

# matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Psalm 141 is a powerful prayer passage. Use it to guide your thoughts to the throne of your King. Start today with Psalm 141:1-5.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 17:1-13. Jesus has predicted His death (Matthew 16:21) and taught His disciples what it will cost them to follow Him (16:24-28).

1. Shortly after that time, He takes three disciples up on a high mountain. Who went with Him? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What did they experience? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What was Peter's idea? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What terrified the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

d. How did Jesus instruct them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 17:14-21 along with Mark 9:14-29. Use the Mark passage to answer the following:

a. What was going on when Jesus and the three returned? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Describe the boy's condition (vv 17-18, 20, 22). \_\_\_\_\_

c. What does Jesus say in verse 19? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Why do you think Jesus asked the question in verse 21? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Summarize the conversation between Jesus and the father (vv 22-24). \_\_\_\_\_

f. Then what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

g. How did Jesus answer the disciples' question in verse 28? \_\_\_\_\_

h. What does He say in Matthew 17:20? \_\_\_\_\_

i. How would you describe true faith? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus is not looking for magical, showy faith, but true faith in its purest form, a faith where we stand on the very words of Christ and trust those words with our very lives. There is nothing self-focused about it, but only Kingdom purposes. Faith is born out of a life bathed in prayer and God's Word. How's your faith? Do you know beyond all doubts that God can remove any obstacles in His way? Talk to God about your faith.

----> **apply...** Can you relate to the boy's father (Mark 9:24)? Then pray his prayer, "Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief." Memorize Matthew 18:3.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 141:5-7. Pray for the wicked and evildoers—that they would come to know Jesus before judgment.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 17:22-23. Jesus is now alone with His chosen disciples (see Mark 9:30-31) and begins intense instruction with them. For the second time now, He verbally predicts His death.

1. What does He say? How do the disciples react? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read the encounter between Jesus and Peter in Matthew 17:24-27 about paying the Jewish temple tax. Although Jesus has every right to not pay this tax (He is the Son of the Father), He does. Why? Do you see His humility? \_\_\_\_\_

a. How is the money provided? Who was this miracle for? Share your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Matthew 18:1-9. Who's the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

a. How do we become children? \_\_\_\_\_

i. Are children perfect? \_\_\_\_\_

ii. What do you think are the qualities that Jesus would honor? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How does God feel about those who lead children to sin? \_\_\_\_\_

i. What does Romans 14:13 say? \_\_\_\_\_

ii. How about I Corinthians 8:9? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus is teaching humility to His disciples and us. He's looking for simple trust like that of a child. PRIDE interferes with humility. How would you define pride—and how do you see it subtly at work in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What should we do with the sin of pride? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Pride hinders us from truly following Jesus and loving Him completely. Again, it keeps us **self-focused**. Some "pride phrases" are: 1) "What about **ME**? What will others think of **ME**? I deserve more. No one appreciates **ME**. I could do better. I don't need help. **MY** way is the RIGHT way. **MY** sin isn't so bad. God could never use **ME**. Etc..." Do any of these ring a bell? Talk to God. In what ways do you need to humble yourself "as a child"?

----> **apply...** Memorize Matthew 18:3.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 141:8-10. Who is your Protector? Will you praise Him?

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 18:10-14.

1. What is the parable about? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is the main principle of this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 18:15-19. What does verse 15 say? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is the "goal" of this confrontation? \_\_\_\_\_

i. What does Luke 17:3 say? \_\_\_\_\_

ii. How about James 5:19-20? \_\_\_\_\_

iii. And Galatians 6:1? \_\_\_\_\_

b. If the one sinning does not respond to the one who goes to him, what should happen next (v. 16)? \_\_\_\_\_

c. If he still refuses to listen, then what (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Verse 18 refers back to Matthew 16:19. The disciples have the right to announce guilt or innocence. We must keep it in context with the previous verses and verse 19. Verses 19-20 are interesting when we keep them also in context. D. A. Carson states, "These two verses should not, in this setting, be taken as a promise regarding any prayer on which two or three believers agree (v. 20)." Scripture is rich in prayer promises (21:22; John 14:13-14; 15:7-8, 16), but if this passage deals with prayer at all, it is restricted by the context and by the phrase *peri-pantos pragmatos* (NIV "about anything"), which should here be rendered "about any judicial matter." (The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Frank E. Gaebelin). Does this make sense to you? It's okay if you are confused. This is difficult. Share your thoughts:

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4. Verse 20 is referring to the presence of Jesus being amongst His true followers. How do other true followers sharpen you and expand your view of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** The point for us is this: sometimes God will use us to restore our brother or sister in Christ—to help them face and deal with their sin. It is a situation that must be handled with humility, gentleness, and truth. It is **never** to be done to prove our point or put someone in their place. We are to go with the attitude of Jesus—with love and compassion. If there is any other motive, it is not our place to go. Do you know a Christian brother or sister who is entangled in sin? Will you pray for him/her?

----> **apply...** Keep memorizing Matthew 18:3.

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----> **connect...** Where do you go for strength? Psalm 142:1-4. Tell God what's on your heart.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 18:21-35 aloud. Peter asks about forgiveness and Jesus answers with a parable.

1. How much did the man owe the king? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. How much did this man's fellow servant owe him? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did they both ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Who was truly wicked and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What question does the king ask in verse 33? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Do you think our inability to forgive others may indicate we haven't received and understood forgiveness ourselves? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What does the parable say to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What gives us the true ability to forgive others from our hearts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - i. What does James 2:13 say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. When did Jesus forgive us (see Romans 5:8)? \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. How many sins have been forgiven for you? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. When you stop and think about it, when you withhold forgiveness from someone, who suffers the most? Do you see PRIDE involved in this (Day 2)? Share your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Jesus has said, "No servant is greater than his master." How does that fact tie in to forgiving those who've sinned against us? \_\_\_\_\_  
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  - a. Where should our focus be—on the sinner or the Savior? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Forgiveness is a tender topic. Many have been severely hurt by the sin of another. What does Jesus say about them (see 18:5)? He commands us to obey because we've been forgiven. Talk to God about what this means for you.

----> **apply...** If you need help in this area, seek godly counsel. Read and apply God's truth. His commandments are for our good—to relieve burdens! Keep memorizing Matthew 18:3.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 143:5-7.

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 19:1-12.

1. What did the Pharisees ask? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is God's plan for marriage (vv 4-6)? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why did Moses "permit" (not command) divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Was it permitted for "any and every reason (v.3)? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Who brings a man and wife together? \_\_\_\_\_

e. What do they become? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Marriage and women were viewed much differently in the first century Jewish culture than they are today. Women were despised and treated like a possession. This was not God's desire or view. Later, Paul describes how God views marriage. Summarize what he says in Ephesians 5:22-33:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Bible says, "God hates divorce." It's easy to understand why. He never says He hates those who are divorced. "Knowing" your King—how do you think He feels toward those who find themselves in the painful experience of divorce? Share your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a. Do you think the divorce rate may drop if Matthew 18:15-17 was lovingly applied? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Matthew 19:13-15. What point does Jesus reiterate? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Should "children" (us) ever hesitate to approach Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Divorce, like forgiveness, is another tender topic. It hurts so many and is a result of sin. God hates it—but He doesn't reject those who find themselves there—nor does He condone sin to perpetuate after divorce. One sin doesn't justify another. Obedience is **always** the standard—truth must be applied. If you're struggling with this, ask God to open your eyes and heart to truth and give you the strength to apply truth through obedience.

----> **apply...** Again, if you are struggling here, call on Jesus to lead you to truth and seek godly counsel. Recite Matthew 18:3.

