

### **Psalms 5-6, Matthew 13 – 18 (#3)**

**Psalms 5**— "Give ear... O Lord." David asks God to hear his prayer. But he does much more than that. David eagerly expects an answer. *What gives David the assurance that he will be heard when he prays?*

**Psalm 6**— David shows us an instance where he had undergone the Lord's discipline. Indeed, all who are godly will endure His loving discipline from time to time. David cries out for God's mercy. In Jesus we see the extent to which God will go to offer us mercy that we don't deserve. *How does David's response to God's discipline exemplify godly sorrow?*

**Matthew 13**— Jesus delivers the parable of the sower by the Sea of Galilee, explaining the purpose for parables and then privately interpreting them to his disciples (v. 1-23). Jesus proceeds to give many parables to his disciples including: (1) parable of weeds (v. 24-30, 36-43), (2) the mustard seed and the leaven (v. 31-33), (3) the hidden treasure (v.44), the pearl of great value (v.45-46), fishing net (v. 47-50), and new and old treasures (v. 51-52). Returning to His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus is rejected by them (v. 53-58). *1. What are the four different types of soil that Jesus gives in the Parable of the Sower? What are the reasons why the first three types of soil did not take root or was unfruitful (v. 18-23)? 2. Verse 58 says, "and He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." Does your lack of faith in Christ limit His work in your life? If so, what do you need to do to change this?*

**Matthew 14**— John the Baptist is imprisoned and then executed by Herod, and Jesus tries to withdraw to be alone (v. 1-13). Jesus feeds the five thousand (v. 13-21) and heals the sick at Gennesaret (v. 34-36). After sending the disciples across the Sea of Galilee and going up on the mountain to pray, Jesus walks on the water toward his disciples who are gripped with fear thinking He is a ghost. At the summons of Jesus, Peter steps out of the boat and walks on water but because of lack of faith must be saved by Jesus (v. 22-33). *Jesus invited Peter to step out of the boat and to walk on water. Is there some area in your life He is asking you to get out of the boat and trust Him? If so, what is keeping you from getting out of the boat?*

**Matthew 15**— Christ rebukes the Pharisees after their question about ritual washing of hands because they followed traditions that are contrary to the teaching of God's Word. Jesus placed the real importance on the condition of the heart and the moral defilement it produces in our lives, words, and actions (v. 1-20). Withdrawing to Tyre and Sidon, Jesus heals the demon possessed girl and is amazed at the faith of her Canaanite mother (v. 21-28). Jesus feeds the four thousand (v.32-39). *The Pharisees were condemned for their hypocrisy*

*by Christ in this chapter for two reasons: (1) much of their teachings were of human origin and not from God, and (2) they put importance on externals but overlooked the real moral defilement in their hearts. When do traditions that churches have become wrong?*

**Matthew 16**— After the Pharisees test Jesus by asking for a sign, He warns the disciples of the “leaven” or teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees (v. 1-12). After Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus then reveals to them His suffering, death, and resurrection (v. 13-23). Christ challenges His disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him, thus resulting in eternal dividends (v. 24-28).  
*1. Jesus said, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (v.18). How do you understand this verse in relation to those who say it proves that Peter was the first Pope? 2. In verses 24 to 27 Jesus makes the call for real discipleship. What did he mean by the words “Take up his cross and follow me?”*

**Matthew 17**— Jesus shows forth His future glory as He is transformed (transfigured) before Peter, James, and John on the mountain while the Father speaks from a cloud (v. 1-13). Jesus casts the demon out of the boy contrasting His effective faith with the defective faith of His disciples (v.14-21). Jesus sends Peter fishing in order for him to find money in the mouth of the fish so he can pay their temple tax (v. 24-27). *Share the details of the story of Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. Why is this incident significant in the life of Jesus (see Revelation 1:12-18)?*

**Matthew 18**— Jesus teaches us about our relationships in the church and how we are to behave in community with one another. He instructs about the characteristics and importance of children (v. 1-14). Jesus gives us the pattern of conflict resolution and discipline in the church as well as highlighting the power of united prayer (v. 20). He gives us the parable of the unforgiving servant and the necessity of extending forgiveness to others no matter what the situation. *1. What are the steps we should take in the process of reconciliation (v. 15-17). 2. How is having an unforgiving spirit incongruent to the life of a Christian?*

#### **Psalms 7-8, Matthew 19-24 (#4)**

**Psalm 7**— David is a colorful writer, using graphic language to depict his request to God. His enemy will “tear like a lion, rip to pieces, and trample to the ground.” He uses even greater attributes for God. God is his refuge, judge, the Most High, his shield, and warrior. A lion cannot scale a fortress or overcome an armed soldier. David understood that God protects his own. *On what basis does David request God’s assistance? Do we have that same right?*

**Psalm 8**— This is an incredible psalm, portraying the majesty of God compared to the smallness of man. Have we ever marveled at God’s love for us? Why does God care for us at all? He could just wipe us out in an instant and start over, creating a new race of beings more inclined to love and serve him. Instead, He chose to save us. *Describe a time when you were overwhelmed with an awareness of God’s majesty and grace.*

**Matthew 19**— Answering the question of the Pharisees, Jesus speaks on the subject of marriage, divorce, and being single for God’s kingdom (v. 1-12). After blessing the children, Jesus encounters the rich young man who appears to be righteous but loves his riches more than God (v. 13-26). Finally, Christ promises temporal and eternal rewards for those who leave everything to follow Him (v. 27-30). *1. In reading the story of the rich young man (v. 16-26), which of the Ten Commandments did Jesus leave out? Why is the omission of this commandment relevant to what the young man was lacking (Exodus 20:3-17)? 2. Astonished at the difficulty of a rich person being saved, Peter asked, “Who then can be saved?” How would you answer Peter’s question?*

**Matthew 20**— Jesus gives the parable of the workers in the vineyard who all receive the same pay even though they worked a different amount of hours during that day (v. 1-16). After Jesus discloses His death, the mother of the sons of Zebedee asks for a special place in His kingdom for her sons (James and John). Jesus uses this occasion to teach that the greatest in the kingdom is the one who shows a servant’s heart (v. 17-28). Christ heals two blind men near Jericho (v. 29-34). *1. What are some of the lessons taught in the parable of the Workers of the Vineyard? ...about God? ....about the workers? 2. Give the contrast between the way the Gentile rulers exercise authority over people and the way leaders in God’s kingdom do it.*

**Matthew 21**— Jesus reveals His power and authority as Messiah through His triumphal entry (v. 1-11), His acts of cleansing and healing in the Temple (v. 12-17), the cursing of the fig tree (v. 18-22), and His exposure of the hearts, motives, and actions of the religious leaders (v. 23-46). *Jesus said, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer (v. 22).” Taking into consideration other similar verses in the Bible, in addition to believing, what other qualifiers in scripture are there for God to answer our prayers? See I John 5:14, James 4:2-3, John 14:14,15:7, and Luke 18:4-5.*

**Matthew 22**— Jesus gives the parable of the wedding banquet by telling of the invitation of the guests and the qualifications of those who enter (v. 1-14). He answers the questions of the religious leaders about paying taxes (v. 15-22), the resurrection (v. 23-33), and the greatest commandment of the law (v. 34-40). Jesus then turns the tables and asks the Pharisees a tough question (v. 41-46). *1. What did Jesus mean by the statement, “Give (render) to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s (v. 21).” Who is primary in the life of a Christian, government, or God? Why? See Acts 5:29. 2. What is the Great Commandment (v. 36-40)? What importance should it have in the life of a follower of Christ?*

**Matthew 23**— Jesus gave a scolding denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, outward show of piety, and status seeking (v.1-13). Christ pronounces seven woes of judgment on these religious leaders for: (1) shutting the door of salvation (v 13-14), (2) entrapping converts (v. 15), (3) justifying evil through binding oaths (v. 16-22), (4) neglecting the most important teaching of the law (v. 23-24), (5) having a clean outside but filthy inside (v.25-26), (6) being whitewashed tombs (v. 27-28), (7), and finally, for being the descendants of the murderers of God’s martyrs throughout the ages (v. 29-36). Lastly, Jesus laments over Jerusalem for rejecting Him as their Messiah(v. 37-38). *What is the principal sin of the scribes and Pharisees given by Jesus in this chapter (Jesus called them this six times)? When did this sin occur in the early church? See Acts 5:1-11.*

**Matthew 24**— Jesus gives His Olivet Discourse (from the Mount of Olives) to His disciples, prophesying events in the future that will take place before His second coming. Jesus says that although the years ahead will be marked by false messiahs, wars, disasters, growing wickedness, and persecution of God’s people, they still are not the final day of God’s wrath that will be poured out in an unprecedented fashion during the great tribulation (v. 21) that was spoken by Daniel the prophet ( Daniel 9:24-27). Since we don’t know when Christ will come back, we need to be faithful, watchful, and ready for His imminent (any moment) coming. *Jesus said, “You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (v. 44).” Although this verse may not apply directly to the Church, what should a Christian do to prepare himself for Christ’s imminent (any moment) return?* *Extra Question: Explain what Jesus means in verse 15 when He speaks of the “abomination of desolation.” See Daniel 9:24-27 and II Thessalonians 2:3-4.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups. c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Illustrated Bible Handbook. c. 2008 by George W. Knight, Barbour Publishing Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008, Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX.

## Psalm 9, Matthew 25-28, Genesis 1-2 (#5)

**Psalm 9**— This psalm reminds us of the sovereignty of God. He rules over the nations and none can thwart His will. All who oppose Him are brought to ruin and defeat (v 6). This is good news for those who trust in Him (v 10).

*How does David respond to God's deliverance from trouble?*

**Matthew 25**— In this Chapter Jesus taught the seriousness of living your life in the Kingdom. In the parable of the Ten Virgins (bridesmaids) He stresses the need of watchful readiness as well as individual responsibility of all who want to be a part of His wedding feast (v. 1-13). In the parable of the Talents Jesus tells us that no matter how much He has entrusted to us in gifts and abilities, whether great or small, we are responsible to be faithful stewards (v. 14-30). In this final judgment of the nations before Christ's earthly reign, the sheep and the goats will be separated according to the way the brothers of Jesus were served during their time of dire distress and need (v. 31-46).

*Some day you will stand before Christ and give account of the stewardship of the talents, gifts, abilities and resources He has given you. How would you rate your stewardship thus far? In what ways can you grow in this area? Extra Question: In the final judgment of the nations (v. 31-46), it appears that God will give people eternal life or eternal damnation depending on whether or not they helped and served the brethren of Jesus. The writings of Paul, John, and others declare that eternal life comes only by faith in Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross. How would you explain this apparent contradiction?*

**Matthew 26**— The chapter opens with the religious leaders plotting the death of Jesus and Judas offering to betray Him for a price (v. 1-4, 14-16). A woman (Mary - John 12:3) anoints Jesus for His burial (v. 6-13). Jesus celebrates the Passover and institutes the Lord's Supper in the upper room with His disciples (v. 17-29). Jesus foretells Peter's denial and then agonizes in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane knowing of His forthcoming suffering and death (v. 30-46). After betrayal of Jesus by Judas and arrest in the garden, He was illegally tried before Caiaphas the High Priest and the elders. They proclaimed Jesus guilty and worthy of death (v. 57-68). Finally, Peter denies Jesus three times (v. 69-75).

*Why were the disciples indignant at the woman for pouring out expensive perfume on the head of Jesus? Why did Jesus approve of this apparent extravagance?*

**Matthew 27**— Judas is filled with remorse and hangs himself when he realized his betrayal will cause the death of Jesus (v. 3-10). Jesus is taken before Pilate but gives no response to his interrogation. The crowd chooses to release Barabbas but wants Jesus to be crucified (v. 11-26). Jesus is mocked and beaten by the soldiers and then delivered to be crucified (v. 27-31). Jesus dies on a cross between two thieves and suffers a horrific death paying for the sins of the world. At His death, the darkness, the earthquake, and the tearing of the temple's curtain attest to the reality of who Christ is (v. 32-54). The body of Jesus is wrapped and buried, and soldiers secure the tomb (v. 57-66). *1. Why did the curtain in the temple tear from top to bottom? 2. As you consider the insults, agony, suffering, and death that Jesus endured for you, write down your appreciation and gratitude for what He did for you.*

**Matthew 28**— Jesus rises from the dead on the first day of the week. The angel rolls the stone away and appears to the women, and then Jesus appears to the disciples (v. 1-10). The Jewish leaders bribe the soldiers who guarded the tomb (v. 11-15). Christ proclaims to His disciples the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (v. 16-20). *1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important? 2. Exactly what is the Great Commission, and how does one fulfill it? What promise comes with it?*

**Genesis**— This is the book of beginnings showing how the world and life was created, the creation and sin of mankind, God's judgment by sending the flood and tower of Babel, the call and life of Abraham, and the building of the nation of Israel.

**Genesis 1**— God creates the earth and everything in it in six days and pronounces it very good. God created man and woman in His own image and gives them the command to be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over all living creatures. *1. Where in Genesis 1 do we see evidence of the doctrine of the Trinity? 2. How are we made in God's image (v. 26)?*

**Genesis 2**— On the seventh day God rests from all His work (v. 1-3). Chapter two gives a more detailed account of the creation describing the lush garden of Eden and the river that flowed out of it that becomes four rivers (v. 4-14). God gives clear instructions about one prohibition to Adam and Eve (v. 15-17). God creates Eve for Adam to meet their mutual needs for intimate relationship, companionship, and oneness (v. 18-25). Verse 3 says, *“God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.”* The fourth commandment says, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8).* Are Christians under the same obligation to keep the Sabbath (7<sup>th</sup> day) as Israel? Why or why not? Extra Question: In verses 18 to 25, God institutes marriage. What are some of God’s purposes for marriage?

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## Psalm 10, Genesis 3-8 (#6)

**Psalm 10**— “Why, O Lord, do you stand far off...?” We are reminded by the Apostle Peter that God is on His own timetable, not ours. Our lack of understanding His purpose does not nullify His love or His promises. As the psalmist writes, God sees our trouble and grief and responds. *In what way has God proven Himself faithful?*

**Genesis 3**— In the form of a serpent, Satan deceives Eve, and she eats of the forbidden fruit and gives it to Adam, and he also eats. God appears in the garden to confront Adam and Eve. He gives them a promise of a coming redeemer. He also tells them of the consequences for disobeying Him by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

1. *What strategy did Satan use to get Adam and Eve to fall and eat of the forbidden fruit?*
2. *How did God show Himself gracious to Adam and Eve even though they sinned against Him?*

**Genesis 4**— Cain and Abel are born to Adam and Eve, and in the course of time, the two sons present an offering to God. When God accepts Abel’s offering and rejects the offering of Cain, Cain became furious and kills his brother. Cain is punished by God for his murder, but God places a protective mark on him. Hope arises again with the birth of Seth who carries on the godly line. *Why was Cain’s offering rejected and Abel’s offering accepted by God?*

**Genesis 5**— This chapter lists the genealogy from Adam to Noah. Even though each person listed had sons and daughters, Noah and his wife, their three sons, and their wives are the only ones that will be alive after God judges the world by sending the flood. In the midst of a dark, sinful world, Enoch walks with God for 300 years and is taken directly to heaven without dying. *Verse 22 says that “Enoch walked with God...300 years.” What does this verse imply about Enoch and God? See Hebrews 11:5-6. Extra question: Other than Elijah, Enoch was the only person who never had to experience death. Will there be another generation in the future who will not have to taste death? Explain. See I Thess. 4:13-18.*

**Genesis 6**— Due to the continual exceeding wickedness that pervaded the world, God determines to destroy all living persons and creatures by a universal flood, except for one righteous person. God tells Noah and his family to build an ark to save them from the flood, and Noah obeys all that God commands. *In verse 8 it says, “Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord.” List the godly character qualities that are evidenced in the life of Noah (v. 9-22).*

**Genesis 7**— Noah, his family, and pairs of all living creatures enter the ark, and then the rain pounds the earth for forty days and fountains of the deep burst open. The waters covered the whole earth and every creature that had breath perished. *Only Noah and his family survived the flood because they were safely in the ark. What is the only real ark of safety in the world today in order for people to survive God’s righteous judgment? See I Peter 3:18-22, Acts 4:12, and John 14:6.*

**Genesis 8**— After the flood ended, the waters of the earth recede, and finally Noah and his family leave the ark. Noah erects an altar to sacrifice burnt offerings in gratitude for deliverance through the flood. God responds to their act of worship and promises never again to send a catastrophic judgment by means of a flood. God establishes the cycle of seasons for as long as the earth remains. *From start of the flood to the exit from the ark after the flood, exactly how long was Noah and his family in the ark? See 7:11, 8:13-14.*

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