

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW
of 17 So all the generation
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Monday - Matthew 20:1-16 - Labourers

We see in this parable that God calls the families and individuals of the earth into the visible church at His own time, and in His own way. He has mercy on whom He will have mercy. This is a truth which we see illustrated on every side in the church of Christ. We see one man called to repentance and faith in the beginning of his days, like Timothy, and labouring in the Lord's vineyard for forty or fifty years. We see another man called "at the eleventh hour," like the thief on the cross, and plucked like a brand out of the fire—one day a hard sinner, and the next day in paradise. And yet both these men are equally forgiven before God. Both are equally washed in Christ's blood, and clothed in Christ's righteousness. Both are equally justified, both accepted, and both will be found at Christ's right hand in the last day. True faith in Christ, though it be but a day old, justifies a man before God as completely as the faith of him who has followed Christ for fifty years. Both are saved by grace alone. Both owe all to Christ.

Let us beware of supposing, from anything in this parable, that salvation is to be earned by works. Whatever a believer receives in the next world, is a matter of grace, and not of debt. God is never a debtor to us, in any sense whatever. When we have done all, we are unprofitable servants. (Luke 17:10.) Let us beware of supposing from this parable, that it is safe for any one to put off repentance until the end of his days. To suppose this is a most dangerous delusion. The longer men refuse to obey Christ's voice, the less likely they are to be saved. "Now is the accepted time—now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2.) Few are ever saved on their death-beds. One thief on the cross was saved, that none should despair; but only one, that none should presume.

Questions

1. What does this parable teach us about God?
2. What is the danger of putting off repentance?

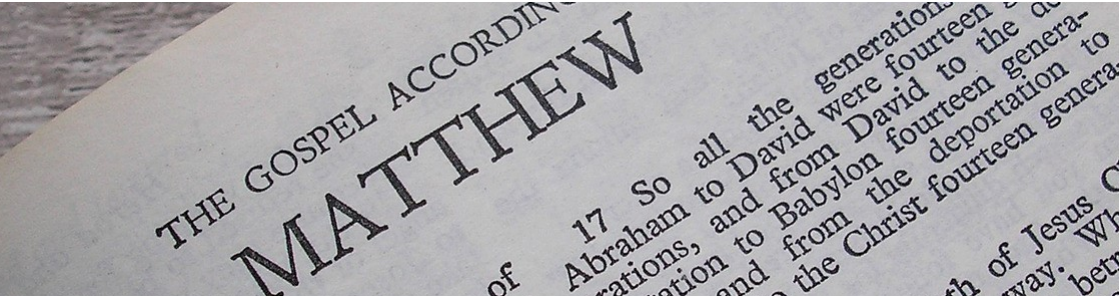
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's grace to you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Matthew 20:17-23 - A Request

The Lord Jesus Christ makes a clear announcement of His own approaching death. He knows from the beginning, all that is before Him. The treachery of Judas Iscariot, the fierce persecution of the chief-priests and scribes, the unjust judgment, the delivery to Pontius Pilate, the mocking, the scourging, the crown of thorns, the cross, the hanging between two thieves, the nails, the spear - all, all are in His mind. Yet none of these things move our Lord. He sees Calvary in the distance all His life through, and yet walks calmly up to it, without turning to the right hand or to the left. The Lord Jesus is a voluntary sufferer. When He dies on the cross, it is not because He has not power to prevent it. He suffers intentionally, deliberately, and of His own free-will. He knows that without shedding of His blood there can be no forgiveness of man's sin. His heart is set on finishing the mighty work He came into the world to do.

There are many Christians, who are very like James and John and their mother. They see in part, and know in part, the things of God. They have faith enough to follow Christ. They have knowledge enough to hate sin, and come out from the world. And yet there are many truths of Christianity, of which they are ignorant. But do we never commit the same mistake? Do we never make thoughtless, inconsiderate requests? Do we not often say things in prayer without "counting the cost." We ask that God would make us holy. But are we prepared to be sanctified by any process that God in His wisdom may call on us to pass through? Are we ready to be purified by affliction, weaned from the world by bereavements, drawn nearer to God by losses, sicknesses, and sorrow? If we are not, our Lord might well say to us, "You don't know what you are asking."

Questions

1. What did Jesus understand was ahead of Him?
2. How does Jesus reply to James and John?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for what Christ has suffered on your behalf.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Matthew 20:24-28 - What is a Great Christian?

Pride is one of the oldest and most mischievous of sins. It's here even in the disciples. But Jesus teaches that a life of self-denying kindness to others is the true secret of greatness in the kingdom of Christ. True greatness consists not in receiving, but in giving - not in selfish absorption of good things, but in imparting good to others - not in being served, but in serving - not in sitting still and being ministered to, but in going about and ministering to others.

The Lord Jesus Christ is intended to be the example of all true Christians. The Lord God has mercifully provided His people with everything necessary to their sanctification. He has given those who follow after holiness the clearest of laws, the best of motives, and the most encouraging of promises. But this is not all. He has furthermore supplied them with the most perfect pattern and example, the life of His own Son. In the steps of that life He tells us to walk.

Finally, let us learn from these verses, that Christ's death is an atonement for sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ does not die merely as a martyr, or as an example of self-sacrifice and self-denial. Christ dies as a sacrifice for man's sin. He dies to redeem us from the curse which we all deserve, and to make satisfaction to the justice of God, which would have condemned us. We are all by nature debtors. We cannot atone for our own sins, for we are weak and sinful, and only add to our debts every day. But, what we can not do, Christ comes into the world to do for us. What we can not pay, He pays for us. Happy is that man who is truly humble, strives to do good, walks in the steps of Jesus, and rests all his hopes on the ransom paid for him by Christ's blood.

Questions

1. What does Jesus say makes us great?
2. Who is to be our example?

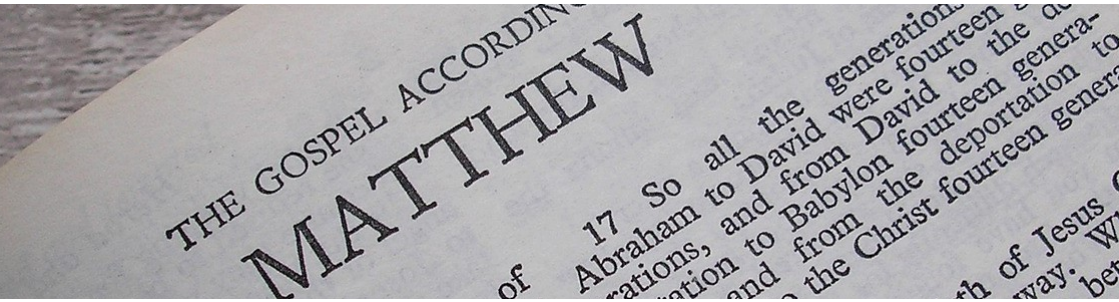
Prayer Points

1. Pray for humility and the strength to follow Christ's example.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Thursday - Matthew 20:29-34 - The Blind Men

Strong faith may sometimes be found, where it might least be expected. Blind as these two men are, they believe that Jesus is able to help them. They never see any of our Lord's miracles. They know Him only by hearsay, and not face to face. And yet, as soon as they hear that He is passing by, they cry out.

These blind men sit "by the wayside." Had they not done so, they might never have been healed. Jesus never returned to Jericho, and they might never have met with Him again. Let us see, in this simple fact, the importance of diligence in the use of means of grace. Let us never neglect the house of God - never forsake the assembling of ourselves with God's people - never omit the reading of our Bibles - never let drop the practice of prayer. These things will not save us without the grace of the Holy Spirit. But it is just in the use of these things that souls are converted and saved. They are the ways in which Jesus walks. It is those who "sit by the wayside" who are likely to be healed.

These blind men are rebuked by the multitude that accompanies our Lord. Men tell them to "be quiet." But they are not silenced. We should not be deterred by opposition, or discouraged by difficulties, when we begin to seek the salvation of our souls. If we feel our diseases, and want to find Jesus, the great Physician - if we know our sins, and desire to have them pardoned - let us press on.

We see here the mercifulness of Christ's heart towards the sons of men. The Lord Jesus is not only a mighty Saviour, but merciful, kind, and gracious to a degree that our minds cannot conceive. Let us then grasp the love of Christ firmly and keep it daily before us.

Questions

1. Where were the blind men sitting?
2. What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's compassionate love.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 25 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Friday - Matthew 21:1-11 - Entry Into Jerusalem

Our Lord knows that the hour is approaching when He must finish the mighty work He came to do, by dying for our sins upon the cross. Knowing all this, He no longer, as in time past, seeks secrecy. Before the great sacrifice for the sins of the world is offered up, every eye should be fixed on the victim. So He makes this public entry.

Notice in these verses an example of our Lord Jesus Christ's perfect knowledge. All happens exactly as He foretells. There is nothing hidden from the Lord's eyes. There are no secrets with Him. Let us do nothing we would not like Christ to see, and say nothing we would not like Christ to hear. Let us behave as we would have done had we walked beside Him, in the company of James and John, by the sea of Galilee.

Let us notice in these verses that prophecies concerning our Lord's first coming are literally and exactly fulfilled. We have a right to expect that prophecies about the second advent of Christ, will be as literally fulfilled as those about His first advent. He came to this earth literally in person the first time. He will come to this earth literally in person the second time. He came in humiliation once literally to suffer. He will come again in glory literally to reign.

Of all the multitudes who crowded round our Lord as He entered Jerusalem, none stood by Him when He was delivered into the hands of wicked men. Many cried, "Hosanna!" who four days after cried, "away with Him, crucify Him!" This is a proof of the utter folly of thinking more of the praise of man than the praise of God. Let us seek the favour of Him who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8.) Christ never changes. Those whom He loves, He loves to the end.

Questions

1. Why does Jesus enter Jerusalem so publicly?
2. Which prophecy is fulfilled?

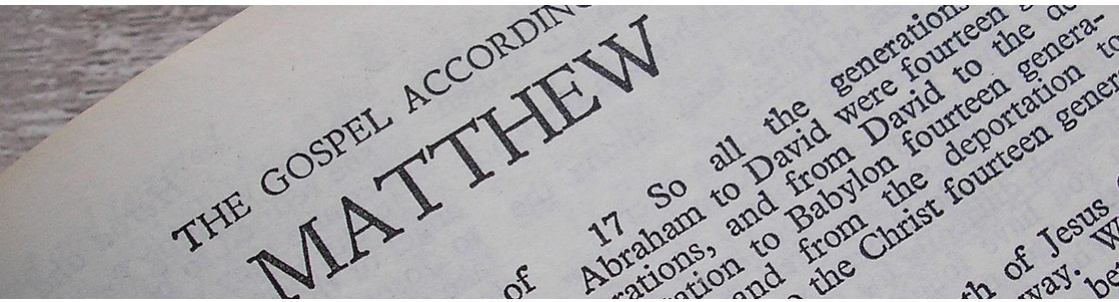
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ never changes.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on." Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 26 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Matthew 21:12-22 - The Church

Our Lord finds His Father's house in a state which symbolises the general condition of the whole Jewish church - everything out of order, and out of course. He sees it all with holy indignation. There is no resistance to Him for men know that He is right. This is a striking type of what He will do when He comes again the second time. He will purify His visible church as He purified the temple.

The fig tree, full of leaves, but barren of fruit, is another striking symbol of the Jewish church, when our Lord is on the earth. The Jewish church has everything to make an outward show. It has the temple, the priesthood, the daily service, the yearly feasts, the Old Testament Scriptures, the rituals of the Levites, the morning and evening sacrifice. But beneath these good leaves, the Jewish church is utterly destitute of fruit. It has no grace, no faith, no love, no humility, no spirituality, no real holiness, no willingness to receive its Messiah. Like the fig-tree, the Jewish church is soon to wither away. It is to be stripped of all its outward ornaments, and its members scattered over the face of the earth. Jerusalem is to be destroyed. The temple is to be burned. The tree is to wither away to the very ground.

Every fruitless Christian is in dreadful danger of becoming a withered fig-tree. So long as a man is content with the leaves of religion, so long as he is satisfied with going to church, and being called a Christian, while his heart is not changed, and his sins not forsaken—he is daily provoking God to cut him off. Fruit, fruit - the fruit of the Spirit, is the only sure proof that we are savingly united to Christ, and on the way to heaven.

Questions

1. What is the fig tree a symbol of?
2. What is the danger of those who bear no fruit?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.” Matthew 6:25a

Praise: Psalm 27 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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