

# matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Each day this week we are going to meditate on few verses which express hearts that yearn to know God. Does your heart cry out in the same way? Start with Psalm 63:1.

----> **discover...**

1. Read **Matthew 10:1-16**. Remember Matthew wrote this gospel topically rather than chronologically. The apostles had been following Jesus for nearly two years at this time. What authority did Jesus give his twelve disciples? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Verses 2-4 list the disciples in pairs—He sent them out together. Why do you think He did that? (See Ecclesiastes 4:9-10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What specific instructions does He give them in verses 5-10? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How did God’s chosen people stray so far from their Shepherd? (see Jeremiah 50:6-7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How does Jesus feel about these lost sheep? (see Matthew 9:36) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What instructions does Jesus give His disciples in verses 11-16? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Rejecting one of Jesus’ servants is a serious matter. What does He say about it in verses 14-15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He tells them to be as “shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” What do you think that means? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Prophecy foretold that the message of Christ would go to the Jews first (then to the Gentiles). What does that tell you about your King? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** On judgment day no one will be able to say to God that He wasn’t fair. Paul asks in Romans 11:1, “Did God reject His people? By no means!” God went to them first. Jesus wept over His sheep that rejected Him. We’re told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). As we connect with the heart of our King we need to align ourselves with His concerns. Will you take a few minutes to pray for the lost sheep of Israel? Pray that they would recognize the Messiah—The Prince of Peace.

----> **apply...** Do you personally know any Jewish people? Write their names on your prayer list in your journal and begin praying consistently for them. Begin memorizing Matthew 11:28-30.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 143:6-8.

----> **discover...** In Matthew 10:17-39 the focus is still on the Galilean mission of the twelve disciples, but the discourse highlights principles applicable to all disciples who face oppositions.

1. In Matthew 10:17-20. Jesus seems to be jumping ahead to what will take place after He returns to His Father. What's going to happen to them as they speak about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Read how Peter experienced this in Acts 4:8-13. Why were the people astonished? Praise God—Jesus' promises are true! \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Matthew 10:21-31. Is following Jesus a road to popularity? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Describe what may occur. (vs 21-23) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why should we expect this? (vs 24-25) \_\_\_\_\_

c. What perspective must we have? (vs 26-28) \_\_\_\_\_

d. Is God paying attention? How do you know? (vs 29-31) \_\_\_\_\_

e. What does Jesus repeat in verses 26, 28 and 31? \_\_\_\_\_

f. What are we to be afraid of (v. 28)? Why is it so difficult for us to keep this perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write out Hebrews 13:6 in the space provided. <sup>5</sup>"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we say with confidence, \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** All of us experience fear when it comes to standing up for Christ. The twelve disciples did too. In an attitude of prayer, walk through verses 26-31 with Jesus. Discuss His statements with Him. Listen to His words. How will you respond?

----> **apply...** In your journal write out Hebrews 13:6. Ask yourself that question every time you sense fear creeping in. Continue memorizing Matthew 11:28-30.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 42:1-2.

----> **discover...** Jesus is direct about what it means to follow Him. Read Matthew 10:32-42 slowly, aloud.

1. What do verses 32-33 say? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How about verses 34-36? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why would following Jesus cause dissension in some homes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Matthew 10:37 causes followers to take a hard look at their loyalty. What does Jesus say in this verse?

a. Is He saying we shouldn't deeply love our family? What's His point? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Verse 38 can be confusing too. Jesus isn't saying we need to die on a cross as He did, however, the cross does symbolize a type of death in us. It's a death to self, our agenda, our selfish desires—symbolizing total commitment to Christ... even unto death if necessary. Share your thoughts on this.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a. What does He promise in verse 39? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Verses 40-42 beautifully describe how precious God's followers are to Him. He blesses those who bless them! He is completely attentive to His disciples' every experience! What does Jesus teach in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** It's worth it to love Jesus. Following Him in this life may be trying, but it will be full of rewards one day. To whom are you the most loyal? Do you need to re-evaluate? Slowly pray through Mark 12:29-30 inviting God to fill you with love for Him as you get to know Him.

----> **apply...** In your journal write out what you think it means to "take up your cross and follow Christ." Are you worthy of Him? Keep learning Matthew 11:28-30.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 84:1-2. Ask God to give you a hunger and a thirst for Him. (Matthew 5:6)

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 11:1-19.

1. Who approached Jesus while He was teaching and preaching, and what did they ask? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. What was His reply? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. How did Jesus describe John the Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Who is even greater than John? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How was John viewed by the people? What about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the last sentence of verse 19 say? What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did Jesus seem to care what people thought? Why didn't He? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Read Matthew 11:20-24. Why does Jesus denounce these cities? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Does witnessing miracles guarantee faith for people? \_\_\_\_\_
6. God will judge us according to what we've been given (Romans 2). Jesus wants us to see the seriousness of rejecting God's light. Carefully read John 3:16-21.
  - a. Why did Jesus come (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What did He NOT come to do? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Who is NOT condemned? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Who is? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What does light do? (v. 19) \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Why do men run from it? (v. 20) \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. How do we enter the light? (v. 21) \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Who gets all the credit for bringing us to the light? (v. 21) \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus came to bring us the light of God. Accepting truth leads us to that light. Matthew 10:26 says that there is nothing concealed or hidden that won't be disclosed and made known. Are you afraid of exposure? God doesn't want you to be. Review Hebrews 4:14-16 and invite God to the darkest corners of your heart. You will be met with compassion and grace. Being "loyal" means being honest. Don't hide from your King—let Him love you unconditionally.

----> **apply...** Keep memorizing Matthew 11:28-30.

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----> **connect...** Embrace Psalm 62:1-2. This is truth. Make it the pattern of your life to rest in Him.

----> **discover...** Slowly read Matthew 11:25-30.

1. Why does Jesus praise the Father? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. What do you think He means by “little children?” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What brought pleasure to the Father? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read verse 27 again.
  - a. Who reveals God the Father to the world? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Who are the only ones who know the Father? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Can we know God the Father apart from Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What invitation does Jesus give in verse 28? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Who does He invite? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What does He promise? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What’s our responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What’s His? \_\_\_\_\_
4. A yoke was something people used to ease the burden of a heavy load. Look up “yoke” in the dictionary. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What does Jesus tell us to do in verse 29? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How does He describe Himself? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What will we find as we take His yoke upon us? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How does He describe His yoke? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Our “yoke,” or burden, or responsibility seems to be to learn about Jesus. Study Him, love Him, follow Him. He is to be the focus of our life—our life’s work. This is eternal life (John 17:3) and we will be “learning of Him” for eternity. Is it a priority for you now? Have you accepted this yoke? This focus will bring us rest and peace. Do you hear His love calling you as you read this invitation? How will you respond?

----> **apply...** In your journal write out your response to Matthew 11:28-30. Recite these verses.

