

# ***If you continue in my word...***

## **Matthew, Chapters 15-21**

### **Chapter 15**

1. In chapter 15, Jesus leaves Galilee and teaches in areas where there are fewer Jews (see 14:34)
2. 15:1-9 – The Pharisees and teachers of the law accuse Jesus and his disciples of breaking God's laws. In fact these enemies of Jesus were the ones who were setting aside God's laws.
3. 15:10-20 – Sinful actions come out a sinful heart
4. 15:21-28 – A Canaanite woman, a gentile, asks Jesus for help and receives it through her great faith
5. 15:29-39 – Jesus shows his great "compassion" (32) for people by caring for their physical needs in addition to their spiritual ones

### **Chapter 16**

1. 16:1-4 – The Pharisees and Sadducees ask Jesus for a sign to prove he was the Son of God. The sign is Jonah, who came out of the great fish after three days
2. 16:5-12 – Jesus warns his disciples about the false teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees
3. 16:13-20 – Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior promised in the Old Testament and the Son of God. God the Father gave this knowledge and faith to Peter. Christ promises to build his Church on Peter's confession of faith. He also gives Peter the keys, the authority to tell repentant sinners that their sins are forgiven and to tell unrepentant sinners that their sins are not forgiven
4. 16:20-28 – This is the first of three times that Jesus predicts his death and resurrection (see also 17:22,23 and 20:18,19). Peter objects to what Jesus says

because he wants things his way rather than God's way. Jesus tells Christians to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him

## **Chapter 17**

1. 17:1-13 – Jesus' appearance changes at the transfiguration. He appears in heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah. According to Luke's Gospel, Jesus starts his final trip to Jerusalem (to die) shortly after this (Luke 9:51)
2. 17:14-19 – Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy and tells us that with faith nothing is impossible
3. 17:22,23 – For the second time Jesus tells his disciples that he will die and rise again. They still cannot comprehend it
4. 17:24-27 – Through a miracle, Jesus pays the temple tax for him and Peter because he does not want to "cause offence" (27), that is to place an unnecessary stumbling block in the way of anyone believing in him

## **Chapter 18**

1. Chapter 18 contains the fourth great sermon in Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus tells us about the Kingdom of God
2. 18:1-5 – A great person in God's kingdom is the one with a simple, child-like faith in God's promises
3. 18:6-9 – Jesus warns people not to cause little believers to sin. And then he warns believers to get rid of anything in their lives that leads them to sin
4. 18:10-14 – Jesus shows more concern for little ones
5. 18:15-20 – Jesus teaches believers how to warn other believers who sin and do not repent. Jesus also gives his disciples the authority to forgive the sins or repentant sinners and to tell unrepentant sinners that their sins are not forgiven. He did the same for Peter in Matthew 16:13-20.

6. 18:21-35 – Christians have been forgiven. Christians also forgive. If they don't forgive, are they really Christians?

## **Chapter 19**

1. Chapters 19 and 20 describe Jesus' work east of the Jordan River, sometimes called his Perea Ministry
2. 19:1-12 – Jesus teaches about marriage. It is God's will that marriage be a lifelong union between one man and one woman, but Satan tries his hardest to destroy that
3. 19:13-15 – Little children can believe and Jesus wants them to be in his kingdom
4. 19:16-29 – A rich man comes to Jesus and asks what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell everything. He cannot, which shows that he didn't love God above all things. It is difficult for the rich to believe and put God first in their lives, but with God all things are possible (26)

## **Chapter 20**

1. 20:1-16 – Jesus tells the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Each work different amounts of time, but all receive the same wage. Some believers comes to faith moments before their death and some are blessed to be believers for their whole lifetime, but all receive eternal life in heaven
2. 20:17-19 – Jesus predicts his death for the third time
3. 20:20-28 – Salome, the mother of James and John (see Mark 10:35-45) asks for her sons to receive special positions in heaven. Jesus basically says "no," but the other disciples hear about this and become upset. Jesus tells them that they are thinking like people of this world think. She shows them a different way, the way of service: "The Son of Man

(Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (28)

## **Chapter 21**

1. 21:1-11 – Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday. The people greet him with “Hosanna to the Son of David” (9)
2. 21:12-17 – Jesus enters the temple grounds and drives out those who were doing business there. The temple was to be a house of prayer not of business
3. 21:18-22 – Jesus finds a fig tree with leaves on it, a sign that it had figs. But it has none. Jesus says, “May you never bear fruit again” and it dies. Perhaps this is a parable in which the people of Israel *look like* God’s people but do not live like God’s people, and that they will suffer the same consequences as the fig tree
4. 21:23-27 – The chief priests and elders ask Jesus by what authority he was teaching. Jesus asks them whether John the Baptist was a true prophet or not. They refuse to answer Jesus’ question and Jesus refuses to answer theirs.
5. 21:28-32 – Jesus tells the Parable of the Two Sons. With this parable Jesus teaches that “sinners” who repent are doing God’s will while “good people” who refuse to repent are not. The point is that all are sinners who need to repent
6. 21:33-46 – Jesus tells the Parable of the Tenants. Just as the tenants rejected the landowners servants and killed his son, so the Jewish religious leaders rejected God’s prophets and would soon kill his Son. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Psalm 118 prophecy. He is the stone the builders rejected which becomes the cornerstone.