

# **New Testament Recovery Version**

## **Study Guide**

### **Book I-Gospel of Matthew**

## **BRINGING SAINTS INTO THE TRUTH**

### **THERE IS THE DESPERATE NEED OF THE LIVING TRUTH**

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands during the past 2,000 years since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air and nothing could be solid. Even the things concerning the Spirit could not be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word. This is why the Lord said that the words that He spoke to us are spirit (John 6:63)... Without the Word the Spirit might be just “a phantom.” ... whenever people contact the holy Word, many times they get the Spirit ... A principle has been set up through history that there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church exist, and to build up the church.

### **THE MOST PROFITABLE WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE THE LIFE-STUDY MESSAGES WITH THE NOTES OF THE RECOVERY VERSION**

Through the past ten years up to the present time it has been fully proven among us that the most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the notes of the Recovery Version. I wrote these things, not for scholarly study for people to get a degree, but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible.

### **THIS IS NOT TO REPLACE THE BIBLE, BUT TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE BIBLE**

The holy Word itself says in Psalm 119:130: “The opening of Your words gives light,”... Nearly everywhere you go today you find a Bible, but who has entered into the Bible? There has nearly been no entrance. Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study

messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible.

### **SPENDING AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES IN THE WORD EVERY DAY**

We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word.... Some saints may decide to study the book of Romans or the book of Hebrews. They should study every day either three times of ten minutes each or one time of thirty minutes. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day. Then they have to study the accompanying message.... The saints do not need to pray-read the Life-study messages, but they have to pray-read the biblical verses in order to get the help to enter into the truth conveyed in these few verses. They also need the help of the notes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth.

### **AFTER ONE YEAR OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE A SOLID CHANGE**

After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints’ home life, private life, and church life.

Therefore, as leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord’s truth. Tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the notes and all the Life-studies. Of course, we should not practice anything legal. We should not make these things a legal matter that the saints are required to do. However, if the saints do love the Lord’s recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food that they may be strong. As a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong and the Lord will have a strong testimony. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, pp. 102-104, 108~111*)

# Gospel of Matthew

## Subject:

### The Gospel of the Kingdom -- Proving That Jesus Christ Is the King-Savior

## OUTLINE

### I. The King's antecedents and status -- 1:1--2:23

- A. His genealogy and office -- called Christ -- 1:1-17
- B. His origin and name -- born a God-man, named Jesus, called Emmanuel by men -- 1:18-25
- C. His youth and growth -- called a Nazarene -- 2:1-23
  - 1. Sought and worshipped by the Gentile magi -- vv. 1-12
  - 2. Envied by Herod the king -- vv. 7-8
  - 3. Fleeing to Egypt -- vv. 13-15
  - 4. Sought by Herod the king for destruction -- vv. 16-18
  - 5. Returning to dwell in Nazareth -- vv. 19-23

### II. The King's anointing -- 3:1--4:11

- A. Recommended -- 3:1-12
- B. Anointed -- 3:13-17
- C. Tested -- 4:1-11

### III. The King's ministry -- 4:12--11:30

- A. The beginning of the ministry -- 4:12-25
- B. The decree of the kingdom's constitution -- 5:1--7:29
  - 1. Concerning the nature of the kingdom people -- 5:1-12
  - 2. Concerning the influence of the kingdom people -- 5:13-16

- 3. Concerning the law of the kingdom people -- 5:17-48
  - 4. Concerning the righteous deeds of the kingdom people -- 6:1-18
  - 5. Concerning the material riches of the kingdom people -- 6:19-34
  - 6. Concerning the principles of the kingdom people in dealing with others -- 7:1-12
  - 7. Concerning the ground of the kingdom people's living and work -- 7:13-29
- C. The continuation of the ministry -- 8:1--9:34
- 1. Signs with dispensational significance -- 8:1-17
  - 2. The way to follow the King -- 8:18-22
  - 3. The authority of the King -- 8:23--9:8
    - a. Over the winds and the sea -- 8:23-27
    - b. Over the demons -- 8:28-34
    - c. To forgive sins -- 9:1-8
  - 4. Rejoicing with the sinners -- 9:9-13
  - 5. Being incompatible with religion -- 9:14-17
  - 6. Signs with dispensational significance repeated -- 9:18-34
- D. The enlargement of the ministry -- 9:35--11:1
- 1. The need of shepherding and reaping -- 9:35-38
  - 2. The selection and sending out of the workers -- 10:1-5a
  - 3. The way to spread the gospel of the kingdom to the house of Israel -- 10:5b-15
  - 4. Persecution and the way to meet it -- 10:16-33
  - 5. The disturbance brought in by the King and the way of the cross to follow Him -- 10:34-39
  - 6. The King's identification with the sent ones -- 10:40--11:1
- E. The King's poise and attitude toward every situation -- 11:2-30
- 1. Strengthening His imprisoned forerunner -- vv. 2-6
  - 2. Appraising His forerunner -- vv. 7-15
  - 3. Lamenting and reproaching the stubborn and unrepentant generation -- vv. 16-24

4. Acknowledging the Father's will with extolment – vv. 25-27
5. Calling the burdened to rest and the way to rest – vv. 28-30

#### IV. The King's being rejected – 12:1—27:66

- A. The establishment of rejection – 12:1-50
  1. The cause of rejection – vv. 1-14
  2. Rejection causing the King's turn to the Gentiles – vv. 15-21
  3. The climax of rejection – vv. 22-37
  4. The sign to the rejecting generation – vv. 38-42
  5. The rejecting generation becoming worse – vv. 43-45
  6. Rejection resulting in the King's forsaking – vv. 46-50
- B. The unveiling of the kingdom's mysteries – 13:1-52
  1. The preliminary work of the kingdom – vv. 1-23
  2. The establishment of the kingdom and its false constituents – vv. 24-30
  3. The abnormal development of the outward appearance of the kingdom – vv. 31-32
  4. The inward corruption of the outward appearance of the kingdom – vv. 33-35
  5. The establishment of the kingdom and its false constituents (continued) – vv. 36-43
  6. The kingdom hidden in the God-created earth – v. 44
  7. The church produced out of the Satan-corrupted world – vv. 45-46
  8. The eternal gospel and its result – vv. 47-50
  9. The treasure of things new and old – vv. 51-52
- C. The increase of rejection – 13:53—16:12
  1. Rejection by His countrymen – 13:53-58
  2. Rejection by the heathen tetrarch – 14:1-13
  3. The miracle of feeding five thousand – 14:14-21
  4. The miracle of walking on the sea – 14:22-33
  5. Healing by the fringe of the King's garment – 14:34-36
  6. The accusation by the traditional religionists – 15:1-20
  7. The faith of a Gentile woman – 15:21-28
  8. Healing for the glorification of God – 15:29-31

9. The miracle of feeding four thousand – 15:32-39
10. Temptation by the fundamentalists and the modernists – 16:1-12
- D. The path of rejection – 16:13—23:39
  1. Before going to Judea – 16:13—18:35
    - a. The revelation of Christ and the church – 16:13-20
    - b. The first unveiling of the crucifixion and resurrection – 16:21-27
    - c. Transfiguration in the miniature of the kingdom – 16:28--17:13
    - d. The casting out of an epileptic demon – 17:14-21
    - e. The second unveiling of the crucifixion and resurrection – 17:22-23
    - f. The application of the revelation and vision of Christ's sonship – 17:24-27
    - g. Relationships in the kingdom – 18:1-35
  2. After arriving in Judea – 19:1—20:16
    - a. Healing the following crowd – 19:2
    - b. Further temptation by the fundamentalists – 19:3-12
    - c. Laying hands on the children – 19:13-15
    - d. The way for a rich man to enter into the kingdom – 19:16-26
    - e. The reward of the kingdom – 19:27—20:16
  3. On the way to Jerusalem -- 20:17—21:11
    - a. The third unveiling of the crucifixion and resurrection – 20:17-19
    - b. The throne of the kingdom and the cup of the cross – 20:20-28
    - c. The healing of the two blind men – 20:29-34
    - d. A warm welcome to the meek King – 21:1-11
  4. In Jerusalem – 21:12—23:39
    - a. Cleansing the temple – 21:12-16
    - b. Lodging in Bethany – 21:17
    - c. Cursing the nation of Israel – 21:18-22
    - d. Tested – 21:23—22:46

- (1) By the chief priests and elders concerning His authority – 21:23—22:14
  - (a) The shifting of the birthright – 21:28-32
  - (b) The transfer of the kingdom of God – 21:33–6
  - (c) The kingdom's wedding feast – 22:1-14
- (2) By the disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians concerning giving tribute to Caesar – 22:15-22
- (3) By the Sadducees concerning resurrection – 22:23-33
- (4) By a lawyer concerning the great commandment in the law – 22:34-40
- (5) Muzzling all the testers by the question concerning Christ – 22:41-46
- e. Rebuking the religionists – 23:1-36
  - (1) Their hypocrisy – vv. 1-12
  - (2) Their eightfold woe – vv. 13-36
- f. Forsaking Jerusalem with its temple – 23:37-39
- E. The prophecy of the kingdom – 24:1--25:46
  - 1. Concerning Israel – 24:1-31
    - a. From Christ's ascension to the consummation of the age – vv. 1-14
    - b. At the consummation of the age – vv. 15-31
      - (1) The transpiring of the great tribulation – vv.15-26
      - (2) Christ's coming to the earth – vv. 27-30
      - (3) The gathering of Israel – v. 31
  - 2. Concerning the church – 24:32—25:30
    - a. Watching and being ready – 24:32-44
    - b. Being faithful and prudent – 24:45-51
    - c. A parable for watchfulness – 25:1-13
    - d. A parable for faithfulness – 25:14-30
  - 3. Concerning the nations – 25:31-46
    - a. Christ coming to be enthroned in glory – v. 31
    - b. Gathering all the nations for the exercising of judgment – vv. 32-46

- F. The completion of rejection – 26:1—27:66
  - 1. The fourth unveiling of the crucifixion – 26:1-2
  - 2. Plotted against by religion – 26:3-5
  - 3. Loved by the beloved disciples – 26:6-13
  - 4. Betrayed by the false disciple – 26:14-16
  - 5. Keeping the last passover – 26:17-25
  - 6. Establishing the King's feast – 26:26-30
  - 7. Warning the disciples – 26:31-35
  - 8. Pressed in Gethsemane – 26:36-46
  - 9. Arrested by religion – 26:47-56
  - 10. Judged by the Sanhedrin – 26:57-68
  - 11. Denied by Peter – 26:69-75
  - 12. Judged by Pilate – 27:1-26
  - 13. Mocked by the heathen soldiers – 27:27-32
  - 14. Crucified – 27:33-56
    - a. Killed and mocked by men – vv. 33-44
    - b. Judged and forsaken by God – vv. 45-50
    - c. The effect of His crucifixion – vv. 51-56
  - 15. Buried by a rich man – 27:57-66

**V. The King's victory – 28:1-20**

- A. Resurrected – vv. 1-15
- B. Reigning -- vv. 16-20

**Week 1 Day 1 Matt. 1:1-6**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The first name and the last name (Rev. 22:21) in the New Testament is \_\_\_\_\_, proving that \_\_\_\_\_ is the subject and content of the New Testament.

The Bible is a book of \_\_\_\_\_, and this life is a living \_\_\_\_\_, the wonderful and all-inclusive \_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament gives a portrait, in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, of this wonderful person as the Coming One. Now, in the New Testament, this wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ has come.

Christ, as the wonderful center of the entire Bible, is all-inclusive, having many aspects.... The Gospel of Matthew testifies that He is the \_\_\_\_\_. (See Matt. 1:1 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 1-4.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 2 Matt. 1:7-25**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 1:21 And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. How did the marriage of Joseph and Mary unite the two lines of Christ's genealogy into one?
2. The whole New Testament is a full expounding of this Christ. How is He everything to us?
3. What are the meanings of "Jesus" and "Emmanuel"?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 1:16 note 2.
2. See Matt. 1:17 note 4.
3. See Matt. 1:21 note 1, 23 note 2, note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 4-6.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 3 Matt. 2:1-3:6**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

To repent is to have a \_\_\_\_\_ of mind issuing in \_\_\_\_\_, to have a turn in \_\_\_\_\_.

In John the Baptist's preaching, repentance, as the opening of God's New Testament \_\_\_\_\_, involved making a turn for the kingdom of the heavens. This indicates that God's New Testament economy is focused on His \_\_\_\_\_. For this we should repent, change our \_\_\_\_\_, make a \_\_\_\_\_ in our life-pursuit. The goal of our pursuing has been other things; now our pursuing must turn toward \_\_\_\_\_ and His kingdom, which in Matthew is specifically and purposefully called "the kingdom of the \_\_\_\_\_." (*See Matt. 3:2 note 1, note 2*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 7-9.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 4 Matt. 3:7-4:11**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Compare the differences between the baptism by John and the baptism by the Lord Jesus.
2. Why did the Lord Jesus, when He was tested, stand on the ground of man, not assuming His position as the Son of God?
3. What does the Greek word *rhema* mean by the "word" mentioned in the verse "every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God"?

Answers:

1. See Matt. 3:11 note 1.
2. See Matt. 4:3 note 2.
3. See Matt. 4:4 note 4.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 9-11.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 5 Matt. 4:12-5:3**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please compare how Peter and Andrew were called with how James and John were called.
2. Does the “spirit” in Matt. 5:3 refer to the spirit of man or the Spirit of God?
3. Please list the three aspects concerning the kingdom of the heavens.

Answers:

1. See Matt. 4:18 note 2, 21 note 1, 22 note 1.
2. See Matt. 5:3 note 2, note 3.
3. See Matt. 5:3 note 4.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 12-14*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 6 Matt. 5:5-20**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please explain the “nine blessings” in Matt. 5:3-12.
2. Why are the pure in heart blessed?
3. How has Christ come to fulfill the law?

Answer

1. See the notes for Matt. 5:3-12.
2. See Matt. 5:8 note 1, note 2.
3. See Matt. 5:17 note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 14-17.*

**Note:**

## Week 1 Day 7 Matt. 5:21-48

### I. Key Verse:

Matt. 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

For the kingdom people to be perfect as their heavenly Father is \_\_\_\_\_ means that they are perfect in His love. They are the Father's children, having the Father's divine \_\_\_\_\_ and divine \_\_\_\_\_. Hence, they can be perfect as their Father is. The demand of the new law of the kingdom is much \_\_\_\_\_ than the requirement of the law of the old dispensation. This higher demand can be met only by the Father's divine \_\_\_\_\_, not by the \_\_\_\_\_ life. The kingdom of the heavens is the highest demand, and the divine life of the Father is the highest \_\_\_\_\_ to meet that demand. First, the gospel presents in the Gospel of Matthew the kingdom of the heavens as the highest demand; and last, it affords us in the Gospel of John the divine life of the heavenly Father as the highest supply, by which we can have the highest \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of the heavens. (*See Matt. 5:48 note 1*)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 17-20.*

#### Note:

## CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE

The Bible is a book of life. This life is nothing less than the living Person of Christ. In the Old Testament Christ is portrayed as the coming One. In the New Testament, the One whose coming was predicted has come. Thus, the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old. St. Augustine once said that the New Testament is contained in the Old and the Old Testament is expressed in the New.

We need to say a word concerning the New Testament. The New Testament is simply a living picture of a Person. This Person is too wonderful. He is both God and man. He is the mingling of God with man, for in Him the divine nature and the human nature are mingled together. He is the King, and He is a bondsman. He is wonderful!

No human being has ever spoken words like He spoke, words so profound, yet so clear. For example, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), and, "I am the light of the world" (8:12). Plato and Confucius were two great philosophers, and people appreciated the things they said, but neither of them could say, "I am the light of the world." No one else could say, "I am the life," or, "I am the way," or, "I am the reality" (14:6). These are simple words and short sentences—"I am," "I am what I am," and "I am that I am"—but they are great and profound. Can any of us say that we are the light of the world or that we are the life? If we did, we would surely be sent to a mental hospital. But Jesus could say these things. How great He is!

Jesus is all-inclusive. With Him there are many aspects. No one can exhaust in language who and what He is. Who else in history has four unique biographies written of him? Although the New Testament is a short book, it begins with four biographies of one Person, four books telling us of the life of Christ.

Each of us has four sides: the front and the back, the right and the left. If you look at me from the front, you can see seven holes on my face. But if I turn my back to you, all the holes disappear. On my right side you can see a little hole, and on my left side, another little hole. If you would make an accurate copy of my image, you need to take a picture of every side. This is exactly what has been done in the New Testament. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 1-3*)

**Week 2 Day 1 Matt. 6:1-18**

**I. Key Verses:**

Matt. 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

In the example of prayer given as a pattern by the Lord, the first three petitions imply the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Godhead: "Your name be sanctified" is related mainly to the \_\_\_\_\_; "Your kingdom come," to the \_\_\_\_\_; and "Your will be done," to the \_\_\_\_\_. This is being fulfilled in this age, and it will be ultimately fulfilled in the coming kingdom age, when the name of God will be excellent in all the earth (Psa. 8:1), the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 11:15), and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God will be accomplished. (*See Matt. 6:9 note 2*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 21.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 2 Matt. 6:19-7:12**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 6:25 Because of this, I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than clothing?

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What is the meaning of "your eye is single" in Matt. 6:22?
2. What should be the attitude of the kingdom people toward material riches?
3. What are the meanings of "His kingdom and His righteousness" in Matt. 6:33?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 6:22 note 1, 23 note 1.
2. See Matt. 6:25 note 2.
3. See Matt. 6:33 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 22-23.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 3 Matt. 7:13-29**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The gate is narrow and the way is constricted because the new law of the kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_ and the demand of the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ than the law and the demand of the old covenant. The narrow gate deals not only with outward conduct but also with inward \_\_\_\_\_. The old man, the self, the flesh, the human concept, and the world with its glory are all \_\_\_\_\_; only that which corresponds with God's will can enter in. The kingdom people need first to enter in through such a \_\_\_\_\_ gate, and then to walk on such a \_\_\_\_\_ way. It is not that they first walk the way and then enter in through the gate. To enter in through the gate is simply to begin walking on the way, a way that is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(See Matt. 7:14 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 24.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 4 Matt. 8:1-34**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 8:17 So that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "He Himself took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. The order of the four incidents recorded in Matt. 8:2-16 differs from that in Mark and Luke. What is its significance?
2. What is the way to follow the King?
3. What do the two "deads" in Matt. 8:22 refer to?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 8:16 note 1 paragraph 2.
2. See Matt. 8:18-22 and notes.
3. See Matt. 8:22 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 25-26.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 5 Matt. 9:1-17**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does “new wine” in Matt. 9:17 signify?
2. What does “old wineskin” in Matt. 9:17 signify?
3. What does fresh wineskin in Matt. 9:17 signify?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 9:17 note 1.
2. See Matt. 9:17 note 2.
3. See Matt. 9:17 note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 26-28.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 6 Matt. 9:18-10:15**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 9:38 Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest that He would thrust out workers into His harvest.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. How does Matt. 9:18-34 give a picture of this age and the coming age?
2. What’s the meaning of “harassed and cast away” in Matt. 9:36?
3. Why should we beseech the Lord of the harvest?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 9:18 note 1.
2. See Matt. 9:36 note 1.
3. See Matt. 9:38 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 29.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 7 Matt. 10:16-11:1**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 10:32 Every one therefore who will confess in Me before men, I also will confess in him before My Father who is in the heavens;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does it mean “prudent as serpents” in Matt. 10:16?
2. What is the meaning of “be saved” in “he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved” in Matt. 10:22?
3. What do “in Me” and “in him” in Matt. 10:32 imply?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 10:16 note 1.
2. See Matt. 10:22 note 1.
3. See Matt. 10:32 note 1, note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 30.*

**Note:**

**THE NEW WINE AND THE NEW WINESKIN**

In [Matthew chapter 9] verse 17 the Lord...said, “They put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”... The fresh wineskins signify the church life in the local churches as the container of the new wine, which is Christ Himself as the exciting life. The kingdom people are built into the church (16:18), and the church is expressed through the local churches in which they live (18:15-20). They are regenerated persons constituting the Body of Christ to be the church (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 1:22-23). This Body of Christ as His fullness is also called “the Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12, Gk.), the corporate Christ. The individual Christ is the new wine, the exciting life inwardly, and the corporate Christ is the fresh wineskin, the container to hold the new wine outwardly. With the kingdom people, it is not a matter of fasting or of any other religious practice, but a matter of the church life with Christ as their content. Christ came not to establish an earthly religion of rituals, but a heavenly kingdom of life, not with any dead religious practices, but with Himself, the living Person, as the Physician, the Bridegroom, the unshrunk cloth, and the new wine to His followers as their full enjoyment that they might be the fresh wineskin to contain Him and become the constituents of His kingdom.

We see then that the new wineskin is the church life. The church is actually the enlargement of Christ. The individual Christ is our wine within us. When this individual Christ is enlarged into a corporate Christ, that is the church. This corporate Christ is the wineskin, the container, to contain the individual Christ as our wine. Never consider the church a religion; the church is a corporate entity full of Christ, because the church is Christ enlarged.

Christ is not only our new garment and new wine, but, being increased, He is also our new wineskin to contain the wine. He is our outward qualification, He is our inward satisfaction, and He is in a corporate way the church, the Body (1 Cor. 12:12), capable of holding the wine. Christ is everything. He is the Bridegroom, the new garment, the new wine, and also the corporate vessel to contain what we enjoy of Him. The meaning here is very profound. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 343-344*)

**Week 3 Day 1 Matt. 11:2-30**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please describe the ministry of John the Baptist.
2. What does “rest” in Matt. 11:28 refer to?
3. What is the Lord’s yoke?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 11:7-15, 11 note 1.
2. See Matt. 11:28 note 2.
3. See Matt. 11:29 note 2, 30 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 31.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 2 Matt. 12:1-37**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench until He brings forth justice unto victory.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why is the Lord Jesus the real David?
2. Why is the Lord greater than the temple?
3. What does “a bruised reed He will not break” in Matt. 12:20 refer to?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 12:3 note 2.
2. See Matt. 12:6 note 1.
3. See Matt. 12:20 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 32-33.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 3 Matt. 12:38-50**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. How does Jonah typify the Son of man?
2. Why is Christ more than Solomon?
3. Why is “whoever does the will of the Father” the Lord’s close relative?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 12:41 note 1.
2. See Matt. 12:42 note 1.
3. See Matt. 12:50 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 34.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 4 Matt. 13:1-23**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 13:23 But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What do “the rocky places” in Matt. 13:5 signify?
2. What do “the thorns” in Matt. 13:7 signify?
3. What does “the good earth” in Matt. 13:8 signify?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 13:5 note 1.
2. See Matt. 13:7 note 1.
3. See Mat: 13:8 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 35-36.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 5 Matt. 13:24-52**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What is “the mustard seed” in Matt. 13:31 been likened to?
2. What is the significance of “three measures of meal” in the parable in Matt. 13:33?
3. What does the “treasure hidden in the field” in Matt. 13:44 signify?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 13:31 note 1, 32 note 1.
2. See Matt. 13:33 note 3.
3. See Matt. 13:44 note 1, note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 37-41.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 6 Matt. 13:53-14:21**

**I. Key Verses:**

Matt. 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.

Matt. 14:20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve handbaskets full.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What can we learn from the Lord’s miracle of feeding five thousand?
2. What does the “five loaves and two fish” in Matt. 14 signify?
3. What does “twelve handbaskets full” in Matt. 14:20 indicate?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 14:16 note 2, 19 note 4.
2. See Matt. 14:17 note 1.
3. See Matt. 14:20 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 42-43.*

**Note:**

## Week 3 Day 7 Matt. 14:22-36

### I. Key Verse:

Matt. 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Peter came down from the boat and walked on the water by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord's word (Matt. 14:29); however, when he saw the strong wind, his \_\_\_\_\_ vanished. He should have walked by faith in the Lord's word, not by looking at the circumstances (i.e., by \_\_\_\_\_). In following the Lord we should walk by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 5:7).

Since the Lord said to Peter, "Come" (Matt. 14:29), Peter should have stood on that \_\_\_\_\_ and should not have \_\_\_\_\_. Hence, the Lord rebuked him. \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the Lord's word and \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord's word. As long as we have the Lord's word, we should simply \_\_\_\_\_ in His word and not \_\_\_\_\_. (*See Matt. 14:30 note 1, 31 note 1*)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 44.*

#### Note:

## THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS

In Matthew 13 we see a picture of the outward appearance of the kingdom of the heavens. (Please refer to the chart on NT RcV. pages 30 and 31.) The kingdom of God covers everything from eternity past to eternity future. Between the two eternities there is time divided into various ages or dispensations. The first is the dispensation before law. After Adam was created, he was placed in the garden where there was no sin or darkness. From him is the period of the Patriarchs, the fathers, extending to Moses. This period of the Patriarchs is known as the dispensation before law. Then comes the dispensation of law. Following this are two crucial dispensations, the first of which is the dispensation of grace, the church age, and the other, the dispensation of the kingdom, the millennium. As we have pointed out already, the kingdom of the heavens covers only these two dispensations. In the dispensation of grace there are a number of complications, for the kingdom of the heavens has three aspects: the aspect of reality, the aspect of appearance, and the aspect of manifestation. As long as the church is normal, it is the reality of the kingdom. In a normal situation the church equals the reality of the kingdom. The third aspect of the kingdom, the manifestation, is in the heavenly part, the upper part, of the millennium.

When the Lord Jesus comes back, where will you be? If we have endured unto the end, that is, have kept ourselves in the spirit until the end, we shall be saved and shall be in the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens, the heavenly part of the millennium. Those who are there will rule with Christ. According to 13:43, they will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." ... That shining will be the ruling, the reigning as kings.

We want to be real and normal believers, real sons of the kingdom who live according to the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens. We would grow Christ by living a life according to the constitution. Whatever we grow will be the multiplication which is the constituent of the kingdom of the heavens. Therefore, today we are not only in the reality—we are the reality. Then when the Lord Jesus, the King, comes again, we shall be in the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens, shining over the world to reign as Christ's co-kings and enjoying the heavenly part of the millennium. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 457-460*)

**Week 4 Day 1 Matt. 15:1-39**

**I. Key Verses:**

Matt. 15:26 But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.

Matt. 15:27 And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The Canaanite woman, not offended by the Lord's word but admitting that she was a heathen \_\_\_\_\_, considered that at that time Christ, after being rejected by the children, the Jews, became \_\_\_\_\_ under the table as a portion to the Gentiles. The holy land of Israel was the \_\_\_\_\_ on which Christ, the heavenly \_\_\_\_\_, had come as a portion to the children of \_\_\_\_\_. But they threw Him off the table to the ground, the \_\_\_\_\_ land, so that He became broken crumbs as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gentiles. What a realization this Gentile woman had at that time! No wonder the heavenly King admired her \_\_\_\_\_. (See Matt. 15:27 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 45-46.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 2 Matt. 16:1-12**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 16:4 An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and a sign shall not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah. And He left them and went away.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Jonah was the prophet who turned from Israel to the \_\_\_\_\_ and was put into the belly of the great fish. After remaining there for \_\_\_\_\_ days, he emerged to become a sign to that generation for repentance (Jonah 1:2, 17; 3:2-10). He was a type of Christ, who, as the \_\_\_\_\_ sent by God to His people (Deut. 18:15, 18), would turn from Israel to the Gentiles, would be buried in the heart of the earth for three days, and would then be \_\_\_\_\_, becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ to that generation for salvation. The Lord's word here implies He is the greatest sign, to them that they might be saved if they would \_\_\_\_\_. (See Matt. 16:4 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 47.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 3 Matt. 16:13-27**

**I. Key Verses:**

Matt. 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does “the Christ” in Matt. 16:16 refer to?
2. What are the two revelations Peter received in Matt. 16:16-18?
3. What does it mean to “take up his cross” in Matt. 16:24?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 16:16 note 1.
2. See Matt. 16:16 and notes, 18 and notes.
3. See Matt. 16:24 note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 47-48.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 4 Matt. 16:28-17:27**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Peter proposed to keep Moses and Elijah, i.e., the law and the prophets, with Christ, but God took Moses and Elijah away, leaving no one except Jesus Himself. The law and the prophets were shadows and prophecies, not the \_\_\_\_\_; the reality is Christ. Now that Christ, the reality, is here, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are no longer needed. No one except \_\_\_\_\_ Himself should remain in the New Testament. Jesus is today's \_\_\_\_\_; as such, He imparts the law of life into His believers. Jesus is also today's \_\_\_\_\_; as such, He \_\_\_\_\_ for God and speaks forth God within His believers. This is God's New Testament \_\_\_\_\_. (*See Matt. 17:8 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 49-50.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 5 Matt. 18:1-35**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What's the difference between the "church" in Matt. 18:17 and that in 16:18?
2. Please explain "two or three gathered," in Matt. 18:20.
3. Please explain "forgive his brother from your hearts," according to Matt. 18:23-35.

Answer:

1. See Matt. 18:17 note 2.
2. See Matt. 18:20 note 2, paragraph 2.
3. See Matt. 18:34 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 51-52.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 6 Matt. 19:1-22**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 19:14 But Jesus said, Allow the little children and do not prevent them from coming to Me, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does "having eternal life" as spoken of in Matthew differ from that in John?
2. What's the significance of keeping the commandments in Matt. 19:17?
3. What's the significance of "with God all things are possible" in Matt. 19:26?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 19:16 note 1.
2. See Matt. 19:17 note 4.
3. See Matt. 19:26 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 53.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 7 Matt. 19:23-20:16**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for My name's sake shall receive a hundred times as much and shall inherit eternal life.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does it mean to “inherit eternal life” in Matt 19:29?
2. What is the important principle indicated in Matt. 20:8-15 concerning the Lord’s reward to His followers?
3. Please explain “Thus shall the last be first and the first last” in Matt. 20:16.

Answer:

1. See Matt. 19:29 note 3.
2. See Matt. 20:15 note 1.
3. See Matt. 20:16 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 54.*

**Note:**

**THE VISION OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**

[Matthew chapter 16] Verse 13 says that the Lord Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi with His disciples and there asked them, “Who do men say that the Son of Man is?” ... Caesarea Philippi is in the northern part of the Holy Land, close to the border, at the foot of Mount Hermon, on which the Lord was transfigured (17:1-2). It was far from the holy city with the holy temple, where the atmosphere of the old Jewish religion filled every man’s thought, leaving no room for Christ, the new King. The Lord brought His disciples purposely to such a place with a clear atmosphere that their thought might be released from the effects of the religious surroundings in the holy city and holy temple, and that He might reveal to them something new concerning Himself and the church, which is the pulse of His heavenly kingdom. It was here that the vision concerning Him as the Christ and the Son of the living God came to Peter (vv. 16-17). It was also here that the church was revealed and mentioned for the first time as the means of bringing in the kingdom of the heavens (vv. 18-19).

After the Lord asked His disciples to say who they thought He was, Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 16). The Christ, as the anointed One of God, refers to the Lord’s commission; whereas the Son of the living God, as the second of the Triune God, refers to His person. His commission is to accomplish God’s eternal purpose through His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and second advent, whereas His person embodies the Father and issues in the Spirit for a full expression of the Triune God.

In verse 18 the Lord said, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” The Father’s revelation concerning Christ is just the first half of the great mystery, which is Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32). Hence, the Lord needed also to reveal to Peter the second half, which is concerning the church.

The church that is built upon the revelation concerning Christ is the genuine church... The church must be built upon “this rock,” that is, upon the revelation of Christ.... The revelation concerning Christ is the rock upon which the Lord Jesus is building His church. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 562, 565-568*)

**Week 5 Day 1 Matt. 20:17-21:11**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why did the Lord call Himself “Son of Man” in Matt. 20:28?
2. What do “the garments” and “the branches” in Matt. 21:8 signify?
3. What is the meaning of “Hosanna”?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 20:28 note 1.
2. See Matt. 21:7 note 1, 8 note 1.
3. See Matt. 21:9 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 55-56.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 2 Matt. 21:12-46**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 21:22 And all that you ask in prayer, if you believe, you will receive.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why did the Lord Jesus lodge in Bethany only when He came to Jerusalem for the last time?
2. Please explain the shift of the birthright according to Matt. 21:28-32.
3. In the parable of the vineyard in Matt. 21:33-46, how was Christ revealed?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 21:17 note 1.
2. See Matt. 21:31 note 1.
3. See Matt. 21:37 note 1, 39 note 1, 42 note 1, note 2, 44 note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 56-57.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 3 Matt. 22:1-22**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 22:4 Again, he sent other slaves, saying, Tell those who have been called, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatted cattle have been slain, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding feast.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why is the New Testament likened to a wedding feast in Matt. 22:2, what is its focus?
2. What does the wedding garment in Matt. 22:11 typify?
3. Please explain the wisdom of Jesus from the occasion of “giving tribute to Caesar.”

Answer:

1. See Matt. 22:2 note 3.
2. See Matt. 22:11 note 1.
3. See Matt. 22:15-22 and notes.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 58-59.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 4 Matt. 22:23-23:12**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 22:37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does it mean “we need to know the Scriptures and the power of God”?
2. How did the Lord expound resurrection based upon the Old Testament scriptures?
3. What is the spirit of God's commandments?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 22:29 note 1.
2. See Matt. 22:32 note 1.
3. See Matt. 22:40 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 59-60.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 5 Matt. 23:13-39**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 23:37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I desired to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

It was always God Himself who cared for \_\_\_\_\_, as a bird flutters over her young (Isa. 31:5; Deut. 32:11-12). Hence, when the Lord Jesus said, "I desired to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her brood under her \_\_\_\_\_," He indicated that He was God \_\_\_\_\_.

Since *house* in Matt. 23:38 here is \_\_\_\_\_, it must denote the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which was the temple (21:12-13). It had been the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, but now it was called "your \_\_\_\_\_" because the Jews had made it a \_\_\_\_\_ of robbers (21:13). (*Matt. 23:37 note 1, 38 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 60.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 6 Matt. 24:1-26**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please illustrate the coming of Christ (parousia).
2. Why are these tribulations in Matt. 24:4-7 called "birth pangs" in verse 8?
3. How does the gospel of the kingdom differ from the gospel of grace?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 24:3 note 3.
2. See Matt. 24:8 note 1.
3. See Matt. 24:14 note 1, note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 61-62.*

**Note:**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 24:32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What does “the fig tree branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves” signify?
2. Why was the Lord likened as a “thief” in Matt. 24:43?
3. How should the faithful and prudent slave serve?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 24:32 note 2.
2. See Matt. 24:43 note 2.
3. See Matt. 24:45 and notes.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 62-63.*

**Note:**

[In Matt. 24:40-41,] to be taken means to be raptured before the great tribulation. This rapture is a sign of the Lord’s coming and a sign to the Jews. It is very interesting to see that the two men are working in the field and that the two women are grinding at the mill. Both working in the field and grinding are for eating. There is a difference between our eating and the eating of the worldly people. The worldly people study and work, and we also study and work. The worldly people, however, have been drugged. But we have not been drugged. Rather, we are simply fulfilling our duty to make a living. We are not for eating, drinking, and marriage; on the contrary, we maintain our existence in order to take the way of the cross to fulfill God’s purpose. Our concern is not for our education, employment, or business.

When some of the young people hear this, they may say, “How glad we are to hear this word! Let’s not care any more for study or for work. Let us spend all our time praying and having fellowship with one another.” Such an attitude is wrong. Remember, according to verse 40 the brothers were farming, and according to verse 41 the sisters were grinding. Grinding grain is very hard work. This indicates that we Christians should not take easy jobs. We need to work hard in order to make a living. The eating and drinking in verse 38 is worldly, but the farming and grinding in verses 40 and 41 are holy... We need more holy sisters to grind at the mill to produce fine flour. We are not drugged, but we do need to be properly nourished.

The principle is the same with the brothers in their jobs...Notice, the rapture does not take place when the two brothers and the two sisters are praying, but when they are working...they were doing their ordinary work.

The Lord Jesus certainly spoke this word with a definite purpose. He wanted to show us that as we wait for His coming and expect to be raptured, we must be very faithful in our daily duties. We need to do the best farming and the best grinding. We need a properly balanced human life, not the life of monks who devote themselves to spiritual things and expect others to take care of them. It is the brothers working in the field and the sisters grinding in the mill who will be raptured. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 738-740*)

**Week 6 Day 1 Matt. 25:1-13**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 25:13 Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What is the special significance of “the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins” in Matt. 25:1?
2. What does “vessel” in Matt. 25:4 signify?
3. What does “wedding feast” in Matt. 25:10 signify?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 25:1 note 3.
2. See Matt. 25:4 note 1.
3. See Matt. 25:10 note 5.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 64.*

**Note:**

**Week 6 Day 2 Matt. 25:14-30**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 25:29 For to every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why is a believer’s status of two aspects – virgin and slave?
2. Please explain “to every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound”.
3. Why did the Lord judge the slave who had received one talent?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 25:14 note 3.
2. See Matt. 25:29 note 1.
3. See Matt. 25:24 not 4, 25 note 3, 30 note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 65-66.*

**Note:**

**Week 6 Day 3 Matt. 25:31-26:13**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 26:7 A woman came to Him, having an alabaster flask of ointment of great value, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at table.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Throughout the past twenty centuries thousands of precious \_\_\_\_\_, heart \_\_\_\_\_, high \_\_\_\_\_, and golden \_\_\_\_\_ have been "wasted" upon the Lord \_\_\_\_\_. To those who love Him in such a way He is altogether \_\_\_\_\_ and worthy of their \_\_\_\_\_. What they have poured upon Him is not a \_\_\_\_\_ but a fragrant \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_.

Mary received the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's death. Hence, she grasped the opportunity to pour upon the Lord the \_\_\_\_\_ that she had. To \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord with our best requires a revelation concerning Him. (See Matt. 26:8 note 1, 12 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 67-68.*

**Note:**

**Week 6 Day 4 Matt. 26:14-56**

**I. Key Verses:**

Matt. 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed *it*, and He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

Matt. 26:27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of *you*,

Matt. 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The bread of the Lord's table is a symbol signifying the Lord's body, which was broken for us on the \_\_\_\_\_ to release His \_\_\_\_\_

that we may participate in it. By participating in this \_\_\_\_\_ we become the mystical \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27), which also is signified by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the table (v. 10:17). Hence, by partaking of this \_\_\_\_\_ we have the fellowship of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (See Matt. 26:26 note 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 68-69.*

**Note:**

**Week 6 Day 5 Matt. 26:57-27:26**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 26:64 Jesus said to him, You have said rightly. Nevertheless I say to you, From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why did Jesus answer the high priest as “the Son of Man”?
2. How did Peter deny the Lord three times?
3. Why was Jesus put to death by crucifixion rather than by stoning?

Answer:

1. See Matt. 26:64 note 1.
2. See Matt. 26:69-75.
3. See Matt. 27:26 note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 69-70.*

**Note:**

**Week 6 Day 6 Matt. 27:27-66**

**I. Key Verse:**

Matt. 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why did darkness fall over all the land from the sixth hour until the ninth hour?
2. Why did God forsake Christ on the cross?
3. Please explain the effect of Christ’s crucifixion.

Answer:

1. See Matt. 27:45 note 1.
2. See Matt. 27:46 note 2.
3. See Matt. 27:51-53 and notes.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg. 70-71.*

**Note:**

## Week 6 Day 7 Matt. 28:1-20

### I. Key Verses:

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To baptize people into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is to baptize them into the name of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:16, 19:5), and that to baptize them into the name of \_\_\_\_\_ is to baptize them into Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 3:27, Rom. 6:3), because Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Triune God, and He, having become the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45), is available at any time and in any place for people to be baptized into. According to Matthew, being baptized into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is for the constituting of the kingdom of the heavens. (*See Matt. 28:19 note 6*)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Matthew, Msg.72.*

#### Note:

## THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

[Matthew chapter 28] Verse 18 says, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” ... In Matthew it is not a matter of breath, but a matter of authority. John’s concern was for life, and life requires breath. But Matthew’s concern was for the kingdom, and the kingdom requires authority. The Gospel of John reveals that we need life to care for the little lambs and to feed the Lord’s flock. But in Matthew 28 there is no word about feeding the lambs. In Matthew the Lord commands the disciples to disciple all the nations (v. 19) to make all the nations part of the kingdom. This requires authority. Therefore, in John resurrection is a matter of life, power, breath, and shepherding. However, in Matthew it is a matter of righteousness, authority, and discipling the nations.

Verse 19 says, “Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Because all authority had been given to Him, the heavenly King sent His disciples to go and disciple all the nations. They go with His authority. To disciple the nations is to cause the heathen to become the kingdom people for the establishment of His kingdom, which is the church, even today on this earth.

Notice that the Lord did not charge the disciples to preach the gospel, but to disciple the nations. The difference between preaching the gospel and discipling the nations is that to preach the gospel is simply to bring sinners to salvation, but to disciple the nations is to cause the Gentiles to become the kingdom people. We have been sent by the Lord not only to bring people to salvation, but also to disciple the nations. This is a matter of the kingdom.

In verse 20 the Lord told His disciples, “Behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.” The heavenly King is Emmanuel, God with us (1:23). Here He promised to be with us in His resurrection with all authority all the days until the consummation of the age, that is, until the end of this age.

In the Lord’s resurrection with His righteousness the kingdom is present, and we have the authority, commission, and position, to disciple the nations. In this way the kingdom is spreading. (*Life-Study of Matthew, pp. 826-828, 831*)