

## Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees!

When it came to dealing with hypocrite leaders, Jesus' teaching was anything but mild. The Lord issued strong and stinging rebukes to those that abused their authority and misled God's people. In Matthew 23, we read seven "woes" Jesus pronounces upon the Scribes and Pharisees. These are worth our time to investigate to ensure we do not become like such men, and to help guard ourselves against hypocrisy!

- ◇ *Shut up the kingdom of heaven*
- ◇ *Devour widow's houses & make long prayers in pretense*
- ◇ *Win proselytes to error*
- ◇ *Vain oaths*
- ◇ *Neglect weighty matters of the Law*
- ◇ *Inside full of uncleanness and death*
- ◇ *Denied their own guilt*



## Questions

Try to find the answers to these questions as you read through Matthew 15-28 this week. If you have children, go over these questions with them and have them try to answer the questions also!

- 1) How many loaves and fish did Jesus use to feed the 4,000? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What did Jesus say He would give Peter? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What two men were seen with Jesus when He was transfigured on the Mountain? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Who did Jesus say would be the greatest in His kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What type of tree did Jesus curse because it had no fruit? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) In the parable of the wedding feast, why was a man cast out into outer darkness? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, how many were wise and how many were foolish? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) How much was Judas paid to betray Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) What was the first thing Jesus said when He appeared to the women after His resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Great Commission:** Matthew ends his gospel with what we call "The Great Commission." This commission was the blueprint Jesus provided for growing the kingdom. The primary focus is found in the command to "make disciples." To accomplish this, the apostles were to "go...to all nations." For the gospel to spread, it must be shared! As they went and shared the gospel, they were to baptize those that responded to the message. One cannot become a disciple without obeying the Lord's command of baptism! And finally, they were to further teach or instruct the new disciples to observe all the Lord's commands. Obedience doesn't stop at baptism—it begins there! We might ask ourselves, what are we doing to continue fulfilling the Lord's great commission?

# "That You May Grow Thereby..."

*A weekly Bible reading plan*



## Matthew 15-28

### The Messiah has Come! Part 2

#### Overview

This week's reading takes us through the remainder of Matthew's account of the life of Jesus. While it covers half of the book, the events recorded in this section are heavily focused on the last days of Jesus. The majority of this section actually occurs in the last week of Jesus' life! Through this section we see a shift as Jesus specifically begins preparing His disciples for His death (16:21), and thus we see more of Jesus' teaching. Matthew features a few miracles in this section, but mostly records the Lord's parables and some of the discourses He had with both disciples and enemies. In this section, we also witness the animosity of the Jewish rulers grow, until they finally decide to remove Jesus by force (or so they think). Chapters 26 and 27 tell of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. Should the gospel end there, it would be a tragedy. Thankfully, chapter 28 tells of the glorious resurrection of Christ. While Matthew's record might end there, we must realize that is not the end of the story! On the contrary, it ends with Jesus giving the marching orders to His apostles—go into all the world and preach the gospel. The kingdom has come and been established, and now it is time for the kingdom to spread throughout the world!

#### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Mt. 15-17  
Tuesday: Mt. 18-20  
Wednesday: Mt. 21-23  
Thursday: Mt. 24-25  
Friday: Mt. 26-28

#### Teaching in Parables

Much of Jesus' teaching was done in the form of "parables." A parable can be as simple as comparing two things, or it can be an entire story told to teach a point. Parables use real-to-life examples to teach spiritual principles. Jesus was the master at using this technique. Studying the parables can be a wonderful and fruitful endeavor. Below are some of the parables found in Matthew 14-28. You might re-read these passage or dedicate time to study them more thoroughly!

**Why not try a memory verse? Try to memorize this verse this week, or pick one of your own!**

*"...assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."*

*(Matthew 18:3, NKJV)*

- ◇ *Parable of the Lost Sheep (18:10-14)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (18:21-35)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Vineyard Workers (20:1-16)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Two Sons (21:28-32)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers (21:33-44)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Wedding Feast (22:1-14)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Fig Tree (24:32-35)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Faithful & Evil Servants (24:45-51)*
- ◇ *Parable of the Wise & Foolish Virgins (25:1-13)*
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