Matthew 18:13-23:12

Thursday, January 28 – Matthew 18:13-19:12

1. Verses 3,4 *"Is it lawful . . . ?" [Pharisees] "Haven't you read . . . ?" [Jesus]* The question and the reply reveal the directions the Pharisees and Jesus were coming from. The Pharisees attempted to lure Jesus into a web of legal interpretation. Their attitude toward Scripture was lamentable and, consequently, so was their attitude toward marriage. Jesus redirected them to the source of knowledge for faith and life—the Scriptures. Therein is found God's unchangeable plan for marriage.

2. Verse 8 *"Moses permitted you to divorce."* This was entirely different from the assertion of the Pharisees that Moses commanded divorce. Moses permitted the Israelites to divorce, not because God changed his mind about marriage but rather because the Israelites were sending their wives away without any document showing they were no longer married. To keep order in society, Moses told them to divorce their wives in a legal way.

Friday, January 29 – Matthew 19:13-30

3. A person once said, "The young man's question shows the ultimate division between Christianity and every other religion in the world." Evaluate that statement.

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 30 – Matthew 20:1-28

5. Evaluate: To understand and apply verses 25-28 are the most important (and difficult) lessons in being a disciple of Christ.

Sunday, January 31 – Matthew 20:29-21:22

6. The account of Jesus entering Jerusalem illustrates Jesus' complete power and complete humility at the same time.

   How does it show Jesus' power?

   How does it show Jesus' humility?

Monday, February 1 – Matthew 21:23-46

7. How did Jesus force the religious leaders to reveal their unbelief?

8. Identify each of the subjects of the verse Jesus quoted in verse 42. How does this verse summarize what was happening that week in Jerusalem?

   "the stone"

   "the builders"

   those who consider what God has done to be "marvelous"

Tuesday, February 2 – Matthew 22:1-33

9. Jesus used the picture of a family. God had invited the Jews to be his children. But they refused. Jesus used the picture of a vineyard. But the Jews refused to serve him there. What picture does Jesus use in this chapter? How did the Jews react this time?

10. What warning is there for us in verses 11-14?

Wednesday, February 3 – Matthew 22:34-23:12

11. Use Jesus' method to rebuke the liberal church member today who rejects creation.

12. Martin Franzmann (A Lutheran Theologian) once said: "Jesus triumphs over His interrogators, not because He is cleverer or more adroit than they, but because He is purer than they." Often we are afraid we will not have the right answer for those who challenge our faith and that we need more study before we are capable of giving a good witness. Why is a person with a pure heart in a better position to bear witness to and defend our faith than a person of much learning?