

Matthew 12-28

**FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11:00 PASTOR'S CLASS
SPRING 2020**

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 own 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—11:00 Pastor's Class ***Matthew 12-28—Spring, 2020***

Week	Date	Scripture
1	5-Jan	Matthew 12:1-50
2	12-Jan	Matthew 13:1-52
3	19-Jan	Matthew 13:53—14:36
4	26-Jan	Matthew 15
5	2-Feb	Matthew 16
6	9-Feb	Matthew 17
7	16-Feb	Matthew 18
8	23-Feb	Matthew 19:1—20:16
9	1-Mar	Matthew 20:17—21:32
	8-Mar	MISSIONS CONFERENCE
10	15-Mar	Matthew 21:33—22:46
11	22-Mar	Matthew 23
12	29-Mar	Matthew 24:1-44
13	5-Apr	Matthew 24:45—25:46
	12-Apr	EASTER
14	19-Apr	Matthew 26:1-56
15	26-Apr	Matthew 26:57—27:31
16	3-May	Matthew 27:32—28:20
17	10-May	CONCLUSION

January 5—Week 1Matthew 12:1-50

1. Refer back to 11:25-30 and observe the amazing combination of Christ's claims to unique authority and also to his humility. How do we understand both to be true, and what implication is there for our own lives?
2. The temple was the supreme physical symbol of Jewish identity. Why do the words and actions of Jesus provoke such a violent response from the Pharisees?
3. In 12:15-21, Matthew quotes from Isaiah 42 which speaks of a mysterious figure whom God calls "my servant," who will bring God's blessing and justice to the world. How will he accomplish this task?
4. What is taught here about the dangers of evil or foolish speaking?

January 19—Week 3 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?

January 26—Week 4..... Matthew 15

1. What point did Jesus make about how to judge any particular tradition or innovation?
2. Why is it easier to keep oneself pure externally rather than to keep oneself pure internally?
3. Why did our Lord treat the Canaanite woman in this passage in this way? What purpose do you see behind it?
4. In all the miracles in this passage Christ seems to be dealing with Gentiles. This seems to be contrary to the principle of verse 24. What was our Lord thus beginning to reveal concerning the full purpose of his mission?

February 23—Week 8 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?

March 1—Week 9Matthew 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?

March 15—Week 10Matthew 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?

March 22—Week 11 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?

May 3—Week 16Matthew 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?

May 10—Week 17.....Conclusion

1. How does Matthew use Psalm 22 to understand the cry of Jesus on the cross?
2. How does the resurrection of Jesus vindicate his claim to be the Messiah?
3. In what ways does Matthew show us Jesus as speaker and doer?
4. How does Matthew help us to understand Jesus as a presence with us?



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