

Matthew 13:47 – 18:12**Thursday, January 21 – Matthew 13:47-14:12**

1. Why do you think the people in Jesus' hometown did not honor him as much as others did?
2. How does the account of the beheading of John the Baptist illustrate the great gulf that exists between God's kingdom and the kingdoms of the world?

Friday, January 22 – Matthew 14:13-36

3. So Look at each of the following phrases, and note the lesson Jesus' disciples learned from each about work in the kingdom.

"He had compassion on them" (verse 14).

"They do not need to go away" (verse 16).

"Bring [the five loaves of bread and two fish] here to me" (verse 18).

"He gave them to the disciples" (verse 19).

4. Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water and come out to him. Jesus' invitation strengthened Peter's faith, and Peter did what Jesus told him to do. What happened next? What lesson did Peter and the other disciples learn from this? What lesson do we learn?

Saturday, January 23 – Matthew 15:1-28

5. The disciples were concerned about the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus' words. These men had been the disciples' teachers, and the disciples were still concerned about their authority and reactions. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do, and what lesson is there for us in this?

Sunday, January 24 – Matthew 15:29-16:12

6. How is the account of Jesus feeding the four thousand a fulfillment of Matthew 6:33??
7. Verse 12 "*The Pharisees and Sadducees*"—The Pharisees were the religious conservatives of the day. In the face of the liberal influences of the Greek and Roman worlds, they had held the line for Moses' law. Their good intentions, however, had degenerated into work-righteousness. The Sadducees were the religious liberals of the day. They were the go-along-to-get-along people.

They didn't want to rock the boat in the face of challenges to the Jewish faith. How is yeast an appropriate picture of false teaching?

Monday, January 25 – Matthew 16:13-17:9

8. In verse 19 what particular authority did Jesus grant Peter and all who like Peter confess Jesus to be the Son of God? Explain the nature of this unique authority.

9. How did the transfiguration strengthen Jesus' disciples? How did it strengthen Jesus?

Tuesday, January 26 – Matthew 17:10-27

10. In a world that looks for a Christ who will solve its social problems, how do Jesus' words about John the Baptist restoring all things help us understand our work as servants of God?

Wednesday, January 27 – Matthew 18:1-22

11. The way the world handles sin and the way the church handles sin are completely different. The world gives the sinner very few chances. It puts a strict limit on the number of times it will forgive and on how small a sin must be to make it forgivable. Contrast that with how the church deals with sin
in how it deals with the sinner. (verses 15-20)

in how many times a Christian will forgive. (verses 21,22)

12. Reflecting on Jesus' words for your own personal life, how easy do you find it to carry out Jesus' words in 15-22? What challenges do you see? What joy do you see?