

# matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Use Psalm 5 to draw your spirit close to God this week. Psalm 5:1-3.

----> **discover...** As you read today the encounter Jesus had with the rich young man, it is important to keep all of Matthew in mind. Remember the Sermon on the Mount? Jesus is concerned with the heart issue. His definition of "perfection" is an undivided heart—one whose loyalty is demonstrated through full-hearted obedience.

1. Read Matthew 19:16-26. What do you think is the heart issue that Jesus is exposing here? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What question does the man ask? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How does Jesus respond? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Jesus quotes six of the ten commandments. The young man seems confident that he has kept these. What does he then ask (v. 20)? \_\_\_\_\_

d. How does Jesus respond? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Jesus brings His light to the tenth commandment (see Deut. 5:21) exposing this young man's heart. What is the purpose of the law according to Galatians 3:24? \_\_\_\_\_

f. What test did Jesus give this young man to prove his faith—his loyalty? \_\_\_\_\_

g. Did the young man choose to follow Jesus? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Most Jews believed that wealth testified to the blessing of the Lord on their lives. Jesus exposes the fallacy of this thinking with verses 23-24. Even the disciples were puzzled. What do they ask (v. 25)? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What was Jesus' response (v. 26)? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How does this encounter confirm Jesus' words in Matthew 6:24? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Who is the only One who can save (Matthew 19:26)? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus is in no way saying that the wealthy cannot be saved, or that we can earn our salvation by keeping the law. He is reconfirming all He's been teaching—that following Him demands whole-hearted obedience; that nothing can come before Him (not money, people or personal agendas). Is there anything standing in the way for you? Where would Jesus shine His light in your heart? What's hindering you from full-hearted followership? Ask Him.

----> **apply...** Go a step further in your journal. Write this question at the top of a page and then honestly answer it: "Lord, what do I still lack in my love for You?"

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----> **connect...** Psalm 5:4-6. Is there something separating you from the presence of God?

----> **discover...** Yesterday we observed a man who couldn't follow Jesus because of his root sin problem of "greed." Today we will read a parable that points out another root problem. See if you can diagnose the problem as you hear Peter's question and listen to Jesus illustrate His answer.

1. Read Matthew 19:27-20:16 aloud. As you read this parable, think of God as the landowner and His vineyard as the kingdom of heaven. Who did the foreman pay first? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. What were the "first hour" workers expecting? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. What did the landowner promise them? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Of what were they accusing the landowner? \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. What was his response? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. What do you see as the root problem? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does God owe us anything? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Are we ever tempted to tell Him that He is unfair? When? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Do we ever get into the trap of thinking if we perform a certain way that God will bless us more than someone who hasn't been as faithful? \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. How might this parable help us with that attitude? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. On the other hand, will there be rewards for those who've sacrificed to follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. Matthew 19:30 and 20:16 are the bookends to this parable. What do these verses say? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. Who chooses who will be last and who will be first? \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. Who will be the greatest among us according to Matthew 23:11-12? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** What do you hear God saying to you through this parable? Do you struggle with envy? Do you feel that God is not fair? Take your "grumbling" to Him. He's not afraid of your questions. Let Him speak truth to you through His Word.

----> **apply...** In your journal, write down what you would ask God if you faced Him today. Record any answers you received through His Word.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 5:7-8. Why can we enter His presence?

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 20:17-19 carefully. Who is Jesus speaking to? \_\_\_\_\_

1. List the statements He makes to them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Take note in your mind how many times Jesus tells His disciples what will happen to Him (see also Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:12, 22-23) What has He told them? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Did Jesus know why He came? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why was He heading toward Jerusalem according to Luke 9:51? \_\_\_\_\_

c. How does all this tie into John 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_

d. What do these things teach you about your King? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Matthew 20:20-28. What did the mother of James and John request? \_\_\_\_\_

a. How did Jesus respond? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What do you think "the cup" represented? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What does Jesus tell all His disciples concerning "position"? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Why did He say He came? Are we to follow His example? How? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Matthew 20:29-34. What happened as Jesus left Jericho? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Do you see a difference in "the crowd"? Why did Jesus touch them? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How did they respond? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** When you hear Jesus say things like "whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave...", what goes through your mind? Jesus knew His purpose—do you know yours? What does Philippians 2:5 say? Becoming a "bond servant" of Jesus Christ is a decision of our will motivated by our love for Jesus. Are you cooperating with this process? Ask God.

----> **apply...** Record what you are learning in your journal.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 5:9-10. Who can we trust?

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 21:1-11. It was the time of the Passover celebration—the biggest Jewish gathering of the year as they celebrated God’s mercy on them. There would be about 2 million people in and around Jerusalem. This is the only time in His ministry that Jesus actually planned and promoted a public demonstration—and He was just a few days away from His death.

1. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Why (vv. 4-5)? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What did the crowd do (v. 8)? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What were they shouting? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Luke say Jesus did as He approached Jerusalem (see Luke 19:41-44)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Matthew 21:12-17. What happened when Jesus entered the temple? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What does He expect to happen in His house? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Did He demonstrate His power there? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Did He receive praise? From whom? \_\_\_\_\_

d. How did the chief priests and teachers react? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did Jesus go to spend the night? Who came to Jesus and what did she do? (Read Mark 14:1-10 and Matthew 26:6-16.) \_\_\_\_\_

a. How did some of the disciples react? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What did Jesus say? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What did Judas Iscariot do? \_\_\_\_\_

----> **consider...** Jesus’ days were filled with highs and lows, but He remained steady. His worth did not rest on people’s opinion of Him, but in carrying out the will of His Father. He says that as we follow Him we will share in His experiences (sufferings and blessings). Are you ready? Are you focused on the Father? Study your King’s life—follow in His steps. Talk to Him about what you are learning.

----> **apply...** Review your memory verses from the past few lessons.

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----> **connect...** Psalm 5:11-12. Where do you take refuge?

----> **discover...** Read Matthew 21:18-22. A good definition for faith is “simply taking God at His word and standing firmly on it.” It is not a strong emotion based on our deepest desires.

1. What will true faith do according to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

2. He says, “If you believe [have committed faith to God’s Word] you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Is it possible to pray in faith apart from being in God’s Word? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

a. James sheds more light on this subject for us. What does He say in James 1:22? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why do prayers go unanswered according to James 4:1-3? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read John 16:25-27 slowly and then contemplate the thoughts from Oswald Chambers as quoted below, taken from ***My Utmost for His Highest***.

May 29: “In that day you will ask in My name,” that is, in My nature. Not—“You will use My name as some magic word,” but— “You will be so intimate with Me that you will be One with Me.” “That day” is not a day in the next life, but a day meant for here and now.

March 30: The reason many of us stop praying and become hard toward God is that we only have an emotional interest in prayer.

When we lose sight of God, we become hard and dogmatic. We throw our petitions at His throne and dictate to Him what we want Him to do. We don’t worship God, nor do we seek to conform our minds to the mind of Christ.

Are we worshiping God in a way that will raise us up to where we can take hold of Him, having such intimate contact with Him that we know His mind about the ones for whom we pray?

July 9: We say, “Oh if only I really could believe!” The question is “**Will** I believe?” No wonder Jesus Christ placed much emphasis on the sin of unbelief (Matthew 13:58). If we really believed that God meant what He said, just imagine what we would be like! Do I really dare to let God be to me all that He says He will be?

Any Comments? \_\_\_\_\_

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----> **consider/apply...** How’s your faith? Talk to God. He’s the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

