**The Gospel of Matthew**

**“The gospel was a message before it became a book.”**

**Matthew 21-25**

**Outline:**  **Passages from this study used in the Lectionary**

Matthew 21:1 Jesus' Triumphal Entry into JerusalemMatthew 21:12 Jesus Cleanses the TempleMatthew 21:18 Jesus Curses the Fig TreeMatthew 21:23 The Authority of Jesus QuestionedMatthew 21:28 The Parable of the Two SonsMatthew 21:33 The Parable of the Wicked TenantsMatthew 22:1 The Parable of the Wedding BanquetMatthew 22:15 The Question about Paying TaxesMatthew 22:23 The Question about the ResurrectionMatthew 22:34 The Greatest CommandmentMatthew 22:41 The Question about David's SonMatthew 23:1 Jesus Denounces Scribes and PhariseesMatthew 23:37 The Lament over JerusalemMatthew 24:1 The Destruction of the Temple ForetoldMatthew 24:3 Signs of the End of the AgeMatthew 24:9 Persecutions ForetoldMatthew 24:15 The Desolating SacrilegeMatthew 24:29 The Coming of the Son of ManMatthew 24:32 The Lesson of the Fig TreeMatthew 24:36 The Necessity for WatchfulnessMatthew 24:45 The Faithful or the Unfaithful SlaveMatthew 25:1 The Parable of the Ten BridesmaidsMatthew 25:14 The Parable of the TalentsMatthew 25:31 The Judgment of the Nations

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| 4/9 | Matthew 21:1-11 |
| 10/1 | Matthew 21:23-32 |
| 10/8 | Matthew 21:33-46 |
| 10/15 | Matthew 22:1-14 |
| 10/22 | Matthew 22:15-22 |
| 10/29 | Matthew 22:34-46 |
| 11/5 | Matthew 23:1-12 |
| 11/12 | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 11/19 | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 11/26 | Matthew 25:31-46 |

**Overview of this section:**

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, his relationships with the religious elite continues to be filled with conflict. At issue seems to be Jesus’ authority to make claims about the Kingdom (realm) of God. Jesus also incites conflict by naming the hypocrisy of these leaders and claiming it is a cause of rejection by God.

As Jesus nears his time of arrest/persecution/death his teaching becomes more apocalyptic in nature and his parables call for faithfulness in the midst of struggle.

**Read about Jesus’ triumphal entry in Matthew 21:1-11 & Mark 11: 1-11**

What are the differences between the two stories?

In 21:12-22 we find two difficult stories about Jesus (chasing out the money changers and ‘cursing’ the fig tree): Is this the Jesus you know? How would you explain these stories to someone else?

**Read Matthew 21:23-46**

Who is Jesus speaking about in this parable? What is the message for us?

Matthew seems to hint that the church ‘replaces’ the Jews as God’s chosen people. What do you think?

**Read Matthew 22:1-14 – The great wedding banquet**

Who is Jesus speaking about in this parable?

What might we hear as the message for us?

Commentary on Matthew 22:1-14 from enterthebible.org

The exaggeratedly harsh rejection of the king's generous invitation reminds one of the anger at the generosity of the landowner in the parable of the laborers (20:1-16). The sending of the slaves now to gather "all whom they found, both good and bad" (22:10) recalls the kingdom themes in the Parables of the Weeds among the Wheat and the Net (13:24-30, 47-50) as well as the motif of the last being first in the Parable of the Laborers.

At the end of the parable we hear of one of these late-coming wedding guests who is expelled for want of the proper wedding garment. This somewhat puzzling ending, coming with no explanation, appends a familiar Matthean theme. To enter without the wedding garment provided by the host is to despise his generous hospitality. Responsible and obedient discipleship is still required of all who respond to the king's invitation, and there will come a time of judgment for all who presume on his generosity (see 13:42, 50; 24:51; 25:30).

**Matthew 22: 15-46**

Jesus engages in theological debate with the Sadducees regarding resurrection and the Pharisees regarding the greatest commandment and then silences all of them by quoting Psalm 110:1 – “the Lord said to my Lord sit at my right hand…” which is the most cited Old Testament passage in the entire New Testament.

# Matthew 23:1-39 – Jesus Denounces the Scribes and Pharisees

## SUMMARY: In a series of denunciations, each beginning with the formulaic "woe to you," Jesus chastises the leaders who fail to follow the teaching of the Messiah-that greatness means to be a servant and that it is those who humble themselves who will be exalted.

* More than pointing to the hypocritical Pharisees this passage also causes us to consider what is faithful living.

**Matthew 24:1-25:46 – Discourse on Waiting before the End of the Age**

In each of these stories Jesus is attempting to show what waiting looks like for the faithful disciple community.

# (Summaries from [www.enterthebible.org](http://www.enterthebible.org))

# Matthew 24:1-35 – The Signs of the End of the Age

In regard to concerns about the "end times" Jesus cautions the disciple community not to be mislead by false promises about the Messiah, but rather to be encouraged by the promise that there will be clear signs when the Son of Man comes to gather his chosen ones.

# Matthew 24:36-44 – The Necessity of Watchfulness

The disciple community is cautioned about useless speculation about the signs or the timing of the coming of the Son of Man. Rather they are to be awake and ready at all times as they await his coming, for the coming will be at an unexpected hour that only the Father in heaven knows.

# Matthew 24:45-51 – The Faithful and the Unfaithful Servant

As it waits for the coming of the Son of Man, Matthew's disciple community will be engaged in obedient fulfillment of the master's work through faithful and caring service.

# Matthew 25:1-13 – The Parable of the Ten Maidens

In the Parable of the wise and foolish maidens Jesus' instructs Matthew's disciple community on the need for watchfulness, since it does not know the time of the return of the Son of Man.

# Matthew 25:14-30 – The Parable of the Talents

Jesus' Parable of the Talents calls the disciple community to trustful obedience in its imaginative and confident use of the master's resources while it waits for the return of the Son of Man.

# Matthew 25:31-46 – The Parable of the Judgment

In this Parable of the Judgment Jesus' transforms the time of waiting for the Son of Man from useless idleness to the important and unselfconscious care of the neighbor in need.