

**Matthew 21-28**  
**Participants Handout**



## **Study 1 – The coming of the King**

### **Matthew 21:1-27**

1. Think of people in your family or friendship circles.  
What are some of the different reactions that they have to Jesus?

Read Matthew 21:1-11.

2. How would you describe Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

3. What are some of the different responses to Jesus' arrival?

Read Matthew 21:12-27.

4. What does Jesus do in his:

i) First entrance into the temple (vv. 12-17)?

ii) Second entrance into the temple (vv. 23-27)?

5. In what way do the religious leaders react to Jesus?



9. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

10. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

## **Study 2 – Making a right response**

### **Matthew 21:28-22:14**

1. In the workplace, you might receive orders to perform a certain task. In life generally, you might receive an invitation to an event. What are some different ways that you could respond? What are some possible reasons for those different responses?

Read Matthew 21:23-27.

2. What is the setting/context for today's set of parables from Jesus?

Read Matthew 21:28-32.

3. According to Jesus, whom do the two sons in his parable represent?

4. In what ways could we also be more like the second son rather than the first?

Read Matthew 21:33-46.

5. Who represents whom in Jesus' parable?

6. What is the warning of Jesus' parable – to the religious leaders of his day, and to us?

Read Matthew 22:1-14.

7. What are some of the different responses to the king's invitation to the wedding banquet?

8. What might it look like for us to make the same mistake as:

i) The original invitees?

ii) The man who was ejected from the wedding?

9. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

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## **Study 3 – Q and A**

### **Matthew 22:15-46**

1. What are some of the different reasons for why someone might ask a question? Is there any way of discerning these reasons? If so, how?

Read Matthew 22:15-46.

2. What is your initial response to:

- i) The religious leaders?

- ii) Jesus?

3. From the passage, fill in the following table.

	<b>Religious leaders' question?</b>	<b>Motive behind question?</b>	<b>Jesus' response to question?</b>
<b>vv. 15-22</b>			
<b>vv. 23-33</b>			
<b>vv. 34-40</b>			

4. In what ways do Jesus' responses correct misunderstandings or disobedience:

i) In the religious leaders?

ii) In our own lives?

5. What is the logic of Jesus' question in verses 41-46?

6. What is so striking about the response (v. 46; see also vv. 22 and 33)?

7. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

8. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

**Study 4 – Woe, woe, woe**  
**Matthew 23**

1. Why is it so easy to engage in hypocrisy? What is so bad about hypocrisy?

Read Matthew 23:1-12.

2. From the outside, the Pharisees would appear to be very religious. What does Jesus reveal about their hearts?

3. In what ways might we be in danger of being like them?

Read Matthew 23:13-32.

4. From the passage, fill in the table below.

<b>Woe # ...</b>	<b>How does Jesus describe the religious leaders?</b>	<b>Summarise Jesus' condemnation of the religious leaders</b>
<b>1 (v. 13)</b>		
<b>2 (v. 15)</b>		
<b>3 (vv. 16-22)</b>		
<b>4 (vv. 23-24)</b>		
<b>5 (vv. 25-26)</b>		
<b>6 (vv. 27-28)</b>		
<b>7 (vv. 29-32)</b>		

5. Have another look over the responses you have entered into the table. In what areas of your life do you personally feel the heat of Jesus' words here?

Read Matthew 23:33-39.

6. In what ways do we see Jesus' ...

i) Severity?

ii) Tenderness?

7. What do you think Jesus truly desires from those who would follow him?

8. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

9. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

## **Study 5 – Don't be deceived**

### **Matthew 24:1-35**

1. Have you ever been deceived, or led astray, by false claims – e.g. false advertising, unfulfilled promises, words spoken by others? If so, what was the experience like?

Read Matthew 24:1-35.

2. What does Jesus say will happen to the temple (v. 2)?
3. What are the disciples interested in finding out from Jesus (v. 3)?

4. Given the nature of the disciples' question(s), why might this make it challenging at times to understand what Jesus is talking about in his response?

It is difficult to understand exactly what is on view in this Chapter. This has led to disagreement amongst Bible commentators and Christians generally. Is Jesus referring exclusively to the destruction of the temple, or is he speaking about his return and the end of the age, or both? The following questions seek to focus on the aspects that are clearer, but there will be opportunity to reflect on different opinions towards the end of the study.

5. From his response, what do you think are Jesus' main concerns for his followers?



9. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

10. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

**Study 6 – Keep watch!**  
**Matthew 24:36-25:13**

1. What are some of the different ideas that people have about Jesus' return?

Read Matthew 24:36-25:13.

2. What does Jesus say about the timing of his return (24:36)?
3. In what ways does this correct some common misunderstandings about his return?

4. Fill in the table below by considering each of the examples Jesus provides about his return.

<b>Verses</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Key Point</b>
24:37-42		
24:43-44		
24:45-51		
25:1-13		

5. Look back over the entries you have made in the table. Which example would Jesus make use of to particularly help you to live in light of his return?

6. Why might it be even harder for us, than the first disciples, to keep following Jesus' teaching here?

7. What are some practical steps that you can take to ensure that you are heeding Jesus' words here?

8. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

9. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

## **Study 7 – Living in light of the end**

### **Matthew 25:14-46**

1. Think of some different ‘end points’ in your life – e.g. completing school, finishing a job, concluding time spent in a house/city. In what ways did this affect the way you lived?

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

2. What is the “*it*” (v. 14) that Jesus is talking about here? In what way does this connect with our previous study?

3. From Jesus' parable, fill in the following table.

<b>Servant #</b>	<b>Talents given</b>	<b>Talents gained</b>	<b>Master's response</b>
<b>1</b>			
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			

4. In what ways does Jesus' parable challenge you personally in terms of how you are living in light of his return?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

5. What impresses you about the claims that Jesus makes about himself here?

6. What similarities are there between the sheep and the goats? What are some of the differences between them in terms of:

i) The way they have treated the least of Jesus' brothers?

ii) Their future experience?

7. In what ways does Jesus' teaching here challenge you personally in terms of how you are living in light of his return?

8. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

9. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?

## **Study 8 – Sovereign and strong Matthew 26**

1. Sometimes people talk about a person's destiny. What do they mean by this? What do you think of the idea of destiny?

Read Matthew 26.

2. What important event on the Jewish calendar is about to occur (v. 2)?
3. Why was this event significant (see Exodus 12)? Why will it be significant in a new way, given what is about to happen to Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 5:7)?

4. Skim over the Chapter as a whole. What examples can you find of:

i) Human opposition to Jesus?

ii) Jesus' control over all things?

5. In what ways does this challenge and encourage you?

6. Again look over the Chapter as a whole. What examples can you find of:

i) Human weakness?

ii) Jesus' strength?

7. In what ways does this challenge and encourage you?

8. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

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## **Study 9 – The crucified Messiah**

### **Matthew 27:1-56**

1. What usually happens when the plot of a story or movie reaches its climax? How is the Christian story different?

Read Matthew 27:1-56.

2. This section of Matthew's Gospel begins and ends with two deaths. In what ways are Judas' and Jesus' deaths either similar or different?

3. From Jesus' trial before Pilate (vv. 11-26) compare and contrast:

i) Jesus and Pilate

ii) Jesus and Barabbas

4. In what ways do you see yourself in Pilate? In what ways are we like Barabbas?



8. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

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**Study 10 – Risen and ruling**  
**Matthew 27:57-28:20**

1. What difference does it make if Jesus really rose from the dead?

Read Matthew 27:57-61 and 28:16-20.

2. From the first passage listed, what does Matthew emphasise about Jesus? What are some of the different ways that he communicates this?

3. From the second passage, what does Jesus now claim for himself? What will this mean for his followers?

Read Matthew 27:62-66 and 28:11-15.

4. From the first passage listed, what are the religious leaders concerned about? What is Pilate's response?

5. From the second passage, what do the religious leaders *not* deny? What is their proposed solution to what has happened? What do you think of their plan?



9. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

10. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?



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