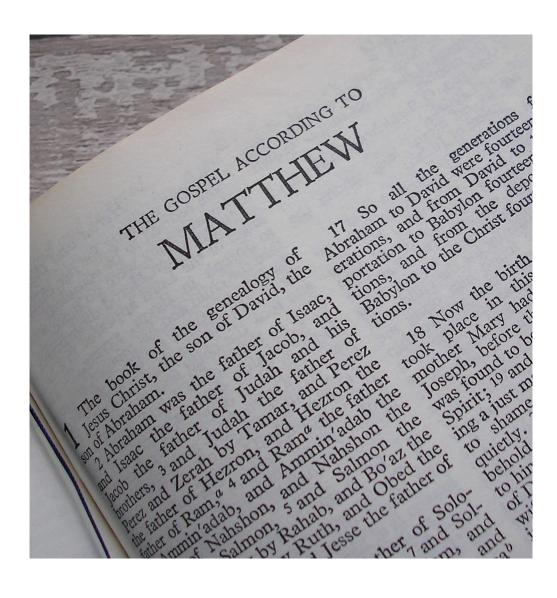
# Let's Worship God

4th-9th July 2022 Matthew



#### Monday - Matthew 4:1-11 - The Temptation

The devil is a real and mighty enemy, unafraid to assault even the Lord Jesus Himself. For over 6,000 years he has been working at one thing - to ruin men and women, and to draw them to Hell. We need to watch and pray against him. We shouldn't think it strange if we are tempted. If Satan came to Christ, he will also come to Christians, but we're quick to forget this. We often find evil thoughts coming to our minds, doubts, questions, and sinful ideas, but we shouldn't let these things destroy our peace. We should remember there is a devil and not be surprised to find him nearby. To be tempted is in itself no sin; it is the giving into temptation and giving it a place in our hearts, which should scare us.

The main weapon we should use in resisting Satan is the Bible. Three times the devil tempted Christ; three times Christ replied with Scripture. The Word is the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17), and we shall never fight a good fight if we don't use it as our weapon. The Bible won't do us any good if it just sits in our house; we need to be familiar with it and have it stored in our mind, and the only way that's going to happen is by regularly reading it.

We should never forget that we have a mighty Friend in heaven, who understands our temptations, and can sympathise. Are you ever tempted by Satan to distrust God's care and goodness? So was Jesus. Are you ever tempted to take God's mercy for granted and run into danger? So was Jesus. Are you ever tempted to commit one "small", secret sin in order to gain some great thing? So was Jesus. Are you ever tempted to listen to some twisting of Scripture as an excuse for doing wrong? So was Jesus. He is just the Saviour that a tempted people need.

# Questions

- 1. What weapon did Jesus use to fight temptation?
- 2. Why can Jesus understand our temptations?

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Give thanks that Christ can sympathise with us in our temptation.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

#### Memory Verse

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Praise: Psalm 119: Part 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

#### Tuesday - Matthew 4:12-25 - The Beginning of Ministry

Jesus began His work on earth by preaching. The preaching of the Word is the primary means that God has always used to bring people to faith in Him and to grow them in that faith.

The first teaching that Jesus proclaimed to the world was the need to repent. This is one of the great foundation stones of Christianity. High or low, rich or poor, all have sinned and are guilty before God, and all must repent and believe, if they want to be saved. True repentance is no light thing; it is a thorough change of heart about sin, a change that shows itself in being sorry for our sin, in confessing our sin with all our heart, in breaking off from our sinful habits, and in hating all sin. Such repentance is the inseparable companion of saving faith in Christ.

Jesus chose the poorest and humblest to be His disciples. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all fishermen. Christianity is not intended for just rich and well-educated people; it is intended for all the world. The poorest of the poor, the unnoticed and ignored, may be as high as any in the kingdom of heaven if they are willing to hear Christ's voice and follow Him. Intelligence, money, looks, popularity are worthless without faith.

The miracles teach us about Jesus' power. He that can heal sick people with a touch and cast out devils with a word is able to save. There is no broken heart that He cannot heal. Fallen, crushed, bruised, plague-stricken as we all are by sin, Jesus by His blood can make us whole. The miracles show us Christ's heart. He is a compassionate Saviour. He rejected no one who came to Him; He refused no one. He had an ear to hear, and a hand to help, and a heart to feel. There is no kindness like His.

#### Questions

- 1. How did Jesus start His ministry?
- 2. What is repentance?
- 3. What do the miracles teach us about Jesus?

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that you would imitate Christ in compassion to others.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

#### Wednesday - Matthew 5:1-12 - The Beatitudes

The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are poor in spirit. He means the humble, those who are not wise in their own eyes. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who mourn. He means those who are sorry for sin and grieve daily over their own shortcomings. The remembrance of sin is a burden to them, but one day they will weep no more. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are meek. He means those who are of a patient and contented spirit. They are willing to put up with little honour; they are not quick to take offense, they do not carry a grudge. They are content to wait for their good things. They are never losers in the long run. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who hunger and thirst after righteousness. He means those who desire above all things to be entirely conformed to the mind of God. They long not so much to be rich or intelligent as to be holy. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are merciful. He means those who are full of compassion towards others. They pity all who are suffering either from sin or sorrow, and they desire to make their sufferings less. Both in this life and in that which is to come they shall reap a rich reward. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are pure in heart. He means those who do not aim merely at outward correctness, but at inward holiness. They are not satisfied with a mere show of religion; they want to serve God with all their heart. The Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are peacemakers. He means those who use all their influence to promote peace and love on earth, in private and in public, at home and abroad. Finally, the Lord Jesus calls those blessed who are persecuted for righteousness sake. He means those who are laughed at, mocked, despised, and ill used, because they endeavour to live as true Christians. They are now confessing Him before men, and He will confess them before His Father and the angels at the last day.

#### Questions

- 1. Who does Jesus say will be blessed?
- 2. What does Jesus promise those who are persecuted?

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Praise: Psalm 120 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

# Thursday - Matthew 5:13-20 - Salt, Light, and the Law

True Christians are to be in the world like salt. Salt has a taste all its own. It is a preservative and keeps things from going bad, but it also gives part of its taste to everything it is mixed with. It's useful as long as it keeps that unique taste. True Christians are to be in the world like light. Light is completely different from darkness. The smallest spark of light can be seen at once in a dark room. Light guides and cheers us. These two things, salt and light, show us that there must be something unique and distinct about us if we are true Christians. We can't go through life thinking and living like others if we want to be counted as one of Christ's people. Are we saved? Then there must be a difference in our habits, our tastes, and the way we think between us and the world.

Jesus teaches that the Old and New Testaments are one complete whole. He came to fulfil the prophecies of a Saviour. He came to fulfil the ceremonial law by becoming the great Sacrifice for sin. He came to fulfil the moral law by being perfectly obedient and paying the penalty for our breaking of it with His blood.

We need to be careful not to despise the Ten Commandments. The coming of Christ did not alter them one bit. They are God's eternal measure of right and wrong. By them we understand what sin is; by them the Holy Spirit shows men their need of Christ and drives them to Him. Christ refers us to the Law as our rule and guide for holy living. We must be careful not to think that the Gospel has lowered the standard of holiness. In fact, the opposite should be true. The more light we have, the more we ought to love God. The more clearly we see our own complete and full forgiveness in Christ, the more we ought to work for His glory.

#### Questions

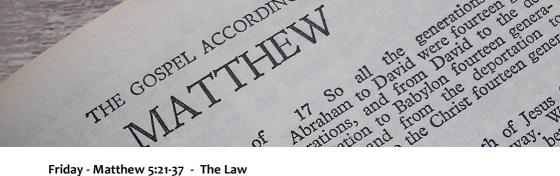
- 1. How can we be like salt and light?
- 2. What does Jesus teach us about the law?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Give thanks for the Word of God.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

#### Memory Verse

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Praise: Psalm 121 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



#### Friday - Matthew 5:21-37 - The Law

Many think that they keep the sixth commandment as long as they do not commit actual murder. The Lord Jesus shows that its requirements go much further than It condemns all angry language when used without cause and hateful thoughts. We may be perfectly innocent of taking life away and yet be guilty of breaking the sixth commandment.

Many think they keep the seventh commandment as long as they do not actually commit adultery. The Lord Jesus teaches that we may break it in our thoughts, hearts, and imaginations, even when our outward behaviour is correct and appropriate. Our God looks far beyond actions. With Him even a glance of the eye may be a sin!

Many think they keep the third commandment as long as they do not swear falsely and keep their vows. The Lord Jesus forbids all frivolous swearing and swearing by created things.

Jesus teaches us the holiness of God. He is a most pure and perfect Being, who sees sin where we often don't. He reads our inward motives; He notes our words and thoughts, as well as our actions. It would be good if we remembered the holiness of God more. There is no room for pride, self-righteousness, and carelessness when we see God as He is.

These verses teach us how much we need the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to save us. What man or woman can ever stand before such a God as this and plead "not guilty"? Who is there that has not broken the commandments thousands upon thousands of times? Without the work of Christ we will be condemned in the judgement day. If we truly understand this, we will not rest till we are safe in Christ.

#### **Ouestions**

- 1. How can we break the sixth commandment?
- 2. How do we break the seventh commandment?
- 3. What does Jesus' teaching tell us about God?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that God would enable you to be more holy.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

# Memory Verse

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Praise: Psalm 122 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

#### Saturday - Matthew 5:38-48 - Love

The Lord Jesus Christ forbids an unforgiving or revengeful attitude. Being ready to resent things, quick to take offense, quarrelsome and argumentative, keen to assert our rights - all these are contrary to the mind of Christ. The world may see no problem with these attitudes, but they have no place in the life of a Christian.

Christ commands us to be loving. We are to put away hatred, return good for evil, and blessing for cursing. Moreover we are not to love in word only, but in deed; we are to deny ourselves and take trouble in order to be kind. We are to put up with much and bear much, rather than hurt another, or give offense. In all things we are to be unselfish.

This may seem like a very high standard, but we cannot be content with a lower one. If we don't aim at having this kind of attitude, we are not yet children of God. What does our Father in heaven do? He is kind to all; He sends rain and sun on good and evil alike. A child should be like his father, but where is our likeness to our Father in heaven if we can't show mercy and kindness to everybody? Where is the evidence that we are new creatures if we lack love? Even those who have no faith can love those who love them, can do good and show kindness when it's in their interest to do so. But a Christian should show love to all regardless of their response.

If we were more obedient to this teaching, the world would be much more attracted to Christianity than it is. It would also have a great affect upon society because it would promote peace, love, kindness, and goodwill among men and women. This is indeed something to aim at.

#### Questions

- 1. What kind of attitude does Christ say we are to have?
- 2. What effect would this have on the world around us?

#### **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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Praise: Psalm 123 - 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.