

# JESUS CHRIST

**MATTHEW 21-28**

ev / church

# MATTHEW 21-28: JESUS CHRIST

Week	Passage	Theme
Holidays week 1	Matthew 21:1-11	Christ the humble King (Arrival in Jerusalem)
Holidays week 2	Matthew 21:12-22	Christ's authority (Temple Conflict: Israel, the Barren Tree)
1	Matthew 21:23-22:14	Christ's authority (Temple Conflict: Christ the Cornerstone)
2	Matthew 22:15-46	Christ's authority (Temple Conflict: People Silenced)
3	Matthew 23	Christ's judgement
4	Matthew 24:1-35	Christ's returning and the signs of His coming
5	Matthew 24:35-25:30	Christ's servants (Watchful, Diligent, Faithful)
6	Matthew 25:31-46	Christ's servants (Love Christ's Servants)
7	Matthew 26:1-30	Christ gives himself up
8	Matthew 26:31-75	Christ's steadfastness
9	Matthew 27	Christ's suffering and death
10	Matthew 28	Christ's resurrection

**We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.**

Who are you on mission to?  
Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

**Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).**

List the names of your family and friends here:

# TERM 3 – 2020

## How to use this book:

### 1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible when you watch the live stream or bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

**SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:**

**[www.evchurch.info/series](http://www.evchurch.info/series)**

### **GIVING AT EV CHURCH**

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing to the Coast solid hope in Jesus.

**More info on giving and account details:**

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# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

**The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!**

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

## YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>



Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

Week 1	1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

Week 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

Week 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 3

Week 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 4

Week 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

# INTRODUCTION: MATTHEW 21-28

## Authorship and Date

Matthew was a tax collector, who followed Jesus and became one of His 12 disciples (Matthew 9:9-13). Matthew's gospel is a reliable Apostolic testimony of the life and teaching of Jesus. Written somewhere between 50-70AD. As a Jewish Christian from Galilee, Matthew was well positioned to interpret the words and actions of Jesus in light of Old Testament messianic expectations.

## Purpose

Matthew wants his readers to see and respond to Jesus, the Christ – the long-awaited promised King from God. This gospel account continually draws on Old Testament prophecy to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of all of Israel's hopes (e.g. Psalm 22, 110 and 118; Isaiah 4 and 53; Zechariah 9; and Daniel 7 and 12).

Jesus is not the kind of Christ that God's people had in mind. They hoped for a conquering king who would drive away physical enemies, and yet Jesus came as the humble one who will defeat sin by dying as a ransom for many (1:21, 20:28, 21:5, 26:28).

While Jesus comes humbly, He comes as the authoritative King, God's Son (Psalm 2). Even as Jesus suffers and dies, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus is in control. Jesus lays down His life in submission to the Father's will. Humans hold responsibility for their actions, but Jesus' life is only taken because He gives it up (26:24, 53-54).

## Our focus on Matthew 21-28

In Matthew 21-28, these two themes of Jesus as the humble servant and God's King continue. He comes humbly to Jerusalem but brings judgement on the people of Israel, particularly its leaders (Matthew 23). His divisive actions provoke the hard heartedness of Israel. This creates a conflict that leads Israel's leaders to carry out their plan to see God's King crucified. Jesus reveals the sin of Israel. He reveals a problem. But it is a problem he has come to deal with in His death, resurrection and His work in the proclaiming the gospel through His people to the ends of the earth.

# JESUS CHRIST

This part of Matthew can be broken into the following sections:

21:1-22 Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem as King

21:23-22:46 The temple conflict

23 Christ's judgement on Israel

24-25 Jesus teaching about the end of the temple and the end of this age

26-28 The passion narrative (trials, death, resurrection, great commission)

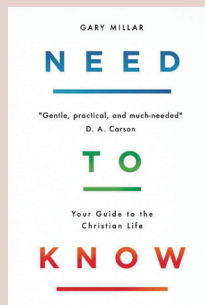
## Book Recommendation:



### **5 THINGS TO PRAY FOR YOUR WORLD (5 THINGS TO PRAY SERIES) – BY RACHEL JONES**

When we watch the news, our hearts break for a world in need. But Christians are not powerless to help: we can pray. In fact, that's exactly what God tells us to do: "petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving [should] be made for all people" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). If we're serious about reaching our local community with the Gospel, the first thing we'll do is pray. But how do we pray meaningfully for people who we don't know? Deep down, the issues seem too big, too

emotionally disconnected, and we're not sure our prayers will really make a difference. That's where this little book is designed to help. It will equip you to pray powerful prayers for the world around you, prayers that really change things, because they're based on God's word."



### **NEED TO KNOW BY GARRY MILLAR**

Gary Millar shows us how letting the fundamental truths of the Gospel take root in our hearts changes everything about the way we see God, ourselves and the world around us. He explores what this miraculous change on the inside looks like on the outside as we live our lives shaped around gospel priorities.



# HOLIDAYS WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:1-11

CHRIST THE HUMBLE KING (ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM)

## DAY 1

**Read Matthew 16:21; 20:17-18; and 21:1-5**

1. How do these verses from Matthew help you see the significance of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?
2. Jesus determines to go the way of the cross. Why is this good news for us (see 1 Peter 3:18)?
3. What difference might it make to reflect on what Jesus willingly did for us?

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending his Son to save us and for His willingness to go the way of the cross. Pray that this news would change you and all His people.

# The Christ the humble king

## DAY 2

**Read Isaiah 62:11-12; Zechariah 9:9-17; and Matthew 21:1-5**

1. Jesus has gone to some effort to plan this moment. What do you think He wants us to recognise about Him in this event?
2. How does the idea of fulfillment help you: a) see the magnitude of God's plans; b) see the centrality of Jesus; and c) give you confidence of the hope you have?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would stir you to love Jesus more and to be in awe of His greatness.

# HOLIDAYS WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:1-11

## DAY 3

### Read Malachi 3:1-5 and Matthew 21:1-11

1. What are the different reactions to Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?
2. What do the details of the event show us about who Jesus is and what He is doing?
3. How does knowing Jesus' resurrection show us even more of the significance of this event?

#### NOTES:

The Donkey is connected to humility in the quote from Zechariah 9:9. The picture in Zechariah is of a king returning to his city having defeated his enemies and so establishing peace through victory.

Hosanna is Hebrew for 'O save' (e.g. Psalm 118:25-26).

Son of David is a term used for the Messiah, the promised one of God (e.g. 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:7; and Jeremiah 33:14-26).

**Prayer:** Praise God for His plan to save by sending Jesus, the God-man, who brings the kingdom of peace for all nations. Pray that by His Spirit you would live in praise for Him.

# The Christ the humble king

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 8:26-27; 16:13-17; and 21:10-11**

1. How important is someone's answer to the question, 'Who is Jesus?' How do these verses help you see why it matters so much? (See also 1:21-23 and 11:3-6)
2. The crowd seems to understand something of Jesus' identity, but what suggests they are missing the point? (Compare 21:11 and 16:13-16)
3. We know how this story ends, the same crowd that praises Jesus, shouts out "crucify him" (see 27:20-25). How does this challenge us to be discerning about our own understanding and awareness of the subtlety of our sin?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you uncover the depth of your sin and not take lightly the war we fight against sin every day. Pray that God would hold onto you as you continue to trust Jesus, the Messiah.

# HOLIDAYS WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:1-11

## DAY 5

### Read Psalm 118:25-29 and Matthew 21:7-9

1. What does this Psalm help us see about Jesus and what He is going to do? (You might like to read the whole Psalm and see what else it reveals about Jesus.)
2. The crowd probably saw Jesus as the kind of leader they wanted: one who might establish salvation from the rule of other nations. How is it possible to believe that Jesus saves us and still misunderstand Him?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help us see Jesus as we should as the one who comes to save us from sin and restore us in relationship with the Father (Matthew 1:21).



# The Christ the humble king

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# HOLIDAYS WEEK 2: MATTHEW 21:12-22

## CHRIST'S AUTHORITY TEMPLE CONFLICT: ISRAEL, THE BARREN TREE

### DAY 1

#### Read Jeremiah 7:9-15 and Matthew 21:12-17

1. What types of people are portrayed in this passage? Who is and isn't onside with Jesus?
2. People act and are motivated by different things in this passage. What are the motivations of:
  - a. the chief priests and scribes;
  - b. the blind and lame;
  - c. the infants; and
  - d. Jesus?
3. How does the warning from Jeremiah 7 add weight to Jesus' judgement?
4. How can you make sure you approach Jesus in humility? What might it look like to get this wrong or right?

#### BONUS QUESTIONS:

1. Check out some or all of these other passages about the ones who see Jesus rightly and those who don't: Matthew 5:3-12; 9:10-12; 11:16-19; 11:25-30; 16:17; 18:1-5; 19:13-14, 22.
2. What do you notice? How is it both a challenge and a comfort?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would enable you to come humbly before Jesus. Ready to submit to His kingship and change to fit Him and His priorities, and not have Him fit around your own.

# Christ's Authority

## DAY 2

### Read Psalm 8 and Matthew 21:12-17

1. Jesus says that Psalm 8 is about Him! What does it teach us about Jesus, His incarnation, and His glory after the resurrection (see Hebrews 2:6-9)?
2. How might this have shocked the people who heard Him?
3. How is it humbling to read that those who respond rightly to Jesus are the lowly people?

**Prayer:** Praise God for sending Jesus, God the Son come in flesh to save and for raising Him in glory! Pray that from our lips He would call forth His praise.

# HOLIDAYS WEEK 2: MATTHEW 21:12-22

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 21:18-22

1. When figs are in leaf it's a sign that they may also have fruit. But this fig tree only had the appearance of being fruitful. How might this fig tree be similar to the people of Israel? (See also 23:25)
2. Jesus has used this expression earlier (17:20). It could be referring to God's salvation in moving mountains as it does in places like Isaiah 40:4 and 49:11 where God flattens the road to salvation from exile back to Jerusalem. It could be a common saying about the seemingly impossible. But in all the situations the context restrains you from seeing this as a 'blank cheque' that you ask for confidently. Faith isn't just mere confidence; faith is confidence in someone or something. In Matthew, faith is recognising who Jesus is and His capability (e.g. Matthew 8:5-11; 9:2; 9:20-22; 9:27-29). So, the phrase "if you believe", isn't just praying for anything with confidence and expecting it; prayer is powerful because of whom the request is made to.

How might this shape our prayers?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to trust Him, clearly seeing His power, and so pray. Bring your requests to Him now.

# Christ's Authority

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 8:5-11; 9:2; 9:20-22; and 21:21-22**

1. Matthew's gospel is a narrative. It helps to see how words and themes are built when they reappear later. How do the passages before Matthew 21:21 help you understand what faith is? (You can also check out 9:27-29; 15:21-28; 17:17-20.)
2. How does Jesus' call to "have faith" connect with Matthew's emphasis on the centrality of Jesus?
3. What might it look to live a life of faith? How might that play out for you today?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help Jesus be the centre of your thoughts and praise for all you days. Pray that your confidence for right standing before God would always be based on the merits of Jesus.



# HOLIDAYS WEEK 2: MATTHEW 21:12-22

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 6:9-13 and 21:21-22

1. What are the features of prayer from Jesus' teaching?
2. If prayer is about God's glory and praying for His plans to take place, how does this help us see what Matthew 21:22 can't mean and what it might mean?
3. How is your prayer life? What might be a realistic step to make prayer a larger part of your everyday life?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help us be captured by His plans and priorities and so be people of prayer.

# Christ's Authority

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:23-22:14

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY - TEMPLE CONFLICT: CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

## DAY 1

**Read Matthew 21:23-27**

1. What is clever about Jesus' response? What does it expose?
2. What actually stops these people from answering Jesus' question?
3. What does it tell you about how sin impacts knowledge of the truth?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see Jesus rightly. Pray that as you continue to read about Him you would submit to His authority.

# Christ's Authority

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 21:28-32

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24;  
Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1

1. What kind of people are entering the kingdom, and what kind of people are rejecting the kingdom?
2. What is the impact of stubbornness and pride on these people?
3. What warning does this give to us? How might you be susceptible to similar mistakes?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would enable you by His Spirit to put pride and stubbornness to death, and to submit to the authority of King Jesus in all areas of your life.

# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:23-22:14

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 21:33-46

1. Who do the characters in the parable represent?
2. Why are the chief priests and Pharisees offended?
3. What does this passage help us see about Jesus?

**Prayer:** Ask God to stir you to love Jesus more as you read about Him.



# Christ's Authority

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 21:42-44; Acts 4:11-12; and 1 Peter 2:1-12**

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the cornerstone?
2. How is this a warning to those who are indifferent towards Jesus? What might it look like to live functionally indifferent to Jesus even if you say He is the cornerstone?
3. "It is marvelous in our eyes" – How might this passage stir your heart to praise God today?

**Prayer:** Pray that you would be convicted of the truth of Jesus as the cornerstone. Pray that this would change the way you live.

# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 21:23-22:14

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 22:1-14

1. What seems to be the main point of this parable?
2. How are the two previous parables reinforced? What does this parable add to the previous two parables?
3. If “many are called, but few are chosen”, how does this give us reason to be humble and thankful?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see your complete dependence on Him and so live humbly and thankfully for His initiative in choosing you.

# Christ's Authority

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 22:15-46

## CHRIST'S AUTHORITY - TEMPLE CONFLICT: PEOPLE SILENCED

### DAY 1

#### Read Matthew 22:15-22

1. In Jesus' day there was a growing hostility between the Jewish people and Roman rule. So, paying tax to the enemy was a hot topic. How might the Pharisees and Herodians have expected this question to trip Jesus up?
2. Who speaks kindly and who speaks frankly? Who speaks with false motives and who speaks truthfully? Why might Jesus speak this way?
3. Why do you think the crowd is astonished? How does Jesus teaching apply to us today? (See Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you continue to see and marvel at who Jesus is and obey His teaching.

# Christ's Authority

## DAY 2

### Read Deuteronomy 25:5-6 and Matthew 22:23-33

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7;  
Jeremiah 36-40

1. What problem do the Sadducees imagine if there was a resurrection?
2. Jesus' quote from Exodus 3:6 comes to Moses hundreds of years after the death of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How does Jesus use this verse to prove resurrection? (See also Luke 20:37-28)
3. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' view of the Bible? What might it look like for us to treat the Bible in the same way?

**Prayer:** Ask God that you would be more like Jesus in how you treat His words.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 22:15-46

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 19:8-12 and 22:23-33

1. What would Jesus have to say about these two common ideas in our society:
  - a. Marriage is not life-long?
  - b. Life is all about relationships, including a fulfilling marriage?
4. What does Jesus say is temporal and what is eternal?
5. Whatever situation you are in, what might it look like to live as a kingdom-first person?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

# Christ's Authority

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 22:34-40

1. Here the Jewish leaders are surprisingly united (see Acts 23:6-8). Jesus' authority threatens them both the Sadducees and the Pharisees. If they didn't have this bias towards Jesus, how might they have reacted to His teaching here?
2. What does Jesus show is the central teaching of the Old Testament?
3. As Christians, we are grateful that Jesus fulfilled this command perfectly for us. But we want to grow in obedience; it's the right response to His grace and it is good for us. What might it look like for you to grow in your love of God?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would be working in you to stir your love for Him. Pray that He would help you see more of Him as you read His words so that you would continue to love Him. You might want to pray the prayer in Colossians 1:9-12 for yourself and for other Christians.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 22:15-46

## DAY 5

### Read Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; and Matthew 22:41-46

1. It is true that Jesus is related to David, but how do these Old Testament passages show that Jesus must be more than just David's son?
2. What do you think the Pharisees failed to see about the promised Messiah in the Old Testament?
3. How does knowing this about Jesus change the way we think about opposition towards Christianity, how we relate to His word, and how we view uncertainties in life?

**Prayer:** Ask God that He would enable you to live out the knowledge of Jesus' lordship in all areas of your life.



# Christ's Authority

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 23

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 23:1-12

1. Despite the role they should have, what's the problem with the Pharisees?
2. How does this passage teach us to relate a) with Christians; b) with Christian leaders; and c) with Christ? How can pride damage these relationships?
3. In what ways do you notice pride in your own heart? What truths about Jesus speak to our pride?

**Prayer:** Repent of pride. Thank God for His forgiveness in our humble saviour. Pray that God would make you more like Jesus.

# Christ's Judgement

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 23:13-15

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13;  
Jeremiah 46-50

1. How does this passage show that zeal and passion for God could be evil? (See also Romans 10:1-5)
2. What warning is there for us as we pass on the news of Jesus in ministry, to kids, or to non-Christians?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would always help you see the centrality of Jesus. Pray that as we pass this message on it would lead to people loving Jesus and entering His kingdom.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 23

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 23:16-28

1. Jesus uses stern words here. What imagery do you find particularly striking?
2. What does this passage teach us about external and internal morality?
3. If you were a Jew listening to your spiritual leaders say these things, what impact would it have on you? What needs would it expose?
4. How are these needs met for us in Christ?

**Prayer:** Praise God for sending the good shepherd who reveals the truth and lays down His life for His sheep.

# Christ's Judgement

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 23:29-36

1. In rejecting Jesus and being on the brink of scheming His crucifixion, how are the Pharisees testifying against themselves? (See Matthew 27:25)
2. What judgement is there for them? How does the severity of the judgement show how central Jesus is?
3. How does this passage help you see the urgency of the news of Jesus going out?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would give us courage to spread His good news despite the costs and that He would be merciful and save many.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 23

## DAY 5

### Read 2 Chronicles 6:12-21; Matthew 23:37-39

1. Jerusalem was the place chosen by God to dwell in a special way where He revealed Himself and related to His people (e.g. Deuteronomy 12:4-5; 2 Samuel 22:7; Psalm 73:16-17; and Isaiah 2:3). It was a partial fulfilment of His promise to bless Israel by being with them. What is so tragic about Jesus' words in Matthew 23?
2. How is it possible for Jesus, as a human, to say verse 37? What is revealed about who He is and what He is like? (See also Ezekiel 18:32)
3. How does this final part of Matthew 23 help you understand how Jesus can both bring judgement and be loving?

### BONUS QUESTION:

Read 2 Chronicles 6 and 7. What do you learn about the temple? How does this add to the tragedy of Jesus' words in Matthew 23?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you see Jesus. Pray that He would help have His heart for justice and His heart of love.

# Christ's Judgement

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 24:1-35

Chapters 23-25 mark the last of Jesus' main teaching sections in Matthew (5-7, 10, 13, 18). The disciples' question about when the temple will be destroyed and when Jesus will return are the theme for Jesus' teaching in chapters 24-25. It is difficult to determine the details and the time period being spoken of. Is it about Jesus' death, the actual destruction of the temple in AD70, or the second coming of Jesus? It seems like all of these events are in view and the death of Jesus brings about this 'end of the age' period, which includes all kinds of signs and suffering, that are exemplified in the destruction of the temple, until Jesus' second coming.

The structure of Matthew 24:1-35 helps with working out some of the trickiness:

- 24:1-3** the setting and question about Christ's return and the temple destruction;
- 24:4-14** the birth pains characterise the whole period before Jesus' second coming
- 24:15-21** the temple destruction is the event that shows what the last days will be like
- 24:22-28** Jesus' return won't be missed, so don't be led astray
- 24:29-31** Jesus' return
- 24:32-35** The signs show that the end is near

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 24:1-14

1. What features of the 'end of the age' does Jesus warn the disciples about? What will be the importance of calmness, discernment, love, steadfastness in these times?
2. This time sounds like a time of judgement, but what blessing happens alongside these hardships (verse 14)?
3. What would you be willing to endure for the sake of knowing and sharing the gospel?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see the ultimate blessing of the good news of the kingdom. Pray that you would treasure it and share it no matter the cost.



# Christ's return and the signs of His coming

## DAY 2

### Read Daniel 11:31 and Matthew 24:15-21

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5;  
Galatians 1-6

Jesus has been speaking about the end of the age in general but here He looks at a specific time, within this end-of-the-age period, where there will be particular distress. Jesus throws us back to the prophecies of Daniel. It was thought that Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11 were fulfilled in 168BC when a ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, put up an altar of Zeus in the temple, banned circumcision, and sacrificed a pig on the altar. But Jesus points us to an even more distressing time of the destruction of the temple in AD70 when Rome sieged Jerusalem to the point where people starved and even became cannibals to survive (you can read about this in Josephus' Jewish Wars, Book 5). Later church historians, Eusebius and Epiphanius, wrote about a tradition of Christians heeding this warning and escaping.

1. What does this example of great distress help you see about the last days between Jesus' resurrection and his return?
2. What expectations do you have for this life? What expectations does this passage give?
3. What can you be thankful for from God in this life? How can you be someone who cares for our brothers and sisters whose experience of this life is more like the events described in this passage?

**Prayer:** You may like to jump on the Open Doors website and pray for our brothers and sister who face severe persecution.

[www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list](http://www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list)

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 24:1-35

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 24:22-28

Jesus has now finished speaking about the events of AD70 and returns to speaking about the last days generally. He adds to His earlier warning about false Christs.

1. What warning does Jesus give His people? How does this still apply to us?
2. Why don't we need to wonder whether or not we have missed Jesus' return? (See note below!)
3. How does the passage show us the responsibility of God's people for being discerning and yet give us confidence that God holds on to His people?

#### NOTE:

One interpretation of verse 28 is: 'Where the corpse is there the vultures will gather'. Just as vultures don't miss a corpse, neither will the world miss the return of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Thank God that He holds on to His people through until the end. Pray that you would have discernment and not be led astray.

# Christ's return and the signs of His coming

## DAY 4

### Read Isaiah 13:9-10 and Matthew 24:29-31

Jesus' teaching is now focused on the time after the last days, the time of His second coming.

1. Who will be the focus at the end of the last days?
2. Isaiah prophesied about the day of Yahweh. What is Jesus revealing about His coming by picking up these prophecies (also Isaiah 34:4; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:31, 3:15 and Amos 8:9)?
3. Why might the peoples of earth mourn at Jesus' return? How does this spur you to share the news of Jesus today?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would embolden us to proclaim His gospel and that He would raise up people to take it across the country and the world. Pray that you would see more and more the urgency of the gospel in light of the coming of the Son of Man.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 24:1-35

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 24:32-35

In wrapping up His answer to the disciple's question in verse 3, Jesus teaches about the nearness of this time.

1. What do the signs point to, and what is the significance of Jesus' words (Isaiah 40:8)?
2. If the disciples can expect to "see all these things" what must the "all things" be referring to from what we have seen already this week? What couldn't it be referring to?
3. Why is it important that we see the trustworthiness and certainty of Jesus' words?

**Prayer:** Ask God that He would help you know and trust Jesus' words in a way that would make you live in light of the future reality of Christ's return.

# Christ's return and the signs of His coming

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 24:36-25:30

CHRIST'S SERVANTS (WATCHFUL, DILIGENT, FAITHFUL)

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 24:36-41

1. What seems to be the big point of Jesus' teaching about His return?
2. What do you learn about Jesus' humanity in this passage (see note below on verse 36)? How can we be like Jesus in His trust and submission to the Father, even without all the details of the future?
3. Jesus' return will be unexpected, but it is important to note that this chapter and the rest of the Bible speak of things that must take place before Jesus' second coming (e.g. 2 Thessalonians 2). We need to hold on to both the unexpectedness of Jesus' return and also be aware of the rest of the Bible's teaching. What might it look like to focus too heavily on one or the other?

### NOTES:

**Verse 36:** Jesus is one person, fully God and fully man. He is both divine in His knowledge and human in His limited knowledge. This is part of the mystery and miracle of the incarnation. According to His human nature, Jesus does not know the day of His second coming. Yet, according to His divine nature, Jesus knows all things (e.g. John 16:30; 21:17). Here is an article if you'd like to read more about this 'The One Thing Jesus Didn't Know'. [www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/one-thing-jesus-didnt-know](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/one-thing-jesus-didnt-know)

**Verse 40-41:** this could be referring to the judgment in the previous verse ("taken away" is similar to "swept away", where the people were judged, or back in verse 31 the elect are gathered at Jesus' return. The context doesn't suggest a rapture; this parable is another example of the unexpectedness of Jesus return).

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help us live in a way that reflects our knowledge of Jesus return.

# Christ's servants

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 24:42-51**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6;  
Ezekiel 6-10

1. Does Jesus say it is possible for us to know the day of His return?
2. If this is the case, what should characterise Jesus' people who wait for this unexpected day? What's the warning if we drift from submission to our Lord?
3. What blessing is there for the faithful servants? What might be one change you'd like to make to live more like this kind of servant?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us to be ready for our Lord's return, living in a way that serves Him.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 24:36-25:30

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 25:1-13

This passage draws on wedding customs of the time. The ten virgins are like bridesmaids. They would wait for the bridegroom to enter the wedding banquet, probably at the house of the bride's father.

1. What is the difference between those who miss out and those who entered the wedding banquet?
2. What does this passage teach about the timing of Jesus' return?
3. What might it look like to watch and be ready for a delayed return?

**Prayer:** PAsk God to help us be prepared for Jesus' return. Pray that Jesus' delay would not stop you from being prepared or stop you trusting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray that God would use us to save people so that they would be prepared for Jesus' return.



# Christ's servants

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 25:14-30

1. A talent was a unit of measure, probably of a very significant amount. One commentary suggests that it could have taken a labourer 20 years to earn one talent. Who gives the talent? What is expected from the receiver? What is the reward and judgement for the servant's action?
2. It is possible to read from the previous parables that being ready and watchful seems passive, how is this a warning against passiveness?
3. If modern productivity is about serving self-interest, what kind of productivity does Jesus call His servants to? How can you seek to be truly productive with your life?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us to be faithful with all the capacities He has given us to be productive in loving God and serving His purposes.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 24:36-25:30

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 25:21-30

1. There is severe judgement for the lazy servant and great reward for the servant who works hard for the master. What's the principle for this in verse 29?
2. How does this passage help us define faithfulness, laziness, and wickedness?
3. What might it look like to be lazy with what God has given you? What might it look like to be faithful with what God has given you?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you wait well for Jesus' return and to be faithful with the life He has given you for His purposes.

# Christ's servants

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 25:31-46

CHRIST'S SERVANTS (LOVE CHRIST'S SERVANTS)

## DAY 1

**Read Matthew 25:31-46**

1. In verses 31-33, how is Jesus shown to be supreme?
2. How is verse 34 astonishing for sinners like us?
3. If you could list any and every blessing you'd want to experience or have in this world, how does it weigh up against the blessing of verse 34?
4. How might your life reflect that your true blessing is in heaven?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you be captured by the Son of Man and to live for Him. Pray that these eternal realities would shape how you live in this life.

# Christ's servants

## DAY 2

### Read Ezekiel 34:17-31

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4;  
Ezekiel 16-20

It's helpful to have the Old Testament background that Matthew and Jesus had to help us see what this week's passage teaches us about Jesus.

1. What similarities can you see between Ezekiel 37 and the passage we read yesterday (Matthew 25:31-46)?
2. What future does it promise? How can we be confident of this future?
3. How does this hope help us be thankful through whatever hardships we face?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you to see the hope you have because Jesus has come to shepherd God's people. Pray that knowing this hope would change the way you live.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 25:31-46

## DAY 3

**Read Matthew 10:5-15, 40-42; and Matthew 25:34-40**

1. Who could “these brothers” be?
2. Why is it important that we treat them in this way?
3. How does this passage emphasise the importance of responding rightly to Jesus?

### **ARTICLE: WHO ARE ‘THE LEAST OF THESE’**

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/who-are-the-least-of-these](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/who-are-the-least-of-these)

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you to share the news of Jesus boldly. Pray that as you share, many people would be saved.

# Christ's servants

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. How is our treatment of Christians linked to our treatment of Christ Himself? (See Acts 9:1-5)
2. This passage fits within a bigger section of waiting for Jesus' return. What does this teaching add to the previous parables about being ready, watchful, and productive?
3. What eternal realities should drive a proper response to Jesus (and His people)?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see the ultimate eternal realities and so live rightly in these last days. Pray that many more would turn and trust Jesus and be saved from judgement. Pray that you would be a person captured by Jesus and so live serving His people.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 25:31-46

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 25:34-40 and Ephesians 1:3-5, 13

1. What happened for Christians before the creation of the world?
2. And yet, what response does the Gospel require?
3. Of all that you could do for people in the world, nothing compares to sharing and supporting the work of the gospel that brings people every spiritual blessing in Christ. How can this spur you to continue seeking first God's kingdom?

**Prayer:** Thank God for preparing the kingdom for us from before the creation of the world and for choosing us to be blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing.



# Christ's servants

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 26:1-30

Throughout Matthew, we have seen the ultimate authority of Jesus alongside the greatness of Him as the humble servant (e.g. 12:28 and 20:28). In recent chapters, Jesus' authority has taken main stage. But now, as He faces His death, we see His humility on display alongside the idea of His authority. Christ authoritatively lays down His life in submission to His Father. No one takes it from Him (see John 10:18). He sets up the events, He is in control, He is giving Himself up in submission to the Father for the forgiveness of sins.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 26:1-5

1. What does Matthew want us to see about Jesus' decision and the decision of the Jewish leaders?
2. How does this help us understand God's sovereignty in relation to humanity's plans?
3. What difference does it make knowing that Jesus chose to suffer for the forgiveness of sins?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help us treasure Jesus more as we see who He is and what He has done.

# Christ gives himself up

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 26:6-13

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4;  
Ezekiel 26-3

This is one of two anointings recorded in the four gospel accounts. Luke reports about one anointing in Galilee, and Matthew (along with Mark and John) retells this anointing in Bethany (see Luke 7:36-50; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8). John tells you that it was very expensive nard – probably around 300 hundred denarii – a year's wages. The interesting promise Jesus gives the woman in verse 13 is fulfilled by its inclusion Matthew, Mark and John. And John suggests that Bethany was well known as the village of this Mary who anointed Jesus (see John 11:1) which is another sign of her being well known as the gospel spread throughout the region after Jesus' resurrection.

1. What good intentions might have the disciples had?
2. What's the difference between how the disciples view the woman's act and how Jesus sees it? Why the difference?
3. Jesus has revealed Himself as gentle and humble throughout the gospel. But what would be lacking if this was all we saw in Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you appreciate the worth and value of Jesus, the Son of Man, the Lord of all. Pray that knowing this would spur you to live for Him.

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 26:1-30

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 26:14-25

1. What's so evil about the betrayal of Jesus?
2. What answers does this passage give to the question 'who is responsible for Jesus' impending death'?
3. What difference would it make if Jesus was simply a victim and not willing to die? How can this help you be thankful today?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give us thankful hearts as we reflect on Jesus, who willing went towards His suffering on our behalf.

# Christ gives himself up

## DAY 4

**Read Exodus 24:6-8; Matthew 26:26-30; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

The covenant under Moses came after God's great salvation of His people, Israel, from Egypt. The Passover was established to commemorate this great salvation and the covenant as God's chosen people. What similarities can you see in the establishing of the covenant under Moses and this covenant? What is the significance of Christ's words?

1. Looking at 1 Corinthians 11, why has the New Testament replaced the Passover with the Lord's Supper?
2. What are we remembering and proclaiming when we take this meal together?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us see the significance of what Jesus has done at the cross, the establishing of a new covenant.

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 26:1-30

## DAY 5

**Read Jeremiah 31:33-34; Matthew 1:21; and Matthew 26:26-30**

1. How do Jeremiah's words help you see the significance of what Jesus is saying here?
2. What does the Lord's supper teach us about the cross and what was achieved there?
3. How can you build into your day some time to reflect on the cross and what it means for your relationship with God?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you appreciate the cross and thank Him for Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins.

# Christ gives himself up

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 8 MATTHEW 26:31-75

Jesus' temptations reappear throughout Matthew. After Jesus' baptism, the Spirit drives Him out to be tempted by the devil where He is tempted to go another way to glory other than the path of obedience to the Father. Such was His hunger that angels ministered to His needs (see 4:1-11). The devil leaves Him and it seems that His next temptation comes when He reveals that He will suffer and Peter rebukes Him to go another path. Jesus responds, "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns" (See 16:21-23). Now, again, Jesus is tempted to go another way as He faces the agony of taking the cup. Yet, He continues to be steadfast in submission to His Father even in His greatest agony.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 26:30-46

1. Compare the disciples with Jesus in this passage in regard to the temptations they face and their response to temptation. What stands out about Jesus' humanity and His perfect obedience?
2. The 'spirit' seems to be referring not to the Holy Spirit, but the spirit of humans, our eagerness, desire, passion. The disciples were willing and eager it seemed to continue following Jesus even to death (verses 33, 35). What does this help us see about our sin (see also 21:28-31)?
3. How does this passage help us appreciate Jesus as both a model for how we should live and as our saviour, who lived the way we could never live?

**Prayer:** Ask God to grow your love and appreciation of our savior Jesus. Pray that you would always trust Him and mature to live more and more like Him.



# Christ's steadfastness

## DAY 2

**Read Isaiah 51:17 and Matthew 26:36-46**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5;  
Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3

1. Crucifixion was a horrible method of execution. But what sorrow is overwhelming Jesus here?
2. How does this help us appreciate the obedience of Jesus to the Father?
3. How can we be thankful today for Jesus' willingness to follow the Father's will? What might it look like for us to live like Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us glorify Jesus as we ought. Pray that we would be like Him in His obedience to follow His will.

# WEEK 8 MATTHEW 26:31-75

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 26:47-56

1. Many people thought that the Messiah would come as a conquering King who would throw off Roman power through military might and re-establish Israel as a dominant political power. How does Jesus help us see that His way is different?
2. Yesterday we saw Jesus' determination to go the will of the Father. How is His determination to fulfill Scripture linked to this? How does this help us know and follow God's will for us today?
3. How do Jesus' words show that He is clearly giving Himself up and not being taken as a rebellious criminal seeking to escape punishment? How does Jesus' control in this moment help us trust His control in all things that happen?

**Prayer:** Ask that God to help us to live like Jesus and trust Him through all of life's big and small frustrations, pains, and joys.

# Christ's steadfastness

## DAY 4

### Read Isaiah 53:7-8 and Matthew 26:57-68

1. The Sanhedrin, those who are supposed to be leading God's people, seek to put God's chosen Messiah to death. Why do you think Jesus' speech is limited? What does it reveal about Him, and what does it reveal about the evil that is taking place?
2. What can you learn from Jesus' truthful words and the failed search for evidence and false witnesses?
3. Who does Jesus reveal Himself to be (Matthew 22:41-45; Psalm 110:1; and Daniel 7:13 – see note)? How is Jesus' self-disclosure a warning to those He is speaking to and to all people?

#### NOTE:

Jesus' warns that 'From now on' they will only see Jesus rightly. It seems like Jesus is referring to the fact that after His resurrection, they will remember these words of warning. Jesus is not the one to be judged as worthy of death, rather He is the eternal King who will judge the nations and determine whether or not they face His eternal judgement.

**Prayer:** Pray that God would enable us to see Jesus rightly. Pray that God would do this work for many more. You might like to pray for a particular person that comes to mind who hasn't yet submitted to King Jesus.

# WEEK 8 MATTHEW 26:31-75

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 26:69-75

1. How do you see Jesus' words come true in this passage?
2. How does Peter's failure highlight Jesus' faithfulness?
3. How does this passage show us our desperate need for the grace of God?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see the weight of your sin so that you might appreciate more deeply His grace to us in Jesus.

# Christ's steadfastness

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 27

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 27:1-26

1. What ideas are repeated through this passage? What do they help us see about what is happening?
2. Jesus pronounced a weighty judgement on these people back in 23:29-36. How does this passage help you see the justice of Jesus' judgement (see 27:25)?
3. How does this passage help you see the depths of humanity's brokenness?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help us see our brokenness and our desperate need for grace. Thank Him for being the God who would lay down His life for sinners like us.

# Christ's suffering and death

## DAY 2

**Read Psalm 69:19-21;**

**Psalm 109:25-26; and Matthew 27:27-34**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6;  
2 Timothy 1-4

1. How can you see these Psalms fulfilled in Matthew?
2. If these Psalms are about Christ, what do they reveal about the depth of His suffering and His prayers to the Father during suffering?
3. How might the perfection of Christ, even in such suffering, help us be in awe of Him and seek to live like Him?

### BONUS QUESTION:

If you have time, read Psalm 69 and 109. Why might Matthew want us to reflect on these psalms as we read about Jesus' suffering?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the perfection of Jesus and for counting His perfection as ours. Pray that He would continue to help you be patient and prayerful like Christ, even in suffering.

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 27

## DAY 3

**Read Psalm 22:6-8, 12-18; and Matthew 27:32-44**

1. What is the sad irony of the mocking directed at Jesus?
2. How does Psalm 22 add to what Jesus is experiencing?
3. Through the mocking words of the crowd, we can be reminded of Jesus' true identity, and what He achieved for us on the cross. What truths about Jesus and what He has done for us stand out to you?

### **NOTE:**

There is a seeming contradiction between Matthew 27:44 and Luke 23:39-43 about the two men crucified with Jesus. In Luke, one of the criminals recognises Jesus' innocence and is welcomed into paradise. One way of reconciling these two accounts is recognising that there was a significant amount of time so that one of the criminals could have repented from his mocking. You can see this issue and other seeming contradictions dealt with in this YouTube video [Discrepancies in the Gospels – Darrell L. Bock and W. Hall Harris.](#)

**Prayer:** Thank God for these things. Pray that He would help you remember these truths and recall them throughout the day.



# Christ's suffering and death

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 20:28; Matthew 26:28; and Matthew 27:45-56**

1. How do the previous parts of Matthew show us why Jesus' death matters?
2. We remember Jesus' death as 'Good Friday'. What reasons can you see for why it is good?
3. How might the news of Jesus' death for your forgiveness impact you this week?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus' death took the punishment of God for the sins of those who will trust Him. Pray that God might help you to cherish His grace to us in Jesus.

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 27

## DAY 5

**Read Exodus 26:33; Leviticus 16:1-2; and Matthew 27:45-56**

1. How do the signs around the death of Jesus help us recognise what was achieved by His death?
2. The curtain of the temple divided the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, which was the place where only the High Priest could enter being ceremonially clean on the Day of Atonement (see Exodus 26:33; Leviticus 16). Why is the tearing of the curtain significant?
3. What reason does this give us to praise God and be thankful?

### NOTES:

The readings from the Old Testament were describing the tabernacle, which was the pop-up tent version before the temple was built by Solomon which also had the curtain (2 Chronicles 3:14). This temple was destroyed and rebuilt after the Israelites returned from exile in Babylon. Ezra records the rebuilding of the temple, which was not as significant as the previous (see Ezra 3:12).

If you'd like to read about all the requirements of the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies, and to see more of the significance of the curtain tearing, then read the rest of Leviticus 16.

Article: [www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-veil-was-torn-in-two](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-veil-was-torn-in-two)

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus death meant the tearing of the curtain and all the implications of that truth for us. Pray that you would be thankful for Jesus and His work on your behalf.

# Christ's suffering and death

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 28

## DAY 1

**Read Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 27:63-66; and Matthew 28:1-10**

1. When Jesus was on trial, He was said to be “worthy of death” (26:66). How is Jesus proven innocent in Matthew 28? (See also John 10:18)
2. What else does the resurrection show us about Jesus’ identity?
3. What might it look like to not live recognising Jesus’ innocence and authority? What might it look like to get it right?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus was perfect! He did not deserve to die but gave up His life in the place of sinners like us. Pray that God would help us to live knowing that His innocence can be counted as ours through faith and that He is the authoritative King who rules over all things.

# Christ's Resurrection

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 27:57-28:15  
and 1 Corinthians 15:12-28**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

1. What descriptions does Matthew include to add authenticity to this account?
2. How does this help us to have confidence in what we believe?
3. Are there questions you still need to resolve? How might you do that?
4. How could you tell if someone was convinced of the resurrection of Jesus? How is the resurrection impacting you?

### BONUS QUESTION:

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:12-28. Why does the resurrection matter for us and for God?

**Prayer:** Thank the Father for sending Jesus to die and rise again for the forgiveness of our sins. Pray that the news of the resurrection would change you. Pray that you would be eager to share this solid hope.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 28

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 28:16-20

1. What does this passage teach us about Jesus and about discipleship?
2. If someone said to you, 'it's not the role of every Christian to share the news of Jesus', how might this passage help you speak with them?
3. What comfort do we have in sharing the news of Christ even today?
4. Who is someone you could tell that you are Christian, or invite to something where they could hear more, or ask for their thoughts on Jesus?

**Prayer:** Thank God for Jesus. Pray that His name would be honoured as it should be in every nation. Pray that He would strengthen you to live for the renown of Christ.

# Christ's Resurrection

## DAY 4

### Read Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 1:1; 24:14; and 28:19

1. Matthew started his gospel with an allusion to the promises of God to Abraham to bless the nations (1:1). How are the nations going to be blessed through Christ?
2. How have you benefitted from this blessing?
3. How might you use your time and resources to continue to see the gospel go out to all nations?

### BONUS QUESTION:

Have a look at some of the other references to the nations in Matthew (2:1–12; 4:15–16; 8:5–13; 10:18; 13:38; 24:14). How is the gospel key to them receiving blessing from God?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would continue to raise up people to share the good news of Jesus. Pray for yourself and for our church that God would give us generous hearts to see this mission continue. Pray that the gospel would be preached faithfully in this nation and that many would repent and put their trust in Jesus.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 28

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 22:42-44 and 28:18-20

1. Yesterday we saw the theme of the blessing to the Gentiles through the proclamation of the gospel of Christ. Another significant theme has been the authority of Christ. What's the scale of Jesus' authority according to Matthew?
2. We evangelise out of love for people. How is Jesus' authority another key motivation?
3. How could you tell if someone was captured by the authority of Christ? How has Christ's authority impacted your life?

### BONUS QUESTION:

Look at some of the other reference to the nation in Matthew (Mt 7:29; 9:6; 10:1, 7-8; 11:27; 22:43-44; 24:35). Why might Jesus' authority be a central truth throughout this gospel? Why does it matter?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might stir you to see the ultimate authority of Christ that you would submit to Him and serve Him.



# Christ's Resurrection

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

