

matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Psalm 111 expresses many of God's attributes (characteristics). As you use this psalm to focus your heart this week, take note of the characteristics of your King. Psalm 111:1-2.

Attributes: _____

----> **discover...** As we walk through the last week of Jesus' human life, we learn more and more about our King. Pay attention to His character as you listen to His words this week. Where do you see His strength? His wisdom? His tenacity? His boldness? His gentleness? His humility? His patience? His mercy? His shrewdness? His innocence? His benevolence? His justice? His faithfulness? His grace? His compassion? His knowledge? His love? As you do your lesson, look for character traits. Write the trait you see in the margins. Perhaps you will find some that are not listed above. Remember the goal: to know our King—not just "about Him," or "what He did," but to truly know Him through a personal relationship with Him. As you find different character traits, pause and praise your king for WHO He is.

1. Read Matthew 21:23-27. Who approached Jesus while He was teaching in the temple courts? _____

a. What did they ask? _____

b. How did Jesus answer? _____

Note: "heaven" was a common Jewish term for God.

c. Did Jesus answer their question? What do you think is going on here? _____

2. Jesus uses the Parable of the Two Sons to make His point. Read Matthew 21:28-32. (Note: at this time, tax collectors and prostitutes were looked upon as the vilest of sinners). What was the difference between the two sons? _____

a. This strong rebuke to the religious teachers was extremely telling. He was literally saying that "sinners" are entering the Kingdom and "you" (religious teachers) are not. Why aren't they? _____

b. Why isn't "lip service" enough? (v. 30) _____

----> **consider...** Facing WHO Jesus really is alters our course. It causes us to reevaluate and "change our minds" (v. 29). It leads us to repentance which allows us to receive His mercy and enter the Kingdom of God. Do you still struggle with the lie that you somehow have to be "good enough" to enter the Kingdom? What do you learn from this parable? Discuss it with your Father.

----> **apply...** Begin memorizing Matthew 22:37. Memorize through verse 39 if you can.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 111:3-4. Attributes: _____

----> **discover...** Read the Parable of the Tenants from Matthew 21:33-46. Six months earlier Jesus told His disciples that the rulers at Jerusalem would kill Him (see 16:21); now He tells the rulers themselves.

1. See if you can determine the metaphorical equivalences as you read:

The landowner: _____ The servants: _____

The vineyard: _____ The son: _____

The tenants: _____

Summarize this parable: _____

a. What does Jesus ask the teachers in verse 40? _____

b. And their answer? _____

c. Who is the stone the builders have rejected? _____

d. If you picture the Jewish leaders of thousands of years being the builders of "true" religion from God—and the final stone needed for completion being the "capstone"—what is Jesus saying?

e. How will rejecting this stone lead to destruction? _____

f. What do the Pharisees recognize in verse 45? _____

g. Have they heard the truth? What are they doing with it? _____

h. Why didn't they immediately arrest Jesus? _____

i. Who will the kingdom of God be given to? _____

----> **consider...** Jesus hid the truth from no one. What do you think you would say given the chance to speak to those who would soon torture and kill you? What do you learn about your King from this parable?

----> **apply...** What are you finding unique about Jesus? Record your discoveries in your journal. Keep memorizing Matthew 22:37.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 111:5-6. Attributes: _____

----> **discover...** As you read the Parable of the Wedding Feast from Matthew 22, keep it in context with what you know about the character of your King and what He has been teaching.

1. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Who did the first invitation go to and what was their response? _____

b. What about the second? What happened to those messengers? _____

c. What were some excuses given according to Luke 14:16-20? _____

d. How did the King respond to the rejection of His invitation? _____

e. Where does he send the servants to the third time? _____

f. Who else was invited according to Luke 14:21? _____

g. One person was there without the proper attire. What did the King do? _____

h. This man, though invited, did not prepare acceptably for the feast. The invitation is broad; however, those who refuse to submit to the norms of the kingdom are rejected. Those who remain are called "chosen." In this parable, Jesus illuminates His sovereign grace. Without dissecting this parable too much (parables are designed to give broad truth) what are some of your thoughts?

i. Was the invitation withheld from anyone? _____

j. What does 2 Peter 3:9 say? _____

2. We need to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ in order to enter the kingdom of God and enjoy the wedding feast as His bride. How do we become clothed in this way from:

a. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21: _____

b. Romans 4:13: _____

----> **consider...** God has prepared the feast—all have been invited, but we can enter only one way—through the cross of Christ. Covered by His atoning blood. There will be no acceptable excuses. Have you embraced His grace and come to terms with the fact that you will be there only through faith in Jesus? Talk to God about His invitation.

----> **apply...** In your journal, answer this question: Suppose you should die tonight and appear before God in heaven and He should ask you, "What right do you have to come into My heaven?" What would you say?

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----> **connect...** Psalm 111:7-8. Attributes: _____

----> **discover...** To fully understand the impact of Matthew 22:15-22, we would have to become familiar with first century Roman and Jewish law. For the purpose of today's lesson, let's focus on how Jesus responds to a difficult encounter.

1. Read Matthew 22:15-22. Basically the trap was this: If He says "yes" pay taxes to Caesar, then he would obviously be submitting to Rome (which would upset the Jews). If He said "no" then they could report Him and have Him charged with treason. Read the cleverness of their question in verses 16-17. How did their inquiry begin? (v. 16) _____

a. What was their question? _____

b. What does Jesus know (v. 18)? What does He ask? _____

c. How does He answer? _____

d. Why do you think these interrogators were so amazed? _____

2. Read Matthew 22:23-33. Remember this is passion week (probably Tuesday). The Sadducees seem to have the same objective as their counterparts, the Pharisees. What was distinct about their belief (v. 23)? _____

a. What question did they pose? _____

b. What does Jesus immediately point out in verse 29? _____

c. Does Jesus acknowledge the resurrection? What's one thing that will be different in heaven than here (v. 30)? _____

d. Jesus then uses the power of the Scriptures—"their scriptures"—to expose their wrong thinking. What does He say in verses 31-32? _____

e. How did the crowds react? Why? _____

3. What impresses you about your King from today's lesson? _____

----> **consider...** Jesus was not a defenseless victim caught in the trap of powerful men. He was the Lamb of God who chose to walk this filthy sod for us...putting up with the foolishness of men to accomplish His redemptive plan. Are you amazed and astonished? Tell Him!

----> **apply...** Keep memorizing Matthew 22:37.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 111:9-10. Attributes: _____

----> **discover...** The Pharisees come at Jesus again. Read Matthew 22:34-40.

1. Who asks the question this time? _____

a. What does he ask? _____

b. What is Jesus' answer? First: _____

Second: _____

c. What do these two commands accomplish? How? _____

d. How will applying these 2 commandments to every area of our lives change us? _____

2. Read Matthew 22:41-46. Who is asking the question now? What is the REAL ISSUE? _____

a. What is His question? _____

b. Their answer? _____

c. His next question? (v. 43) _____

d. Jesus quotes Psalm 110:1 where David acknowledges the superiority of the Lord Jesus. What does Jesus ask the Pharisees in verse 45? _____

e. Their answer? _____

f. Why do you think the questions ceased at this point? _____

3. Jesus asked, "What do you think about the Christ?" (Christ means Messiah). What's the crux of the matter? It always has been and always will be. Share your thoughts about Jesus from what you've studied this week. _____

----> **consider...** Take a few moments and just think about Jesus. Is your view of Him growing? How would you answer His question in verse 42?

----> **apply...** Record your answer to Jesus' question in your journal and write a prayer of thanksgiving to Him for revealing Himself to you. Recite Matthew 22:37.

