

Matthew Chapters 1 & 2

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **What's the point of the genealogy? What interesting nuggets are found within?**

2. **Read the following Old Testament passages in their context and explain how they are used by Matthew in the story of Jesus' birth and childhood:**
 1. **Isaiah 7:10-16**

 2. **Micah 5:1-5**

 3. **Hosea 11:1-7**

 4. **Jeremiah 31:10-20**

Matthew Chapters 3 & 4

1. **In 3:7-10, John the Baptist speaks with the Pharisees and Sadducees. What can we infer from his words?**

2. **How many prophecies are fulfilled in Matthew chapters 3 and 4? (please list them)**

3. **Explain Jesus's response to John in verse 15.**

Here are some different translations of that verse for additional perspective.

NASB But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

ASV But Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffereth him.

ESV But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

NKJV But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

KJV And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

NLT But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

YLT But Jesus answering said to him, 'Suffer now, for thus it is becoming to us to fulfill all righteousness,' then he doth suffer him.

4. **In chapter 4, Jesus resists the devil's temptations using the word of God. What words of God might you use to fight temptations in your own life?**

Matthew Chapters 6 & 7

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. In what actions / settings are we most tempted to “practice righteousness to be noticed”? How can we use Jesus’ teaching here to counteract that tendency?**
- 2. What is the one verse that best summarizes Jesus’ teaching in 6:19-34?**
- 3. How would you summarize (briefly) the teaching in 7:1-12?**
- 4. List the four pictures of contrast that Jesus uses to close the sermon:**

Matthew Chapters 8 & 9

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. In 7:28-29, the crowds were amazed by Jesus' "authority." List all the ways Jesus demonstrates "authority" in chapters 8 & 9:**
- 2. What clues are there in chapters 8 & 9 that Jesus might be concerned with more than simply healing the bodies of the infirm?**
- 3. Go and learn what this means: I desire compassion, and not sacrifice.**
- 4. Explain the parable of the cloth and the wineskins.**

Matthew Chapter 10

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Verse 7 is the third time we have seen the message “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”**

What does that message mean to you as a reader?

What did it mean to the Jews who were hearing it?

2. **In chapter 10, it “gets real” for Christ’s apostles as they receive instructions and prophecies of the difficulties ahead.**

What words of comfort does Jesus offer when he describes the persecutions that are to come?

3. **Is there anything that they should fear?**

4. **Jesus says, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”**

How is this statement true?

What does this tell us about compromising in regards to God’s word?

Matthew Chapter 11

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Why in the world would John be asking if Jesus is “the expected One”?**
2. **What is Jesus message to the crowds about John? About themselves?**
3. **Explain Jesus’ words in 11:25-27.**
4. **Are verses 28-30 a continuation of the thought? How? Or is it separate?**

Matthew Chapter 12

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **What is Jesus's point when he asks if the Pharisees had read about David eating the showbread or bread of the Presence?**
2. **Jesus brings to light the Pharisees' lack of mercy which is standing juxtaposed to their extreme seriousness in regard to obeying the Sabbath law. What lesson(s) can we learn from these accounts? Is there a possibility that you or I could be so focused on the rule book of God's commands that we lack or devalue mercy?**
3. **Jesus explains that the Pharisees have an issue of the heart. How can we help ensure that our own hearts are "full of good treasure"?**
4. **What words/phrases in chapter 12 point toward the death of Jesus?**
5. **What defines who is part of Christ's family?**

Matthew Chapter 13

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Summarize why Jesus spoke in parables.**
2. **What benefit(s) did parables create for his disciples?**
3. **What are the three obstacles that prevent God's word from producing fruit?**
4. **Have any of these obstacles hindered your fruitfulness?**

Matthew Chapter 13 (cont.)

6. **What are the implications of the mustard seed and leaven parables in chapter 13?**

7. **What is the overarching message in the parables of the treasure in the field and the merchant of pearls?**

8. **The parable of the weeds in the field and then he fish in the net illustrate what will happen at the end of the age.
What is the defining factor that separates those cast into the fiery furnace versus those who will shine in the kingdom of their Father?**

9. **If you were to summarize the main points of each of the parables in chapter 13, what would they be?**

Matthew Chapter 14

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **How do the stories of the rejection at Nazareth and the beheading of John the Baptist fit together in Matthew's storytelling—and what connection might they have to the parables Jesus told in chapter 13?**
2. **How does the death of John color the stories that follow?**
3. **Why do you think Matthew includes the story of Peter on the water?**

Matthew Chapter 15

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **How were the Pharisees breaking the commandment to honor their fathers and mothers?**
2. **What are some key points to take away from the first 20 verses in chapter 15?**
3. **Why does Jesus imply that the Canaanite woman is a dog?**
4. **What was the impact of Jesus's healing miracles?**
5. **What drove Jesus to feed the 4000?**
6. **Why do you think Matthew chose to include two different instances of Jesus miraculously feeding thousands of people?**

Matthew Chapters 16 & 17

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **What does Jesus' comment about weather patterns have to do with the Pharisees' request for a sign?**
2. **What all are the disciples missing in these two chapters? Why?**
3. **How do Jesus' prediction in chapter 16 and his transfiguration in chapter 17 fit together? What does He want his disciples to get?**
4. **Explain the tax and fish story.**

Matthew Chapter 18

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. Why were the disciples interested / inquiring about who would be the "greatest" in the kingdom? Why were they asking now? Humility - what does it mean to you to be humble? Is it the same as weakness?**
- 2. In Matthew 18:1-20, what is the overall theme of teaching?**
- 3. Forgiveness - how do you forgive the same person after they commit the same sin against you? Not just the 3rd time or the 7th, but the 490th?**
- 4. What if you had power over them - could take their freedom, money, spouse, children? Would you want to abuse that power - what if the power is rightfully yours?**
- 5. How are compassion and forgiveness linked? If you are compassionate for someone or their circumstance, are you more likely to help them?**
- 6. What about God's compassion? What have else ever done for Him? He had the right by law to condemn us, but instead He sacrificed His only Son.**

Matthew Chapter 19

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Is Jesus changing Moses' law on marriage, divorce, and remarriage?**
2. **Why do the disciples ask their question in v.10? What does Jesus' response mean?**
3. **Why does Jesus first ask the young man about the commandments before telling him what he needs to do to be complete?**
4. **In the context, what does Jesus mean, "...with God all things are possible." (v.26)**

Matthew Chapter 20

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Is the master in the parable of the vineyard being fair? Is fairness the point?**
2. **Twice in this context, Jesus says, "The last will be first, and the first last." (19:30; 20:16). What does that mean and how does it apply in this section?**
3. **Connect Jesus' description of how His kingdom operates in 20:25-27 with other descriptions of the kingdom we've seen in the Gospel of Matthew.**
4. **Compare and contrast the stories in 20:20-23 and 20:29-34.**

Matthew Chapter 21

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. Why did Jesus make a “show” of entering Jerusalem? Why was it prophesied? To what purpose?**
- 2. How is it that after 3 years, “the city” wondered who Jesus was? How was it “the multitudes” responded, with the right answer?**
- 3. Was this the first time he cleansed the temple? How long had it been since the first time? Why did He have to cleanse it again?**
- 4. How did Jesus, once again demonstrate His authority over nature?**
- 5. What do the parables of the two sons and the vinedressers have in common? Did the Jews really care about authority, or was it just their argument against Jesus?**
- 6. How does the reaction of the crowds to Jesus’ teaching impact: a. the Pharisees? b. Jesus’ trial? c. His apostles? d. Jesus’ claim to be the son of God? e. His disciples / others in the city?**

Matthew Chapter 22

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **What's the message of the wedding parable in 22:1-10? How does the message of the parable change by adding on 22:11-14?**
2. **Why is Jesus' answer to the tax-to-Caesar question so amazing?**
3. **What is the point of the Sadducees question about marriage & the resurrection?**
4. **What is Jesus' point in asking the Pharisees about the Christ in 22:41-46?**

Matthew Chapter 23

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Based on the progression of encounters seen in the following passages: Matt 21:15-16, 25-27, 45-46; Matt 22: 15-16, 22, 33-36, 41-46; Mt 23:1-39; What event is inevitable?**

2. **How many "woe" analogies can you identify in Matt 23?**

3. **Read Matt 23:34-36**
 - a. **Name 3 examples of prophets the Jews killed/tortured in history (Old Testament)**

 - b. **Name 3 examples of prophets/disciples the Jews will kill/torture after Jesus death.**

Matthew Chapter 24

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. What question(s) is Jesus answering when he begins teaching in v.4?**

- 2. How would you summarize Jesus' answer to that question in this chapter?**

- 3. What is the instruction in each of the following sections? How does each section fit into the overall answer that Jesus is giving?**
 - 24:4-14**

 - 24:15-31**

 - 24:32-51**

Matthew Chapter 25

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. What spiritual analogues do the characters in the "10 virgins" parable represent?**
 - a. Bridegroom =**
 - b. 5 Wise Virgins =**
 - c. 5 Foolish Virgins =**
 - d. Messenger =**
 - e. Doorkeeper =**
- 2. In the parable of the talents, what three lessons is Jesus teaching/warning against?**
- 3. Read Mt 25: 31-46. What criteria will be used to judge the nations? Which ones were the Pharisees/scribes classified as? What caused the Jews to be classified as such?**

Matthew Chapter 26

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **Explain the significance of the Passover as the backdrop for these events.**
2. **Why might Matthew tell the ointment story and the story of Judas back to back?**
3. **Why is the setting of a meal important to the foretelling of a betrayal?**
4. **What is the connection between blood and covenant?**
5. **Where is the "I will strike the shepherd" quotation from? Go read that passage.**

Matthew Chapter 26 (cont.)

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

6. **What is the cup, and why does Jesus ask for it to pass? (see 20:22)**

7. **What does Jesus mean, “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”?**
 - **Is this just an excuse? Or is there a way to overcome this?**

8. **In context, what does He mean, “Live by the sword, die by the sword”?**

9. **Explain Jesus’ response in v.64:**

Matthew Chapter 27

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

- 1. How many total trials did Jesus endure in Mt 26 and 27? Name them...**
- 2. Did Judas repent of his sin? Why or why not?**
 - What about Ahab in 1 Kings 21:17-29? Did he repent of his sin?**
- 3. Read about Jesus appearing before Pilate in Matt.27:11-14.**
 - a. Why didn't Jesus offer a defense?**
 - b. Why didn't He take the opportunity to testify of who He was in front of Pilate and his court?**
- 4. What is the greatest irony in releasing Barabbas?**

Matthew Chapter 27 (cont.)

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

5. **Name 8 miracles (or at least highly improbable events) in Mt 27:45-56**

6. **How many Old Testament prophecies are referenced in Mt 27?**
 - **Name 10 of them.**

7. **Read Mt 27:62-66. Name the 3 groups that testified / witnessed that Jesus actually died.**

8. **Was Pilate emboldened after Jesus' death? If so, how do you know? (hint vs. 65-66)**

Matthew Chapter 28

Read the text.

Answer the questions.

1. **What are the amazing things surround the empty tomb? Why are they significant?**
2. **Why is fear so prevalent on resurrection Sunday?**
3. **What is the final word on the chief priests & Jews?**
4. **How does Matthews 28:18-20 serve as a fitting conclusion for the whole book?**