed a man with a demon who could not see or talk. As soon as Christ sent the demon out of the man, the man was able to see and talk.

13. Read Matthew 12:9-23 and write what happened to the people when Christ helped the man to see and talk.

14. Explain why Christ chose to leave that area and go to another place.

15. Explain why it is important to you to follow the example of Christ and not spend your time fighting with those who are choosing to reject Christ.

The Pharisees saw Christ heal the man who was blind and could not talk because of the demons. They immediately thought to themselves that Christ cast out demons by Satan, the head of demons. Christ knew what they were thinking and showed them they were wrong. First, Christ told them if Satan was casting out demons, then Satan would be fighting against himself. Satan would never do that because he fights against God and not himself. Then, Christ said that no man could take things out of a strong man's house unless he ties the strong man first. Christ came into the world and defeated Satan when Satan tried to tempt Him. Now, Christ was continuing to defeat Satan by casting out the demons.

16. Read Matthew 12:22-32 and write what Christ says about anyone who is not with Christ.

17. Explain why Christ was showing that He is the strong man that is able to bind Satan

18. Explain why it is important to you in your life to understand that Christ has all power over Satan.

In this section, we have what has long been called the unpardonable sin. First of all, Christ says that every sin including speaking against God can be forgiven. The only sin that cannot be forgiven is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Different people have different ideas about the meaning of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The verses in the chapter suggest two main possibilities. The first possibility is saying the miracles performed by Christ through the power

of the Spirit while He was on the earth are the work of Satan. This would make it impossible to commit the unpardonable sin today because Christ is not physically present on the earth.

19. Read Matthew 12:22-32 and write the sin that will not be forgiven.

20. Explain why no one can say that Christ is doing miracles in the power of Satan on the earth today.

21. Explain why you are thankful that Christ has given you the Holy Spirit so that He can work through your life today instead of being physically present.

Since Christ did not say that the Pharisees had already committed the unpardonable sin, the verses in the chapter seem to teach the unpardonable sin is a continual rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict men of sin and bring them to repentance from sin. When a man refuses over and over for many years to turn from his sin when the Holy Spirit is convicting him, there may come a point in his life when the Holy Spirit no longer speaks to him about his sin. We see from many places in Scripture that the one sin that cannot be forgiven is rejection of Christ until a person dies. Then, it is too late for the person to be saved. When people say they cannot become Christians because they have committed the unpardonable sin, they are confused about the real meaning of the unpardonable sin. Christ is ready to forgive any person that has a desire to give his life to Christ.

22. Read Matthew 12:24-32 and write what will happen to those who speak a word against the Son of man.

23. Explain why a part of the work of the Holy Spirit today is convicting those who do not believe of their sin of unbelief.

24. Tell how you would explain the unpardonable sin to someone else.

Christ went on to point out the fact that a tree is known by its fruit. A good tree produces good fruit and a bad tree produces bad fruit. Christ told the religious leaders that their hearts were evil and that they were speaking out of their hearts. Christ said that their words would either justify them or condemn them because their words came from the heart. The scribes and Pharisees then asked Christ to do something special to prove He is God. They asked for this sign right after Christ told them things they speak come from their heart and show their thoughts are evil. Christ told them their own words condemned them.

25. Read Matthew 12:33-42 and write the name of the prophet who was a sign to them.

26. Explain why the scribes and Pharisees did not want to admit that their hearts were filled with evil.

27. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that the words that you speak actually come from your heart.

Christ said that an evil generation seeks for a sign. Christ told the scribes and Pharisees the only sign He would give them was the prophet, Jonah. Christ said as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights so He would be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. Of course we realize that Christ was speaking of His death, burial and resurrection. However, the scribes and Pharisees had no idea what Christ meant. Then, Christ mentioned a city and a woman who would condemn the Pharisees because they refused to believe in Christ.

28. Read Matthew 12:33-42 and write the two who condemn the Pharisees.

29. Explain why the scribes and Pharisees could not understand what Christ said about His coming death and resurrection.

30. Explain why it important for us to both understand and share with others the message of the death and resurrection of Christ.

In Matthew 12:43-45, Christ gave an example of what will happen to the Pharisees and others that refuse to believe in Christ. The Pharisees thought they were very good because they did not worship idols made from wood or stone like their ancestors had worshiped. However,

Christ warns that the demons (unclean spirits) have only gone out of them for a little while. The Pharisees had cleaned up the outside of their lives but their hearts were still filled with evil. Pretty soon the demon will come back and find they have made themselves pretty on the outside but they were empty on the inside. When the demon sees they are empty, he will invite other demons to live with him in the empty life.

31. Read Matthew 12:43-50 and write the number of demons he will invite to move in with him.

32. Explain why the Pharisees thought that they were good because they had cleaned up the outside of their lives.

33. Explain why it is important for you to remember that God looks at the heart.

Many people today are just like the Pharisees. They are very religious and may even do many things to help others. However, their lives are empty because they have not asked Christ to come into their lives. They think they are good enough to get to heaven by their own efforts. They think they have been able to make their own lives better. The religious man thinks he is good enough so he is not interested in letting Christ change and transform him. The man who is living in terrible sin realizes he cannot help himself so he is willing to let Christ help him. That is why many religious people both reject others and continue to depend on themselves.

34. Read Matthew 12:43-50 and write the way they are in the end.

35. Explain why the life of every person is still empty if that person has not placed his or her trust in Christ.

36. Explain how you would help a religious person to realize he is lost and needs Christ as his Savior and Lord.

In the final verses of this chapter we see that the mother and brothers of Christ came to visit Him. There were such large crowds around the house where Christ was they could not get into the house to see Him. They sent a message to Christ saying they were outside and would like to speak to Him. Here, we see that the family of Christ felt that they should be able to speak to Christ because they were a part of his family. That was true but Christ used the opportunity to show that He has a larger family. Christ immediately pointed to a group of people near Him and said they were His mother and brothers.

37. Read Matthew 12:43-50 and write the group that are called His mother and brothers.

38. Explain why the family of Christ felt that they should be able to speak to Him.

39. Explain what you learn from this event about the importance of family relationships.

Christ said the disciples were His brothers because they did what God wanted them to do. Christ had raised their relationship to the point where it was the same as the relationship of His physical family. As we obey God we also become a part of His family. As members of the family of Christ we will share all of the blessings of heaven. Here, we see one of the great changes that happens to us at the moment we place our trust in Christ. We now have direct access to Christ. We are a part of His family. He also gives us His power to carry out the will of the Father.

40. Read Matthew 12:43-50 and write what we must do to be the same as the brother, sister and mother of Christ.

41. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand that they have become a part of the family of Christ.

42. Explain why you are very thankful for the fact that Christ says that you are now a part of His family.

Now, re-read Matthew 12:1-50 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 10
Matthew 13:1-58

In our last lesson, we studied how the Pharisees tried to find some reason to put Christ to death. Matthew 13:1 tells us the same day Christ went out of the house and sat down by the seaside and taught the people with parables. A parable is a story using the things people understand, like seed and fish nets, to explain things about God and His work. Christ spoke in parables so the disciples would understand but the Pharisees would not be able to understand. Later Christ would explain the parables to His disciples. As a result, parables are used to reveal truth to those who are following Christ and to conceal truth from those who are rejecting Christ.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the three kinds of ground that did not produce fruit.
- Explain the reason the good ground had various amounts of fruit.
- Explain the meaning of the treasures.
- Tell what happened in Nazareth when the people refused to believe Christ.

Christ had a great crowd come to hear Him. As a result, He got into a small boat and went a few feet out into the water so that the crowd could all stand on the shore and hear Him. That water would also make His voice easier to hear. Our first parable today is about seed and the different kinds of soil in which the seed was planted. We will see that the seed is the Word of God, the different kinds of ground are the hearts of the different people who hear the Word of God. In this passage we see that the people had four different kinds of hearts. The one who puts the seed in the ground is Christ. We read that the seed fell in four different kinds of ground: the ground by the side of the road; the rocky ground; the ground with thorns; and the good ground.

1. Read Matthew 13:1-23 and name the second kind of ground on which the seed fell.
2. Explain why Christ chose to speak to the people in parables as they gathered around Him.
3. Explain why it is important for us to understand that as we share the Word of God with others that they will have different kinds of attitudes in their hearts.

The ground by the side of the road is like the hearts of those who hear the Word of God and forget the Word immediately. Satan comes like the birds and takes the Word away before these people even think about it. The stony ground describes the hearts of those who hear the Word of God and even spend time with other Christians for a while. However, they have no root in themselves. Then, when problems come, they show their real inner attitudes and turn away from the God and His Word. The third group of people have hearts that are like the thorny ground. They hear the Word of God but they are more concerned about riches and the things of this world so they choose the things of this world instead of choosing to follow Christ. None of the three groups actually became true followers of Christ.

4. Read Matthew 13:1-23 and name the fourth kind of ground that we have in this chapter.
5. Explain why Christ wanted the disciples to understand that many people would not let the Word of God take root in their lives.
6. Explain why it is helpful for you to know that different people will respond in different ways when you share the Word of God.

The fourth kind of ground is the good ground. This ground is those who hear the Word of God with their hearts and ask Christ to change their lives. One thing to notice is that the normal thing for a Christian to do is bear fruit. Romans 1:13 tells us that the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. As we lead others to Christ and teach them how to grow, we are producing fruit. Some Christians are more faithful than others and produce more fruit. The difference is that one Christian witnesses for Christ at every opportunity while the other Christian only witnesses once

in a while. Some pastors think they have done their part in witnessing when they preach sermons to those who are not Christians. However, a true shepherd leads the people of his church by example which means spending time taking people with him to witness in the homes of those who are not Christians so that all will learn how to share the Gospel.

7. Read Matthew 13:1-23 and write the different levels of fruitbearing mentioned in these verses.

8. Explain why every Christian should be shown how to become a fruitful Christian that bears fruit.

9. Explain how your life can become a fruitful life that bears fruit for Christ.

The parable of the tares (bad seed) is given in Mathew 13:24-30 and is explained in verses 36 through 43. In this parable we see the man who planted the seed planted good seed. However, the enemy came during the night and planted bad seed in the field. We will see that Satan is the enemy. As a result, the world has people in it that are becoming a part of God's kingdom. At the same time there are also many in the world that continue to follow Satan. The owner said to let the good and bad seed grow together until the time of harvest. At the harvest time the tares that came from the bad seed would be gathered first and burned.

10. Read Matthew 13:24-30 and write what will happen to the good seed.

11. Explain why it is always the goal of Satan to plant bad seed in the world.

12. Explain why you think that Christ said to let the good seed and the bad seed to grow together and not separate them until the time of harvest.

Christ explained the parable of the tares in Matthew 13:36-43. The one who sowed the good seed was Christ. The field is the world. As we have seen, the one who sowed the bad seed is the devil. The good seed is all those who trust in Christ while the bad seed is all those who never trust in Christ. Both will live together on the earth until the time of the final judgment. Then, the Lord will send His angels to gather the tares for judgment. Here, we are reminded that there is a judgment day coming. People must prepare now or they will face judgment in that day. There will be no evil people in the eternal kingdom where Christ will rule forever.

13. Read Matthew 13:36-43 and write what will happen to those who never trust in Christ.

14. Explain why the world is compared to a field that has both good and bad seed planted in the field.

15. Explain why it is important to you in your life to ask God to give you boldness to help plant the good seed.

These verses tell us that the judgment of all unbelievers will be eternal. The unbelievers will be cast into a furnace of fire. It will be a place of eternal torment where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. That is one reason why we share the Gospel so that people will have the opportunity to make the choice to place their trust in Christ so that they will escape this eternal judgment. We are also told the reward of the righteous. Those who are righteous will shine like the sun. We know from other passages that we will receive eternal life and that we will be with Christ for all eternity. That is the reward for those who place their trust in Christ.

16. Read Matthew 13:36-43 and write for what people are told to use their ears.

17. Explain why it is important to warn those who have not yet placed their trust in Christ about the fact that they will experience eternal judgment.

18. Explain why you are thankful that you can look forward to the fact that you will shine like the sun if you have repented and placed your trust in Christ.

Christ did not explain all of the parables so we must use the ones He explained to help us understand the rest of the parables. In each parable Christ explained, He was the main person. In Mathew 13:31-32 we have the parable of the mustard seed. The mustard seed is a very small seed and yet it grows to become a large plant strong enough that it is almost like a tree. The mustard seed is a picture of the growth of the church in the world. Although the church was

very small when it began, it has experienced great growth. In verses 4 and 19 of this chapter birds are used to picture the devil. Today, we see the devil at work within the church. A majority of the churches in the world no longer teach and preach that the entire Bible is the Word of God. We must be careful not to be tricked by those who no longer believe the Bible.

19. Read Matthew 13:31-35 and write what the mustard seed can hold in its branches because of its strength.

20. Explain why it is important to watch out for false teachers even within the church.

21. Explain why you are thankful that the church has grown and has spread to many parts of the world.

These verses also give us the parable of the leaven (yeast). Yeast makes bread raise and even a tiny piece of yeast will quickly spread through all the dough. There are two suggested meanings for this parable. The first says that the leaven is a picture of evil that will influence all parts of the kingdom. It is certainly true that a little bit of sin which is allowed to remain in a church will always cause more sin to develop in that church. However, there is another possible meaning that agrees better with the rest of the parables in the chapter. That will be explained in the next paragraph.

22. Read Matthew 13:31-35 and write the amount of flour (meal) in which the yeast was hidden.

23. Explain why it is important to understand that leaven will quickly spread through a whole lump of dough.

24. Explain why it is important for you to understand that parables might be explained in various ways if we do not study the context in which they are given.

There is no mention in these verses that leaven is a picture of evil and there are several places where leaven is not used to picture evil. In contrast to evil, leaven can also give a picture of the spread of the Gospel. Since Christ is sowing His good seed in the world, it is His desire that the Gospel spread to every group of people in the world. In Acts 17:6 the Christians were accused of turning the world upside down. Although many people will not believe the Gospel, it still has a real influence. A small group of Christians can have a real effect on the people of the whole area if they will be faithful in serving Christ. In Acts 19:8-10 we see that the Gospel spread throughout the entire Roman province known as Asia even though there were only a few Christians at the beginning.

25. Read Matthew 13:31-35 and write the way Christ spoke to the people.

26. Explain why God wants the Gospel to spread to every group of people in the world.

27. Explain why it is important for you to be faithful in your own life in sharing the Gospel so that more have the opportunity to hear.

We go on to read two parables that speak of a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price. The treasure was hidden in a field and the One who bought it gave everything that He had to buy the field. Christ is the One that gave His life to pay the penalty for our sin so that we could have eternal life. Christ is also the merchant man that was looking for pearls. Again we see that He was willing to give His all to purchase a pearl that was worth a great price. In both parables the main person gave all that he had to buy the treasure and the pearl. These parables are a beautiful picture of Christ who gave everything including His life to pay the cost for our salvation.

28. Read Matthew 13:44-52 and write the two things that were bought in these parables.

29. Explain why it is important to help each person realize that Christ was willing to give all that He had (His own life) in order to pay for our salvation.

30. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ chose to give His life so that you could receive eternal life.

In the next parable, we have the parable of the fish net. The sea is the world. The net was cast

into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. Those in the net are the people of the world. There will be a separation at the end of the age. The angels will be the ones that will do the separation. They will separate the wicked from the righteous. The wicked will be cast into a furnace of fire. Here, we see that all those who never place their trust in Christ will experience a judgment of fire. As we see in other passages, this judgment will be eternal and will last forever.

31. Read Matthew 13:44-52 and write what will happen for all eternity to those who have never asked Christ to forgive their sins.

32. Explain why Christ will wait until the end of the age to separate the righteous from the wicked.

33. Explain why it is important for you to understand these things so that you can explain them to others.

Matthew 13:52 is the final parable and it explains the reason for the parables. It tells of a man who brings out of his treasure things old and new. This is what Christ was doing in these parables. He was taking things the disciples understood like planting fields and catching fish to explain new things the disciples did not understand. This is what we should do when we teach and preach. We should use the things people understand to help them learn new things from the Bible. Christ also showed the disciples how to explain parables to others.

34. Read Matthew 13:44-58 and explain what Christ asked the disciples if they understood.

35. Explain why it is important for Christians to use things that people understand to help them learn things that are new.

36. Explain how you can use things that people understand from their daily lives to help them understand Biblical principles.

However, verse 52 also teaches us another very important lesson. The word that is translated instructed is the same word that is translated “Make Disciples” in Matthew 28:19-20. It could be translated here, Every person that has become a disciple. As a result, this verse also gives us a definition of a disciple. We see four things about a disciple. A disciple is one that has become the head of a spiritual household (a spiritual family). A disciple has a treasure – the Word of God. A disciple is able to bring out of that treasure things that are new – he has a learner’s attitude. He is able to bring out of that treasure things are old – he is able to teach the basics of Christianity.

37. Read Matthew 13:52-58 and write where Christ went when he left that area.

38. Explain what it means to be a disciple according to Matthew 13:52.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that you become a disciple of Christ.

We go on to read about the final visit of Christ to Nazareth. When the people heard Christ teach, they were very surprised. They had known Christ since He was a young boy. They knew Christ had not gone to Jerusalem to school. The only education Christ had received was a basic education right there in Nazareth. The people of Nazareth also knew His father, mother, brothers and sisters. Because the people could not understand where Christ received His knowledge and wisdom, they refused to believe Him. Christ said that a prophet is not honored in his own country. Christ was showing that the people of His own town that had known Him for most of His life were rejecting Him.

40. Read Matthew 13:53-58 and write what happened because the people refused to believe.

41. Explain why the people of Nazareth rejected Christ and did not accept His teaching.

42. Explain why you think that some of the people who have known you most of your life may reject you when you tell them about Christ.

Now, re-read Matthew 13:1-52 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 11
Matthew 14:1-15:39

Today, we will be studying several of the miracles of Christ. We will also study about the death of John the Baptist. Among the miracles that Christ did in these two chapters are the feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand. We also read about Christ walking on top of the water. We read about Christ healing many people. We will learn that Pharisees came from Jerusalem to check out the things that they were hearing about the teachings of Christ. Christ clearly explained that they were following the traditions of men and at the same time rejecting the commandments of God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Herod killed John the Baptist.
- Tell how Christ fed the five thousand and the four thousand.
- Explain what happened when Peter walked on the water.
- Tell the reason the Pharisees said the disciples were wrong.

In Matthew 14:1-12, we read about the death of John the Baptist. He had told Herod that it was against the law of God for Herod to be living with his brother's wife, Herodias. Herod and Herodias did not like being told they were sinning by living together in adultery so Herod put John the Baptist in prison. Herodias wanted John the Baptist killed but Herod was afraid to kill him because the people said that he was a prophet. However, Herodias began planning a way to get John the Baptist killed. On Herod's birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for Herod's birthday party. He and the men who were with him enjoyed her dancing and he made her a promise that he would give her whatever she wanted.

1. Read Matthew 14:1-12 and write what Herodias told her daughter to ask.
2. Explain why people are like Herod and Herodias and do not like to be confronted about their sin.
3. Explain why it is important to go to people personally and talk to them about the need to repent of their sin.

Herod was sorry when the daughter of Herodias asked for the head of John the Baptist. He knew that John had done nothing wrong. However, he was more worried about what people thought of him than he was about doing the right thing. As a result, he killed an innocent man in order to keep his promise. Many people today are more concerned about what others think than they are about doing what they know is right. However, God will judge such people because God promises that each person will reap exactly what he sows.

4. Read Matthew 14:1-12 and write what the disciples of John the Baptist did after they buried him.
5. Explain why these verses show that Herod was more fearful of the men with him than he was of God.
6. Explain why you think that many people will try to please those who are around them even when they know that what they are doing is sin.

When Christ heard about the death of John the Baptist, He went by boat across the Sea of Galilee to a desert place. A large crowd of people saw Christ leave by boat and so they ran around the edge of the sea to the place where Christ landed. When Christ got out of the boat He saw a large crowd of people. Christ healed all those who were sick and then He taught them all day. Here, we see that Christ took time to teach the people to help them grow in their understanding of Him. At the end of the day the disciples came to Christ and told Him to send the people away so they could go to the villages to buy food. Christ told the disciples that the

people did not need to go away to eat.

7. Read Mathew 14:13-21 and write what Christ told the disciples to do instead.

8. Explain why these verses help us to realize that there are many people that wanted to know about the teaching of the Lord.

9. Explain why you realize that it is important for you to share the Word of God with those who are seeking to learn more about Christ.

The disciples immediately answered that they did not have enough food. They were telling the truth. They were in a desert place far from any place where they could buy food. All they had was a lunch with enough food for one person. However, the disciples forgot one thing. They forgot that Christ could do all things. We sometimes forget that Christ will always give us the help we need for the job He has told us to do. Nothing is impossible for Christ. If He has told us to do something, He will give us the things needed to do the job. We read that when the disciples obeyed, all the people ate and were filled. In fact there was more than enough food.

10. Read Matthew 14:13-21 and write how many baskets of food were gathered up after the people were filled.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christ is always able to supply what is needed.

12. Explain one place where God gave you the ability or strength to do something that looked impossible to some people.

After Christ fed the large crowd which included 5000 men plus women and children, He sent the people away while the disciples started across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. After the people were gone, Christ went up into a mountain by Himself to pray. Christ spent most of the night praying. Even though Christ was God, He knew the importance of spending time talking to our heavenly Father. About three o'clock the morning (the fourth watch) Christ started walking across the top of the water toward the boat of the disciples. The night was stormy and the disciples had spent nine or ten hours instead of the normal one or two hours trying to get across the sea. They were very tired when suddenly they saw something.

13. Read Matthew 14:22-36 and write what they thought they saw.

14. Explain why Christ gives all Christians an example of the importance of spending time talking to the Father in prayer.

15. Explain why it important for you in your own life to spent time talking with God in prayer.

When Christ heard the disciples cry out in fear, He told them who He was and then told them not to be afraid. As soon as Peter heard Christ, he asked Christ for permission to walk to Christ on the water. Christ told Peter to come and so Peter got out of the boat and started walking across the top of the water to Christ. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Christ, he was able to walk on top of the water. However, Peter was like many of us as Christians. He started looking around at the storm and the waves instead of keeping his eyes on Christ. When he saw the waves and the storm he started to worry and he began to sink. The same is true for us. When we start looking at the problems around us instead of keeping our eyes on Christ, we will also get worried because we are focused on the problems instead of placing our dependence on Christ. Peter at least did the right thing when he got into trouble.

16. Read Matthew 14:22-36 and write what Peter called out to Christ when he saw that he was sinking into the waves.

17. Explain how these verses show that Christians need to learn to depend on the Lord to help them face every problem.

18. Explain some ways that Christian has taught you that you can depend on Him instead of depending on your own strength.

When Peter cried out to Christ, the Lord immediately reached out His hand and caught Peter. Then, Christ explained the problem to Peter. Christ explained that he had little faith. Peter and

the other disciples had seen Christ feed 5000 people just a few hours earlier. However, Peter did not apply what He had learned earlier. He depended on himself instead of trusting in Christ. The storm stopped as soon as Christ came into the boat. By the time Christ and the disciples got to land it was morning. They had arrived in Gennesaret. The people of that area knew about Christ and so they immediately brought many people that were sick and diseased for Christ to heal. Every single person that even touched the clothing of Christ was made perfectly well.

19. Read Matthew 14:22-36 and write what the disciples did and said when Christ stopped the storm.

20. Explain why it is often hard for Christians to learn to apply when they learn about Christ to their own lives.

21. Explain some of the ways that the Lord is teaching you to trust Him during those times when you face great problems.

As we begin chapter 15, we see that the scribes and the Pharisees came back again to try and find something wrong with Christ. This time they watched His disciples get ready for lunch. The Jewish leaders over a period of hundreds of years had developed many ceremonies and ways of doing things that were not in the Bible. They had a special way of washing their hands before they ate. Since the disciples did not wash their hands the exact way the Pharisees did, the Pharisees immediately said the disciples were breaking the teaching of the fathers by eating without washing their hands. Here, we see that their lives had become controlled by their traditions.

22. Read Matthew 15:1-20 and write the commandment that Christ said the Pharisees were breaking.

23. Explain why people, even Christians, often add their own traditions to the Bible and then focus on their traditions.

24. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to focus on Biblical principles and not on the traditions of people.

Because the Jews did not want to obey God's commandments given in the Old Testament, they made their own rules that they followed instead of choosing to obey the commandments of God. Because of their desire for possessions they chose not to help their parents as the Old Testament commanded. They said that anything given to God as a gift could not be used to help their parents. If their parents would ask them for help, they would say they were sorry they could not help because they had just given everything as a gift to God. Usually they were telling a lie and never gave their things to God. All they wanted was an excuse not to help their parents.

25. Read Matthew 15:1-20 and write the two things that Christ called the Pharisees in these verses.

26. Explain how the Jews had rejected the commandment of God and replaced it with their traditions so that they could keep their possessions.

27. Explain why it is important to you to honor your parents and to show respect for them.

Since the Pharisees had accused the disciples of eating with unclean hands, Christ went on to point out that what you eat will not hurt you. However, the things you say and do show the attitudes that are in the heart and those are the things that can send you to hell forever. The Pharisees did not like what Christ said because they were trying to hide their sins. Christ said that the Pharisees were blind leaders of the blind. Christ said to leave them alone. Today, we have many like the Pharisees who are trying to teach their own ideas instead of teaching the Word of God. We are not to follow such teachers and their false ideas.

28. Read Matthew 15:1-20 and write what proceeds out of the heart.

29. Explain what these verses show us about the way that people will try to cover and hide their sins when they are not following Christ.

30. Explain in your own words what Christ meant when He said, “Let them alone; they are blind leaders of the blind.”

In verses 21 through 28 Christ healed the daughter of a woman that was not a Jew. After answering the Pharisees, Christ went to the country of Tyre and Sidon. While Christ was there a woman came and asked Him to cast a demon out of her daughter. Since Christ did not answer right away, the disciples told Christ to send the woman away. Here, we see that Christ was showing the disciples the importance of learning to reach out to those who were not Jews. However, Christ wanted to teach the woman and the disciples some lessons in faith. Finally, Christ told the woman that He had come to help the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Still the woman continued to ask for help. Then, Christ said He could not cast the food of children to the dogs. The woman said that was true but asked Christ for one thing.

31. Read Matthew 15:21-39 and write what the woman answered Christ.

32. Explain why it was important for Christ to show the disciples by His example the importance of helping Gentiles come to faith in Christ.

33. Explain why it is important for you in your life to also share the Gospel with people of other groups and nations.

When Christ saw the faith of the woman, He granted her request and cast the demon out of the daughter. Here, we have a wonderful lesson. The woman kept making her request until the Lord answered. The Lord has promised that He will answer our prayers. Sometimes He may not answer them the way we expect but He will answer. Christ then returned to Galilee and went up into a mountain. The people heard that Christ was there. They brought many people that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and those who were suffering from many other physical problems. Christ healed all that they brought to Him. The people recognized that Christ was healing through the power of God.

34. Read Matthew 15:21-39 and write what the people did after Christ healed people with many different physical problems.

35. Explain what the woman teaches by her example the importance of faith in Christ.

36. Explain how the miracles of Christ caused many to recognize that He was from God.

In Matthew 15:21-39, we also read that Christ fed 4000 men plus women and children. The whole group was probably somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 people. A great crowd of people came to Christ and stayed there for three days. It was during this time that many people were healed. At the end of three days Christ told the disciples that He had compassion on the multitude. Christ said He would feed the people before He sent them away. The disciples only saw the problem so they said that there was no place to get food since they were in the wilderness.

37. Read Matthew 15:29-39 and write how much bread and fish they had.

38. Explain why many Christians focus on problems rather than focusing on the fact that Christ is the problem solver.

39. Explain why it is important for you to recognize that Christ is the problem solver.

Christ took the bread and the fish and thanked the Father for them. Then, Christ broke them and gave the pieces to the disciples so they could give them to the people. This is the way that Christ did everything. He did the things that were impossible and then had others do the things they could do. This is a very important lesson for church leaders. As leaders it is your responsibility to equip the people of the congregation so they can do the work of the Lord. A true leader is one that has equipped each of the Christians to serve the Lord instead of trying to do everything himself.

40. Read Matthew 15:21-39 and write how many baskets of food were gathered up.

41. Explain why it is important for the leaders in a church to train each Christian to serve the Lord.

42. Explain why it is important for you in your ministry to help each Christian become equipped to serve Christ.

Now, re-read Matthew 14:1-15:39 and write the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 12
Matthew 16:1-28

The Pharisees and the Sadducees usually spent most of their time fighting against one another. However, today we will see that the two groups joined together to try and trap Christ. Christ used the fact that the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread to warn them about the leaven (teachings) of the Pharisees and Sadducees. We will also be studying about the first mention of the church in the New Testament. Various groups have often misunderstood this chapter. They have then used this chapter to teach various false doctrines about the church. Then, we will see that Christ began to teach His disciples about His coming death and resurrection.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the religious leaders tried to test Christ in this chapter.
- Tell what Christ said about those religious leaders.
- Explain what Peter said about Christ.
- Explain what this chapter tells about the church.
- Explain why Christ called Peter, Satan.

In Matthew 16:1-4, the religious leaders came again and asked Christ for a sign from heaven. They were telling Christ that He had to prove to them that He is the Son of God. We see that both the Pharisees and the Sadducees came together. Both of these groups had a religion where they were depending on their own works to save them. Christ was preaching they must turn from their sins and ask Him to forgive them. Since they did not want to believe Him, they were trying in every way to find something wrong with the teachings of Christ. Today, people are just the same. Instead of admitting they are sinners, many religious people are trying to say Christ was wrong.

1. Read Matthew 16:1-4 and write what sign Christ said He would give them.
2. Explain why the Pharisees and Sadducees worked together to try and trap Christ and prove that His teaching was wrong.
3. Explain why you think that people do not want to admit that they are sinners.

In verse one the Pharisees and Sadducees came together to question Christ. These two groups had very different beliefs. The Pharisees had 613 different rules that they said a person must obey to be right with God. The Sadducees denied things like miracles, the resurrection and anything else that they could not explain. Usually the two groups spent most of their time fighting each other. However, we see them working together here to try and get rid of Christ. This has been the way Satan has always worked. He used everything to try to destroy Christ. Today, many of the world religions are talking about getting together to form one world church. If this happens, we can expect this religious group to try and stop the Christians from telling others about Christ.

4. Read Matthew 16:1-4 again and write what Christ did.
5. Explain why many people are like the Pharisees and are depending on their own efforts to be right with God.
6. Explain why it important for you in your life to be able to know how to explain to a person in a loving way that his or her works will not make that person right with God.

The religious leaders wanted Christ to give them a sign from heaven to prove that He was God. Christ said that they were able to look at the sky and tell what the weather would be like the next day. They could tell when it would be good weather and when the weather would not be good. However, they were not able to understand what Christ was teaching them. Christ said that they were hypocrites. He said that they were filled with wickedness and adultery. Here,

we see that Christ knew what was in their hearts and knew that they were trying to trap Him. Today, many people are like the Pharisees and Sadducees. They are depending on their own knowledge and efforts to get to heaven instead of trusting in Christ.

7. Read Matthew 16:1- 4 and write what Christ said was the only sign that they would be given.
8. Explain why many people are like the Sadducees and refuse to believe in the death and resurrection of Christ or in His miracles.
9. Explain in your own words what will happen to people that choose to depend on their own knowledge.

When Christ left the religious leaders, He went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. There Christ warned the disciples to watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. A little piece of leaven (yeast) put in a large piece of bread dough will soon spread to the entire piece. If the disciples listened to the false religious teachers, very soon they would begin to accept their false teachings. Today, we have religious groups just like the Pharisees and Sadducees. The Pharisees taught that people must follow their laws and traditions if they wanted to get to heaven. People who followed them were actually depending on their own works to get them to heaven. Today, many churches are teaching you will get to heaven if you do certain things. The Sadducees taught that parts of the Bible were not true. Those who deny parts of the Bible are false teachers and we are warned not to listen to their false teachings. The disciples did not understand what Christ meant at first.

10. Read Matthew 16:5-12 and write what the disciples thought Christ meant when He warned about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
11. Explain why many people like a religion where they think that they can focus on their own efforts to be right with God.
12. Explain why you think that the disciples did not understand what Christ meant at first.

Sometimes we are just like the disciples. We are thinking about our own needs when we should be thinking about the lessons the Lord wants to teach us. Christ was teaching the disciples that avoiding false teaching is even more important than eating. If a person is in a church that no longer teaches that the whole Bible is true, that person should get out of that church because it is not a true church. It is a religious gathering where people are learning to follow a false religion. That person should find a church that both teaches the Bible and teaches that the Bible is true. It is important for every Christian to be learning the Word of God and learning how to obey the Word.

13. Read Matthew 16:5-12 and write what the disciples were asked to remember.
14. Explain why it is important to warn Christians so that they will recognize the false teaching of groups like the Pharisees and Sadducees.
15. Explain why you think that Christ also reminded the disciples that their faith was small.

Christ reminded the disciples about the feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand. He reminded them that there had been food left over on both occasions. He wanted to make it very clear that He was not talking about the fact that they had forgotten bread. Christ also wanted them to understand what He said as He gave a warning about false teaching. Here, we see that one of the great concerns of Christ was to make certain that the disciples understood what He said and were not satisfied to just gain knowledge. Learning is usually a three step process. First, people gain knowledge. Then, they begin to understand. Third they can begin to apply to their own lives what they have heard and understood.

16. Read Matthew 16:5-12 and write what the disciples realized that Christ meant.
17. Explain why we need to realize that people must gain both knowledge and understanding before they begin to apply Scripture to their lives.
18. Explain why it important to you to help people gain both knowledge and understanding by teaching them and also showing them how to apply the Word.

Christ then took the disciples and went into the region of Caesarea Philippi. This would be an area where He could get away from the crowds so that He could really teach the disciples and help them grow in their understanding. There Christ began teaching His disciples about His plan to build of the church. Ephesians 2 explains that Christ made the Jews and Gentiles one in Himself and broke down the middle wall of partition that had divided Jews and Gentiles. Before introducing the church, Christ first asked the disciples who men said that He was.

19. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and write the four individuals or groups that people had said Christ was.

20. Explain why Christ took the disciples to a place where He could be alone with them while He gave this first teaching about the church.

21. Explain why it was important for Christ to ask the disciples who people said He was before beginning to teach them about the church.

The disciples said that the people had many different ideas about Christ. Some thought that He was John the Baptist come back to life. Others thought that He was one of the Old Testament prophets come back to life. The people had many different opinions about who Christ was. We see that people have not changed. People today also have many opinions about Christ. Some people say He was a good man. Others say He gave us a good example. Some feel that He was a good teacher. However, many refuse to believe that He is God.

22. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and write what Peter and the other disciples said about Christ.

23. Explain why the world has many different ideas about Christ and His teachings.

24. Explain why it important to you in your own life to know that Christ is more than just a good man, a good example or a good teacher.

Peter answered for the disciples and said that Christ is the Son of God. Christ immediately told Peter that he had given the right answer. However, Christ also told Peter that Peter had learned this from God and that it was not something he learned through his own knowledge. This is important to understand. As people hear the Word of God, God reveals through the Word that Christ is the Son of God. People do not gain that understanding through themselves. Instead, God reveals Christ to them through the Word. Some Christians become proud of their own knowledge and fail to realize that everything they have comes from God. Christ did not want Peter to make this mistake so He told Peter that his knowledge had come from God.

25. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and write what Christ said He would build.

26. Explain why it is important to know that people only understand that Christ is the Son of God as God reveals that fact to them through His Word.

27. Explain why this shows you that it is very important to share what the Word of God says and not just share your own words when you tell others about Christ.

There is much confusion about what Christ meant in verse 18 when He said, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” Some churches teach that Peter was the rock upon which the church was built. Here, is a place where it is important to understand the original Greek words and also compare this verse with other verses. The word for Peter in the Greek is “petros” which means a little rock or stone. The word for rock in the next part of the sentence is “petra” which means a great foundation rock. Peter is only a little rock and cannot be the great rock that is the foundation of the church. If the church was built with a little rock as a foundation, it would fall. However, Christ is the great foundation rock on which the church can firmly stand.

28. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and write the thing that cannot prevail or stand against the church.

29. Explain why Christ used two different words to make it clear that He is the great massive rock that is the foundation of the church.

30. Explain why you think it is important to explain the difference between these two words that are similar but also very different.

There are some people who say that the foundation for the church is the statement or confession of Peter when he says that Christ is the Son of the living God. However, if we look at 1 Corinthians 3:11, we see that verse explains the real meaning clearly. That verse says, "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Christ is that great rock that is the foundation for the church. Nothing can destroy Christ so nothing can destroy the church because it is built on Christ.

31. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and what Christ gave to Peter and to the whole church.

32. Explain why it is important for every Christian to be able to understand that Christ is the only foundation of the church.

33. Explain verse 18 in your own words so that you will be able to explain the foundation of the church clearly to others.

In verses 19 and 20 Christ told the disciples He was giving them the keys to the kingdom. The things they bound on earth would be bound in heaven. The things they loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. Christ gives this same responsibility to all Christians in John 20:23. When we present the Gospel to another person we are giving that person an open door to eternal life. Those who accept the Gospel are loosed or freed from their sins for all eternity. Those who reject the Gospel are bound in their sins for all eternity. As soon as Peter and the other disciples said Christ was the Son of God, Christ was able to teach the disciples things that He could not mention before. The disciples had met the test and gave the right answer to the question. They had passed the test. Now, they were ready to learn new things.

34. Read Matthew 16:21-28 and write what Jesus began to tell the disciples would happen to Him.

35. Explain why it is a great privilege for all Christians to have the keys to the kingdom and the freedom to share with others how they can have eternal life.

36. Explain why you think that the disciples had to recognize that Christ is the Son of God before He could begin to explain why He came to this earth.

Verses 21 through 28 tell about the coming death of Christ and His suffering on the cross. The disciples realized that Christ is the Son of God. As a result, He was now able to teach them about the fact that He would suffer, be killed and then rise from the dead on the third day. Satan was trying to do everything he could to stop Christ. Here, we see that he even used Peter to try to keep Christ from finishing His work of paying for our sins. Satan will even use Christians when he can to stop the work of the Lord. When a Christian says something that does not sound right, we should check to make sure it agrees with the Bible, then we should obey the Bible rather than that person.

37. Read Matthew 16:21-28 and write what Christ said to Peter when Peter rebuked Christ for telling about His coming death and resurrection.

38. Explain why Satan tried to use Peter to keep Christ from carrying out His plan to provide salvation.

39. Explain why you think Satan tried to deceive Peter.

Christ said that some of those who were standing there would not die until they saw Him coming in His kingdom. The next chapter explains the meaning of this statement. In that chapter we will see Christ showing His glory to three of His disciples. We also see in these verses that Christ tells us how to have real life. If we try to keep our life to satisfy ourselves, we will lose our life. However, if we let Christ have complete control of our life, then we will have a full and exciting life.

40. Read Matthew 16:21-28 and write what Christ promises to do when He returns.

41. Explain what verses 24 and 25 teach about the way that we can really find a real purpose for life that gives our lives an eternal impact.

42. Explain why it is important to you to live your life so that your life will have an eternal

impact on the lives of others.

Now, re-read Matthew 16:1-28 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 13
Matthew 17:1-18:35

Today, we will see a picture of what Christ will be like when He is in His kingdom as Christ is transfigured before three of His disciples on the mountain. We learn about the way to pray in certain types of situations. Then, we will be learning some lessons about faith. Chapter 18 also teaches us several important lessons. We see that we are to have the faith of a little child. We also see the concern of Christ for even one person that is lost. Then, Christ teaches why it is important to correct any problems in the church. The chapter closes by telling about the importance of forgiving others.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Christ was transfigured before His disciples.
- Explain what we learn about faith from a child.
- Explain what the Bible teaches about correcting problems.
- Explain why it is important to forgive others.

In Matthew 17:1-13, we have the transfiguration of Christ. Christ went up on a mountain with Peter, James and John and was transfigured (changed in looks) before them. His face became as bright as the sun and His clothes as white as the light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Christ. Peter immediately said he would build three brush arbors: one for Moses, one for Elijah and one for Christ. However, God interrupted Peter while he was talking and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him." We see that Peter was talking when he should have been listening to Christ to learn what Christ was teaching him. Sometimes we too are guilty of talking when we should be listening to Christ.

1. Read Matthew 17:1-13 and write what the three disciples did when they heard God speak.
2. Explain why Christ showed these three disciples what His glory would be like in the future.
3. Explain why you think it was important for the disciples to be given an opportunity to see the full glory of Christ.

When the disciples got up again, Moses and Elijah were gone and Christ looked like a normal man again. Christ then told the three disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until He arose from the dead. Perhaps you are wondering why Christ was transfigured in front of His disciples. In the last verse of the previous chapter, Christ said some of those present would not die until they saw Him coming in His kingdom. Here, we see Christ showing His disciples what His kingdom would be like. When Christ establishes His Kingdom on the earth, there will be three groups of people present. Moses had died and gone to be with Christ. Elijah had gone to be with Christ without dying. The disciples were present in their physical bodies. In the kingdom there will be those who died before Christ comes a second time. There will be those who went with Christ at the rapture who will not have died. Then, there will be those who live through the tribulation (see Matthew 24 and 25) and enter the kingdom in their physical bodies. All of these groups will be together in the kingdom.

4. Read Matthew 17:1-13 and write the question that the disciples asked about the scribes.
5. Explain what Christ taught the disciples about the purpose of the transfiguration.
6. Explain why you think that this particular event had a great impact on the lives of the three disciples.

When Christ and the three disciples came down from the mountain, there was a crowd of people waiting for them. One of the men in the crowd had a son that was controlled by a demon. This man came to Christ and asked Christ to show mercy to his son. He said that his son was greatly vexed and troubled. We see that the boy had a demon that caused the boy to fall into the water

and into the fire. The man had brought the boy to the disciples. However, the nine disciples could not cast the demon out and help the boy. Jesus then cast the demon out and the boy was healed.

7. Read Matthew 17:14-21 and write the question the disciples asked about the demon.
8. Explain why the man begged Christ to show mercy to his son.
9. Explain what you learn from these verses about the desire of Satan and his demons to destroy the lives of people.

Christ told the disciples the reason they could not cast out the demon was due to their lack of faith. Here, we see that the lack of faith was on the part of the disciples. It was not the father or the boy that lacked faith. Today, we have many people who claim to be healers. However, their excuse when the person is not healed is that the person who is sick did not have faith. As a result, they make people feel like it is the person that lacks faith. These verses show where the real problem is. These verses and James 5:14-16 emphasizes that the ones who pray for healing are the ones who must have faith. Those who claim to be healers usually do not follow the teachings of Scripture about healing because Scripture says that the elders are to go together and pray for the one that is sick and not to depend on a healer.

10. Read Matthew 17:14-21 and write what Christ said was required for this type of demon to be cast out.
11. Read Matthew 17:14-21 and James 5:14-16 and explain what the Bible teaches about healing in these verses.
12. Explain why it is important for you to follow the Scripture and not be deceived by a person that claims that he or she has the power to heal.

In Matthew 17:22-27, Christ told His disciples again that He would die and be raised again. Then, Peter got himself into trouble because he forgot to talk to Christ before making a promise to others. Each year men would go around and collect money to take care of the temple in Jerusalem. Every Jewish man was supposed to pay a half shekel each year. One of the men that was collecting the temple tax asked Peter if Christ was going to pay the tax. Without thinking, Peter said, "yes." Then, Peter went to tell Christ. Christ met Peter at the door with a question. Christ asked Peter if the sons of a king paid the taxes or if it was the other people in the country who paid taxes.

13. Read Matthew 17:22-27 and write the answer of Peter.
14. Explain why Peter said that Christ would pay the temple tax before he even asked Christ.
15. Explain why it is important for you to study the Word of God so that when you speak for Christ you know what to say.

Christ wanted to teach Peter that since He was the Son of God, it was not necessary for Him to pay the temple tax. As soon as Peter learned the lesson that he should think before he talked, Christ added something else to help Peter. Christ told Peter they did not want the tax collectors to get angry and gave Peter some instructions. Christ told Peter to go to the sea and go fishing. He said the first fish Peter caught would have a piece of money in its mouth. The money would be enough to pay the tax for both Peter and Christ. If we will come to Christ with our problems, He is always ready to help us even if we have made a mistake.

16. Read Matthew 17:22-27 and write what Peter would find in the mouth of the fish.
17. Explain why the Lord chose to show Peter that He would supply the need in a very unusual way.
18. Explain why you think that this event helped Peter to grow in his understanding of the fact that Christ is God.

In Matthew 18:1-14, Christ teaches about the importance of having faith like a child. The disciples started arguing among themselves about which of them would be the greatest. Here, we see that the disciples had the same attitudes of most people in the world. They wanted to

become the most important. Christ had to give them many lessons to help them learn that a mature follower of Christ has the same attitude that Christ had which is the attitude of a servant. In order to teach the disciples a lesson, Christ called a little child to Him. The disciples had shown their pride by wanting to have an important place. Christ told them that they had to be without pride and have the attitude of a little child if they wanted to be great.

19. Read Matthew 18:1-14 and write the reason given in these verses why Christ (the Son of man) came to this earth.

20. Explain why Christ had to give the disciples many examples of the kind of attitudes that should develop as a person matures in Christ.

21. Explain why you think that Christ wants every Christian to learn to have a humble attitude.

Christ said that true greatness in the kingdom of heaven is demonstrated by humility. Christ said that such an attitude will also cause a person to realize that every child is important to Christ. Those who are mature followers of Christ will show a real attitude of acceptance of children. A mature follower of Christ will also avoid offending a child. Christ said it was better for a person to be drowned than for that person to cause someone else to fail to believe in Christ. Children grow in their understanding of love by the love that they see in the lives of others. That is why it is so important for every Christian to show the love of Christ in the way that they accept children.

22. Read Matthew 18:1-14 and write what Christ said a person should do if their eye offended them.

23. Explain why true spiritual maturity is best demonstrated by a humble attitude toward others including children.

24. Explain why you think that Christ said it will be better to lose a part of the physical body than to be cast into hell fire.

Christ went on to give an example to show the importance of every person. Christ warned of the danger of despising a young child. He said that the angel that watches over each child also beholds the face of the Father in heaven. Christ said that He came both to seek and to save the lost. Then, He gave an illustration of His concern. Christ said that if a man had a hundred sheep and loses one, he will go into the mountains and hunt for the sheep until he finds it. He will rejoice when he finds that lost sheep. Christ is even more concerned about each person. Christ also rejoices each time that a child trusts in Him because He died so that everyone could have eternal life.

25. Read Matthew 18:1-14 and write what is mentioned to be the will of God.

26. Explain how Christ shows the great concern that He has for every single child in the world.

27. Explain why it is important for you in your life to have the same concern for children that Christ has.

Christ then talked about the importance of correcting problems in the church. If a Christian brother has sinned against you, you are to go to that person and talk to him or her personally about the problem. If the person refuses to listen to you, you should take one or two other Christians with you to talk to the person that has sinned. If the person still refuses to listen to the three of you, you should bring the problem to the whole church. If the person refuses to listen to the whole church, the church members are not to fellowship with the person until he has confessed his sin.

28. Read Matthew 18:15-20 and write how large a group has to be to know that Christ is with that group.

29. Explain why Christians are to seek to deal directly with a Christian that sins against them instead of talking to others about it.

30. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to try to resolve the conflicts that arise between Christians.

A group needs only two or three people in order for Christ to be with that group. This means

that Christ is with every group including the smallest group. Although you may be in a large church with many people, you also need to have a small group of Christian friends with whom you can study the Bible and pray. There may be some prayer requests you cannot even mention to the entire church. However, you can sometimes share these prayer requests with a small group of friends so they can pray with you. Many times a small group of Christians who really love the Lord and pray will be much more concerned than a large group.

31. Read Matthew 18:15-20 and write the promise Christ gives to small groups.

32. Explain why it is important for small groups of Christians to share the Word and pray together.

33. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord shows you that He is present with even the smallest group of Christians.

In Matthew 18:21-35, Christ teaches us the importance of forgiving each other. The Jews felt they were being very forgiving if they forgave a person three times. Peter wanted to show even greater love than the other Jews so he asked if he should forgive a person seven times. Christ told him instead of 7 times, he should forgive a brother 70 times 7. Of course we would lose track of the number of times we had forgiven a person long before we got to 490 times. Christ used this number to teach us that we should continue to forgive another person no matter how many times that person does something wrong to us.

34. Read Matthew 18:21-35 and write the number of times we should forgive our brother.

35. Explain why Christians are to continue to forgive one another.

36. Explain how the Lord gives you inner peace when you obey Him and continue to forgive those who sin against you.

Then, Christ gave us an example to show why we should continue to forgive our brother. A man owed his master, the king, more money than any person could count. Since the man had no money, his master decided to sell everything the man had including his family in order to pay the debt. The man begged his master to forgive him and promised that he would work in order to try and earn the money to pay his master back. Because of his love, the master decided to forgive the man and cancel the debt. The forgiven man also had a man that owed him money.

37. Read Matthew 18:21-35 and write how much the man owed him.

38. Explain why Christ used this illustration to show Christians the need to forgive.

39. Explain why you are thankful that Christ forgave all of your sin and paid the price for your sin by shedding His own blood.

The man who owed so much money remembered that another man owed him one hundred day's wages. He went to the man and demanded the money immediately. Since the man did not have any money to pay right then, the other man threw him in jail. The friends of the man in jail told the king about the evil man who had thrown their friend in jail because he owed one hundred day's wages. The man who owed so much refused to forgive the man who owed so little. Christ forgave us for so many sins, how can we be unforgiving to another person who has only done a few things to us.

40. Read Matthew 18:21-35 and write from where we are told to forgive others.

41. Explain why Christians should forgive our brother and sisters in Christ even if they have done many things against us.

42. Explain what you can do to help another person know that you have forgiven that person.

Now, re-read Matthew 17:1-18:35 and write the three most important lessons you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 14
Matthew 19:1-30

In our study today, we will see Christ teaching about four very important things. First, we see the teaching of Christ about divorce and remarriage. The Pharisees were continually testing Christ in an effort to trap Him. As a result, this time they tried to trap Him with questions about divorce and remarriage. Next we see the teaching of Christ about children. Then, a rich young man came to Christ and wanted to know how to have eternal life. Christ used that opportunity to teach about the danger of riches. In the final part of the chapter, Christ teaches about the rewards for those who choose to obey Christ and follow Him.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Christ taught about divorce and remarriage.
- Tell what Christ said about children.
- Explain why the rich young ruler did not follow Christ.
- Explain what the future rewards of the Christians will be.

In Matthew 19:1-12, the Pharisees came to Christ with a question about divorce. They were using this question to try and tick Christ. They asked if it was all right to divorce a wife for every reason. In the time of Christ divorce had become very common just as it is today in many countries. Men were quick to divorce their wife if they became unhappy with a wife. A man would divorce her and marry someone else. That same pattern has become true in the lives of many people today. In answer to the question of the Pharisees, Christ spoke to them about the first marriage in the Bible.

1. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and write what happens when two people are married.
2. Explain why the Pharisees used their question about divorce and remarriage to try and trap Christ.
3. Explain why you think that the Pharisees wanted an excuse to divorce a wife for any reason.

When a couple is married, God seals that marriage and they become one. When God joins a couple together, they are to be one as long as they are both alive. When God brought Adam and Eve together, He said that a man was to leave his father and mother even though Adam and Eve did not even have a father or mother. God said that a man was to become one with his wife. God said that He is the One that joins a couple together and no man is to separate what God has joined together. In the Old Testament, God only allowed the Jews to divorce their wives because they were hard hearted and refused to obey the commandments of God. However, that was not what God wanted. Christ only allowed one reason for divorce.

4. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and write the one reason Christ allowed for divorce.
5. Explain why Christ made it very clear that the plan of God is for a couple to be married to one another as long as they are both alive.
6. Explain why you think that Christ says that divorce actually shows the hardness of the heart of a person.

The only reason Christ allowed for divorce was unfaithfulness in marriage. In the Old Testament anyone who was unfaithful in marriage and had sexual relationships outside of marriage was stoned to death. Then, the innocent partner was free to marry someone else because the first partner was dead. Since they no longer stoned the guilty partner to death, Christ said that a sexual relationship outside of marriage was the one allowable reason for divorce. However, even that does not require divorce. In such situations, the desire of Christ is forgiveness. The true marriage relationship had been broken when one of the partners committed adultery. The innocent person does not have to divorce the guilty person, but Christ

does allow divorce for this reason.

7. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and write what happens when a couple divorces and remarries for any other reason.
8. Explain why the statement of Christ allows divorce and remarriage but does not require divorce.
9. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to ask Christ for strength to forgive an unfaithful partner rather than divorcing the partner.

Many people ask the question if it is all right for a person to remarry when the partner is guilty of adultery. A careful study of verse 9 shows that the one reason given for divorce also applies to remarriage. When one partner commits adultery, the other partner is allowed to divorce and remarry another person. However, this is the only reason given for divorce and remarriage. A divorce even for that reason will have many serious consequences so the faithful partner should make every effort to restore the marriage through forgiveness and reconciliation. Such a marriage will often limit the service of that person for Christ.

10. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and write what the disciples said would be good for a man.
11. Explain in your own words what Christ teaches about divorce and remarriage.
12. Explain some of the consequences that you have seen in the lives of couples and their families that choose to divorce.

In Matthew 19:10-12, Christ talks about those who are not able to have children (eunuchs). Three reasons are given. Some men have something physically wrong with them when they are born that so they cannot have children. In that time other men made some men eunuchs so they could not have children. This was usually done when a man worked as a slave in the house of a king. Then, there are some men who have found they can serve the Lord better if they choose not to get married. Paul was one who never married. Instead, he gave all of his time to serving God. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7 that is a choice that a person can make.

13. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and write the three reasons men are eunuchs and not able to have children.
14. Explain why some people like Paul might choose not to get married so that they can use all of their time to serve the Lord.
15. Explain why you think that each person needs to ask God for wisdom about whether to marry or not.

In Matthew 19:13-15, Christ teaches about little children. Some parents brought their children to Christ so He could put His hands on them and pray. The verse says that these were little children or infants. These parents must have been parents that were concerned about their children and wanted to dedicate them to Christ. They wanted Christ to put His hands on the children and pray for the children. This is the purpose of baby dedication in many churches. The parents are concerned about their children and are promising that they will teach and train their children to love and serve Christ as their children grow.

16. Read Matthew 19:13-15 and write what the disciples did when the parents tried to bring their children to Christ.
17. Explain why these parents showed by their example that they had a great concern for their children.
18. Explain why you think that these parents wanted Christ to place His hands on the children and pray for them.

The disciples told the parents not to bother Christ with their children because He was busy. Christ shows us that the disciples had the wrong priorities. Many times Christians are too busy to do what Christ really wants done. This was true of the disciples. They did not realize the great importance that Christ placed on children. Today, many adults also show little or no concern for the spiritual development of young children. However, Christ showed that He is

concerned about the children. He had the parents bring the children to Him.

19. Read Matthew 19:13-15 and write what Christ said about the little children that were brought to Him.

20. Explain why Christ showed by His example that the spiritual development of even very young children is important.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your life to include time to minister to the spiritual needs of children.

in these verses, we see that the disciples were not concerned about the needs of others and especially the needs of children. Sometimes we are like the disciples. We are so busy with our own plans that we forget to seek the will of Christ. Here, we see the importance of seeking the will of Christ for our lives moment by moment. Only as we seek the will of Christ will we be sensitive to the spiritual needs of others. In this case the disciples missed the opportunity to minister both to the parents and to the children. We will also miss many opportunities to minister to people if we are not continually seeking the will of the Lord for our lives.

22. Read Matthew 19:13-15 and write what Christ did when the children were brought to Him.

23. Explain why it is important for all Christians to be seeking the will of the Lord at all times and not just following their own plans.

24. Explain what lessons you can learn for your own life and ministry from these verses.

In Matthew 19:16-26, Christ teaches about the danger of riches. A rich young man came to Christ and wanted to know what works he could do to earn eternal life. He had a right attitude toward Christ. He had lived a good life. Another Gospel tells us that he came running to Christ. However, he wanted to know what he could do to get to heaven instead of turning the control of his life over to Christ. He is like many people today who think they can work their way to heaven instead of accepting salvation as a gift. Christ wanted to show the man his sin because the man thought he was good enough to work his way to heaven. Christ told him to obey the commandments. The young man said, "which ones?" Christ named six commandments. These are the six commandments that deal with man's relationship to other people.

25. Read Matthew 19:16-26 and write the six commandments which Christ named.

26. Explain why many people are like this rich young man and think that they can earn their own way to heaven by their works.

27. Explain why you think that Christ began with the commandments that deal with man's relationship to other people and not the commandments that deal with man's relationship with God.

The young man said he had obeyed all of those commandments since he was a child. Christ knew that was not true so He chose the summary of those commandments to show the young man he could not keep the commandments. Christ told the young man if he wanted to be perfect to sell what he had, give the money to the poor and come and follow Him. Immediately the young man was faced with the fact that he did not love his neighbor as he loved himself. He could think that he was obeying the commandments but he did not understand what it meant to actually obey the commandments. Many people are like this young man. They think that they are obeying the commandments because their lives are as good as the lives of their friends and acquaintances.

28. Read Matthew 19:16-26 and write what the young man did when Christ invited the young man to follow Him.

29. Explain why many people think that they are living good lives even when they are committing many sins.

30. Explain why you think that this young man could think that he had obeyed the six commandments mentioned from the time that he was a child.

The young man turned and walked away from Christ. He was rich and his riches were more

important to him than eternal life. Today, many people are more concerned about their money and other possessions than they are about following Christ. This even happens in the lives of many Christians. Some Christians can talk about their money or other possessions for a long time because their focus is on their possessions. They do not talk to others about the importance of following Christ. In fact they often do not even know how to explain to another person how to become a Christian. Their real problem is that they are putting their possessions first instead of following Christ.

31. Read Matthew 19:16-26 and write what Christ said is difficult for a rich man to do.

32. Explain what it means to get rid of anything that hinders a person from coming to Christ and choosing to follow Christ.

33. Explain why you think that many people are so controlled by things that it keeps them from following Christ.

Christ then used this as an opportunity to teach His disciples. Christ told the disciples that it is very difficult for a rich person to enter into heaven. In these verses, Christ also says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter heaven. These verses show us that as long as a person thinks he can do anything to earn his way to heaven, he will refuse to ask God for help. Only when a person finally realizes that his money or anything else will never get him to heaven, is he able to humble himself and ask Christ to forgive his sins. It is impossible for any rich man or any poor man to save himself.

34. Read Matthew 19:16-26 and write what things are possible with God.

35. Explain why Christ taught His disciples that it is very difficult for a rich person to go to heaven.

36. Explain how these verses show you that it is important in your own life to give Christ the control of your life.

Since Christ told the rich man that he would receive a reward if he followed Christ, Peter asked what reward he and the other disciples would receive because they had chosen to follow Christ. Peter wanted to know what the disciples could expect to receive because they had made the choice to follow Christ. Here, Christ uses the opportunity to help the disciples begin to understand spiritual rewards and not just worldly rewards. Today, Christians also need to learn to understand spiritual rewards. Christ promised the disciples a special reward and then also told the disciples that there would be a reward for every Christian who followed Him.

37. Read Matthew 19:27-30 and write the reward promised to the twelve disciples.

38. Explain why it is important for Christians to seek spiritual rewards and not just the rewards of this world.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that Christ will give you rewards also.

Christ gave two promises for every Christian who would forsake the things of this world and follow him. For those who gave Christ complete control of their possessions and family, Christ promises to give one hundred times as much in heaven. When you are willing to give Christ control of everything you possess, you are ready to begin an exciting life. Then, no matter what happens, you never lose anything because everything belongs to Christ instead of you. When we put the Lord in control of our lives, we will have eternal rewards.

40. Read Matthew 19:27-30 and write the second thing every Christian will inherit.

41. Explain why the most important thing that a person can know is the fact that he or she will inherit everlasting life because that person has repented and placed his or her trust in Christ.

42. Explain why it is important for you to know that the Lord gives spiritual rewards and not just earthly rewards.

Now, re-read Matthew 19:1-30 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 15
Matthew 20:1-34

In our study today, we will see that Christ continues teaching. The time for the death of Christ was getting very close. He had to prepare the disciples for the work He was going to give to them. As a result, He spent much time teaching them. As Christians, we have a great responsibility to teach others so they can carry on the work of the Lord without missing us if something should happen to us suddenly. One of the key things that Christ had to teach His disciples was the fact that worldly leadership and spiritual leadership are two very different things. We will see that spiritual leadership is effective when leaders become servants of all.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the workers.
- Explain what Christ taught about His coming death on the cross.
- Explain how Christ says to become great.
- Explain what happened when Christ met two blind men.

In Matthew 20:1-16, Christ gave the parable of the workers. In the parable, a man went out to look for workers to harvest his vineyard. The first time he went out early in the morning (about six a.m.) and hired a group of men. They agreed to work for a penny (denarius) which was the normal wage for one day of work. The owner went out again at 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. Each time he found a group of men who were not working and he asked them to work in his fields. Each time these men said that they were not working because no one had hired them. He did not tell those men how much he would pay them.

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16 and write how much each man received for working when the owner paid them at the end of the day.
2. Explain why the person hiring workers was willing to continue hiring people even though it was getting late in the day.
3. Explain why you think that this parable shows that Christ wants every Christian to become involved in doing His work.

At the end of the day the owner of the vineyard called all of the men and paid them for their work. The men who had only worked one hour received pay for the whole day. Here, we see that the owner chose to show grace to those who had worked for only a short time by giving them wages for a whole day. This made those who had worked all day angry. They did not think those who had worked only one hour should receive an entire day's pay. Instead of being happy because the other men received a full day's wages so they could care for their families, they complained. As Christians we should be happy when other Christians receive blessings.

4. Read Matthew 20:1-16 and write what the man called one of the men who was complaining.
5. Explain why it was the right of the owner to show grace to those who had worked only a short time and still give them a full day's pay.
6. Explain why you are thankful that Christ wants to reward all Christians regardless of how long they serve Him.

Those who had worked all day expected the owner to pay them more than he had agreed to pay them. They complained when they received the wages that they had been promised. The owner of the vineyard told one of those who complained that he had not done him wrong because he gave the man what he had promised. Even though we as Christians complain, Christ still loves us and calls us His friends. The next time you feel like complaining, ask yourself if Christ complained when He died on the cross for you. If Christ loved you so much that He did not complain, why do you feel that you have a right to complain when you do not

get what you desire? Here, we see that we should realize that we have much for which we should be thankful.

7. Read Matthew 20:1-16 and write what Christ asked about the eye of those who were complaining because the owner had shown kindness.

8. Explain why many people complain because Christ has chosen to show His love to very sinful people and forgive their sins and also give them rewards.

9. Explain why you realize in your own life that it is important to be thankful when you see how the Lord blesses others.

In this parable Christ teaches us a very important lesson. Some people can preach to large crowds while others can only talk to one person at a time. The reason for this is due to the fact that God gives different people different gifts and abilities. The thing that God want is for us to be faithful in serving Him with the gifts and abilities which He has given us. A man who is faithful in using the gifts that God has given him will be rewarded for being faithful. A Christian who has many gifts and abilities but is not faithful in using them for the Lord will barely get into heaven. Here, we see that Christ will reward Christians for faithful service even though different people will accomplish different amounts of work for the Lord.

10. Read Matthew 20:1-16 and write what Christ said about those who are called.

11. Explain why Christ wants all Christians to know that they can receive rewards even if they became Christians late in life.

12. Explain why it is important for you in your life to know that you are being faithful to the Lord as you serve Him.

Jesus and the disciples were traveling toward Jerusalem. Christ knew that He would soon be crucified and put to death. As a result, Christ talked again about His coming death and resurrection to the disciples. He told them the religious leaders of the Jews would condemn Him to death. Then, Christ told the disciples for the first time the Gentiles (all those who are not Jews) would also help put Him to death. Every man is a sinner whether he is a Jew or a Gentile. Christ died for all men and here we see that all men had a part in putting Christ to death. Christ showed that all are guilty so that He could show mercy to all.

13. Read Matthew 20:17-19 and write the three things it says the Gentiles would do to Christ.

14. Explain why it was important for the disciples to be told in advance about the death and resurrection of Christ.

15. Explain how this passage shows that Christ chose to show mercy to all people.

Christ said that the chief priests and scribes would condemn him. Then, He said they would deliver Him to the Gentiles. The first thing the Gentiles did to Christ was mock Him. This means they called Christ names, spit on Him, hit Him on the face and put a crown of thorns on His head. The second thing the Gentiles did was scourge Christ. The soldiers made a scourge (whip) of leather and tied pieces of sharp metal to the ends of the leather strips. Then, they beat Christ across the back with this whip. By the time they got done, Christ was so severely beaten that it was hard to recognize Him. Finally, the Gentiles crucified Christ on a cross. However, Christ did not stay dead.

16. Read Matthew 20:17-19 and write what Christ said would happen after three days.

17. Explain why it was important for the disciples to know in advance what the Gentiles would do to Christ.

18. Explain why you are thankful that Christ chose to suffer in your place for your sin.

Some people have been able to tell about when they would die. However, Christ is the only one who has ever been able to tell when He would come back to life. This is one of the great proofs that Christ is God. He is the only one that has power over death. By telling the time that He would rise from the dead, He was also showing He knew all things. It was important for the disciples to know that Christ had predicted that He would rise from the dead on the third day

even though they did not understand it at that time. They remembered what Christ had said after He rose from the dead.

19. Read Matthew 20:17-19 and write where Christ told His disciples about His coming death and resurrection.

20. Explain why it is important that Christ told about His own death and resurrection before it even happened.

21. Explain why you think it was important that the disciples heard about the resurrection before it happened even though they did not understand until after it happened.

In Matthew 20:20-28, Christ told about the right way to be great. The mother of James and John came to Christ and said that she had a special request. Christ asked what she wanted. She said she wanted to know if her two sons, James and John, could sit on the two sides of Christ when He became a king. This is a picture of the way that people in the world think. They think that if they can tell others what to do that they are important. However, we will see that Christ says that is the wrong way to try to become important in His kingdom.

22. Read Matthew 20:20-28 and write what James and John said when Christ asked if they were able to suffer what He would suffer.

23. Explain why leaders in the world think about how they can gain power and position and exercise authority over others..

24. Explain why you think that the disciples were still thinking this way even though they had been following Christ for most of His ministry.

James and John did not realize how much Christ would suffer. When they said they were able to drink the cup He drank and be baptized with the baptism He received, they did not realize that He was talking about His suffering and death. Christ told that they would suffer for Him in the future. However, Christ said that He was not the One that was going to choose who would sit on His right hand and left hand. Christ said that the Father would make that decision. In another passage Christ said that He always did the will of the Father. Here, we see that Christ chose to submit to the will of the Father even though the Father and Christ are equal.

25. Read Matthew 20:20-28 and write how the other disciples felt when they heard the request of James and John.

26. Explain why Christ warned James and John that they would suffer in the future.

27. Explain why you think that Christ chose to submit to the will of the Father even though the Father and Christ are equal.

The other ten disciples were very upset when they heard the request. This shows that they were thinking the same way. The other disciples were angry because they wanted the positions for which James and John asked. They thought James and John were not fair when they had their mother ask Christ. Their mother was possibly a sister of the mother of Christ. The other disciples were afraid Christ might listen to her and not give them an opportunity to get the important places. We see that all of the disciples needed to learn a lesson. Christ said that was the style of leadership among the Gentiles. He said that is not the way that a person becomes a spiritual leader.

28. Read Matthew 20:20-28 and write what Christ said a person must become in order to be chief.

29. Explain why leaders among those who are not Christians like to exercise authority over others.

30. Explain why you think that Christ says that spiritual leadership is different than worldly leadership.

If we want to become important in the eyes of Christ, we must forget about ourselves and serve others. This is the responsibility of every Christian. As we minister to other Christians and forget about our own desires, then Christ sees us as being important. If you want to be

important, serve others. Christ served others and also gave His life for others. Christ said that spiritual leaders are to become the bondservants of all. Worldly leaders become great by telling people what to do. Godly leaders become great by following the example of Christ and showing others by their example how to serve Christ. They choose to equip others to use the spiritual gifts that Christ has given each Christian. They serve others and equip them to bring glory to Christ instead of bringing glory to themselves.

31. Read Matthew 20:20-28 and write what Christ said that He came to do.

32. Explain what these verses teach about the differences between worldly leadership and spiritual leadership.

33. Explain why it is important for you to show others by your example how to serve Christ instead of telling others how to serve you and make you successful.

In Matthew 20:29-34, Christ healed two blind men. A great crowd of people was following Christ as He left the city of Jericho and started up the road toward Jerusalem. Two blind men were sitting by the side of the road. When they heard Christ was going by them on the road, they began to shout asking Him to help them. The people told the men to keep quiet. Here, again, we see that many people are not concerned about people who have a need. However, the men shouted louder and so Christ asked what they wanted.

34. Read Matthew 20:29-34 and write what they asked Christ to do for them.

35. Explain why the people in the crowd showed that they had no concern for the two blind men.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to see the needs of people around you and bring them to Christ so that He can meet their needs.

The two men realized that Christ was God and He could open their eyes. They asked Christ to show mercy to them. They recognized Christ as Lord. They had also learned that He was a descendent of David. That meant that Christ could fulfill the promises that had been given to David about the One who could come from His family. Christ touched their eyes and they were immediately opened. Here, we see another important lesson. When Christ healed the two men, their eyes received sight. Here, Christ was healing physical blindness. When people become Christians, Christ heals their spiritual blindness. Then, they are able to understand the Word of God.

37. Read Matthew 20:29-34 and write what the men did when Christ healed them.

38. Explain why these verses show that these men had an understanding of the promises in the Old Testament that had been made to David.

39. Explain why you are thankful that Christ is also able to heal the spiritual blindness of all those that place their trust in Him.

Christ saw the needs of these men. Christ chose to show compassion to them. As we have gone through the book of Matthew we have seen several times that Christ saw the needs of people and chose to have compassion on them. In the same way, we need to pray and ask Christ to give us compassion for the people that we see around us. Most of the people around us are spiritually blind. They need to receive spiritual sight. These men were changed two ways. Now, they could see. However, they were also changed on the inside. They trusted Christ and followed Him. They had recognized Him as Lord and they chose to follow Him. We also want to help people recognize that Christ is Lord so that they can choose to follow Him.

40. Read Matthew 20:29-34 and write how Christ healed the eyes of the two blind men.

41. Explain why it is important for Christians to have compassion for all those who are spiritually blind.

42. Explain why you think that these two men were anxious to follow Christ.

Now, reread Matthew 20:1-34 and write the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 16
Matthew 21:1-46

Today, we are beginning a study of the week just before the death of Christ. Many important things happened. The religious leaders tried again to trick Christ and find something wrong with Him. Christ told about the judgment the Pharisees would receive. The disciples asked Christ about what would happen in the future. In two future lessons we will be studying the things Christ said would happen in the future. During our study today we will study about Christ coming into Jerusalem on a donkey. We will also read about Christ chasing the moneychangers out of the temple. Then, we will study some parables that Christ spoke to teach about the religious leaders.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objective to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell why Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Explain why Christ chased the moneychangers out of the temple.
- Explain why Christ cursed the fig tree.
- Explain the parable of the man who planted a vineyard (field of grapes).

In Matthew 21:1-11, we read about Christ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Christ sent two disciples to get the donkey. He told them exactly what would happen when they untied the donkey. He said that the owner would give them permission to take the donkey. During the time of Christ, it was common for a king to ride into a city on a beautiful horse. Here, we see that Christ rode into Jerusalem on a colt that had never been ridden before. Normally an animal that has never been ridden before is very difficult to control. Here, we see that this donkey submitted to Christ and did not act like a donkey that had never been ridden.

1. Read Matthew 21:1-11 and write why Christ rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey.
2. Explain what the two disciples learned from the fact that Christ told them exactly what would happen when they went to get the donkey.
3. Explain why you think that Christ chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a beautiful horse.

As Christ rode into Jerusalem on the colt, the people went ahead of Him and laid their coats on the road or cut branches off the palm trees and laid them on the road. They also shouted Hosanna which means "Save now." The people who believed God were looking for a king who would save them. This group of people realized Christ came from God. However, there were others that did not recognize Christ. In fact many of the people in the city responded by asking who Christ was. During the Feast of the Passover, Jews from many different places would come to Jerusalem. Some of these people had heard very little about Christ. However, we see that the entire city was moved because they recognized that something unusual was happening.

4. Read Matthew 21:1-11 and write who the crowd said that Christ was.
5. Explain why Christ chose to ride into Jerusalem on a colt.
6. Explain why you think that the whole city was moved when Christ rode into the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus went into the temple in Jerusalem. Inside He found men selling sheep and birds for sacrifices. Other men were changing money for people from different countries. The priest in charge of the temple was getting rich by selling these animals and changing the money. He did not care about obeying God. All he wanted to do was get rich. Christ immediately began to chase out those who were buying and selling. He turned over the table of the moneychangers. He chased out those who were selling birds. The real purpose of the temple was to be a place of prayer. It was to be a place where people from every nation could feel free to pray.

7. Read Matthew 21:12-17 and write what Christ said they had made the temple.
8. Explain why Christ was so upset to see the people exchanging money and buying and selling in the temple.
9. Explain why you think that Christ said that the temple was to be a place of prayer for all nations.

Christ said that the people had made the temple a den of thieves. Christ also healed many people in the temple. The chief priests were very upset because the people were recognizing Christ as the Son of David. They were even more upset that He had stopped their buying and selling. Today, many churches do many things to raise money instead of showing their love for Christ by giving their gifts to Him. God teaches us in the Bible that a church should be supported by the gifts of the Christians and not by buying and selling in the church. We should want to give to the Lord because we love Him and not because we are buying something. The house of God should be a place for worship and not a store.

10. Read Matthew 21:12-17 and write what Christ answered when the chief priests were upset by what the people were saying.
11. Explain why the chief priests were so upset because of the fact that the people recognized Christ as the Son of David.
12. Explain in your own words how you think the work of the Lord should be supported.

The next morning Christ and the disciples returned to the city of Jerusalem. On the way Christ taught His disciples a lesson from a fig tree. A fig tree is often used to picture the nation of Israel. Christ and the disciples came to a fig tree as they walked toward the city. A fig tree is different from many other trees. It usually starts having fruit as soon as the leaves come out in the spring. However, when Christ and His disciples came to this fig tree, they found only leaves and no figs. Since the tree had no figs, Christ used it to teach His disciples a lesson. Christ said the tree would never again have any figs.

13. Read Matthew 12:18-22 and write what happened to the fig tree.
14. Explain why Christ said that this particular fig tree would never have fruit.
15. Explain what lesson you think Christ was trying to teach the disciples when he judged the fig tree.

In just a short time the fig tree dried up and died. It was condemned because it did not have any fruit. This was a warning of judgment to Israel. As Christians we are also commanded to bear fruit for Christ. We may work hard and do all kinds of activities for the church. However, those activities may keep us from bearing fruit. We can become so busy that we have not time to go to those who do not know about Christ and explain to them how to become Christians. We are so busy making the leaves (activities) look beautiful that we do not have time to bear fruit (lead others to Christ). When this happens, we have failed. Christ also used the fig tree to teach His disciples a lesson about faith. He said they could do greater things than condemn a fig tree if they had faith.

16. Read Matthew 21:18-22 and write the thing that Christ said the disciples could move if they had faith.
17. Explain why it is very easy for Christians to substitute busyness for fruitfulness in their lives.
18. Explain why it is important for you to bear fruit for Christ as you serve Him.

The disciples were amazed when they saw the fig tree wither away. Christ told the disciples that they could do greater things if they had faith. In these verses, Christ told the disciples that the reason their prayers were not answered was due to the fact that they did not believe God would answer them. Many times we also lack faith and fail to believe the promises of God. Nothing is impossible for God. We limit His work when we refuse to believe He will answer our prayers. God promises that all things we ask in prayer believing, we will receive. God does

not make any exceptions but promises that all our prayers will be answered if we believe.

19. Read Matthew 21:18-22 and write where Christ told the disciples they could move a mountain if they had faith.
20. Explain why Christians often limit the work of the Lord in their lives and through their lives because they do not believe that the Lord can work through them.
21. Explain what verse 22 means to you in your own life.

The Jewish religious leaders were not happy when Jesus stopped them from selling in the temple. As a result, the next day they asked Christ who gave Him the authority to do the things that He was doing. The religious leaders were very upset because Jesus taught the people. Today, there are some just like the Jewish religious leaders who think they can tell others not to teach or preach. When we become Christians, we are called priests of God. We are given the privilege of speaking for the Lord and teaching others. No man can stop us. Christ showed the religious leaders they could not stop Him by asking them a question. He said He would tell them who gave Him the right to teach if they would answer one question.

22. Read Matthew 21:23-32 and write the question which Jesus asked.
23. Explain why the religious leaders tried to question who gave Christ the authority to teach the people.
24. Explain why you realize that it is a very great privilege that Christ has given all Christians the privilege to teach others what they have learned about Christ.

Christ asked the religious leaders if the baptism of John the Baptist was from heaven or if his baptism was from men. When Christ asked the religious leaders if John the Baptist was given the right to baptize by God or by his own decision, the leaders could not answer. They knew that if they said God gave him the right to baptize that Christ would ask them why they did not believe the message of John. However, if they said John made his own decision to baptize, the people might kill them because the people realized that John was a prophet from God. As a result the religious leaders refused to answer the question of Christ.

25. Read Matthew 21:23-32 and write what Christ answered when the religious leaders refused to answer His question.
26. Explain why Christ chose to tell the religious leaders that He would only answer their question if they answered His question.
27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about teaching others by the fact that Christ often answered a question with a question.

Christ forced the religious leaders to think when He asked His question. They realized that they would condemn themselves if they answered the question of Christ. After Christ told the religious leaders that He would not tell them who gave Him the right to teach, He spoke three parables to show the leaders what they were like. We will study the first two parables today and the third parable in the next chapter. The first parable is about two sons. A father asked the first son to work in his field. The son refused. However, later he repented and went out into the field and worked. The father also asked the second son to go and work in his field. The second son said, "I go, sir." He sounded like a very obedient son.

28. Read Matthew 21:23-32 and write what he did.
29. Explain why Christ chose to use parables to explain what the religious leaders were really like.
30. Explain why you think that many people are like the second son and promise to serve the Lord but fail to serve Him.

One son refused to work and later repented and went to work. The second son said he would work but never did. Christ asked the religious leaders which of the two sons really obeyed the father. The religious leaders said the first son was the one who really obeyed. It was not until Christ explained the parable that the religious leaders realized they had just condemned

themselves. They claimed to serve God but they rejected those that God sent to speak them. In contrast the tax collectors and prostitutes listened to the message of repentance and repented of their sin. Christ told them the crooked tax collectors and prostitutes would go to heaven instead of the religious leaders.

31. Read Matthew 21:23-32 and write what the religious leaders had done when John the Baptist preached to them.

32. Explain why the religious leaders claimed to believe in God while at the same time rejected those that God sent to them.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to obey Christ and not just to talk about obeying Him.

The sinful people listened to the message of John the Baptist and turned from their sins. As a result they had eternal life. The religious leaders were very religious but did not turn from their sins. As a result they will not get to heaven. In this parable we see that the important thing to do is obey the Word of God. Then, God will forgive our sins. The second parable was a parable about the man who had a vineyard (field of grapes). He planted the field and got everything prepared for harvest. Then, the man left some other men to take care of the vineyard while he went on a trip. When the grapes were ready to pick, he sent his servants to get the fruit. However, the men taking care of the field did not give the grapes to the servants.

34. Read Matthew 21:33-46 and write what the men did to the first three servants who came to receive the harvest.

35. Explain why it is important in this parable to understand that God is the owner that planted the vineyard.

36. Explain why you think that many people have rejected the messengers that God has sent to them.

When the owner of the field heard what happened, he sent more servants. The men did the same thing to them. Finally, the owner sent his own son. Then, the men killed the son of the owner. Christ asked the religious leaders what they thought the owner would do to the men when he returned. The priests and Pharisees immediately said the owner would kill the evil men and give the land to other men. In a few minutes they realized they had condemned themselves again. They had hurt and killed the prophets of God. Already they were planning to kill Christ, the Son of God. Christ told them that the kingdom of God would be taken away from them as they said.

37. Read Matthew 21:33-46 and write to whom the kingdom of God would be given.

38. Explain why the priests and Pharisees did not realize at first that they were condemning themselves.

39. Explain why you think that the religious leaders continued with their plans to kill Christ even after they heard this parable.

Because the Jewish religious leaders refused to follow God, He set them aside and now gives His blessing to the church. The church is the nation that now has the opportunity to harvest the fruit for Christ. Romans 9-11 tells us that one day the Jews will be returned to the place of blessing. As a result, we as Christians must gather Christ's harvest now while we have the opportunity. We are not just to talk about the harvest of Christ. Instead, we are to be obedient and gather the harvest as Christ has commanded us. This is the way that we can make our lives have an impact for eternity.

40. Read what the religious leaders tried to do when they recognized that Christ had been speaking about them.

41. Explain why Christians are to be obedient to Christ and gather His harvest by sharing the message of repentance and faith.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be faithful in telling others how to receive forgiveness of sin.

Now, re-read Matthew 21:1-46 and write down the three most important lessons you have learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 17
Matthew 22:1-46

Today, we will be studying about the last attempt of the religious leaders to try and trick Christ so they could say He was wrong. We will also study the third parable that Christ spoke about the priests and Pharisees. In this parable, Christ again points out that the leaders have been given the opportunity to receive eternal life but they have refused the offer. Then, we will see that various groups of leaders try to trap Christ with questions. The Herodians were the first group to try to trap Christ. Then, the Sadducees told their turn. Finally, the Pharisees tried to trap Christ. Then, Christ asked the Pharisees a question.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the wedding.
- Explain the teaching about the guest without a wedding garment.
- Explain what Christ teaches about marriage in heaven.
- Explain how Christ stopped the questions of the religious leaders.

In Matthew 22:1-14, we have the parable of the wedding. In this parable, a king had a wedding for his son and invited many people to the wedding. On the day of the wedding, the king sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the wedding. All of the people had excuses for not coming to the wedding. Some of the people even killed the servants who brought the invitation. The king was angry and sent his army to kill all those who refused to come to the wedding. The people who refused to come to the wedding are a picture of the religious leaders who refused to believe Christ. However, the king still needed guests for the wedding.

1. Read Matthew 22:1-14 and write where the servants found guests for the wedding.
2. Explain how the religious leaders of Israel rejected the invitation of the God to share in His blessings.
3. Explain why you think that the Jewish religious leaders rejected Christ even though He offered them forgiveness of sins.

When the servants went to the highways to find guests for the wedding, they invited everyone to come whether they were good or bad. We see that the king wanted his wedding feast filled with people. He was going to fill the wedding with guests even though those who were invited refused to come. Today, Christ offers eternal life to everyone who will believe. It does not matter how sinful a person has been, Christ still offers eternal life. The king told the servants to invite everyone they found. Christ tells us to bring the Gospel to every person in the world. We see that Christ wants everyone to hear how to have their sin forgiven.

4. Read Matthew 22:1-14 and write what one of the guests did not have.
5. Explain why this parable shows that it is the desire of God to fill heaven with people regardless of their background.
6. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to be an obedient servant of Christ by telling others how to receive forgiveness of sins.

During the time of Christ everyone who came to a wedding had to wear white wedding clothes. The man in charge of the wedding gave these clothes to each person who came to the wedding. In the same way, when we repent and ask Christ to forgive our sins, Christ also clothes us with His righteousness. One man at the wedding did not have the wedding clothes. This is a picture of a man who pretends to be a Christian but never asks Christ to forgive his sins. There are people like this in many churches today. In fact, other people many even think that these people are Christians. However, when the day of judgment comes, they will be judged.

7. Read Matthew 22:1-14 and write what happened to this man.

8. Explain why to be a Christian a person must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and not with his own efforts to be right with God.
9. Explain why you are thankful that Christ placed His righteousness on you at the moment that you repented of your sin.

People were gathered for the wedding. They were offered the clothing for the wedding. However, they had to choose whether to put on that wedding clothing. When the man without the wedding clothes was caught, he was unable to speak a word because he knew he had done wrong. Many people think they are good enough to earn their way to heaven. However, when they stand before God to be judged they will not be able to say a word because they will realize how sinful they are. The judgment for sinners will be terrible. They will be cast into outer darkness where they will suffer forever.

10. Read Matthew 22:1-14 and write what there will be when people are cast into the outer darkness.
11. Explain why many people reject the righteousness of Christ and try to depend on their own good works to be right with God.
12. Explain why it is important to you to help people understand they must accept Christ and His righteousness and not depend on their own efforts.

In the rest of this chapter we see that the Jewish leaders try to trick Christ again so that they can have a reason to put Him in jail or kill him. In Matthew 22:15-22, the Pharisees and the Herodians worked together to try and trick Christ. As you remember from an earlier lesson, we said that the Pharisees were religious leaders who were trying to earn their way to heaven by keeping the law. The Herodians were a political party who supported the Roman government that had captured the Jews. Usually the Pharisees and the Herodians did not work together. However, this time the two groups came together because they thought they had a perfect way to trick Christ.

13. Read Matthew 22:15-22 and write the question that they asked Christ.
14. Explain why groups that normally opposed each other like the Pharisees and Herodians would work together to try and trap Christ.
15. Explain why you think that groups that reject Christ will work together to oppose Christ.

The leaders thought they would have a charge against Christ regardless of the way He answered the question. By coming together the two groups thought that they had the perfect trap for Christ. If Christ said they could pay taxes to the Roman government, then the Pharisees would say that He was following the Roman emperor and had no right to be called Christ. If Christ said they should not pay taxes to the Roman government, then the Herodians would put Him in jail for teaching the people to disobey the government. Here, we see that the goal of both groups was to trap Christ and have an excuse to condemn Him to death.

16. Read Matthew 22:15-22 and write what Christ asked them to show Him.
17. Explain why the Pharisees and Herodians thought that they had the perfect trap for Christ.
18. Explain why it is important to you in your life to ask Christ for wisdom when people ask you questions so that you will answer wisely.

The people immediately brought Christ a Roman penny. On the penny was a picture of Caesar. Then, Christ answered, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God. We are not to obey just God or just the government. We are to obey God and also the government. Many Christians are not giving to God what belongs to Him. Some Christians do not give to their government the things that belong to the government. Both groups are disobeying the direct command of Christ. The two groups were amazed by the answer of Christ.

19. Read Matthew 22:15-22 and write what the two groups did when they heard the answer of Christ.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the responsibility of Christians both to God and to their government.
21. Explain why you think it is important in your own life to realize that you are to be obedient to God by submitting to your government.

The Roman government was a very evil government in many ways. Many of its governors would put an innocent person to death to protect themselves. The death of Christ is a good example. In contrast to Christ, almost all of the tax collectors were thieves. Later the Roman government killed the Christians for almost 300 years. In some ways the Roman government was even worse than many of the evil governments that have existed during the last one hundred years. Yet Christ told the people to obey the Roman government. God can use even the worst government to discipline and strengthen the Christians. Our responsibility is not to oppose a government but obey it.

22. Read Matthew 22:15-22 and write what Christ told these two groups that they were.
23. Explain in what ways God can use even a very evil government to strengthen Christians.
24. Explain what Christ taught about your responsibility to your government in His answer.

When the Sadducees heard that the Herodians and Pharisees had failed to trick Christ, they decided it was their turn to trap Him. As you remember from an earlier lesson, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. Although they did not believe in the resurrection, the Sadducees asked Christ a question about the resurrection. They said that they had known seven brothers. The oldest brother married a wife and died before any children were born. Then, the second brother married the same woman but died before any children were born. The third brother married the woman and he also died without children. This continued until all seven died and then the woman also died.

25. Read Matthew 22:23-33 and write the question that the Sadducees asked Christ.
26. Explain why the Sadducees were eager to try and trap Christ when they heard that the Herodians and Pharisees had failed to trap Christ.
27. Explain why you think that the fact that the Sadducees asked this question even though they did not believe in the resurrection shows their great desire to trap Christ.

Christ immediately answered the question by showing the Sadducees that they had made three mistakes. Their first mistake was to err or deceive themselves. People always choose to deceive themselves when they make the choice not to believe in the resurrection. Second, they did not know the Word of God. When people do not know the Word of God, they will depend on their own opinions. Third, they refused to believe in the power of God. When people reject the power of God, they have to depend on their own wisdom and so they cannot understand the work of God. When people refuse to believe God and His Word, these three mistakes will always happen. Since the Sadducees did not know the Word of God, they did not know what it taught about the resurrection.

28. Read Matthew 22:23-33 and write what we will be like in heaven.
29. Explain why people can actually deceive themselves by believing their own opinions.
30. Explain what the Sadducees show about the results of unbelief in the life of any person.

In addition to not knowing the Bible, the Sadducees also did not know that God is the God of the living and not the God of the dead. The Sadducees did not have eternal life because they refused to accept the promises of God in His Word. Today, we have many people who are like the Sadducees. They refuse to believe the Word of God is true. As a result they have no hope in the resurrection. However, we serve a living God who gives us life that lasts forever. The Sadducees did not accept the fact that God is the God of the living. As a result, their beliefs left them with no hope for the future.

31. Read Matthew 22:23-33 and write how the multitude felt when they heard Christ answer the Sadducees.

32. Explain why the fact that God is the God of the living gives all Christians a great source of hope as they think about the future.
33. Explain in your own words what Christ meant when he said, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

When the Pharisees heard that the Sadducees had failed to trick Christ, the Pharisees decided to try again. This time they had one of the men who was a lawyer question Christ. He said, Master what is the great commandment in the law? The Pharisees thought they could get Christ into an argument about which of the commandments is the most important. This is a trick that those who refuse to believe in Christ will often use. They will only ask questions so that they can start an argument. Their purpose is not to obey Christ but instead their goal is to cause others to argue.

34. Read Matthew 22:34-46 and write what Christ said were the two greatest commandments.
35. Explain why people who reject Christ often want to try and get into an argument with Christians.
36. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to realize that some people that reject Christ may try to get you into an argument or debate.

Instead of saying that only one law was important, Christ said that all of the laws are important. They are all summarized by one commandment that has two parts. If you love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind, you will obey all of the laws which tell you how to act toward God. If you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself, you will obey all the laws that tell you how to act toward your neighbor. If we love the Lord with our whole heart then we will love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We will not need to worry about which law is most important because we will not be interested in breaking any of the laws. Instead, we will love others and serve them instead of trying to take advantage of them.

37. Read Matthew 22:34-46 and write the two questions that Christ asked the Pharisees after he answered their question.
38. Explain what it means to love the Lord with the whole heart, soul and mind.
39. Explain why loving the Lord with your whole heart will also cause you to love your neighbor as yourself.

Christ then asked the Pharisees almost the same question that He had asked the disciples earlier. The Pharisees quickly said that Christ was the son of David. Then, Christ quoted from Psalm 110:1 where David called Christ, Lord. When David called Christ, Lord, David was telling everyone that Christ was greater than he. Christ then asked the Pharisees to explain what David meant. Suddenly, the Pharisees realized that they were the ones that were trapped. The only way they could answer Christ was to admit that Christ was God. This is the last time that the Pharisees asked Christ any questions. They were afraid to ask Christ any more questions because they did not want to admit that He was God.

40. Read Matthew 22:34-46 and write whether any of the Pharisees answered Christ.
41. Explain why the Pharisees were afraid to ask Christ any more questions after Christ asked them His question.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ is truly God and can be trusted in all situations..

Now, re-read Matthew 22:1-46 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 18
Matthew 23:1-39

As we have seen in our study of Matthew so far, the leaders and most of the people had refused to believe in Christ. The leaders knew and taught the Old Testament to the people. Their problem was that they did not obey the things that they taught others. In this chapter Christ talked about the results for the people because they refused to believe in Him. Throughout the Bible we see that God promises life for those who believe in Him but judgment of those who refuse to believe. Here, we see a picture of the promised judgment for those who refused to follow Christ. We also see the love that Christ had for the people of the city of Jerusalem.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Christ said about the failure of the leaders.
- Explain what Christ said about coming judgment.
- Explain what Christ said about the guilt of all of the people.
- Explain what Christ promises in the future.

In Matthew 23:1-12, we read how the leaders of the people had failed. The leaders knew what was right. In fact, many of the things they taught were right. As a result, Christ told the people to listen to the Pharisees when they taught the Word of God. They were also told to obey the Word of God. However, the Pharisees did not do what they told the rest of the people to do. We will see later in this chapter that Christ calls these people hypocrites because they taught others but did not practice what they taught. Today, we have many people that are just like the Pharisees. They are saying one thing and doing something else. All the things they tell others to do are like a heavy weight. However, they will not even use one finger to help lift that weight.

1. Read Matthew 23:1-12 and write why the Pharisees did all of their works.
2. Explain why it is important for Christians to both hear and obey what the Word of God teaches.
3. Explain why you think that the Pharisees taught the Word of God to others but did not obey what they taught.

Instead of obeying the laws like they were telling the people to do, the religious leaders spent all of their time doing things for men to see. They made fancy boxes and tied them on their arms and forehead. Inside these boxes were pieces of paper with verses from the Old Testament written on them. They wore special borders on the bottom of their clothing so that everyone would know that they were teachers of the Old Testament Law. They wanted to sit in the important places at big suppers. When they walked through the streets, they thought it would be great if all of the people showed respect to them.

4. Read Matthew 23:1-12 and write what Christ said to do to be great.
5. Explain why the scribes and Pharisees wanted to do things that would cause the people to notice them.
6. Explain why you think that these things really showed that the scribes and Pharisees were controlled by pride.

If we try to make ourselves important we will find out that we are worth nothing. If we want to be important we should do as Christ did. He forgot about Himself and served others. He did not try to wear fancy clothes or sit in important places at big dinners. Instead, he sat down and ate with men who were terrible sinners. As He ate with them, He told them how to have eternal life. Here, we see an important lesson for our own lives. If we are going to lead other people to Christ, we must forget about making ourselves important and serve Christ. In fact we are to

- become a servant to all. Then, Christ will honor and reward us when we get to heaven.
7. Read Matthew 23:1-12 and write what Christ said to become if people want to be great.
 8. Explain why Christ said that leaders are not to seek titles like Rabbi, father or master if they want to lead the way Christ wants them to lead.
 9. Explain the lesson that you think Christ was teaching in these verses.

In Matthew 23:13-33, Christ tells what the scribes and Pharisees are like. Seven times, Christ calls them hypocrites. A hypocrite is one who pretends to be something that he is not. These religious leaders were pretending to follow God and at the same time they were planning to kill Christ. By their actions they were refusing to trust in Christ and they were trying to keep all of the other people from trusting Christ also. Beginning with verse 14 Christ tells seven things that the Pharisees were doing wrong. Each one of these things begins with the word, woe (judgment). These judgments begin in the following verses: 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, and 29.

10. Read Matthew 23:13-33 and write the two words that Christ uses to show that the religious leaders are like snakes.
11. Explain why Christ said that the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites.
12. Explain why you think that the religious leaders wanted to keep others from putting their trust in Christ.

The Pharisees would take the houses of widows because the widows owed them some money. Then, the Pharisees would make long prayers for the widows. However, their prayers were only a way to cover up the fact that they were stealing the houses from the widows. Here, we see that they had no compassion for the widows who were unable to protect themselves. The second thing the Pharisees would do was search and find men that they could get to become Pharisees. Their goal was to help them become proud and boastful like themselves. In fact these new Pharisees would be worse than those who were already Pharisees.

13. Read Matthew 23:13-24 and write what Christ called the Pharisees in the third woe.
14. Explain why the Pharisees would work so hard to help even one person become a Pharisee like themselves.
15. Explain why you think that the scribes and Pharisees had no compassion on the widows that were unable to defend themselves.

The Pharisees were blind and lost in their sin. However, they were trying to lead and guide other people. Of course this caused everyone to be lost. They would keep a promise if they swore by the gold in the temple but not if they swore by the temple. They would also swear by other things when they made promises. Some of the promises they would keep and others they would not keep. Christ said they were sinful because they did not keep all of their promises. Christ also said earlier in the book of Matthew that they should not swear at all. Here, we see that the scribes and Pharisees were really trying to deceive the people by their words and actions.

16. Read Matthew 23:13-24 and write what Christ said they swallow in the fourth woe.
17. Explain why Christ warned the scribes and Pharisees that they were blind guides that were leading others to judgment.
18. Explain why you think many people will swear by something when they make a promise even though they do not plan to keep the promise.

The scribes and Pharisees would obey one Old Testament law and give a tithe to God from the spices they grew in their garden. However, they did not obey the Word of God when it talked about justice, mercy and faith. These are the things that change and transform lives. They obeyed the minor laws but did not obey the most important laws. Christ said that was like taking a small bug out of your cup and then swallowing a camel which was the largest animal those men knew. We are to obey all the laws of God. We are not to obey some and forget others. Only when we are obedient to God in all things will we really enjoy our fellowship with

Him.

19. Read Matthew 23:13-24 and write what Christ said about those who swear by heaven.
20. Explain why it is important for Christians to obey all of the commandments of God and not just select those that they want to obey.
21. Explain the most important lesson you have learned from these first four woes.

In the fifth woe Christ tells the Pharisees that they worry so much about keeping the outside clean that they forget to clean up the inside. They were very careful about the way they cleaned their dishes and their clothes so that they would look nice on the outside. Today, many people are like the Pharisees. They are very concerned to make people think that they are good by doing a few things so that people can notice those good things. They think that they can deceive the people just as the Pharisees tried to deceive the people. However, because of stealing and cheating and other sins, their hearts were filled with sin on the inside. The things that are on the inside of our lives are the things that will hurt and destroy us. God told Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7 that man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart.

22. Read Matthew 23:25-33 and write what Christ said the Pharisees were like in the sixth woe.
23. Explain why the Pharisees thought that they could make their lives acceptable to God by cleaning up the outside of their lives.
24. Explain why it is important for you to explain to others that the Lord looks at the heart and not at the outward appearance.

Each year in the spring the people would go around and paint all of the graves white. The Jews said that you would be unclean if you touched a grave. Since the Jews did not want to be unclean, they painted the graves white so they would be easy to see. Christ told the Pharisees that they were like those white graves, beautiful on the outside but full of dead men's bones on the inside. On the outside the Pharisees acted like they were very good people. On the inside they were full of sin. Christ made it very clear that the scribes and Pharisees might be able to deceive some people by painting these graves. However, they could not deceive God because the Lord knows the hearts of people.

25. Read Matthew 23:25-33 and write what the Pharisees built for the prophets.
26. Explain why it is impossible for people to hide their sin by following the traditions of men instead of the commandments of God.
27. Explain what you think Christ meant when He said that the Pharisees were like the whitewashed graves.

The early fathers of the Pharisees killed many of the Old Testament prophets. The early fathers were just like the Pharisees and did not like to hear about their sins. The Pharisees had built beautiful buildings for the graves of the prophets to pretend that they were not like their fathers who killed the prophets. However, Christ said that those tombs only showed that they were the sons of those who killed the prophets. Christ said, "Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers." Here, Christ pointed to the fact that they were going to be just like their fathers and kill Him as the prophets were killed by their fathers. Here, we see a real picture of the fact that a son will often become like his father.

28. Read Matthew 23:25-33 and write what Christ warned the scribes and Pharisees that they would not escape.
29. Explain why we as parents must train our children the right way by giving them a godly example to follow.
30. Explain why you think that Christ said the scribes and Pharisees were as guilty as their fathers who had killed the Old Testament prophets.

In the final statement of Christ to the Pharisees, He told them that they would persecute and kill the disciples just as their fathers had persecuted and killed the prophets. In these verses, Christ calls the disciples prophets, wise men and scribes. They were prophets because they spoke for

God. They were wise men because they chose to follow Christ as the wise men mentioned in Matthew 2 had done. They were scribes and prophets because they would write the New Testament. The fact that the Pharisees would kill Christ and the disciples would make them guilty of killing all the men right with God that were killed in the Old Testament.

31. Read Matthew 23:34-39 and write the names of the two Old Testament men whose death is mentioned.

32. Explain why Christ chose to say that His disciples would become prophets and wise men.

33. Explain why you think that Christ warned the scribes and Pharisees that judgment would come on them.

Christ said that the Pharisees were guilty of the blood of the men who were right with God from Abel to Zechariah. Abel was the first man in the world that was killed. He was killed because God accepted his sacrifice but not the sacrifice of his brother. As a result his brother killed him. According to the way the Jews arranged the books of the Old Testament, Zechariah was the last man who spoke for God that was killed in the Old Testament. He preached to the people about the fact that they had forsaken God. The people did not like his message and so they killed him.

34. Read Matthew 23:34-39 and write where they killed Zechariah.

35. Explain why Christ warned the Pharisees that they would be guilty of the blood of all of the Old Testament prophets.

36. Explain why you think that Christ wanted to make it very clear to the scribes and Pharisees that they were guilty.

Here, we see a real picture of the sin of men. The temple had been built as a place to worship God. The altar was the place where the people brought their sacrifices for their sins. Yet it was between these two places that the Jews killed Zechariah for preaching against their sins. Christ told the leaders of His day that they would be just like their fathers. It was only a few days later that these leaders put Christ to death. However, in verse 36 Christ said that they would be judged for their sin. This happened only 40 years later when the Romans completely destroyed Jerusalem and killed many of the people. Those who do not become Christians will also be judged in hell forever.

37. Read Matthew 23:34-39 and write the name of the city about which Christ expressed His love and concern.

38. Explain why it is important to warn every person about the coming judgment if they do not become Christians.

39. Explain why you think that the religious leaders went ahead with their plans to kill Christ even though He had warned them of coming judgment.

We also see the concern of Christ for the people of Jerusalem. Even though they had killed the prophets that God sent to them, Christ still loved them. He wished that He could gather them around Him like a chicken gathers its chicks under its wings. Here, we see a beautiful picture of the love of Christ. A mother chicken will gather its chicks under its wings whenever it sees any danger. In fact the mother chicken is willing to die if necessary to protect her young. Because the people refused to trust Christ, He said that their house was left desolate and empty. Only a few years later their land, their city and their temple were all destroyed and left empty. It was only a few years ago in 1948 that the Jews finally regained their land. However, one day the Jews will look forward to the return of Christ.

40. Read Matthew 23:34-39 and write whether the people of Jerusalem accepted the protection of Christ.

41. Explain why Christ had such a great love for Jerusalem.

42. Explain why these verses help you to realize that God still loves Jerusalem and will not forget the city.

Now, re-read Matthew 23:1-39 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 19
Matthew 24:1-51

In this lesson, and the next, we will be studying about the things that will happen before Christ comes back to reign as king on the earth. Christ will come back to take the Christians to heaven. Then, there will be seven years of judgment on the earth called the tribulation. During those seven years of tribulation (great suffering and judgment) many Jews and other people who have never heard of Christ will become Christians. Then, Christ will come back to the earth following a great war in which many people will be killed. When Christ begins His rule on the earth, there will not be a single person that remains on the earth that has not trusted in Christ.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the two questions that the disciples asked Christ.
- Explain the main events of the tribulation.
- Explain what will happen to the Jews during the last half of the tribulation.
- Explain why Christ warns the Jews to be ready.

Jesus was in the temple at Jerusalem. As He went out of the temple, some of the disciples came to Christ and showed Him the buildings of the temple. Christ then told them that the temple would be completely destroyed. We read that the disciples asked Christ two questions. These questions are both related to the promise of Christ in Matthew 23:39 where Christ said, "For I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" The Jews as a nation have not yet made this statement and will not make it until Christ comes to set up His kingdom on the earth. As you study chapters 24 and 25, remember that they are all part of the answer to the two questions the disciples asked Christ.

1. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write the first question that the disciples asked Christ.
2. Explain why the disciples began to question Christ when He said that the temple would be destroyed.
3. Explain why you think that the disciples wanted to know what the Lord would do in the future.

The disciples were anxious to know when all the Jews would say, "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord." In the first two verses of chapter 24 Christ had mentioned that the temple would be destroyed. However, Christ does not tell the time when the temple will be destroyed. He began immediately to talk about the time when He would come again. The first thing He says in verse 5 is that many will come saying they are Christ. This did not happen before the temple was destroyed in 70 AD. The reason that Christ began immediately to talk about when He would return to the earth is due to the fact that the second question of the disciples showed the thing they were interested in was the return of Christ.

4. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write the second question that the disciples asked.
5. Explain why Christ immediately began to talk about the time when He would come again to rule on the earth for a thousand years.
6. Explain why you think that many people have questions about what is going to happen in the future.

Because they were all a part of God's chosen people--the Jews--the disciples were anxious to know when Christ would return to the earth to set up His kingdom. The church did not start until the Day of Pentecost. As a result, the disciples did not ask questions about when Christ would return for the church. Their questions were based on the promises from the Old Testament that said that Christ would come to set up His kingdom on the earth. In other

chapters and in these two chapters we see that Christ will set up His kingdom seven years after He takes the Christians to heaven. Chapters 24 and 25 tell what will happen during those seven years. As Christians we can be thankful that we will be taken to heaven before all of these things happen.

7. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write where the Gospel will be preached.

8. Explain why Christians do not need to fear the things that will happen in the future during the period of the tribulation described in these chapters.

9. Explain why you think that Christians need to be telling others that Christ is coming for the church so that others can prepare for His coming.

Beginning in Matthew 24:4 we read about the things that are going to happen during the tribulation. Some of these things are already happening but they will happen much more during the tribulation. There will be many that will come and say that they are Christ. These people will trick many others so that the other people will believe them. There will also be many wars and much talk about wars. However, we are told not to worry when these things begin to happen. As we see these things begin to happen around us we should be happy. We know that the Lord will come soon to take the Christians to heaven before the real tribulation begins.

10. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write whether these things mean the end has come.

11. Explain why we should expect many false christs to claim that they are Christ and try to deceive the people.

12. Explain why you do not need to worry when you hear about wars and talk about wars from different parts of the world.

In addition to false christs and wars, there will also be famine, diseases and earthquakes. Christ said that these things are just the beginning of sorrows. Those who put their trust in Christ during the tribulation will have a very difficult time. During the tribulation they will put the Jews and those who become Christians in jail and will kill many of them. The world will be filled with hate and men will talk against other men. There will be false teachers and prophets who will get many people to follow their false teachings. From the time that Christ went back to heaven, there have been many false teachers. However, there will be many more false teachers during the tribulation.

13. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write what will happen to the love of many.

14. Explain why those who believe in Christ during the tribulation must be prepared for great suffering.

15. Explain why you think that we are already beginning to see a great increase in false teachers in our day.

During the seven years of great suffering, the message of salvation and the message about the coming of Christ to rule on the earth will be preached to the people of all nations. Many of those who had never heard about Christ before Christ took the Christians to heaven will believe during these seven years. However, those who become Christians during that time will have much suffering. This is one reason why we should be so anxious to tell others about Christ right now. Then, they can be in heaven with us instead of suffering here on the earth. Christ told us to preach the Gospel to every person in the world. Most of the people in the world have not heard about Christ yet.

16. Read Matthew 24:1-14 and write why the Gospel is to be preached in all the world.

17. Explain why it is important to witness to others right now before the tribulation begins.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your life to help your relatives and friends understand how to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life right now.

In Matthew 24:15-28, we have the terrible suffering of the Jews during the last half of the tribulation. In the Old Testament, Daniel had predicted that the false christ (the abomination of the desolation) would come into the temple. Daniel said that this would happen at the middle of

the seven year tribulation. Here, we see that Christ warns the Jews to get out of Jerusalem immediately when the false christ sets up this image in the temple in Jerusalem. This false christ will make all the people worship him. Those who refuse will be hurt and killed by the false christ.

19. Read Matthew 24:15-28 and write where Christ tells the Jews in Judea to hide.

20. Explain why it will be necessary for the Jews to flee from Jerusalem immediately when the false christ sets up this image in the temple.

21. Explain why you think Christ warns the Jews to flee immediately when the false christ sets up his image in the temple.

When this false christ comes into the temple, the Jews will have to hide quickly or they will be killed. They will not even have time to go back into their houses to get a few clothes. Then, there will be great suffering and persecution like there has never been before on the earth. In fact Christ will shorten the days for the sake of those who trust in Him. There will be false prophets who will be able to do miracles that seem impossible. Because of these miracles, all of the people who do not trust in Christ will believe these false prophets. Then, the time for Christ to come back to be king on the earth is ready.

22. Read Matthew 24:15-28 and write what the coming of Christ will be like.

23. Explain why it will be necessary for Christ to shorten the days during the tribulation.

24. Explain why you think that false prophets will deceive so many people.

Just at the time when everything looks the worst, then Christ will come. When Christ comes, those who are not Christians will be like a dead animal. God will send His judgment on them just like an eagle or a vulture comes to eat the body of a dead animal. The coming of Christ will be sudden like lightning. It will be too fast for anyone to decide to trust Christ at the last minute. Just like today, a person must prepare now for death. He may die suddenly and then it will be too late to become a Christian.

25. Read Matthew 24:15-28 and write what Christ says the people are to do if someone says that Christ is in the desert.

26. Explain in your own words what the tribulation will be like.

27. Explain why you think that Christ will come suddenly and without warning when He comes back to this earth.

In Matthew 24:29-35, we read about the return of Christ to the earth after the tribulation. At the return of Christ to the earth several things will happen in the sky. The sun will be darkened. This will also mean that the moon cannot give its light because there will be no sun to reflect. Part of the stars will fall from the heavens. The heavens will also be shaken. The people on the earth will see Christ when He comes. All those people who refused to trust in Christ will be judged and taken off the earth.

28. Read Matthew 24:29-41 and write what the Jews (the tribes) will do when they see the sign of Christ.

29. Explain how the return of Christ to the earth will affect all of creation.

30. Explain why you think that the coming of Christ will have such a dramatic effect on both the heavens and the people on the earth.

The Jews will mourn and cry when Christ comes back to be king on the earth. They will be sad because they did not believe Him the first time that He came. They will also cry for joy because Christ has come to be their king on the earth for a thousand years. We also read that all of the other people of the earth will mourn. These will also recognize their failure to trust in Christ. The people on the earth will see Christ coming in the clouds with power and shining greatness. Then, Christ will send His angels to gather His people together.

31. Read Matthew 24:29-41 and write the name of the tree Christ used to give a picture of what His coming would be like.

32. Explain why the people will mourn even though they are filled with joy because of the return of Christ.
33. Explain why you think that Christ will have His angels gather the people together from all of the places that they are scattered.

A fig tree has fruit on it right after it gets its first leaves. As soon as you see leaves on a fig tree, you know that the tree will soon have fruit. Here, we see that when the things mentioned in the first part of chapter 24 begin to happen that the coming of the Lord will happen very soon. God says that all those things will be completed before one generation is completed. We can rest in this promise because God has given us His Word. As a result, Christians can realize the importance of being ready for the coming of Christ at all times. However, those who are not Christians may see the things that say that the coming of Christ is soon but they will not prepare for His coming.

34. Read Matthew 24:29-41 and write what God promises about His Word.

35. Explain why it is important to know that regardless of what happens to the heavens and the earth we can know that the Word of God will not change.

36. Explain why you think that Christ again reminds people of the importance of being ready for His return at any time.

In verses 36 through 41 Christ explains what it will be like when He comes again. Christ compares it to the time of Noah. During the time of Noah the people were living in terrible sin. All they thought about was evil. They wanted only to please and satisfy themselves. Today, this is the way many people are thinking. When men forget God and think only of themselves, their thoughts become evil and their desires are to live in sin. The people continued to live in sin until the very moment when the flood came and destroyed them. Christ said that in the days of Noah the flood came and took all of the evil people away.

37. Read Matthew 24:36-51 and write what the flood did to those sinful people.

38. Explain why people today are very much like the people in the time of Noah.

39. Explain why you think that the people who reject Christ choose to think more and more about evil and choose to live to please their evil desires.

Christ gave three pictures of some people being taken off the earth and others being left on the earth. We see that Noah and his family were the only people left on earth while all of the evil people were killed. This is the way it will be when Christ returns to be king on earth. All those who believe in Christ will stay on the earth to be a part of the kingdom of Christ on the earth. Those who refuse to believe Christ will all be taken away and killed just as they were in the days of Noah. Christ gives two more pictures to show the importance of being ready when He comes. If a man knew when a thief was coming, that man would be ready and the thief would not break into his house. The second story is about two servants. The good servant was prepared when his master came. As a result, the master gave the good servant a great reward. However, the evil servant did not get ready for the return of his master. Instead, he continued to live in sin. When his master returned, the evil servant was judged and cast out. This unfaithful servant will be cast into judgment. This is the judgment of all those who refuse to turn from their sin and trust Christ.

40. Read Matthew 24:42-51 and write what will happen where the evil men are sent.

41. Explain why Christ said that His coming would be a surprise so that no one would know when He is coming.

42. Explain why you think that many people are like the evil servant that did not prepare for the coming of his master.

Now, re-read Matthew 24:1-51 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 20
Matthew 25:1-46

Today, we are going to be studying the second half of Christ's teaching about His return to the earth. As you study this lesson today, be sure and remember the things we studied in the previous chapter. This chapter gives two parables that help to explain some of the things we studied in the previous chapter. The first parable gives us an example of those who will be prepared when Christ comes and also an example of those who will be unprepared. The second parable talks about being faithful or unfaithful with what the Lord has given us. This chapter also tells about the judgment of the nations at the time Christ comes back to earth.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the ten virgins.
- Explain the parable of the talents (money).
- Explain what this chapter teaches about judgment.

In Matthew 25:1-13, Christ spoke a parable about ten women who were virgins. These women were alike in many ways. They were all virgins. They all had lamps. They were all doing the same thing. They were going to meet the bridegroom. We will see that this parable talks about either being prepared or being unprepared. Many people can go to church, do many things that other Christians do but still be unprepared. There was one major difference between the two groups of virgins. Five of them were wise and the other five were foolish. A wise person is one who prepares to meet the bridegroom. As foolish person is one who fails to prepare. Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good." Here, we see that a foolish person is one that leaves God out of his or her thinking.

1. Read Matthew 25:1-13 and write what the foolish virgins forgot to bring.
2. Explain why a person is foolish to leave God out of his or her thinking.
3. Explain why you think that many people think that they are prepared to meet God when they have failed to prepare.

During the time of Christ, a man who was getting married would go to the house of his bride for religious ceremonies. Then, he would bring the bride back to his own house for the wedding feast. As the bride and groom came to the house of the groom, all of those who were invited to the wedding would join the procession as they went into the house. Then, everyone would sit down together for the wedding feast. We see that the difference between the wise virgins and the foolish virgins was the fact that the wise virgins took oil in their lamps and the foolish virgins did not take any oil. The foolish virgins were not prepared to meet the groom when he came.

4. Read Matthew 25:1-13 and write what the ten virgins did while they were waiting for the bride and groom.
5. Explain why it is important for people to make sure that they are prepared to meet the Lord when He comes.
6. Explain why you think that many people wait to prepare to meet the Lord until it is too late.

When the announcement was made that the bride and groom were coming, the five foolish virgins were not ready because they did not have any oil for their lamps. The wick of a lamp will not burn unless it has oil in it. While the five foolish virgins went to find oil for their lamps, the groom came and invited the wedding guests into the house. Then, he shut the door. Later the foolish virgins came and asked to come into the wedding. Here, we see that the five foolish virgins made a choice. That choice was to wait until it was too late to get oil for their

lamps. Many people do not realize that the decision to wait until some later time is actually a choice. In the case of those who wait too long to place their trust in Christ, they have made a choice that will have eternal consequences.

7. Read Matthew 25:1-13 and write what the groom told the five foolish virgins.

8. Explain why it is important to realize that every choice has consequences and the choice of waiting too long to trust Christ has eternal consequences.

9. Explain why it is important for you to warn others about their choices and their consequences.

In this parable Christ is teaching about the importance of being ready when He returns to become the King on the earth. In Ephesians 5 and other passages of Scripture, we see that the Church is called the bride of Christ. During the seven years of tribulation, the Church will be in heaven. Then, when Christ comes back to be King of the earth for one thousand years, He will bring His bride, the Church, with Him. Those people who have believed Christ and accepted Him as Lord and Savior during the seven years of tribulation and suffering will live with Christ on the earth for the thousand years. All others will be killed and taken off the earth. For them the door is shut because they refused to believe and did not prepare for the return of Christ to rule.

10. Read Matthew 25:1-13 again and write why Christ says to watch and be ready for His coming.

11. Explain why this passage warns that those who wait to trust Christ during the tribulation will have no second opportunity after the tribulation.

12. Explain why you think that many people fail to prepare to meet Christ until it is too late to repent and put their trust in Him.

In these verses, we see that the five foolish women did not bring any oil with them. Several times in the Bible oil is used as a picture of the Holy Spirit. When we become Christians, we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. In the baptism with the Holy Spirit, Christ puts the Holy Spirit in the life of every Christian at the moment of salvation. John 3:5 says that we are born of the Spirit. In the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit puts every Christian in the body of Christ. Both the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit happen at the moment of salvation. The foolish virgins may have even acted like the other virgins but they were not born of the Spirit. As a result the five foolish virgins were unprepared and went to hell.

13. Read Matthew 25:1-13 and write what Christ will say to those who did not prepare for His coming to rule after the tribulation.

14. Explain this parable in your own words.

15. Explain why you think that people do not understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who trust Christ.

In Matthew 25:14-30, we read the parable of the talents. A talent was a piece of money worth a large amount of money. A man was traveling to another country and gave money to each of his servants according to their level of responsibility. In the last parable the groom represented Christ. Here, the man who goes to the far country also represents Christ. Ephesians 4:16 tells us that Christ expects every Christian to do his part. Here, we see that Christ expects all true servants in any time period to carry out His work while He is gone to heaven. One man received five talents, another two talents, and a third, one talent. The first two took the money and used it wisely so that they doubled the money before their master returned.

16. Read Matthew 25:14-30 and write what the third servant did with his money.

17. Explain why Christ expects every Christian to carry out the responsibility that Christ has given to each one.

18. Explain some of the ways that you are carrying out the responsibility that the Lord has given to you as a Christian.

When the master returned from this trip, he called the three servants and asked them to give a report of what they had done with his money. The first two men came and told the master that they had doubled his money. The master told both of them the same thing. He complimented them for being good and faithful servants. Each of them received an equal reward because each had been equally faithful with the responsibility that the master had given them. Christ gives each person different gifts and responsibilities. The important thing is for each Christian to be faithful in using the gifts the Lord has given him.

19. Read Matthew 25:14-30 and write what the Lord said to the two faithful servants.

20. Explain why it is important for every Christian to be faithful in carrying out the responsibilities that the Lord has given to each one.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that you are being faithful to the Lord.

The faithful servants were rewarded for being faithful. However, there was a third man who was a complete failure. He took his money and buried it in a hole in the ground. He did not even take it to the bank so that it could draw interest. This is a real picture of a man who hears the Gospel but does not ask Christ to forgive his sins and come into his life. The Word of God is like buried money because he refuses to listen to or obey the Word of God. His life is not changed because he has not asked Christ to forgive his sins and become the Lord of his life.

22. Read Matthew 15:14-30 and write what Christ said to do with the wicked servant.

23. Explain why many people are like the third servant and even though they hear about Christ they do not trust Him or put their faith in Him.

24. Explain why it is important to you to warn those you know that they must put their trust in Christ and not just hear about Him.

In this parable we see what will happen when Christ comes back to this earth. All those who followed Christ will be rewarded. We see that Christ is very eager to reward those who are faithful. Matthew 10:42 told us that even those who give a cup of cold water in the name of Christ will not go unrewarded. In contrast, those who refuse to follow Christ will be judged and cast into outer darkness. Their judgment will be very terrible. Then, at the final judgment, they will be eternally separated from the presence of God. Revelation 20:15 says they will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. When Christ begins to rule as King of the earth, only those who trust in Christ will be alive on the earth.

25. Read Matthew 25:14-30 again and write what was done with the talent of the evil servant.

26. Explain why it is important to warn those who have not trusted Christ about the eternal consequences of their choice.

27. Explain why you are thankful that you can know that Christ will reward you for being faithful.

Although this talks particularly about the time when Christ will return to the earth to rule, it also teaches every Christian a lesson about the importance of being a faithful servant. Christ says that those who have been faithful in a few things will be made ruler over many things. Christ also says that those who are faithful enter into the joy of our Lord. Here, we see that as Christians we can experience the joy of Christ if we are faithful servants for Him. This helps us to understand that the thing that will give us real purpose on this earth is choosing to be faithful to do what Christ has prepared for us to do.

28. Read Matthew 25:14-30 and write what will happen to unbelievers once they are judged for rejecting Christ.

29. Explain why Christians will experience the joy of the Lord if they are faithful to Him.

30. Explain the lessons you have learned for your own life about the importance of being faithful in the things that the Lord has given you to do.

In Matthew 25:31-46, we read about the judgment of the nations of the earth when Christ

returns to become the King of the earth. In this section, Christ speaks of three different groups of people: the sheep, the goats, and my brethren. The sheep and goats are the people of all nations except the Jews. The sheep are the Gentiles (non-Jews) who trust in Christ during the seven years of suffering and tribulation. The goats are the Gentiles who refuse to trust in Christ. My brethren are the Jews. We first see that Christ will separate the sheep from the goats. Then, Christ will reward the sheep.

31. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and write what will happen to the people of all nations when Christ returns to the earth in His glory.

32. Explain why Christ is going to gather the people of all of the nations on the earth when He comes.

33. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ will reward the tribulation saints.

During the seven years of suffering and tribulation, the people of all the nations will hate the Jews. The only people that will help the Jews will be the Gentiles who trust in Christ. That is why Christ will gather the nations to be judged when He comes back at the end of the tribulation. On that day Christ will separate the believers from those who refused to believe in Him. The believers will all be rewarded. Christ will say that the believers fed Him when He was hungry, gave Him a drink when He was thirsty, took Him in when He was a stranger, clothed Him when He was naked, visited Him when He was sick and came to Him when He was in prison.

34. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and write what those who believe will inherit.

35. Explain why Christ says that the Gentiles will show that they are His followers by the way they treat the Jews.

36. Explain why you think Christ will reward the believers.

Christ will say to those who trusted in Him that they showed their love for Christ by taking care of Him when He had a need. The Christians will ask when they helped Christ. Christ says that to help one of His brothers is to help Him. Here, we see that Christ elevates all ministry done by those who follow Him. Christ says that to help others in their time of suffering is viewed by Christ as helping Him. That will certainly be true during the tribulation. However, that is also true now. As we serve others, we are actually serving Christ.

37. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and write how Christ says a person does these things to Him.

38. Explain how Christ makes it clear in these verses that the service of every Christian is very important.

39. Explain what these verses teach about your responsibility to help other Christians in need.

Those who do not trust in Christ as Savior and Lord are not concerned about helping others who are in need in our day. This is because they do not have true love in their hearts. Only the love of Christ can give us a true love and concern for others. The same will be true during the tribulation. Those who did not trust in Christ during the tribulation will not be concerned about helping God's people, the Jews. Instead, the people without Christ will only live to please themselves during that time just as they do right now.

40. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and write what will happen to those who do not have the love of Christ in their hearts.

41. Explain why love for Christ will cause Christians to serve others around them.

42. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to be motivated by the love of Christ.

Now, re-read Matthew 25:1-46 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 21
Matthew 26:1-35

Today, we are beginning a study of the sufferings and death of Christ. The entire life of Christ was a time of preparation for His death on the cross to pay for our sins. As you study about the death of Christ, think about how Christ suffered all of these things for you because He loved you. The death of Christ is the best picture of love that was ever given. Before His arrest by the Jewish religious leaders, Christ taught the disciples many very important lessons. We will see that Christ tells the disciples in advance about the new covenant.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain some lessons about the group of people that planned to kill Christ.
- Explain why Christ was anointed with precious oil.
- Explain the importance of the Passover supper.
- Explain what Christ said about the failure of the disciples.

In the last two chapters, we saw that Christ told the disciples about some of the events coming in the future. This chapter begins immediately after Christ finished teaching the disciples those things. Christ told the disciples that it was only two days until the feast of the Passover. Then, Christ told the disciples that the Son of man would be betrayed and crucified. Christ was letting the disciples know in advance what was going to happen to Him. We go on to read about the leaders planning together to kill Christ. They began to plan right after Christ told His disciples again that He would be crucified. The leaders wanted to catch Christ privately so that they could kill Him. They wanted to do it sometime when the rest of the people would not try to stop them.

1. Read Matthew 26:1-13 and write the three groups of people that planned together to kill Christ.
2. Explain why Christ warned the disciples in advance that He would be betrayed and crucified.
3. Explain why you think that Christ told the disciples about His coming crucifixion immediately after He had told them about the future.

The chief priests were the religious leaders of the people. The scribes were the men who made copies of the Old Testament. The elders were the men who were the leaders of the people and included the Pharisees and Sadducees. As religious leaders, they should have been telling others about Christ. Instead, they were planning to kill Christ. Today, there are many people who are religious but they do not know Christ. Some are men who are leaders of large churches. They are just like the high priest. They are doing everything they can to get rid of Christ.

4. Read Matthew 26:1-13 and write the name of the high priest who was the leader in planning to kill Christ.
5. Explain why the religious leaders were working together to kill Christ even though they usually disagreed.
6. Explain why you think that a person can be very religious and still be totally against Christ.

Although the leaders were planning to kill Christ, there were also those who had a real love for Christ. We read about one that really loved Christ and believed in Christ in Matthew 26:6-13. Christ was having dinner with Simon the leper in his house in the town of Bethany. Mary came with a very expensive bottle of perfume. In fact it was worth almost a year's wages. She took the perfume and poured it on the head of Christ to prepare him for His death. Although Christ had told His disciples several times that He would die, his disciples did not believe Him yet.

Mary was one of the few who believed Him and was preparing for His death. In addition to believing, Mary also took action and brought this ointment to pour on Jesus.

7. Read Matthew 26:1-13 and write what the disciples said about Mary pouring the perfume on Christ.
8. Explain what Mary shows about her love for Christ by her actions.
9. Explain why it is important for you to find ways to show your love for Christ by the things that you do.

The disciples and particularly Judas could not understand why Christ would allow Mary to waste so much money. They said the money should be given to the poor. One of the other Gospels says that Judas said this not because he cared for the poor but because he took care of the money and he was a thief. Christ told the disciples not to bother Mary. Christ said that she had done a good work. Christ told the disciples that there will always be poor people. No amount of money and no poverty program will ever get rid of all the poor people. Some people can waste hundreds of dollars in a few hours gambling or drinking with their friends. All a poverty program does for such people is give them more money to use for some form of sin. They are spiritually poor. The only thing that will get rid of the poverty of such people is a life changed by Christ.

10. Read Matthew 26:1-13 and write why Mary poured the precious oil on the head of Christ.
11. Explain what these verses teach us about the understanding of Mary about the coming death of Christ.
12. Explain why you think that Judas was pretending to be concerned about the needs of the poor.

Mary had more faith in the promises of Christ than the disciples. She had real faith that each thing would happen just as Christ said it would happen. Today, her name is remembered for her faith. Christ said that her faith would be shared wherever the Gospel was shared. As a result, the faith of Mary has been proclaimed throughout the entire world. Christ said that this would be a memorial to her. Here, we see that Christ chose to honor the faith of Mary. This reminds us that Christ focuses on different things than the world. His great concern is to see true faith.

13. Read Matthew 26:1-13 and write how long Christ told the disciples that they would have Him around.
14. Explain why all Christians need to learn to follow the example of the faith of Mary.
15. Explain what lessons you can learn for your own life from the example of Mary in these verses.

Judas was one of the disciples who did not like to see the money wasted. However, Judas was not concerned about the poor. He was the one who took care of the money and he thought that he might be able to steal part of it before it was given to the poor people. Since he did not get the money for the perfume, he decided to get some money another way. We read that he immediately went to the high priests. He was willing to make a deal with them in order to gain money for himself. Here, we see that a person can be around Christ and that will not necessarily change his character. He had been able to hide his character from the other disciples but Christ had said in John six what one of the disciples would do.

16. Read Matthew 26:14-19 and write what Judas agreed to do to make some money for himself.
17. Explain why these verses show that there must be an inner change in the lives of people for their lives to be transformed.
18. Explain why you think that Judas suddenly went to the high priests and began to arrange a deal with them.

Judas was a thief who was willing to do anything to get a little money. Now, he was willing to

hand Christ over to the religious leaders so that they kill Him. The price that the religious leaders agreed to pay for Christ was the price a man paid to buy a slave. Here, we see the value that Judas placed on Christ. Judas was more concerned about a little money than he was about the life of Christ. Judas was willing to actually betray Christ in order to get what he wanted. Here, we see a picture of the fact that sin can take total control of a person. A person without Christ can become so controlled by sin that his sin is much more important to him than the lives of people.

19. Read Matthew 26:14-19 and write how much the religious leaders agreed to pay Judas for handing Christ over to them.

20. Explain what Judas shows us about the sinful condition of the heart of a man that has not trusted in Christ.

21. Explain why this helps you to understand why people without Christ can do such evil things.

As we see Judas in these verses we learn a very important lesson. Judas had walked and talked with Christ for three years. He had listened to all of the teachings of Christ. However, he had never asked Christ to forgive his sins. Now, we see that he was ready to be a part of a murder to earn some money for himself. There are people today who attend a church for years and never have their hearts changed by Christ. They never ask Christ to forgive their sins. Even though they may look like very good people on the outside, their hearts are still filled with sin. These verses show us that a person is capable of committing any sin when he is following the evil desires of his heart.

22. Read Matthew 26:14-19 and write the questions that some of the other disciples came and asked Christ.

23. Explain why these verses show that it is important to talk to each person that attends church to find out if that person really understands what it means to be a Christian.

24. Explain why it is important to you to make sure that the people that you know truly understand what it means to repent and place their faith in Christ.

In Matthew 26:14-19, we read about the disciples preparing the Passover. The Passover is a religious dinner of the Jews. It helps the Jews remember one of the most important days in their history. The Jews were slaves in Egypt about 1500 years before the time of Christ. God promised them that He would take them out of Egypt if they obeyed Him. One day, God told them to kill a lamb that did not have any disease, sores or bruises. They were to take the blood of that lamb and put it on the sides and top of their door. Then, they were to roast the lamb and eat it. That night God sent an angel to kill the oldest son of every family that did not have blood on the top and sides of the door. Since the Egyptians did not have blood over their doors, the oldest son of each Egyptian family was killed and the king of Egypt allowed the Jews to go free. Since the angel passed by their houses without killing the oldest son, the Jews called the dinner the Passover. Today, the Jews still eat the Passover dinner each year.

25. Read Matthew 26:14-19 and write what other feast the Jews had just before the Passover.

26. Explain why the Passover is still an important feast to the Jews.

27. Explain why you think that Christ chose to die at the time of the Passover and not at some other time of the year.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasted the entire week just before the Passover. For the entire week the Jews would not eat any bread made with yeast. This feast was to remind them that they were to separate themselves from the sins of Egypt when Pharaoh allowed them to go free. We can also learn an important lesson for our own lives. The feast of unleavened bread gives us a picture of the importance of confessing all sin in our lives. A little yeast in a piece of bread dough will make that dough grow much larger. Unconfessed sin will grow in our lives and break our fellowship with Christ. It is very important to confess any sin to Christ right away so that it does not break our fellowship with Him.

28. Read Matthew 26:14-19 and write what Christ said about the time of His death.
29. Explain why the Jews were to have the Feast of Unleavened bread at the time of the Passover.
30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to make certain that you do not allow any unconfessed sin in your life.

As the twelve disciples were eating the Passover dinner with Christ, He told them that one of them would betray Him and hand Him over to the religious leaders. Of course this made the disciples very sad. They did not want to see Christ die. They wanted Him to become their new king. Then, each of the disciples asked Christ a question about who would be the one to betray Him. Each one wanted to know if he was the one that would do such a thing. Each of the disciples realized that he could fail and commit sin. If we try to do things in our own strength instead of depending on the Lord, we will find that we will also fail. That is why it is so important to depend on the Lord moment by moment for our strength.

31. Read Matthew 26:20-29 and write what Christ said about the disciple that would betray Him.
32. Explain why any person will commit sin if he depends on his own strength.
33. Explain why it is important for you to depend on the Lord moment by moment.

As the disciples were eating the Passover, Christ took some bread and broke it into pieces. He told the disciples that the bread was a picture of His body. Then, He passed the juice and said it was a picture of the promise that His blood would pay for their sins. That was the first communion service. Each time we have a communion service we are remembering that the blood of Christ paid the penalty for our sins. Christ said this was the blood of a new covenant. The old covenant was the law and it brought judgment for sin. This new covenant would do just the opposite.

34. Read Matthew 26:20-29 and write where Christ said His blood would do with sin.
35. Explain why it is important for Christians to have communion services regularly.
36. Explain why it is very important to you to know that your sins are forgiven.

Christ then went with the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Christ told the disciples that they would be offended. He told them that the shepherd would be smitten. Here, we see that Christ was telling the disciples that He was going to die in just a few hours. He said that they would all be scattered. However, Christ also told them that He would be raised from the dead. The disciples were told that Christ would meet them again after His resurrection.

37. Read Matthew 26:30-35 and write what Christ said He would meet the disciples.
38. Explain why it was important for the disciples to know that Christ would meet them after His resurrection.
39. Explain why the resurrection is important to you in your own life.

Christ told His disciples that they would all fail that night. Peter was the first to answer and say that he would not fail if the rest of the disciples failed. Peter thought he was strong enough in his own strength to keep from failing. Sometimes we are just like Peter. We are trying to live for Christ in our own strength. However, we will fail if we are depending on ourselves rather than Christ. We are denying Christ when we do not speak up and witness for Him. The reason we do not witness and tell others about Christ is the same reason that Peter denied Christ. We are depending on our own strength instead of praying and asking the Lord to help us witness to others. We will be able to tell others about Christ if we will depend on Him to give us strength.

40. Read Matthew 26:30-35 and write what Christ said Peter would do three times before the rooster crowed early the next morning.
41. Explain why Peter thought that he would not deny Christ.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your life to make certain that you do not deny Christ.

Now, re-read Matthew 26:1-35 and write down three important lessons that you learned from these verses.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 22
Matthew 26:36-75

Today, we will be studying several things that happened just before Christ was put to death. Christ went out to pray and spend time in fellowship with the Father in the last hours before He was crucified on the cross. While Christ was praying, the disciples were asleep. We will also study about Judas betraying Christ to the religious leaders so they could catch Him when there was not a large crowd of people around Christ. This chapter also tells about the trial of Christ by the Jewish religious leaders who wanted to kill him. It ends by telling us about Peter denying Christ.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the disciples failed the night Christ was arrested.
- Explain what happened when the men came to arrest Christ.
- Explain what happened in the court of the religious leaders.
- Explain why Peter denied Christ.

In Matthew 26:36-46, we read about the prayer of Christ just before He was arrested. He took the disciples with Him to a garden or park called Gethsemane. He told the disciples to wait at one edge of the garden while He went to pray. Then, He took Peter, James and John a little farther into the garden. Christ told the three that He was exceedingly sorrowful. Christ knew exactly what was ahead for Him in the next few hours. This caused great sorrow as He thought of the separation from the Father that would be necessary as He bore our sin. When He left the three, He asked them to pray with Him. Then, Christ went a little farther and began to pray.

1. Read Matthew 26:36-46 and write what the disciples did while Christ prayed.
2. Explain why Christ was filled with such sorrow as He went to the garden to pray.
3. Explain why you realize the importance of prayer in your own life because of the example of Christ.

The disciples did not realize yet that Christ would soon die. Christ asked the three disciples to watch with Him. At this time Christ was both sorrowful and very depressed. The disciples went to sleep instead of praying. This was the reason that the disciples failed that night. They were sleeping when they should have been praying. The reason we fail and sin is often due to the fact that we have failed to spend enough time in prayer. This is why it is important to begin each day with prayer asking the Lord to keep us from temptation during the day. Then, throughout the day we need to have fellowship through prayer with our Lord. As we spend time in prayer and fellowship with Christ each day, He gives us victory over the temptations that we face during the day.

4. Read Matthew 26:36-46 again and write why we fall into temptation.
5. Explain why the disciples were asked to pray during the time that Christ was very depressed.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to pray so that you will have victory over temptation.

The disciples satisfied their need for sleep by sleeping during the time that Christ was praying. Three times Christ asked them to pray and three times He found them asleep when He returned. Christ reminded them to pray so that they would not enter into temptation. Still they did not stay awake but went back to sleep. Sometimes we are like the disciples. We are sleeping or sitting when we should be serving the Lord. When we fail to do what Christ asks us to do, we miss the blessing that He wants to give us. When Christ finished praying, he told the disciples it was time to go because someone was coming to meet them.

7. Read Matthew 26:36-46 and write why that person was coming.

8. Explain why prayer is the key to victory over temptation.
9. Explain why it is important to you in your life to do the will of Christ regardless of what that may mean in your life.

While the disciples were sleeping, Christ was spending time praying to the Father. We see an important lesson for our own lives in the prayer of Christ. He prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Christ was totally God and totally man. He understood what He would be experiencing in the next few hours. He asked the Father to remove the cup if there was any other way to provide salvation. However, He was willing to provide salvation in the way that the Father willed. As Christ prayed to the Father, His desire was to do the will of the Father. Christ was not concerned about satisfying Himself. If we are willing to forget our own desires and seek the will of Christ instead, then we will find that our lives become an exciting adventure.

10. Read Matthew 26:36-46 and write to whom the Son of man was betrayed.
11. Explain why it is important that Christ chose to do the will of the Father instead of seeking the easy way.
12. Explain how this prayer of Christ applies to your in your own prayer life.

We go on to read about Judas betraying Christ to the soldiers who were sent by the Jewish religious leaders. Judas told the men he would kiss the one that they were to capture. Judas came and said, "Hail master," and then kissed Jesus. Here, we see a picture of many people today. They pretend that Christ is their master and yet they have never asked Christ to forgive their sins. When someone is our master and Lord, it means that person has complete control of our life. When Judas called Christ, "Master," he was lying because money and the devil were the real masters of his life. He had just betrayed Christ in order to get a little more money.

13. Read Matthew 26:47-56 and write what Christ said to Judas.
14. Explain what it really means to call Christ "Master".
15. Explain why it is important to you in your life to truly recognize Christ as the Lord and Master of your life.

Here, we see a real picture of the love of Christ. Christ called Judas friend and meant it even though He knew Judas was betraying Him. Since Christ did not sin this was a genuine statement of the love that Christ had for Judas. Christ chose to call Judas a friend and meant it even at the very moment that Judas was betraying Him. How much love does your life show? Could you love one who was working with those who were coming to kill you? Christ loved us so much He died for us while we still hated Him. As followers of Christ, we should love others just as Christ loved us. John 13:34-35 tells us Christ has given us a new commandment. That commandment is love one another as Christ has loved us.

16. Read Matthew 26:47-56 and write what Peter did with a sword as they arrested Christ.
17. Explain what made it possible for Christ to treat Judas as a friend at the very moment that Judas was betraying Him.
18. Explain what you want the love of Christ to mean to you in your own life as you follow Christ.

One of the disciples of Christ did not show love. Peter took a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Peter probably did not plan to cut off the ear. He was probably trying to cut off the head and missed. Peter was depending on his own strength instead of the strength of the Lord. Because the disciples had slept instead of praying, they were all depending on their own strength. Christ said that He could have prayed and asked the Father to send twelve legions (a legion usually had about 6000 soldiers) of angels to protect Him. Instead, Christ chose to fulfill the plan of God. He then asked the crowd why they had come like they were coming after a thief. Christ said that they could easily have arrested Him in the temple.

19. Read Matthew 26:47-56 again and write what the disciples did because they were all depending on their own strength.
20. Explain why Christians will act in their own strength if they fail to pray and ask the Lord to give them His strength.
21. Explain why it is important to you in your life to depend upon the love of Christ instead of your own strength.

The disciples ran away and left Christ to be tried alone. However, Peter remembered his brave words earlier in the evening when he said he would die for Christ. As a result, he followed Christ but he followed a long way back so no one would see him. When Peter came to the place where the trial was being held for Christ, Peter sat down with the guards. He was now sitting with those who were the enemies of Christ. The leaders wanted to kill Christ so they tried to get witnesses to say that Christ had done something wrong. They could not get any witnesses to agree about something Christ had done wrong. Finally, two men came to tell something they had heard Christ say.

22. Read Matthew 26:57-68 and write what the two men said.
23. Explain why the actions of Peter show that he was continuing to depend on his own strength.
24. Explain why you think that the religious leaders could not find witnesses that would agree in their testimony against Christ.

The only thing that the two false witnesses could say was that Christ said He was able to destroy the temple and raise it up after three days. As the false witnesses said things about Christ, He did not say a word. Here, we see another important lesson for our lives. If we are serving the Lord, the devil will do everything possible to stop us. Sometimes he will get people to go around saying evil things about us. When this happens, our human nature wants to fight back and say evil things about the other person. However, Christ shows us here that we should not fight back. Instead, we should be quiet and let God stop those who are saying evil things about us. Finally, the high priest asked Christ a question.

25. Read Matthew 26:57-68 and write the question that the high priest asked Christ.
26. Explain why Christians can trust in the strength of the Lord when evil men are saying things against them.
27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to let the Lord deal with those who speak against you.

When the high priest asked Christ if He was the Son of God, Christ used the words of Daniel in Daniel 7:13-14 to answer. Those verses tell us that Christ is the Son of God. They state that Christ will sit on the right hand of the Father. They speak of the fact that Christ would come in the clouds of heaven. The religious leaders immediately said that Christ was guilty of blasphemy (speaking against God). Here, we see that even though Christ had done many miracles and even raised the dead, the religious leaders were unwilling to even consider the fact that Christ said that He is the Son of God. Then, the high priest asked the religious leaders what they thought could be done with Christ.

28. Read Matthew 26:57-68 and write what the leaders said.
29. Explain how the decision of the religious leaders shows that they had already made up their minds and were only looking for an excuse to condemn Christ.
30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to really understand what Christ said about Himself.

The religious leaders were so anxious to kill Christ that they disobeyed several laws. It was against the law to have a trial during the Passover. It was against the law to have a trial at night. It was against the law to look for false witnesses. It was against the law to condemn a man when the witnesses did not agree. It was against the law to hit a man while he was on trial. The

leaders disobeyed these and other laws in order to kill Christ. This is a real picture of the sinful heart of man. If a person is not a Christian, he will do anything to get what he wants. The religious leaders did not care how many laws they broke in order to condemn Christ. This shows us the condition of their hearts. Their lives were totally controlled by sin.

31. Read Matthew 26:57-68 and write what the religious leaders did to Christ after they said He was guilty of death.

32. Explain why the fact that the religious leaders disobeyed several laws shows that they had no respect for the commandments of God.

33. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that God can give you the strength to obey His commandments.

We go on to read about Peter denying Christ. Peter was sitting outside in the court. He was sitting among those who had arrested Christ. He was now in a situation where he was totally depending on his own strength. In our last lesson, we saw that Peter said he would never deny Christ even if the other disciples denied Him. Today, we saw that Peter was sleeping when he should have been praying for strength. Then, we saw how he was depending on his own strength instead of the Lord when he cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Next we saw that he was following Christ afar off instead of walking in fellowship with Christ. Then, we saw that Peter sat down with those who were against Christ. Now, we see the results of these failures.

34. Read Matthew 26:69-75 and write who asked him the first two questions.

35. Explain why these first two denials by Peter show that he was totally controlled by fear because he was depending on his own strength.

36. Explain why you realize that you will also act out of fear when you depend on your own strength.

Peter was even afraid to tell the truth to two servant girls. Peter was filled with fear and was afraid to tell the truth because he thought they might kill him also. As a result, when the first servant girl said that Peter had been with Jesus of Galilee, Peter denied that he knew Christ in front of the entire group seated there. He immediately left the court and went out into the porch. A second servant girl said that Peter had been with Jesus. Peter denied for a second time that he knew Christ. Then, a man said that he must be a follower of Christ because the way he talked showed that he was from Galilee. Peter even swore that he did not know Christ. Immediately Peter heard the rooster crow.

37. Read Matthew 26:69-75 and write what Peter did then.

38. Explain why Peter provides an example of how people react when they are depending on their own strength.

39. Explain why you realize the importance of prayer in your own life in order to have victory over fear.

Suddenly, Peter remembered the words of Christ and realized that he had failed. Then, he went out and wept bitterly. When Peter realized he had sinned, he was not afraid to cry as he asked God to forgive his sin. He was willing to humble himself and ask God to forgive him. Here, we see an important lesson for ourselves. We know that in our own lives we also fail and sin. Peter gives us an example of what to do when that happens. When we fail and sin, then we need to humble ourselves and ask God to forgive us. We know that Christ promises that when we confess our sins that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Christ wants us to have that inner peace that is the result of knowing that we are forgiven and cleansed.

40. Read Matthew 26:69-75 and write what Peter remembered before he went out and wept.

41. Explain why it is important for all Christians to humble themselves and ask for forgiveness when they realize that they have sinned.

42. Explain why are thankful that you can ask Christ to forgive you when you sin and know that

He will forgive you.

Now, re-read Matthew 26:36-75 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these verses.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 23
Matthew 27:1-32

Today, we will be studying about the trial of Christ by Pilate, the Roman governor. The Jews took Christ to Pilate because the Jews were not allowed to put anyone to death. Rome ruled the Jews and so the Romans were the only ones who could put anyone to death. We also read about the death of Judas in the first part of the chapter. Here, we see a good example of the results of sin when a person refuses to trust in Christ and ask Christ to forgive his sins. Judas made a choice that would have eternal consequences in his life.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Judas did when he realized they were going to kill Christ.
- Explain what the wife of Pilate said.
- Explain why Pilate washed his hands.
- Explain what the Roman soldiers did to Christ.

As the chapter begins we read that the Jewish religious leaders had another trial for Christ early in the morning. The reason for this trial was to make it look like they had obeyed the law when they had the trial for Christ. Then, the religious leaders took Christ to Pilate. The religious leaders wanted to make the people blame the Roman government for the death of Christ instead of blaming them. The religious leaders realized that many of the people knew that Christ was sent from God. They knew that if the Roman government was the group that actually put Christ to death that the people would be afraid to try and do anything. Here, we see a real example of the fact that people try to cover their sin and blame others.

1. Read Matthew 27:1-10 and write what Judas said to the religious leaders when he realized they were planning to kill Christ.
2. Explain why the religious leaders wanted the Roman government to be the group that actually put Christ to death.
3. Explain why you think that many people want to either cover their sins or blame others for their sins.

Judas saw that the religious leaders had condemned Christ and had now delivered Him to Pilate so that Pilate could put Christ to death. Judas suddenly felt great guilt because he knew that he had betrayed someone that had committed no sin. Judas then took the money back to the religious leaders. When Judas told the religious leaders that he had betrayed an innocent man, they told him they did not care. He could worry about that because they had their own plans for Christ. When Judas threw the money in the temple, the religious leaders announced their own guilt by saying the money could not be used in the temple because it was the price of blood. Here, we see a real picture of people who have a religion but refuse to trust in Christ. They were willing to kill an innocent man and yet they pretended to worship God.

4. Read Matthew 27:1-10 and write what the leaders did with the money.
5. Explain why Judas suddenly felt guilty when he realized that the religious leaders had condemned Christ and had sent Him to Pilate so Pilate could kill Him.
6. Explain how Judas helps you to understand the difference between being sorry when something happens and repenting and turning from sin.

When Judas had thrown the money at the feet of the religious leaders, he went out and hanged himself. Judas had followed Christ for three years but he had never asked Christ to forgive his sins. Many people are just like Judas. They will attend church for several years without asking Christ to forgive their sins. When these people die, they will die in their sins and go to hell. Judas was willing to sell Christ for thirty pieces of silver because he had never repented and

placed His trust in Christ. Many people are like Judas. They are sorry for the mess they have created for themselves but they do not repent of their sin. That is false repentance and does not make a person right with God. Instead, false repentance will only make a person feel guilty.

7. Read Matthew 27:1-10 again and write what the religious leaders decided to do with the money since it was the price of blood.

8. Explain how Judas shows us the difference between true repentance and false repentance.

9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be able to explain the difference between false repentance and true repentance.

The religious leaders knew they could not put the money in the temple treasury. As a result, they decided to use the money to buy a field as a burial place for strangers. The religious leaders did not realize that they were actually fulfilling a prophecy that had been given by Jeremiah several hundred years earlier. This reminds us that God fulfilled every Old Testament prophecy right down to the smallest detail. We go on to read about Christ being tried by the Roman governor, Pilate. The first question that Pilate asked Christ was to ask Him if He was the King of the Jews. Then, the religious leaders said many false things about Christ. They were doing their best to make Pilate think that Christ was a very evil man that needed to die.

10. Read Matthew 27:11-18 and write what Christ answered when the religious leaders said all of these false things about Him.

11. Explain why the Jewish religious leaders chose to buy the field where they could bury strangers from a man that made pottery.

12. Explain why you think that God made certain that He fulfilled every Old Testament prophecy right down to the smallest detail.

Because Christ did not say a word when the Jews said false things about Him, Pilate began to realize that Christ was a very unusual person. Pilate had probably never seen a man stand quietly while the people around yelled false things about the man. Pilate knew that the leaders were saying false things about Christ. He knew that they wanted to get rid of Christ because they were filled with hate and envy. As a result, Pilate tried to do several things to satisfy the crowd without killing Christ. The first thing he did was ask the people whether they wanted him to free Christ or a very important prisoner.

13. Read Matthew 27:11-18 and write the name of the other prisoner.

14. Explain why Pilate began to look for ways to satisfy the religious leaders without killing Christ.

15. Explain why you think that Christ did not even answer the charges that were being made against Him.

We read in the four Gospels that Barabbas was a very sinful and dangerous man who was guilty of several crimes. He had been a part of a group that tried to rebel against the Roman government. He was a robber. He had even committed murder. Since Barabbas had done so many things against the law, Pilate probably thought that the people would be afraid to free him. A man who had committed murder before might do it again. Pilate wanted to free Christ because he knew that Christ was innocent. However, he also wanted to please the Jewish religious leaders. The devil was using the religious leaders to get Christ killed. Here, we see a perfect example of the fact that we cannot serve both God and the devil. One or the other will control our life.

16. Read Matthew 27:11-18 and write who was controlling the life of Pilate that day.

17. Explain why Pilate thought that he could get the religious leaders to free Christ by giving them a choice between Christ and Barabbas.

18. Explain why you think that Pilate was willing to offer the people the opportunity to free Barabbas that day.

Pilate thought that the leaders would free Christ when given a choice between Barabbas and

Christ. However, we see that the leaders chose to free Barabbas rather than Christ. The religious leaders chose to have a murderer live with them rather than one who told them of their sins. No one likes to hear about his sins. This is why we have many religious people today who are just like the Jewish religious leaders. Today, many churches no longer preach about sin and hell. The preachers only preach what the people want to hear. They have chosen to follow the devil instead of Christ. The Jewish religious leaders showed they were following the devil instead of Christ by choosing to free Barabbas instead of Christ.

19. Read Matthew 27:11-26 and write the number of the verse where the leaders chose Barabbas.

20. Explain why many people are like the Jewish religious leaders and no longer want to preach about sin or hell.

21. Explain why you think that Pilate was trying to please the religious leaders even though he knew that Christ was innocent.

Pilate was warned by his wife not to condemn Christ. She said that she had suffered many things in a dream because of Christ. God can use dreams and other similar things to speak to us. However, we should always remember that such things will always be in agreement with the Bible. God will never teach something that does not agree with His Word. A person who has a dream that tells him to do something that the Bible teaches is wrong is following Satan. We are never to base our thoughts or actions on dreams that do not agree with the Word of God. Suddenly, Pilate was faced with a choice. He could listen to his wife and do what he knew was right or he could choose to listen to the Jewish religious leaders.

22. Read Matthew 27:19-26 again and write what the wife of Pilate recognized about Christ.

23. Explain why Pilate chose to listen to the Jewish religious leaders even though God had used a dream to warn his wife.

24. Explain why we should always use the Bible to interpret a dream if we think that Christ is using a dream to speak to us.

These verses also tell us about the final part of the trial before Pilate. While the one who brought the message from the wife of Pilate was talking to Pilate, the religious leaders were busy. We read that the leaders were persuading the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas instead of Christ. When Pilate asked for the choice of the people, they told him that they wanted him to release Barabbas. When Pilate asked the people what he should do with Christ, they said, "Let Him be crucified." When Pilate said Christ had not done anything wrong, the crowd cried crucify him even louder than they had called before. Here, we see that all of the people there were listening to the religious leaders instead of thinking for themselves.

25. Read Matthew 27:19-26 and write what Pilate did to try and show he was not guilty of killing Christ.

26. Explain why the whole crowd began to demand that Christ be crucified.

27. Explain why you think that many people are like that crowd and never think for themselves.

Pilate found Christ innocent and then condemned Him to die to make the people happy. Pilate condemned an innocent man so he could keep his power and control of the country. Here, again, we see a real picture of the sinful heart of man. He was willing to break the law and commit murder in order to get what he wanted. However, he thought he could make himself innocent by washing his hands. Today, many people think they can work to get rid of their sin by helping others, going to church, giving money to the poor or some other way. These people are just as guilty of the death of Christ as Pilate was. Christ is the only one that can take away our guilt.

28. Read Matthew 27:19-26 and write what the Jewish religious leaders said about the blood of Christ.

29. Explain why people are willing to kill someone else in order to maintain their power and control.

30. Explain why you think that Pilate thought that he could get rid of his guilt by washing his hands.

The Jews today are still suffering the awful results of the statement by the religious leaders. For almost 2000 years the Jews have suffered terrible persecution. Some of the men who made the statement are probably among the large number of Jews who were killed when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem 40 years later. During the past 2000 years many people have tried to kill all of the Jews. Between 1939 and 1945 Hitler ordered the death of 6,000,000 Jews. Today, many countries are still trying to destroy the Jews. However, they are still the chosen people of God and God is keeping them from being completely destroyed even though most of them have not trusted Christ as Savior and Lord yet. God also promised He would bless those who help the Jews and punish those who hurt the Jews. Every single person in the world is actually guilty of the blood of Christ because it was our sin that made it necessary for Christ to go to the cross. The terrible punishment of the Jews is only a little picture of the punishment men will receive in hell because they refused to make Christ the Lord of their lives.

31. Read Matthew 27:19-26 again and write who Pilate released.

32. Explain why it is so important to warn people that they are guilty of the blood of Christ and on their way to hell.

33. Explain why you realize that God still loves the Jews.

In Matthew 27:27-32, we read about some of the things that happened to Christ just before He was nailed to the cross. The first thing we read is that Pilate had the soldiers scourge Christ. A scourge was a leather whip made of several pieces of leather. Each piece of leather had a sharp piece of metal or bone tied to the end of it. The pieces of leather would wrap around His body and the sharp pieces of metal would make great cuts around the entire body of Christ as the soldiers jerked the whip back. Many men died from these terrible beatings. However, Christ suffered it without a word. He suffered for your sins and my sins because He loved us so much.

34. Read Matthew 27:26-32 and write what the soldiers put on the head of Christ.

35. Explain why Christ was willing to endure such suffering for us.

36. Explain how the sufferings of Christ show the rebellion of man against God.

The soldiers made a crown of thorns and pushed it down on the head of Christ. The thorns in that area are between an inch and two inches long. They are as sharp as a needle and do not break very easily. They put a small stick in His hand and bowed in front of Him and made fun of Him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then, they spit in His face and took the stick from His hand and used the stick to hit him on the head. All these things Christ suffered for you because He loved you so much.

37. Read Matthew 27:26-32 and write why they then led Christ away.

38. Explain how the Roman soldiers showed their contempt for Christ by the way that they treated Him.

39. Explain what you have learned about the love of Christ for you from these things that he suffered for you.

The soldiers took Christ out of the city to crucify Him on a cross. A man from the country of Cyrene walked by and the soldiers made him carry the cross for Christ. The Roman soldiers did not work if they could find someone else to work. The soldiers were cruel and so the people did what the Roman soldiers told them to do because they were afraid what might happen if they disobeyed. The Romans ruled the people by fear.

40. Read Matthew 27:26-32 and write the name of the man who carried the cross.

41. Explain why the Roman soldiers did not show kindness to any of the people.

42. Explain what effect you think that it had on Simon of Cyrene to have to carry the cross of Christ.

Now, re-read Matthew 27:1-32 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from these verses.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 24
Matthew 27:33-66

Today, we will be studying about the things that happened the day that Christ was crucified on the cross. Several groups of people gathered at the cross. We see that these different people reacted in different ways as they saw Christ suffer and die. We will see how the death of Christ fulfilled several Old Testament prophecies. We will study about the things that happened in the city of Jerusalem on the day that Christ died. We see that Christ even chose the moment when He would die. We will read how Christ was buried and who buried Him. Then, we will see that a guard was placed at the tomb to make sure that no one stole the body of Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain several Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled by the death of Christ.

Explain three things that happened when Christ died.

Tell about the burial of Christ.

Explain why the religious leaders wanted soldiers to guard the tomb of Christ.

In Matthew 27:33-44, we read about several of the things that happened while Christ was on the cross. First, we read about the place where Christ was crucified. It was called Golgotha which means the place of a skull. Then, the soldiers tried to give Christ a drink of vinegar mixed with a drug to deaden the pain. However, Christ refused to drink the mixture. He was willing to bear all of the terrible pain of the cross as He suffered for our sins on the cross. Here, we learn a real lesson for our own lives. Christ always did things the right way instead of the easy way. It is always important for us to do exactly what the Lord tells us to do and not try to find an easy way that would be disobeying the Lord.

1. Read Matthew 27:33-44 and write what the soldiers did after they gambled for the clothes of Christ.
2. Explain why Christ was willing to experience the full pain and suffering as He died for our sins.
3. Explain why you think that Christ gives you an example for your own life by the way that He suffered for you.

The soldiers who crucified Christ were concerned about what they could get for themselves. We read that they completed an Old Testament prophecy from Psalm 22:18 by dividing the clothes of Christ. When they came to His coat, they decided to gamble for it rather than tear it into pieces. Here, we see that one group of people at the cross were only there because that was their job and they used the opportunity to get some extra money from the clothes of Christ. Two other people who were there that day were two thieves. They were crucified on each side of Christ. These men were there because they were paying for their sin of stealing.

4. Read Matthew 27:33-44 and write what the two thieves were saying to Christ at first.
5. Explain how the soldiers showed that their only concern that day was to make a little extra money.
6. Explain why it is important for you to know that many Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled on the day that Christ died.

When we come to Luke we will read that one of the thieves believed in Christ. However, at first he was making fun of Christ. A third group of people at the cross that day were the Jewish religious leaders and others who hated Christ. This group of people were mocking and making fun of Christ. They told Him that if He was God to prove it by coming down from the cross. Here, we see a real picture of the attitude of the world toward Christ. First, these men were saying that they did not believe that Christ was God. Then, they said that the way to prove He

was God was to get off the cross. The religious leaders showed they were like the devil and did not understand anything about God. As you remember from the temptation of Christ, the devil told Christ to turn the stones into bread and satisfy His hunger. Here, the religious leaders were telling Christ to get off the cross and stop the pain if He was God. In both places Christ was told to do something to satisfy Himself. However, the important thing for our lives is not to satisfy ourselves but obey God.

7. Read Matthew 27:33-44 and write what the chief priests, scribes and elders said to Christ as they mocked Him.

8. Explain what Christ teaches about obeying God in these verses.

9. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ was willing to be mocked for your sake as He hung on the cross.

In Matthew 27:45-50, we read about the death of Christ. We read that God sent darkness to cover the land from noon until 3 p.m. As Christ was hanging on the cross, He was carrying the sins of all the people in the world. God cannot look at sin and so He sent a special darkness to cover Christ. Here, we see the greatest part of all of the suffering of Christ. When our sin was placed on Christ, His fellowship with the Father was broken. For that time while Christ was on the cross, God turned His back on Christ and could not look at Him because He was bearing our sins as he died on the cross. We see the agony of that separation by what Christ said.

10. Read Matthew 27:45-50 and write what Christ said about this broken fellowship with His Father.

11. Explain why the broken fellowship with the Father because He was bearing our sins was the greatest of all of the forms of suffering that Christ suffered.

12. Explain why you are thankful that Christ was willing to have His fellowship with the Father broken so that you can now enjoy fellowship with the Father.

In the four Gospels we read of seven things that Christ said as He hung on the cross. We will study each of the other things He said as we come to them in the other Gospels. However, we have here the one cry that really shows the terribleness of sin. Even one sin breaks our fellowship with God. God is holy and cannot look on sin. Because God is holy, He must punish sin. A person must either accept the payment of Christ for sin as a gift or he must pay for his own sins in hell for all eternity. That is the choice facing every person. No person can be good enough by himself to keep in fellowship with God because it only takes one sin to break that fellowship.

13. Read Matthew 27:45-50 and write who the people thought Christ was calling when He said, "My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?"

14. Explain why Christ cried out to the Father, "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?"

15. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ made it possible for you to have fellowship with the Father.

In verse 50 we read that Christ yielded up the spirit. Christ did not die from the pain and suffering. He did not die from the beating. In fact He did not die because of the torture of the cross. Instead, He willingly gave up His life to complete the payment for our sins. We see the love of Christ in its fullness. Christ showed great love for us as He willingly suffered the pain and mocking of the trial and crucifixion. However, his greatest love was shown as He gave His life for our lives. He gave all He could give for us including His life. Here, we see that He gave His life by yielding up His spirit. This shows us that He gave His life rather than having His life taken from Him.

16. Read Matthew 27:45-50 again and write how Christ spoke His last words.

17. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ willingly gave His life to pay the penalty for sin.

18. Explain what lessons you learned about the love of Christ as you have studied His

sufferings and death.

In Matthew 27:51-56, we read about several things that happened when Christ died on the cross. The first thing that happened was the veil in the temple was torn in half from the top to the bottom. The veil was a piece of cloth as thick as a hand. It hung between the holy place and the holy of holies in the temple. Up until that time the high priest had gone into the holy of holies once a year to represent the people before God. There is no longer any need for a man to represent us because Christ is our representative. Now, we can enjoy direct fellowship with God. The veil was ripped from the top to the bottom because it was God who ripped the veil.

19. Read Matthew 27:51-56 and write four other things that happened after Christ died.

20. Explain why it is important to know that the death of Christ makes it possible for us to come directly to God in prayer.

21. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that we no longer are separated from God but can now have continuous fellowship with Him.

The Roman soldier that was in charge of the soldiers who watched Christ on the cross saw the earthquake and the other miracles and said, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Even as Christ died there were those who believed in Him. The Roman soldier had read the title that was placed over the head of Christ. He had heard the people mock Christ. He had listened to the things that Christ said on the cross. When the miracles happened after Christ died, the Roman soldier suddenly realized that the things He had heard about Christ were true and he believed. This is what happens many times when we witness to others about Christ. We may talk to a person many times about what it means to be a Christian. Time after time the person seems to show no interest. Then, one day the Holy Spirit brings that person to the point where he finally realizes that Christ truly is the Son of God that can save him from sin. This is why it is so important to go back and witness to the same person time after time.

22. Read Matthew 27:51-56 and write who watched Christ die from a distance.

23. Explain what the Roman soldier teaches us about the importance of witnessing to the same person time after time.

24. Explain why it is important to you to know that God is working in the lives of others even when they do not seem interested.

We now read about a fourth group of people who watched Christ die on the cross. These were the women who had followed Christ during the three years that He preached and taught. These women had helped Christ by preparing meals and doing other things for Him as he traveled from place to place. Like the disciples, they were looking forward to Christ becoming their king. As they watched Christ hang on the cross, these women were probably confused. They did not know what to think now. Truly, it was a day of real sadness for them. It was not until three days later that their sadness turned to joy when Christ rose from the dead.

25. Read Matthew 27:51-56 and write the names of the two women whose names are mentioned.

26. Explain how the death of Christ probably affected these women who were watching from a distance.

27. Explain how you would have felt if you would have been there watching Christ die that day.

In Matthew 27:57-61, we read about the burial of Christ. One of the men that followed Christ was a rich man named Joseph from the town of Arimathaea. He went to Pilate and asked for permission to take the body of Christ off the cross and bury it. According to the Old Testament law, a man who touched a dead body was unclean for seven days. Although it was the time of the Passover, Joseph wanted to bury Christ even though it meant he would be unclean for a week. Joseph wanted to serve Christ even if it meant he would be unclean and could not take part in the special activities of the Passover. We should want to serve Christ at all times even if it means forgetting some of the other things that we enjoy.

28. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and write where Joseph buried Christ.
29. Explain why Joseph gives us an example of being willing to forget some of the things that we enjoy in order to serve Christ.
30. Explain why the choice of Joseph of Arimathaea gives you an example to follow as you face various choices.

Joseph had prepared a new tomb in which he and his family would be buried. The tomb was a cave that had been cut into the side of a rock. This was the way that the rich prepared a place for their burial when they died. Instead of keeping the tomb for himself, Joseph chose to use his tomb to bury Christ. This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:9 that Christ would be with the rich in His death. Joseph served Christ but he also gave part of his possessions to be used by Christ. Christ wants us to share our possessions with Him as well as our service, time, and abilities.

31. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and write what Joseph used to cover the entrance to the tomb.
32. Explain what Joseph teaches from his example about various ways to serve Christ.
33. Explain why it important to you in your own life to use your possessions, service, time, and abilities to serve Christ.

The next day the Jewish religious leaders went back to Pilate again. This time they had another request. They wanted permission to seal the tomb and have Roman soldiers guard the tomb so that the disciples could not steal the body. Here, we see that the religious leaders were still acting out of fear. The religious leaders remembered something that Christ had said before He died. They knew that Christ had raised others from the dead and so they were afraid that He would rise again.

34. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and write what Christ had said.
35. Explain why all of the things that the religious leaders did showed that they were driven by fear in their thoughts and lives
36. Explain why you are thankful that you can be led by the love of Christ instead of being driven by fear.

The religious leaders were afraid of the resurrection of Christ. It would mean that Christ had won the victory and they would be defeated in their plans. That would cause them to lose their power over the people. Their lives were controlled by their desire for power and control. They thought that they could stop Christ from coming out of the tomb by having Roman soldiers guard the tomb. Although they were afraid of the resurrection, we can be full of joy when we think of the resurrection.

37. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and write what the religious leaders said might happen to the body of Christ.
38. Explain why the religious leaders were controlled by their desire for power.
39. Explain what the resurrection means to you in your own life.

The reason the religious leaders said they wanted the tomb guarded was to keep the disciples from stealing the body of Christ. They said they were afraid that the disciples might claim that Christ was alive because the body was missing. Of course their real concern was the fear of the resurrection. Pilate told the leaders they could have soldiers to guard the tomb. The Jewish leaders wanted to make real sure that nothing happened to the body of Christ. We can see that Pilate was also afraid also that Christ might rise from the dead.

40. Read Matthew 27:57-66 and write what Pilate said that shows he was also afraid that Christ would rise from the dead.
41. Explain why Pilate was very willing to send soldiers to seal the tomb and guard it.
42. Explain how these verses help you to realize the way that people will react when their lives are controlled by fear.

Now, re-read Matthew 27:33-66 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these verses.

Survey of Matthew
Lesson 25
Matthew 28:1-20

Today, we will be studying the final chapter of the book of Matthew. In this chapter we will be studying the resurrection of Christ. On the morning of the resurrection of Christ, many wonderful things happened. There was great earthquake. An angel came down from heaven and rolled away the stone. Some of the women saw Christ. In this chapter we will also read what happened when the soldiers told the Jewish religious leaders about the resurrection of Christ. Finally, we will study the command of Christ that He gave us just before He returned to heaven.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened the morning of the resurrection.
- Explain what the angel told the women.
- Explain what the soldiers said to the Jewish religious leaders.
- Explain the command Christ gave to us just before He returned to heaven.

In the end of Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, we read that some of the women came to the tomb of Christ. This was the end of the Sabbath for that week but it was also the end of the Sabbaths for Christians. Throughout the Old Testament everyone who worshipped God worshipped on the Sabbath (seventh day) which is Saturday. Beginning with the day that Christ rose from the dead, the followers of Christ began worshipping on Sunday instead of Saturday because Sunday is the day that Christ rose from the dead. That is why we call Sunday, the Lord's Day. That is why we now worship on Sunday, the first day of the week.

1. Read Matthew 28:1-10 and write the names of the two women that it mentions that went to the tomb.
2. Explain why Christians are actually remembering the resurrection each time we gather to worship on Sunday.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to remember the resurrection.

While the women were on the way to the tomb, there was a great earthquake. An angel came down from heaven and rolled back the stone from the tomb. The reason the angel rolled the stone back from the entrance to the tomb was to show that Christ was no longer in the tomb. He was alive. Many times we are like the women. We fail to realize that we serve a living Savior that has all power and can do all things. We need to be reminded regularly of the fact that Christ is God.

4. Read Matthew 28:1-10 and write what happened to the soldiers when they saw the angel.
5. Explain why Christians need to remember that Christ is alive and that He has the power to do all things.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ is living and that He knows what is happening in your life.

The Roman soldiers had never seen an angel before. They were so afraid that they could not even move. The women were also afraid but the angel had a message of good news for them. He told them that Christ was no longer in the tomb because He was alive. Then, the angel told the women to come and see the place where the Lord lay. The second thing the angel told the women to do was go and tell the disciples. Christ gives these same two commands to us. First, we must come and see Him. That means we must have fellowship with Him by spending time with Him in prayer and Bible study. Then, we are to go and tell what we have seen. When we have spent time in fellowship with Christ, then it is easier to go and tell what we have seen.

7. Read Matthew 28:1-10 and write what the women did after they received the message from

the angel.

8. Explain why the angel gave the women the responsibility to tell others what they had learned about the resurrection of Christ.

9. Explain what the two commands, “Come and see; Go and tell,” mean to you in your own life.

When the women had received the message of the angel, they were full of joy. They had heard that Christ had defeated death and was alive. The women ran to tell the disciples. This was a message that was such good news that they could not even take time to walk. They had to run to share the good news. This should be our attitude toward Christ. We should be so anxious to tell others about Christ that we will not let anything stop us. Christ is alive and He has given us life. He also wants to give life to all of those who will believe in Him. As the women went, they met Christ. Christ told the women to tell the disciples where to meet Him.

10. Read Matthew 28:1-10 and write where the disciples were supposed to meet Christ.

11. Explain why the message of the resurrection of Christ changed the women and they could not wait to tell others.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your life to share the message of the resurrection with your relatives and friends.

While the women were going to the city with a message of joy, another group of men was also going to the city with a message. However, these men were not full of joy. There were afraid because they had failed. These were the Roman soldiers. They had been told to guard the tomb and make sure that no one stole the body of Christ. Now, they had to go and tell the religious leaders that the tomb was empty. If the Roman governor heard that they had failed, he might have them killed. They decided that the best thing to do would be to tell the Jewish religious leaders the truth and perhaps the leaders would keep Pilate from killing them.

13. Read Matthew 28:11-15 and write to whom the soldiers talked to first.

14. Explain why the Roman soldiers were totally controlled by fear as they went into the city of Jerusalem.

15. Explain why you think that the soldiers decided to go and tell the Jewish chief priests instead of their military leaders.

As soon as the chief priests heard from the soldiers that Christ was alive, they immediately called all of the other religious leaders together. The leaders knew that if the people heard that Christ was alive, many would start following Christ instead of them. For the religious leaders that had convinced Pilate to crucify Christ, this news caused them to try and find a way to deceive the people so that the people would not follow Christ. After talking it over, the religious leaders decided to give the soldiers a big reward if the soldiers would tell a lie about what happened. They also promised they would protect them from Pilate in case Pilate heard what had happened. Of course the soldiers were happy to tell the lie if the leaders would protect them from Pilate and also give them a big reward.

16. Read Matthew 28:11-15 and write the lie that the soldiers were supposed to tell.

17. Explain why the religious leaders were so eager to deceive the people and try to prevent the people from believing in the resurrection.

18. Explain why you are thankful that the religious leaders could not prevent the news of the resurrection from spreading among the people.

It was quite a lie that the soldiers told. It is surprising that anyone would believe it. The following things all show that it was a lie. We read in John that the disciples were so afraid that they were meeting in an upper room with the door locked. Since they were so afraid, they would not try and steal the body of Christ right in front of the Roman soldiers. The Roman soldiers were so well trained that four of them with their backs to each other could hold off an army of 100 men. The Roman soldiers knew that they could be killed if they went to sleep

while standing guard. Even if one went to sleep, it would be impossible to think that all of them would go to sleep when that would mean death. The stone was so heavy that it would wake anyone who was sleeping if someone tried to move the stone. Finally, the soldiers would not have known what happened if they were sleeping. All of these things show it was a big lie.

19. Read Matthew 28:11-15 and write whether the Jews believed the lie.

20. Explain why those who heard their lie should have quickly recognized that the soldiers were telling a lie.

21. Explain what causes you to recognize that the message that the religious leaders gave to the soldiers makes no sense.

in these verses, we see a real picture of the attitude of the Jewish religious leaders toward Christ. The soldiers came and told them that Christ had risen from the dead. Instead of thinking about Christ, the leaders immediately began to think of ways to keep the people from believing. Today, there are religious leaders who are just like these Jewish leaders. Since they do not believe Christ, they are doing everything they can to keep others from believing in Christ. The leaders heard the truth but they refused to believe in Christ. In Acts 4:16-17 these same leaders admitted that they could not deny the truth so they chose to try to keep the truth from spreading. Here, we see that the goal of Satan is always to keep the truth from spreading.

22. Read Matthew 28:11-15 and write what the soldiers did when the religious leaders offered them money to tell a lie.

23. Explain why you think the religious leaders refused to believe the truth about Christ when they knew that it was the truth.

24. Explain why it is important to you to speak the truth so that others can know about the resurrection of Christ.

In Matthew 28:16-20, we read the final instructions of Christ to all Christians before He returned to heaven. We see that some of the disciples did not believe that Christ was alive. There were some that still had doubts. Are you like those disciples who had doubts? Are you still afraid to believe all of the promises that God has given us in His Word? When Christ tells you to do something, are you still afraid to do it? The fact Christ is alive is proof that He will keep His promises. Now, it is your privilege and responsibility to believe those promises and live for Christ.

25. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write how much power or authority is given to Christ.

26. Explain why it is important to understand that some people have doubts and that they need to let Christ work in their lives to remove those doubts.

27. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ is alive and that He will keep His promises to you.

Here, we see that Christ is the One that has all authority. This authority has been given to Him both in heaven and on the earth. Since Christ has all authority, that means that we are to recognize His authority over our own lives. This means that we need to ask Him what He wants us to do. We need to carry out His will instead of just making our own plans. Christ has created each Christian so that each Christian can have a life full of purpose and meaning. If we will submit our lives to the authority of Christ and do His will, we will see that Christ gives us a real purpose in life. We will see that life will be full of meaning.

28. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write what Christ tells us to do since He is the One that has all authority.

29. Explain why it is important for every Christian to recognize that Christ is the One with all authority.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your life to submit to the authority of Christ.

In the last two verses of Matthew, Christ gives us the statement that has become known as the Great Commission. In this verse, we have one command. That command is to Make Disciples.

This form of the word is used four times. Another form of the word is translated disciple 269 times in the New Testament. A third form of the word is used once and speaks of a female disciple. Our command is to make disciples of every nation. The four places where we have this form of the word include: Matthew 13:52 where we have a disciple defined; Matthew 27:57 where we have a disciple illustrated by Joseph of Arimathea; here where we are commanded to make disciples and Acts 14:21 where we see that this command was continually practiced. There are three participles that tell us how to carry out this command.

31. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write the first thing we are to do to make disciples.

32. Explain why it is very important to understand what is meant by our command to make disciples.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your life to obey the command to make disciples.

The first participle that tells how to make disciples is go or going. In order to make disciples, we see that the first thing we are to be doing is going. This emphasizes the fact that we are to be going to others and sharing with them how they can have their sin forgiven and receive eternal life. We are not to wait and expect others to come to us to hear how to become a Christian. Instead, we are to go to the people of every nation and ethnic group and share with them how they can have their sins forgiven.

34. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write what we are supposed to do once a person places his or her trust in Christ.

35. Explain why every Christian is commanded to be going and taking the Gospel to the people of every nation and ethnic group.

36. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be sharing the Gospel with those that you meet as you are going through life.

The second participle that tells how to make disciples is baptizing. There are at least eight kinds of baptism in the New Testament. All eight have one thing in common and that is identification. At the moment of salvation a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit as Christ places the Holy Spirit in the life of that person – Matthew 3:11. At that same moment a person is baptized by the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit places that person in the body of Christ, the church – 1 Corinthians 12:13. Baptism by water is a public testimony to relatives and friends that a person has placed his or her trust in Christ. It means that a person has invited Christ into his life and now wants to obey Him and serve Him because He has become the master of his life. The person is publicly identifying himself as a follower of Christ.

37. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write the third thing we are to do to help a person become a disciple.

38. Explain why it is important for a Christian to identify himself as a Christian.

39. Explain what it meant to you when you were baptized in water.

The third participle that tells how to make disciples is teaching them to obey all that Christ has commanded us. This involves two things. First, it involves teaching people the commands of Christ. Second, it involves showing them how to obey those commands by our example. Acts 21:16 is the last place in the New Testament that the word “disciple” is used. Since the Gentiles did not understand when it meant to make disciples, in the rest of the New Testament we see that it talks about spiritual parenting – 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 and many other passages. We see in these passages that making disciples or spiritual parenting is helping others grow by having the love of a nursing mother and providing the example of a godly father. This is our Great Commission.

40. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and write the promise that Christ gives us.

41. Explain why it is important to both teach and show people how to obey the commandments of Christ.

42. Explain what it means to you to Make Disciples.

Now, re-read Matthew 28:1-20 and write the three most important lessons you learned from this chapter.