

Matthew 10:1 – 13:46

Thursday, January 14 – Matthew 10:1-25

1. The devil is crafty and cunning. Jesus sent the disciples out to do some “outreach” work; however, there is a temptation that was both present for the disciples and us today. The devil would have us think that reaching out to the lost is done entirely so that the church can gain more members. What do Jesus’ words at the end of verse 8 have to say about that sentiment?

Friday, January 15 – Matthew 10:26-11:6

2. So much persecution against Christians seems to go unnoticed (e.g. fired because you didn’t participate in the unethical work practices of the company; the “remember who we are around” preface by others because you don’t let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, etc.) Christians may wonder if God knows what’s happening and even cares. Why is the truth of verse 26 of great comfort to the Christian who undergoes persecution?
3. Reading Matthew 10:26-42 gives us some encouragement about how to deal with an indifferent uncle, an unconcerned son, a bitter sister, an argumentative parent, a fallen-away spouse— people who have let go of or have never embraced what Christianity teaches! What encouragement do you take from these words?

Saturday, January 16 – Matthew 11:7-30

4. Tying into yesterday’s reading in verse 3 we hear John the Baptist asked of Jesus, **Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?** In what sense was John’s question a product of his sinful human weakness? How did Jesus respond to John’s question?
5. Reading Mathew 11:7-23 - Various people today dance to various tunes, none of which is true to the tune that John and Jesus played. Briefly describe the tunes played by these groups:
 - An example – The liberals might suggest that God will ultimately solve all the social problems of society, end war, and establish peace between nations.
 - Charismatics:
 - Modern Evangelicals:
 - Catholics:

Sunday, January 17 – Matthew 12:1-21

6. Why did the Pharisees misunderstand the concept of rest? How did Jesus show the people what true rest in God's kingdom was like?

7. How is Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath (v. 8)?

Monday, January 18 – Matthew 12:22-45

8. In verses 33-37 Jesus refers to some hearts that can speak only bad and about other hearts that can speak only good. What makes our hearts good? What makes a person's heart bad?

9. A commentator said, "Man is never so vulnerable, never so wide open to the powers of evil, as when he has been touched by the divine without submitting to it." (Note: This statement imitates what Jesus said in verses 43-45.) Evaluate this statement. How does this apply to many in our day?

Tuesday, January 19 – Matthew 12:46-13:23

10. Reading 12:46-50. True or False – Physical relationship doesn't mean much in the kingdom of Heaven.

11. Jesus tells his disciples that the seed that falls on good soil will produce varying amounts of fruit. Of what practical importance is this truth for you as you live in fellowship with other Christians?

Wednesday, January 20 – Matthew 13:24-46

12. Study the parable of the weeds and the wheat. Read the parable (verses 24-30), and then read Jesus' explanation (verses 36-43). What does this parable teach us about the makeup of the kingdom?

13. Read the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast. What great encouragement do all kingdom workers find in these two parables?

14. Read the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl. What great encouragement do all kingdom workers find in these two parables?