

Matthew 13-28

**FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9:30 PASTOR'S CLASS
FALL, 2019**

Introduction

There are many misconceptions about Jesus, and here he is revealed as one with authority over everything that the physical world and the nonphysical world can produce. He is seen as the Jesus we can trust with every aspect of our lives, as Messiah teacher and Son of man giving his life for his people.

Our hope and prayer is that this class will provide you with a better knowledge of the Bible and a deeper love for Christ and his people. Please attempt to answer the week's questions before the class. Being prepared will allow you and others to participate more effectively in the discussions, bringing everyone to a greater level of understanding of God's Word and a deepened fellowship.

Commentary

The commentary we will be using is *The Message of Matthew: The Kingdom of Heaven (Bible Speaks Today)*. A limited supply will be available for sale on a first come, first served basis. It is suggested that you purchase your commentary, which is available from a variety of online vendors.

Recommendations for Table Discussion

There will be some who are more eager to share around the table than others. Please be respectful and kind as the discussion unfolds, recognizing there are varying levels of Biblical proficiency and levels of comfort in sharing. Your table hosts are wonderful brothers and sisters who are there to love and support you, and will do their best to foster a safe, welcoming environment that is profitable and edifying for everyone present.

Thank you for spending the time to take this class, and for contributing to the fellowship and mutual learning around your table. Our hope is that the effort you put into this class will be rewarded many times over in your daily Christian walk and in the years to come.

Schedule—9:30 Pastor's Class
Matthew 13-28—Fall, 2019

Week	Date	Scripture
1	8-Sep	Matthew 13:1-52
2	15-Sep	Matthew 13:53—14:36
3	22-Sep	Matthew 15
4	29-Sep	Matthew 16
5	6-Oct	Matthew 17
6	13-Oct	Matthew 18
7	20-Oct	Matthew 19:1—20:16
8	27-Oct	Matthew 20:17—21:32
9	3-Nov	Matthew 21:33—22:46
10	10-Nov	Matthew 23
11	17-Nov	Matthew 24:1-44
12	24-Nov	Matthew 24:45—25:46
13	1-Dec	Matthew 26:1-56
14	8-Dec	Matthew 26:57—27:31
15	15-Dec	Matthew 27:32—28:20

September 15—Week 2.....Matthew 13:53—14:36

1. Why did Matthew put the story of the death of John the Baptist side by side with the story of Jesus visiting his hometown, and how does Jesus violate expectations in his hometown?
2. What weaknesses in Herod prompt him to carry out this series of events?
3. Consider the miracles of 14:13-36 as parables in action. What particularly do you learn from the response and failure of the disciples?
4. From these same stories consider the light cast upon the person of Christ. What characteristics are unmistakably revealed?

September 29—Week 4.....Matthew 16

1. The sign of Jonah was previously explained by Jesus (12:8-42) as pointing to his burial and resurrection. What are the true signs of God's work in our midst?
2. The incident at Caesarea Philippi is clearly the hinge point of the gospel narrative. From now on Christ withdraws from the crowds and concentrates on teaching the disciples. Why is the question about the person of Christ so crucial?
3. In verse 21 we see Christ's clear awareness of the cross ahead. What does this reveal about the character of his death?
4. What are the terms of discipleship (verse 24)? What incentive does Christ put forward to encourage his disciples to pay the cost?

October 13—Week 6..... Matthew 18

1. What are the qualities of the childlike spirit suggested in verses 3-4, and how does this inform our responsibility to children?
2. What do verses 15-20 teach us about the way of reconciliation?
3. What do we learn concerning the nature and ministry of the local church and the practical value of acting together with others?
4. How does the parable in verses 23-35 answer Peter's question in verse 21? What lessons are taught?

October 20—Week 7..... Matthew 19:1—20:16

1. In Christ's answers to the Pharisees and the disciples on the subject of marriage, what does he teach about the place and character of marriage and what does he say about the celibate life?
2. What is commendable in the young man in the incident recorded in 19:16-22? What were the factors which nevertheless made him turn away from Christ?
3. Is there a place for the concept of reward in Christian service? What does 19:27-30 teach about this?
4. What is the main teaching of the parable of the laborers in the vineyard? What does it have to say about the legalistic spirit in Christian service?

October 27—Week 8.....Matthew 20:17—21:32

1. As Christ predicts his own passion, what do the opening verses of this message reveal of the mind of Christ with regard to what was ahead?
2. In what ways does 20:20-28 prove the disciples to be out of sympathy with Christ at this moment? What do both Christ and his example demand of us?
3. What was Christ condemning in his cleansing of the temple and in his cursing of the fig tree?
4. In what ways does the parable in 21:28-32 underline the teaching Christ gave in response to those seeking more understanding or more proof before they respond to him?

November 3—Week 9Matthew 21:33—22:46

1. What is taught in the parable of the tenants (21:33-44) concerning the character of God in the person of Christ, the responsibility of men and the reality of judgment?
2. What is taught in the parable of the wedding feast about the pattern of Christ's ministry?
3. In Matthew 22:23-33, on what does Christ base his teaching about the fact of the resurrection? What features of the life of the world to come emerge from this teaching?
4. In Christ's counter question (22:41-46) of what truths and hopes are we assured?

November 10—Week 10 Matthew 23

1. The first 12 verses are an indictment of the Pharisees because of their concern for personal prestige. In what ways do these temptations come into the life of the church?
2. Noting the repetition of the word hypocrite, how is this seen in the attitude of the Pharisees (verses 13-15) and in their vows and promises (verses 16-22)? What do we need to do to avoid becoming like them?
3. The Lord accuses the Pharisees of a serious lack of proportion in their practice of religion. In what ways can we find modern examples of this dangerous tendency?
4. The chapter comes to a climax with our Lord's teaching on the inevitability of judgment. What was it that made judgment inevitable?

November 17—Week 11Matthew 24:1-44

1. What is the pattern of future history as predicted by Christ in verses 1-14?
2. According to the teaching of these verses, how should the Christian react in days of political upheaval and worldwide distress? On what may the Christian count?
3. Jesus describes terrible events to come. What value would there be in his telling his followers these things ahead of time (verse 25)?
4. What truths concerning our Lord's return are unmistakably certain? What matters are left uncertain? What, in consequence should the attitude of the Christian be?

November 24—Week 12Matthew 24:45—25:46

1. What does the passage in 24:45-51 what are the expectations of the master and what is the outcome for the faithful servant?
2. The parable of the 10 virgins teaches a final division. What is the basis of this division? What determines whether or not we will join the company of the wise?
3. Comparing the parable in 25:14-30 with that in Luke 19:11-27, what is the message underlying both parables?
4. What does 25:31-46 teach about the gravity of the sin of omission? What does the absence of good works prove?

December 1—Week 13Matthew 26:1-56

1. Explain the difference between the prophecy of Christ in verses 1-2 and the plans of the Jewish religious leaders in verses 3-5? Whose word prevailed and why?
2. Why does Jesus accept the woman's extravagant gift?
3. In the institution of the Lord's Supper, Matthew notes the idea of a covenant. In what way does this link with Exodus 24:6-8?
4. Why was the particular agony of Jesus in the garden such that he shrank from the cross?

December 8—Week 14Matthew 26:57—27:31

1. In what ways was the trial of Jesus unworthy of the name of justice?
2. What lessons concerning the inevitable judgment upon sin are to be found in the account of the death of Judas?
3. The choice of the Jewish people reflected the kind of savior they wanted. What was the result of this choice in the life of the nation?
4. In what ways did Pilate seek to avoid a decision about Christ?

December 15—Week 15.....Matthew 27:32—28:20

1. What were the real sufferings of Christ? In what ways was his physical, mental and spiritual sufferings indicated here?
2. What if any truth is there in the taunt of 27:41-43? Why did God not intervene?
3. What made Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus come into the open as followers of Christ at this late stage?
4. What is the significance of the place of women disciples within the story of Christ's resurrection appearances?