

Matthew Study: Week 7
(All Scripture verses are taken from the NIV.)

Day 1:

READ: Matthew 22:1-22

RESPOND:

“Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’” Matthew 22:8-9

- 1) What group of people was Christ referring to when he said “those I invited”?

- 2) Christ came for everyone. We are all invited. What does this truth reveal about his character?

- 3) Praise God for his great mercy!

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 'Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” Matthew 22:11-13

- 1) What are these verses a foreshadow of?

- 2) What types of people do you think these verses are referring to?

- 3) Pray for someone you know who claims Christianity but doesn't truly know Christ.

“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.” Matthew 22:15

- 1) Have you ever had anybody negatively confront you about being a Christian? How so?

- 2) Look up 1 Peter 3:15 and write it here.

- 3) In what ways do you feel you need to be better prepared?

Day 2:

READ: Matthew 22:23-46

RESPOND:

“Jesus replied, 'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.'”
Matthew 22:29

- 1) Is Jesus' bold response shocking to you?

- 2) Jesus provides many examples in Matthew on how to lovingly confront people. In what ways can a lack of boldness compromise truth, (i.e. in regards to confronting other people)?

- 3) Pray and ask God to help you with the boldness you need to lovingly confront someone, (i.e. if applicable).

“Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” Matthew 22:37

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
Deuteronomy 6:5

- 1) Look carefully at the two verses. How do they differ?

- 2) Why do you think there is a difference in the way Jesus quoted the Deuteronomy verse?

- 3) How you can better love God with your heart, soul, and mind?

- 4) Spend some time praying about your response for #3.

DAY 3:

READ: Matthew 23

RESPOND:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.” Matthew 23:25-26

- 1) In what ways can we also be more concerned with outward appearances?

- 2) Spend time repenting as the Spirit leads you.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs,

which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.” Matthew 23:27

- 1) Many people claim Christianity in America. It's easy to have the appearance of a Christian, but what are defining characteristics of a true Christian?

- 2) If someone were to casually ask, “Are you a Christian?”, what are some defining truths you would share?

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” Matthew 23:37

- 1) What does this verse reveal about Christ's character?

- 2) Spend time praising him!

DAY 4:

READ: Matthew 24:1-29

RESPOND:

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” Matthew 24:6-8

- 1) What are the signs of the end age?

- 2) Despite all the turmoil, how does Christ tell us to respond?

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.” Matthew 24:9

- 1) Why do you think some people hate Christians?

- 2) How have you recently faced opposition?

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- 3) If a Christian doesn't face opposition in any social arenas of his/her life, what might be the problem?
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DAY 5:

READ: Matthew 24:30-51

RESPOND:

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24:30-31

- 1) Describe the emotions you feel as you read these verses.
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- 2) Praise God he has not *and* will not ever forsake us!

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42

- 1) The phrase “keep watch” comes from a Greek word, which means “to be awake”. What do you think Christ means for us to “keep watch”?
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“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.” Matthew 24:44-46

- 1) What is God calling you to?
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- 2) Pray about #1. Either ask him to reveal what he's calling you to, (i.e. if applicable) or pray and ask him to help you with the courage and discipline to pursue what he's calling you to.

DAY 6:

READ: Matthew 25:1-30

RESPOND:

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later, the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said, 'Open the door for us!' But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” Matthew 25:10-13

- 1) There is an urgency to tell others about Christ. For these five, it was too late by the time they realized their error. How can you better prepare yourself to share the gospel with someone?

- 2) Name some groups of people or individual names of people you feel led to share the gospel with.

- 3) Pray for your preparation and the groups/people you listed in #2.

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.” Matthew 25:14-15

- 1) What gifts has God entrusted to you?

- 2) What other opportunities, relationships, wealth, or possessions has God entrusted to you?

“But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.” Matthew 25:18

- 1) In what ways can we also become poor stewards of the things God has entrusted to us?

DAY 7:

READ: Matthew 25:31-46

RESPOND:

“Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'” Matthew 25:37-40

- 1) What opportunities do you have to practically serve others right now?

2) Name some wrong motives in serving others.

3) Based off these verses, what should our motives be

4) Look for opportunities to serve this week.