



MAJOR LOCATIONS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Women in the Word
Matthew 1:1–2:12

January 16, 2018



1. What was the most joyous part of your Christmas and New Year holiday?
2. This semester we are studying the book of Matthew. Read Matthew 1:1-17. Matthew begins this gospel with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Who is David? See 2 Samuel 5:3-5.

Who is Abraham? See Genesis 12:1-3.

3. Five women are also mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. In Matthew 1:5, we read Rahab is the mother of Boaz, great grandfather of King David. Read Joshua 2:1-6, 11 and list some interesting details about Rahab.
4. What do we learn about Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25? How would you describe his character?
5. Read Matthew 2:1-6. What is the mission of the Magi, or wise men, from the East?

King Herod asks the religious leaders where the Messiah (Christ) was to be born. What do they tell King Herod and how do they know this?

6. Read verses 7-12. What gifts do the wise men give to Jesus?

Think for a moment about the “gifts” you might give to Jesus this new year. Please share.

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

Women in the Word
Matthew 2:13–4:11

January 23, 2018



1. List some of the things you do each morning to prepare for the day ahead.

List some of the spiritual things you do each day to prepare for the day ahead.

What are some of the ways that God prepares you to live out your faith day by day?

2. Read Matthew 2:13-15. What steps did God take to protect His Son in these verses?

What steps did Joseph take to protect God's Son in these verses?

Read Hosea 11:1. Hosea was writing about God calling the nation Israel out of bondage in Egypt into the exodus. How did Matthew give added meaning to these words?

By connecting Hosea's prophecy to Jesus, Matthew identified Jesus with the nation Israel. Read God's calling to Moses in Exodus 3:7-10 along with Christ's calling which He proclaimed in Luke 4:16-21. Also read Romans 6:22-23. In what ways was Jesus a second and greater Moses?

3. Read Matthew 2:16-18 which records Herod's anger when the wise men did not return with news of the Christ child. Why didn't they return according to verse 12?

What do Herod's horrible actions in these verses tell us about his feelings toward Israel's newborn King? Why might he feel this way? Also read Psalm 2:1-3, 10-12 which explains the battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world.

4. Read Matthew 2:19-23. What can we learn about Joseph in these verses?

To be called a 'Nazarene' was to use a term of contempt. Record Nathaniel's reaction when he heard that Jesus was from Nazareth. Read John 1:45-46.

What else do we learn about men's opinions of Jesus when reading Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 53:2-3?

5. Read Matthew 3:1-6. What was John's life purpose according to Isaiah's prophecy in verse 3?

Verse 2 tells us John's message. What was it?

What else do we learn about John as his father Zechariah first receives the announcement of his coming birth? Read Luke 1:11-17.

6. Read Matthew 3:7-10 where we discover that some religious groups were not accepting John's ministry. Rather than confess and repent of their sins, what were they presuming brought them spiritual security and superiority?

Consider John's response to their claims in verses 8-10. What is the outward sign of inward faith that was not evident in the Jewish religious sects?

What did Jesus have to say about this same subject? Read John 15:4-6.

7. Read Matthew 3:11-12. What are the three types of baptisms mentioned in these verses?

What might each of these baptisms represent?

8. The ministry of Jesus began with His baptism. Read Matthew 3:13-17. Considering the earlier verses in this chapter, what would be the reasons why John did not want to baptize Jesus?

How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 lend light to Jesus' response to John? Why was it important for Jesus to identify with those coming for baptism?

Make a list of the things that took place when Jesus was baptized.

Where do you see all three persons of the Trinity (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) involved in Jesus' baptism?

9. Read Matthew 4:1-11. As a preparation for Jesus' ministry, He would be tempted by Satan to sin against God. What are the three categories of sin according to 1 John 2:16?

We will see all three categories of sin involved in Christ's temptations. Connect each temptation of Christ with a specific category of sin from 1 John 2:16.

Read Hebrews 4:15 and explain the importance of these temptations in Jesus' life.

How did Jesus refute the lies of the great tempter?

Share a specific situation when knowing God's Word prepared you to overcome temptation.

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

Women in the Word
Matthew 4:12–5:48

January 30, 2018



1. Matthew 4:12 signals the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Read Matthew 4:12-17 and review the events that happen in these verses. What precedes Jesus' move to Galilee according to verse 12?

Describe the prophecy that was fulfilled.

How does Jesus' message continue the message and ministry of John the Baptist? Read Matthew 3:2 for insight.

2. Read Matthew 4:18-25. How does Jesus call His first disciples? Who are they?

Picture this scene on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. What are some words that come to mind as you think about Jesus calling out to these men?

How did you first encounter our Lord Jesus as part of your life?

3. What three things do you see Jesus doing among the people in verses 23-25?

Describe what happens as a result of His actions and interactions with the people.

4. Write out your definition for the word "blessed." How does being "blessed" differ from being "happy" in your opinion?

5. Matthew 5:1-12 is a significant teaching moment for Jesus. Who is His audience?

Briefly explain the meaning of the nine kingdom characteristics described by Jesus in verses 2-11 and list the kingdom blessing received by those whose hearts reflect these characteristics.

CHARACTERISTIC	MEANING	BLESSING
The poor in Spirit		
Those who mourn		
The meek		
Those who hunger/ thirst for righteousness		
The merciful		
The pure in heart		
The peacemakers		
Those persecuted for righteousness		
Those reviled/persecuted because of Jesus		

6. As a follower of Jesus, which kingdom characteristics do you find most challenging? Why?

How are these kingdom characteristics viewed and valued in our world and culture today?

7. After giving His listeners kingdom characteristics to ponder, Jesus calls them to make a difference in the world around them. What metaphors does He use in Matthew 5:13-16?

What are some benefits and characteristics of salt? Of light? How could the characteristics of salt and light as displayed by Jesus' followers make a difference in the world? Read John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8-11; Colossians 4:6 and 1 John 1:7.

8. In Matthew 5:17-20 Jesus describes His role as it relates to the Law. What do you learn about Jesus in these verses? About the authority and fulfillment of God’s Word?

9. What truth does Jesus give His listeners about the righteousness of the religious leaders and the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 5:20?

According to Romans 3:21-22 and 10:8-10, how can anyone have true righteousness that brings salvation and allows them to enter the kingdom of heaven?

10. Beginning in Matthew 5:21-48, Jesus contrasts the accepted standard of righteous behavior with the new standard of righteousness for His disciples. Compare and contrast these six standards of righteous behavior that Jesus teaches to His audience.

OLD STANDARD

NEW STANDARD

Anger

Lust

Divorce

Oaths

Retaliation

Enemies

11. Look back over Jesus’ teaching on kingdom characteristics and His new standard of righteousness. Consider how He is moving the bar from outward behavior to inward changes of the heart. How can you move the bar in your life from outward behavior to inward changes of the heart?

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

Women in the Word
Matthew 6:1–7:29

February 6, 2018



1. In chapters 6 and 7 of Matthew, Jesus continues His teaching known as the Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 6:1-4. Righteous deeds are those acts that are pleasing to God. What warning does Jesus give us in verse 1 concerning our righteous acts or practices?
2. Read Matthew 6:1-18. What are the three specific acts of righteousness or worship mentioned in verses 2, 5 and 16?

Define the word “hypocrite.”

The hypocrites mentioned in these verses were the Jewish religious leaders. Contrast the way the hypocrites practice their acts of righteousness with the way Jesus instructs us.

What then is Jesus saying about the hearts and motives of the religious leaders?

3. Think for a minute and then describe what it means to you to give, pray and fast in secret.

What benefits might result from doing these practices of our faith in secret?

4. In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gives us a pattern for prayer which is commonly known as the Lord’s Prayer. In verse 7, Jesus says to avoid excessive words and vain repetition. How can reciting this prayer become insincere or mere repetition?

Slowly read the Lord’s Prayer looking at the different elements included in it. What have you learned from this prayer that will change how you pray?

What element of the prayer does Jesus elaborate on in verses 14-15? Why do you think this is so important? Read Ephesians 4:32.

5. Read Matthew 6:19-24. As followers of Jesus, what should be our attitude towards Him? See verse 24.

How would you describe treasures on earth as compared to treasures in heaven?

According to Jesus, what are the problems with pursuing material possessions?

6. Read Matthew 6:25-34. In these verses, Jesus addresses a very common problem we face today – worry! Jesus is not saying be idle or live with complete lack of concern, but instead consider the futility of worry. To what harmful and incorrect attitudes can worry lead?

Read verse 33 again and record what our first priority should be. How do you make this your first priority on a daily basis?

What valuable truth do you see in verse 34?

7. Read Matthew 7:1-6. Jesus is teaching in these verses that we should *not* treat others with a critical, condemning attitude. Instead, what should our concern be? Also read Ephesians 4:15 and Galatians 6:1.

8. In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus again talks about going to God in prayer. What does He teach us about prayer in these verses?

What does Jesus teach us about God?

In light of what we have learned in chapters 6 and 7, list some things you might be asking for and seeking.

9. Matthew 7:12 is commonly known as the Golden Rule. Read this verse and write down some positive actions and attitudes that would result from practicing this principle.

10. In Matthew 7:13-23, Jesus gives several illustrations of two contrasting subjects to point out the way of life and the way of death. Compare and contrast the two different gates/roads in verses 13-14.

What does Jesus say about Himself in John 10:10 and John 14:6?

11. Read Matthew 7:24-27 where Jesus ends His lengthy teaching. In this parable, He gives us a vivid picture to illustrate His final instruction. What does He tell us to do in verse 24?

How does this parable motivate you to stand on the truth of Jesus? See Psalm 119:105 and John 6:68.

12. Read Matthew 7:28-29. What was the reaction of the crowds listening to Jesus? How was this teaching of Jesus different from the teachers of the law?

13. Skim over chapters 6 and 7 and notice the many different aspects of walking with Jesus in His kingdom. Which subject has touched your heart and why?

How will this week's study affect your walk with Jesus?

Which verse from chapter 6 or 7 would you want to memorize?

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

Women in the Word
Matthew 8:1–9:34

February 13, 2018



1. Share some great claims you have heard for amazing new products like household gadgets, weight loss methods or financial deals. What would it take for you to believe the claims?

Look back at Matthew 1:20-23; 3:11-12 and 3:16-17 and note the claims made about Jesus.

2. Read Matthew 8:1-17, where Jesus shows His healing power. Describe how Jesus interacted with each afflicted person and record the result.

The man with leprosy:

The paralyzed servant:

Peter's mother-in-law:

List some of the character traits of Jesus that are displayed in these interactions.

3. Look again at the remarkable faith of the Roman centurion recorded in Matthew 8:5-13. By what simple method did the centurion believe Jesus could heal his servant?

He compares spiritual and military authority structures in verse 9. What one thing do military officers possess that causes soldiers to follow their orders?

What then does the centurion believe about Jesus?

At this time it was believed that the Jewish people who descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were the only ones who would be included in the kingdom of God. What new truth is Jesus sharing in verses 11-12?

4. Read Matthew 8:18-22. Two would-be-followers approach Jesus. For these men and for us today, who has authority over our lives? See also John 14:15.

5. Would the displays of Jesus' healing power make it harder or easier for you to submit to His authority?

6. Read Matthew 8:23-27. How do you see the disciples reacting both with faith and without faith in this fearful situation?

What does Jesus do and what is the outcome?

What do the disciples realize about Jesus?

Consider and share any fearful situation you are facing right now. What truths can you remember that will strengthen your faith and bring you peace? Also, consider Job 42:2 and Psalm 46:1.

7. Read Matthew 8:28-34 and record all we are told about these two men.

Look carefully at verse 29 and list all that the demons believe about Jesus.

What does Jesus do to save these men? What is the result?

Record the city's surprising reaction to this miracle. Write down some possible reasons for this reaction.

8. Read the next healing account in Matthew 9:1-8. What issue does Jesus address first?

The scribes respond with the charge of blasphemy, which means speaking for God what only God can speak. What does verse 6 tell us about Jesus' goal for this interaction?

9. What does Jesus do next for the paralyzed man? What does it prove?

What significant truth about the source of Jesus' authority does the crowd recognize?

10. In Matthew 9:9-17, Jesus is criticized for doing something religious people don't do and also for not doing something that religious people do. What do we learn about Jesus from His response to each criticism?

11. Read Matthew 9:18-34. As you make notes on each afflicted person, record below what Jesus restores to each one.

The ruler's daughter:

The hemorrhaging woman:

The demon-possessed mute man:

Look again at each miracle and record the different ways these people express their faith.

The ruler:

The hemorrhaging woman:

The blind men:

12. In Matthew 9:33-34, what two reactions do the people have to Jesus' displays of power?

How have these displays of power affected your beliefs about Jesus?

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

Women in the Word
Matthew 9:35–10:42
February 20, 2018



1. Write a sentence that tells your personal life mission statement as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Read Matthew 9:35-38 to gain insight into the mission of Jesus Christ. List the issues of the people that Jesus encountered.

What was His response to these issues? How should we relate to this when considering our mission statement?

How else would the needs of the helpless be met according to Jesus' words in verse 37?

2. Jesus acts upon His desire to reach the lost and hurting by sending His disciples into His harvest in Matthew chapter 10. Read 10:1-4. List the names of those He is sending.

What authority did Jesus give them?

What can we assume was another responsibility that would accompany these works when considering the works of Jesus in Matthew 9:35?

3. Read Matthew 10:5-15 and record the main elements of the apostles' evangelical journey.

Where were they to go?

What were they to say?

What were they to do?

What were they to charge?

Where were they to stay?

What if they were not received?

4. How does Jesus describe the Jewish people in verse 6?

Read Jeremiah 50:6-7 and explain the reasons God's people were described this way.

Jesus began His ministry reaching out to the lost sheep of Israel. But we know that He had a mission that included all people groups. What does Romans 1:16-17 teach us about God's offer of salvation?

What additional insight do we receive from Galatians 3:28?

5. In Matthew 10:16-25 Jesus teaches about persecution. In verses 24-25 we realize an important truth about Jesus (the teacher) and His disciples in regards to persecution. What is it?

In verse 25 Beelzebul refers to Satan, the prince of demons. Also read Matthew 9:32-34. What point is Jesus making here?

What more can we learn from Jesus in John 15:18-20?

6. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus speaks of four animals during His teaching on persecution. In the context of this verse, how might you describe each animal in your own words?

Sheep –

Wolves –

Serpents –

Doves –

7. Read Matthew 10:17-22. Make a list of all those who will persecute Christ followers.

As Christians stood before these persecutors, Who would be their strength according to verses 19-20?

8. Matthew 10:21-23 has a significance that goes beyond the disciples' immediate mission. The persecution described here belongs to the tribulation period. At the end of that period, who will appear and put an end to persecution?
9. Read Matthew 10:26-33. What are the reasons we should not let fear reign in our hearts when facing opposition to our spiritual mission?

What great truth from Romans 8:35-39 must we hold tightly in our hearts?

10. Read Matthew 10:34-39. How would you explain the “sword” of Jesus Christ?

In what ways can you see the “sword” of Christ at work on earth today?

Who is not worthy of a relationship with Jesus? He gives three illustrations in this passage.

11. Read Matthew 10:40-42 with 2 Corinthians 5:20. What great mission has God given us that He also gave His 12 disciples?

What reward awaits those who hear our message of the gospel and receive it? Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

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