

# matthew

experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **Connect...** Use these verses in Proverbs to pray for yourself this week. You can pray with confidence as you use God's Word to guide you. Pray through Proverbs 22:17-19.

----> **Discover...** Read Matthew 5:1-16. Note: "Blessed" comes from the Latin word 'beatus', which translates to 'beatitude'. This word was very powerful to the listeners of that day. To them it meant "divine joy and perfect happiness." It described the kind of joy that gods experienced, or the dead—not living humans—implying an inner satisfaction and sufficiency independent of outer circumstances.

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12 and review your lesson from last week. What stands out to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What was Jesus saying to these new followers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a. Do you think they understood all He was saying? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Is it okay if we don't understand the Bible completely—especially those of us who are new to studying it? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What does 2 Timothy 2:15 say? \_\_\_\_\_

3. As you read the list in Matthew 5 it is obvious that we cannot meet these expectations on our own, but only through the power of Christ living in us. What do the following verses say:

a. Galatians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Philippians 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

c. 2 Corinthians 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Ephesians 3:16, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

----> **Consider...** It's crucial to realize that we cannot live as Jesus taught in our own strength. He never expected us to! Just as it's impossible to humanly save ourselves, it is impossible to live like Jesus describes in our natural human state. He has given His Spirit to all those who believe in Him (see Acts 2:38-39). We are asked to simply yield to His Spirit. Have you surrendered control? Have you invited blessing into your life (Matthew 5:1-12) by allowing Jesus to produce His character in you? Talk to God about these things.

----> **Apply...** Begin memorizing Matthew 5:44-45.

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----> **Connect...** Pray through Proverbs 7:1-3 for yourself.

----> **Discover...** The Jewish people have been living “under the law” (the first 5 books of the Old Testament). Added to these commands were those written by the Old Testament prophets. On top of these, the Pharisees added hundreds of their own laws. The Pharisees were true legalists—outward actions made you righteous (never addressing the spirit—inward motives). Jewish citizens were defeated. Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 5:17-20.

1. What does He say in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Jesus was the one and only who ever met the requirements of the law (fulfilled). Read Romans 8:1-4. What does verse 3 say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What does Jesus say in verse Matthew 5:20? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - i. Who are the righteous ones according to Romans 3:10-20? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. So, how can we meet this requirement? Read Romans 3:21-24 and answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
      - (1) What does 1 Peter 3:18a say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
      - (2) How do we enter the kingdom of heaven? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus knows that those who place their faith in Him will be changed. They become members of the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5-7 defines these attributes.
  - a. Read Matthew 5:21-22 about murder. What kingdom living principle do you hear? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What does He teach about giving in verses 23-24? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **Consider...** It's important that we understand who we were (unrighteous); who we are now (righteous), and how we go there (through faith in Jesus). We now belong to the kingdom of heaven. Most of the time, this kingdom has an opposite view of our world. Are you ready to embrace the teachings of Jesus to you, His disciple? Talk to Him about what you learned today. Thank Him for all He came to do for you.

----> **Apply...** Make a page in your journal titled KINGDOM LIVING. As you learn about the personality of this kingdom, make a list of principles and/or character qualities that you find (i.e. “In this kingdom, murder is no worse than being angry with my brother). Keep learning Matthew 5:44-45.

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----> **Connect...** Pray through Proverbs 10:19-20 for yourself.

----> **Discover...** Kingdom living, Kingdom thinking, Kingdom motives. Before you begin today, review Hebrews 4:12. Does the Sermon on the Mount confirm that verse for you? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30. What does Jesus teach about adultery? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What point is He making (v.29-30) about how we should deal with sin in our life? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Jesus teach about divorce in verses 31-32? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does He teach about taking oaths in verses 33-37? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What principles does He teach in verses 38-42? What does Jesus want to see in our attitude? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does He teach about our response to enemies in verses 43-48? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What does this kind of love reveal about us? (v. 45) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Have you ever thought about consciously choosing to show love to someone who doesn't give it in return? Why is it so difficult? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **Consider...** Which mini-lesson stood out to you? Are you seriously dealing with sin? If married, are you faithful to your mate mentally and emotionally, as well as physically? Do you keep your word? Do you give beyond what is expected or required? Are you only kind to those who return your affection? Have you extended love to the unlovely? Discuss your thoughts with your teacher (the Holy Spirit).

----> **Apply...** In your journal, write out what you sense the Lord is teaching you. Keep learning Matthew 5:44-45.

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----> **Connect...** Pray through Proverbs 16:2, 21:2-3 for yourself.

----> **Discover...** Continue listening to Jesus' words as you read Matthew 6:1-4.

1. Jesus cautions us in verse one. What does He say? \_\_\_\_\_

a. If we do acts of righteousness with the hidden motive of wanting to be recognized, what are we robbing ourselves of? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the following verses say about serving the poor and needy?

a. Proverbs 14:31 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Proverbs 22:9 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Proverbs 29:7 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Proverbs 31:9 \_\_\_\_\_

e. Proverbs 31:20 \_\_\_\_\_

f. Psalm 82:3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How should we give according to Jesus in Matthew 6:2-4? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What do you hear Jesus saying in your own words? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why is this difficult for us? What focus do we need to have? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Can you think of some ways to give without being noticed? Share your ideas with your group.

4. Jesus is taking us to a new level of obedience. He looks beyond the outward performance to the heart motive. What do you think about that? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **Consider...** Do you realize that the Father is always watching and that there will be rewards in heaven? The Bible is clear that the Father will reward you for your obedience when it's performed for Him alone. He is our audience. A great question to ask ourselves over and over again is: "Who is my audience?" Discuss this thought with your watchful Father.

----> **Apply...** What have you done for the poor/needy lately? Pray that God would lead you to opportunities to bless them.

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----> **Connect...** Pray through Proverbs 15:7-8 for yourself.

----> **Discover...** Jesus continues the theme of “an audience of One” as He begins teaching about prayer.

1. Read Matthew 6:5-8. What is Jesus saying here? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What does verse 6 say? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Do you see God’s desire for intimacy with you? Share your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

c. In verses 7-8 Jesus says to avoid babbling—repeating the same words over and over. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus gives us a model outline for prayer. Read verses 9-13 slowly. When we’re just learning to pray it is helpful to use the acrostic “ACTS”.

A: adoration—praising God for who He is

C: confession—acknowledging our sins and experiencing forgiveness

T: thanksgiving—giving thanks for everything

S: supplication—laying our requests before our Father

Now read the Lord’s Prayer again. Do you see any of these components in there? Write down the verse number beside each letter.

A: \_\_\_\_\_ T: \_\_\_\_\_

C: \_\_\_\_\_ S: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read verses 14 and 15. What does Jesus say about forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Our salvation does not depend on whether or not we forgive others; however, our ability and readiness to forgive others signifies that we belong to Christ. Jesus is implying that we have no right to withhold forgiveness (we will address “judging” in Lesson 5). Do you think withholding forgiveness from others hinders your relationship with God? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **Consider...** The purpose of prayer is to build a relationship. God longs for you to draw close to Him. James says “come near to God and He will come near to you” (James 4:8). Don’t worry about having the right words—just call on Him. Use the acrostic A-C-T-S, pray the Lord’s Prayer—just do it! Bow down before him and express your desire to draw close.

----> **Apply...** Recite Matthew 5:44-45.

