

**Women in the Word**  
**Matthew 20:1–21:46**

*April 3, 2018*



1. Matthew 20 opens with a parable called the Laborers in the Vineyard which emphasizes having a right attitude in service. Look back at Matthew 19:27-30 and explain why you think Jesus told the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard.

Read Matthew 20:1-16. In one or two sentences, summarize the events that took place in the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard.

What do we learn about the character of the master in verses 13-16?

2. Who do you think the master represents in this parable? Who do the workers represent?

With the workers in mind, how does knowing the character of Jesus make a difference in your attitude as His disciple?

3. Continue by reading Matthew 20:17-28. What additional information does Jesus now give about His death and resurrection in verses 17-19 as compared to Matthew 12:40; 16:21 and 17:22?

In Matthew 20:22, Jesus refers to the cup that He is about to drink. What does this cup represent?

4. According to Matthew 20:26-28, what is Jesus' purpose on earth? As disciples of Jesus, what does this teach us?
5. Read the account of Jesus healing two blind men in Matthew 20:29-34. What characteristics of Jesus are displayed in these verses? Which of these characteristics are the most difficult for you to emulate and why?

6. Continue by reading the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem recorded in Matthew 21:1-11. Why were there large crowds of people gathering in Jerusalem during this time? Refer to John 12:1, 12 for insight.

The Israelites had waited expectantly for the king that was foretold by the Old Testament prophets. Read Zechariah 9:9-10 and record the characteristics of the king described in these two verses.

7. During the time of Jesus, it was customary for earthly kings to ride a horse when traveling from town to town. Why do you think Jesus rode a donkey as He entered Jerusalem?

Read Mark 11:2. What additional information does Mark record about the donkey Jesus would ride into the city of Jerusalem?

After reading the triumphal entry, what stands out to you about Jesus and why?

8. Read Matthew 21:12-17. Why were the Jewish leaders angry with Jesus? How did Jesus respond to them?

In the latter part of verse 16, Jesus quotes from Psalm 8:2 to stand against the Jewish leaders. Recall a time when you were able to use truth found in God's Word to stand against opposition. How did it affect your ability to stand firm?

9. Continue by reading Matthew 21:18-22. The fig tree, sometimes used to symbolize the nation of Israel, bears fruit first and then the leaves will begin to appear. Knowing this, explain why seeing this mature fruitless fig tree angered Jesus.

Jesus also uses this fig tree to teach a lesson on faith and fruitfulness. Explain how faith and fruitfulness go hand in hand.

10. While in the temple the Jewish leaders questioned Jesus' authority and He responded to them with a parable. Read Matthew 21:23-32. In the Parable of the Two Sons, how did each son respond to his father's request?

In your own words, explain why the first son's response, according to Jesus, was the correct response. Refer to Luke 7:28-30, 33-35 for insight.

11. After pointing out His rejection by the Jewish leaders, Jesus continues with another parable that illustrates the outcome of their rejection. Read the Parable of the Tenants recorded in Matthew 21:33-40 along with Isaiah 5:1-7.

Who does the master represent?

Who does the son represent?

The tenants represent the Jewish leaders over Israel. How did the tenants treat the master's son?

12. Read Matthew 21:40-44. How did the Jewish leaders answer Jesus' question, "When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

Jesus responds by saying the kingdom of God will be taken away from them. According to Jesus, to whom will the kingdom of God be given?

13. Finish by reading Matthew 21:45-46. What is the dilemma the Jewish leaders are facing?

14. Look back over Matthew chapters 20–21 and notice all the characteristics of Jesus. Which one is important to you and why?

15. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

**Women in the Word**  
**Matthew 22:1–23:39**

*April 10, 2018*



1. Read the Parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew 22:1-14. Who are the invited guests? Also see Matthew 10:5-6.

What does the wedding feast represent in this parable?

After the first guests decline the king's invitation, whom did he invite to the wedding in verse 9? Also see Luke 13:29 and Revelation 19:9.

Look again at Matthew 22:11-14. In Jesus' time, it was customary for a king to provide clothing for the guests invited to banquets or weddings. How did the king's guest make him angry? What was the consequence for the guest who was not properly attired?

According to Isaiah 61:10, how does Jesus clothe His followers? How is this truth personally meaningful?

2. Read Matthew 22:15-22. The Pharisees were strict observers of the law while the Herodians worked to advance King Herod's political influence. Normally these two groups were in opposition. What do verses 15 and 18 tell us about the common goal that caused them to work together?

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's"?

What are some of the things we can give to God as citizens of His kingdom? See 1 Chronicles 16:23-25; Ephesians 6:18; James 1:25 and 1 Peter 4:10.

3. Read Matthew 22:23-33. The Sadducees were a small but powerful group of Jews who did not believe in life after death. According to Jesus in verse 29, what two things are missing from the Sadducees' understanding?

How might the Sadducees have reacted to Jesus differently had they understood these things?

4. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What does it mean to you to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind? What is one concrete thing you can do to demonstrate this kind of love to God?

What does it mean to you to love your neighbor as yourself? What is one concrete thing you can do to demonstrate this kind of love to others?

What importance does Jesus place on these two commandments in verse 40?

5. Read Matthew 22:41-46. Jesus quotes from Psalm 110 which was written by King David. According to verse 43, under what influence does David write?

In this psalm, David called Christ "Lord." Why should the Pharisees have understood that the Messiah would be deity? See Matthew 9:1-7 and 12:22-28.

What was the outcome of the series of exchanges between Jesus and the Jewish leadership in chapter 22? Look again at verse 46.

6. Read Matthew 23:1-12. To whom is Jesus now speaking?

What were the activities of the scribes and Pharisees that Jesus told His listeners not to emulate?

According to verse 5, what motivated everything they did? What does 1 John 5:3 say should motivate our obedience to God?

7. The Pharisees competed for personal honor and the attention of others. In contrast, what should characterize Christ followers? See Matthew 23:8, 11-12.
8. Read Matthew 23:13-36. Jesus addresses the scribes and Pharisees with harshest judgment. What is Jesus condemning in the following verses?
  - vv. 13-15
  - vv. 16-22
  - vv. 23-24
  - vv. 25-28
  - vv. 29-35
9. Based on everything you know about the Jewish leadership that opposed and rejected Jesus, what were some truths about themselves and about Jesus that they did not understand?
10. Read Matthew 23:37-39. What emotions do you imagine Jesus is feeling as He overlooks the capital city of God's chosen people?
11. Looking back over Matthew 22 and 23, what is one truth about Jesus that is especially meaningful to you? How is that an encouragement to you today?
12. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

**Women in the Word**  
**Matthew 24:1–25:46**

*April 17, 2018*



1. What are some questions you would like to ask Jesus about the end times if you were able to sit down with Him today?
2. In Matthew 24:1-2, Jesus is leaving the temple for the last time before the crucifixion. What surprise prediction does He make about the temple in Matthew 24:2?

How do you think the disciples feel when they hear His words? Read Mark 13:1 and Luke 21:5.

3. After finding a resting place on the Mount of Olives, the disciples ask their own questions about the end of the age in Matthew 24:3. What are their questions?

Read Matthew 24:4-14 and describe the signs of the end of the age that Jesus reveals to His disciples.

*Beginning of the birth pains in verses 4-8:*

*Preceding the end in verses 9-14:*

According to these signs, what specific trials will believers in Jesus endure?

What do you learn about the spreading of the gospel?

4. Define the word “abomination.”

The abomination of desolation occurs when the future Antichrist disrupts Israel’s worship by setting up an image of himself to be worshipped. Read Daniel 11:31; Matthew 24:15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4. Where will the abomination of desolation take place?

5. Now read Matthew 24:16-22 and describe what life will look like for those who are living during this time.

What evidence do you see that God will intervene?

Picture yourself in the midst of this terrible time. What should you guard against according to Jesus in Matthew 24:23-26?

6. The second coming of Jesus to the earth is an incredible event. Read Matthew 24:27-31 along with Joel 2:31 and Revelation 1:7 and write a description of this great event.

7. Jesus again uses parables to teach important lessons. Read the Parable of the Fig Tree in Matthew 24:32-35. What lesson does the fig tree illustrate about end times?

8. Now read Jesus' teaching concerning the exact time He will return in Matthew 24:36-44. Who knows when it will happen?

How will the second coming of Jesus be similar to the days of Noah and the flood?

9. The Parable of the Two Servants in Matthew 24:45-51 tells the story of those who endure the hard times of the tribulation Jesus has described. Compare the two servants and share why one was considered faithful and wise while the other was called wicked.

What is the fate of each servant?



10. Jesus tells two more parables in Matthew 25:1-30, the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents. Both have to do with waiting for Jesus to return following the time of tribulation that He has revealed to the disciples. List the lessons given for those who wait for Jesus from each parable below.

*The Parable of the Ten Virgins:*

*The Parable of the Talents:*

11. Matthew 25:31-46 is a dramatic ending to these two chapters. Tell what is happening in the following verses:

v. 31

vv. 32-33

v. 34

v. 41

Record the justification Jesus gives in verses 35-40 for the fate of the righteous.

Now record the justification Jesus gives for the fate of the unrighteous in verses 42-45.

According to verse 46, what does eternity hold for the righteous? For the unrighteous?

12. Although Matthew 24 and 25 describe God's final chapter for the nation of Israel before Jesus returns to establish His kingdom, His teaching and parables give wisdom for all believers. What lessons have you taken to heart as a follower of Christ waiting for His return?

13. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

**Women in the Word**  
**Matthew 26:1-75**

*April 24, 2018*



1. How would you define unconditional love?

Give an example of unconditional love in your life.

Read Romans 5:6-8. What are the specific realities that prove God's unconditional love for you?

2. Jesus had just spent time with His disciples on the Mount of Olives explaining the end of the age. Read Matthew 26:1-2. Why would the Passover be God's chosen time for Christ to die? Read Exodus 12:21-27 along with John 1:28-29.

3. Jesus had continually avoided His enemies' plots to kill Him. Summarize His enemies' latest plot which Jesus will choose not to avoid. Read Matthew 26:3-5.

Why won't Jesus unravel their plan according to His words in John 10:17-18?

4. Read Matthew 6:6-13 along with John 12:1-8 for more details of this story. Now read Matthew 26:14-16. Contrast the behavior and attitude of Mary toward Christ with the behavior and attitude of Judas toward Christ.

Consider Jesus' response to the disciples' indignation toward Mary. What are some of the truths we take away from His words about Mary, the disciples and His future?

5. Read Matthew 26:17-25 with Luke 22:7-13. List the evidence of Jesus' deity throughout these verses.

Notice the difference in the 11 disciples' response to Jesus' announcement of future betrayal and Judas' response to this announcement. How do their responses differ?

What can we learn about the disciples and Judas from their few words and actions?

6. Read Matthew 26:26-29 to witness the institution of the Lord's Supper. Why does the Church today value this ordinance? Read Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Jesus refers to a New Covenant that would replace the old Mosaic Covenant of Law. Covenants were ratified with the blood of a sacrifice. The shed blood of Christ would ratify the New Covenant. What is this New Covenant? Read Hebrews 8:6-13.

7. Read Matthew 26:30-35. What thoughts might have been going through your head if you were one of the disciples walking in the dark with all of Christ's recent words weighing on your heart?

What did all the disciples believe they would sacrifice for Jesus?

What word does Jesus use that describes the action that His sheep will actually take?

How does Jesus encourage them here even though great difficulties await them?

8. Envision being on the Mount of Olives in the quiet evening. Jesus is facing the “cup” of great rejection, great injustices and great physical pain as He prepares to lay down His life for us. Even so, what is the greatest desire in Jesus’ heart when we listen to His three prayers? Read Matthew 26:36-46.

In what ways would our own prayer lives and faith be strengthened if we made this same desire a priority?

So far, how are the disciples doing with their determination to support Jesus?

9. Look up and see Judas as he walks out of the dark to betray Jesus. Read Matthew 26:47-56. What does Jesus call Judas?

What words would you use to describe this entire chaotic scene? Who is in charge here?

Jesus stated that prophecy was being fulfilled. How can we see some prophecies from Isaiah coming true here?

Isaiah 53:3-4 –

Isaiah 53:11 –

Isaiah 53:12 –

Isaiah 53:6 –

10. Read Matthew 26:57-68 along with John 2:18-22. How had Jesus’ accusers misinterpreted His teaching on the temple of God?

What else do the religious leaders foolishly misinterpret about Him?

11. Read Matthew 26:69-75. How do we see both Peter’s devotion to Jesus and Peter’s fear of man in this situation?

In what ways can this be a temptation in our lives when we face the fury of others?

12. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

**Women in the Word**  
**Matthew 27:1–28:20**

*May 1, 2018*



1. Begin by reading through the entire account of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection in Matthew 27 and 28. As you read, write down some of the names and descriptions of Jesus.
2. Read the tragic account of Judas the betrayer in Matthew 27:1-10. According to verse 3, what precipitated Judas' change of mind?

How does he now describe Jesus?

Describe the chief priests' and elders' response to Judas' new position.

3. Matthew 27:11-14 describes Jesus' trial before Pilate, the Roman governor. Looking closely at the questions and answers, record the only charge Jesus was willing to answer. What was His answer?
4. Continue reading Matthew 27:15-26. The custom of the day was for Pilate, the governor, to graciously release one prisoner during the Feast of the Passover. What can you learn about Pilate's impression of Jesus from verses 18, 19 and 23?

In spite of these impressions, what is Pilate's final decision and what might have motivated him?

5. Read Matthew 27:27-44. The soldiers are among the first to mock Jesus. List the things they do to abuse Jesus and share some of the attitudes they are expressing.

Normally, a condemned criminal's crime would be written and displayed over his head. From verse 37, record what is displayed over Jesus' head as He hangs on the cross.

6. In Matthew 27:39-44 both the passersby and the Jewish leaders deride Jesus with taunting words. What are they encouraging Him to do?

A cross appears to be no place for a real king. Read the following verses and consider and share why Jesus would remain on the cross.

Matthew 20:28

Matthew 26:53-54

John 18:11

7. Matthew 27:45-56 describes the time between noon (the sixth hour) and 3 p.m. (the ninth hour) as Jesus becomes the sin offering for the world. Jesus expresses words of anguish in verse 45. While His physical pain was great, the pain of His separation from His Father was greater. Read the following verses and record the cause of this anguish.

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 2:23-24

Romans 6:23

It is difficult to take our sins lightly as we consider the great cost to Christ. Take a moment to reflect upon and confess any unconfessed sin in your life right now. Write down how this process changes your thoughts about sin and restores your soul.

8. Jesus' death is described in Matthew 27:50. See also Luke 23:46 and John 10:17-18 and consider what is so unique and exceptional about His death.

What supernatural signs validated the reality that the Son of God had surrendered His life?

9. Continue reading about Jesus' burial in Matthew 27:57-66. Record some of the precautions that were taken to secure Jesus' burial site.

10. Read Matthew 28:1-15. What startling things occur when the two Marys arrive at Jesus' tomb?

What good news does the angel share?

From verses 8-10, record what the women see, what they hear and what they touch.

11. Read Matthew 28:16-20. As the confirmed Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah King, Jesus immediately commissions His followers to make disciples. What three activities will be required?

How does verse 19 show that He is not just king of Israel but King of all?

12. Jesus asks us to teach all that He commanded, but a teacher must be a learner first. What practices are currently in your life that help you learn to observe all He commanded?

What practices will you consider adding to your life to help you be both learner and teacher?

13. Verses 18-20 are known as the Great Commission for all followers of Christ. While the responsibility is great, what great promise is attached to it?

14. Consider all you have learned from the Gospel of Matthew. Prayerfully consider and record any new insights you have about Jesus reigning as the king of your life and how you should live in His kingdom.

15. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.