

Passages

VOYAGE THROUGH THE
GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The New Testament Book of Matthew is the story of Jesus and his first followers. Join us on a voyage of spiritual transformation as we read the 28 chapters of Matthew during Lent.

Each daily reading is less than two pages in the average Bible. Slowly read each passage: What do you notice? What word or phrase captures your attention? What is God saying to you? Talk to God about it.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Beginning Ash Wednesday

3/6 | 1:1-25 | Mary was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

3/7 | 2:1-23 | Joseph took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

3/8 | 3:1-17 | "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

3/9 | 4:1-25 | "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

3/10 | 5:1-20 | "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

Week 1

3/11 | 5:21-48 | "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

3/12 | 6:1-24 | "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

3/13 | 6:25-7:12 | "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

3/14 | 7:13-29 | "Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

3/15 | 8:1-27 | "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?"

3/16 | 8:28-9:17 | "For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

3/17 | 9:18-38 | "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest field."

Week 2

3/18 | 10:1-42 | "For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

3/19 | 11:1-15 | "And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

3/20 | 11:16-30 | "Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

3/21 | 12:1-21 | Know what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

3/22 | 12:22-50 | "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

3/23 | 13:1-23 | "Let anyone with ears, listen!"

3/24 | 13:24-58 | "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?"

Week 3

3/25 | 14:1-36 | "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

3/26 | 15:1-20 | "In vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."

3/27 | 15:21-39 | "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

3/28 | 16:1-20 | "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

3/29 | 16:21-17:13 | "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

3/30 | 17:14-27 | "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

3/31 | 18:1-14 | "Unless you change and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Week 4

4/1 | 18:15-35 | "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

4/2 | 19:1-15 | "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

4/3 | 19:16-30 | "But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

4/4 | 20:1-28 | "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

4/5 | 20:29-34 | Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

4/6 | 21:1-22 | "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

4/7 | 21:23-46 | "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes."



Week 5

4/8 | 22:1-22 | “Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”

4/9 | 22:23-46 | “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself.”

4/10 | 23:1-22 | “For you have one teacher, and you are all students.”

4/11 | 23:23-39 | “[Do not neglect] the weightier matter of the law: justice and mercy and faith.”

4/12 | 24:1-28 | “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place...”

4/13 | 24:29-44 | “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

4/14 | 24:45-25:13 | “Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.”

Holy Week

4/15 | 25:14-46 | “For it is as if a man going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them.”

4/16 | 26:1-35 | “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

4/17 | 26:36-68 | “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”

4/18 | 26:69-27:26 | The people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”

4/19 | 27:27-66 | “Truly this man was God’s son!”

4/20 | 28:1-20 | “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”

QUESTIONS FOR JOURNALING

Think about these things. Talk to God about them. Write down what you are feeling and hearing.

Ash Wednesday through the first Sunday

Read the list of blessings or “Beatitudes” in Matthew 5:1-12. Which of these blessings do you long for today? Why? Is there a habit or attachment in your life that is blocking the flow of these blessings in your life? What could you “fast” from, let go of or “give up” this Lent that would bring you closer to God in this area of your life?

Week 1

Read Matthew 7:24-28. In what ways have you built your life on the rock of Jesus’s teaching in Matthew 5-7? Dig deep and give yourself some credit. For example, maybe you take the Golden Rule very seriously. Or maybe you have learned the art of forgiveness. Why are you glad you live this way? What teaching would you like to get better at this year?

Week 2

Read Matthew 11:28-30. Now read it again slowly, then close your eyes and imagine yourself walking along a path with Jesus as he is giving you advice about the challenges and opportunities in your life. What questions are you asking Him? What is He saying to you?

Week 3

Read Matthew 14:22-33. Remember a time when you felt full of faith, but then something negative happened and you stepped back in fear? What about today? Is there a step of faith you would like to take, but you lack confidence? Write a prayer describing your desire to God, sharing your fears, and expressing your trust (faith).

Week 4

Read Matthew 20:1-28. When have you received an unexpected benefit from God? When have you done your best, and it seems like God has not rewarded you for your hard work? How do you feel about the system Jesus is illustrating in this parable? How can you show God’s generosity to someone who is struggling today or this week?

Week 5

Read Matthew 22:34-40. Write about the heart changes you have seen in yourself during this Lenten practice of scripture reading and journaling. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the power of the Holy Spirit working in your life.

Holy Week

Read Matthew 26:6-13. Read the passage again slowly and visualize the characters and their actions. Which character is most like you today? The woman who is thankful for mercy and full of grief? The onlookers who are struggling with the extent of God’s mercy? Or Jesus, whom loves welcoming outsiders? What words of acceptance is Jesus speaking to you this Holy week? Who will you invite to Easter at Crossroads?

