

Matthew 1:1 – 5:48**Friday, January 1 – Matthew 1:1-2:12**

1. Matthew's Gospel begins with the genealogy of Jesus. The people listed in each section of the genealogy teach us lessons.
 - a. Of what did the great men of faith remind Matthew's readers? (verses 2-6)
 - b. Of what did the list of kings remind Matthew's readers? (verses 6-11)
 - c. Of what did the list of unknowns remind Matthew's readers?
2. In Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph was asked to believe that Mary was faithful to him, even though all the evidence pointed in the opposite direction. God asks us to believe some pretty unbelievable things too. What are some that come to your mind? What does God want our reaction to be?

Saturday, January 2 – Matthew 2:13-3:6

3. Matthew 2:13-23 contains three prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Each is tied with his escape to Egypt. Note the following:
 - a. Matthew 2:15b is a fulfillment of Hosea 11:1
 - b. Matthew 2:18 is a fulfillment of Matthew 2:18
 - c. Matthew 2:23b is a fulfillment of the prophets' writings in the OT
4. Why did John the Baptist live as he did?

Sunday, January 3 – Matthew 3:7-4-11

5. Tying in yesterday's reading with today's reading, John the Baptist tells us what repentance is. True/False – Repentance is a onetime act. Why? Or Why not?
6. John baptized Jesus we're told **to fulfill all righteousness (3:15)**. What does that mean?
7. Verses 4,7,10 "*It is written*"—Jesus repeatedly used God's Word to ward off Satan's attacks. It was his most powerful weapon. What high dignity Jesus bestows on the Holy Scriptures! What encouragement does that give you both in your study of the Scriptures and your use of them in every day life?

Monday, January 4 – Matthew 4:12-25

8. In verses 15,16, Matthew is quoting Isaiah the prophet. Why the use of words like “darkness” and “shadow” and “light” to describe humanity?
9. Employees are used to job descriptions. What was the job description Jesus gave his first disciples?

Tuesday, January 5 – Matthew 5:1-26

10. As you look at Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) remember it was spoken primarily to Jesus’ disciples and a large crowd that had begun to follow Jesus. This sermon by Jesus was given to help the Christian to better understand how to live a God-pleasing life. That’s important to know because an unbeliever is likely to interpret these words as a prescription for how to make oneself right with God.

In the first 12 verses we have the Beatitudes (Statements of blessing). As you look at the spiritual characteristics of the believer, what common blessing is repeated in each of the sections in vv. 3-6; vv. 7-9; vv. 10-11?

Wednesday, January 6 – Matthew 5:27-48

11. Jesus displays the difference between the righteousness of the Pharisees and the righteousness of members of God’s kingdom. Take note of the righteousness of the Pharisees and how the righteousness of the believer is different. Example (5:21-26): **Pharisees:** You must not commit murder (but that’s as far as it goes). **Members of God’s kingdom:** You must not even be angry with your brother or sister. Anger and hatred betray a lack of trust that the Lord will care for your every need.

Pharisees: The most important thing is to give gifts to the Lord.

Members of God’s kingdom:

Pharisees: Do not commit adultery (but you cannot be responsible for sins of the heart).

Members of God’s kingdom:

Pharisees: Give your wife a certificate of divorce if you choose to divorce her.

Members of God’s kingdom:

Pharisees: Keep your oaths, except when you make them nonbinding by swearing on the basis of something of lesser importance.

Members of God’s kingdom:

Pharisees: Get even. God has given you this right by specifying what you are to do to the one who hurts you.

Members of God’s kingdom:

Pharisees: Love. But that does not extend to enemies. That would be impossible.

Members of God’s kingdom: