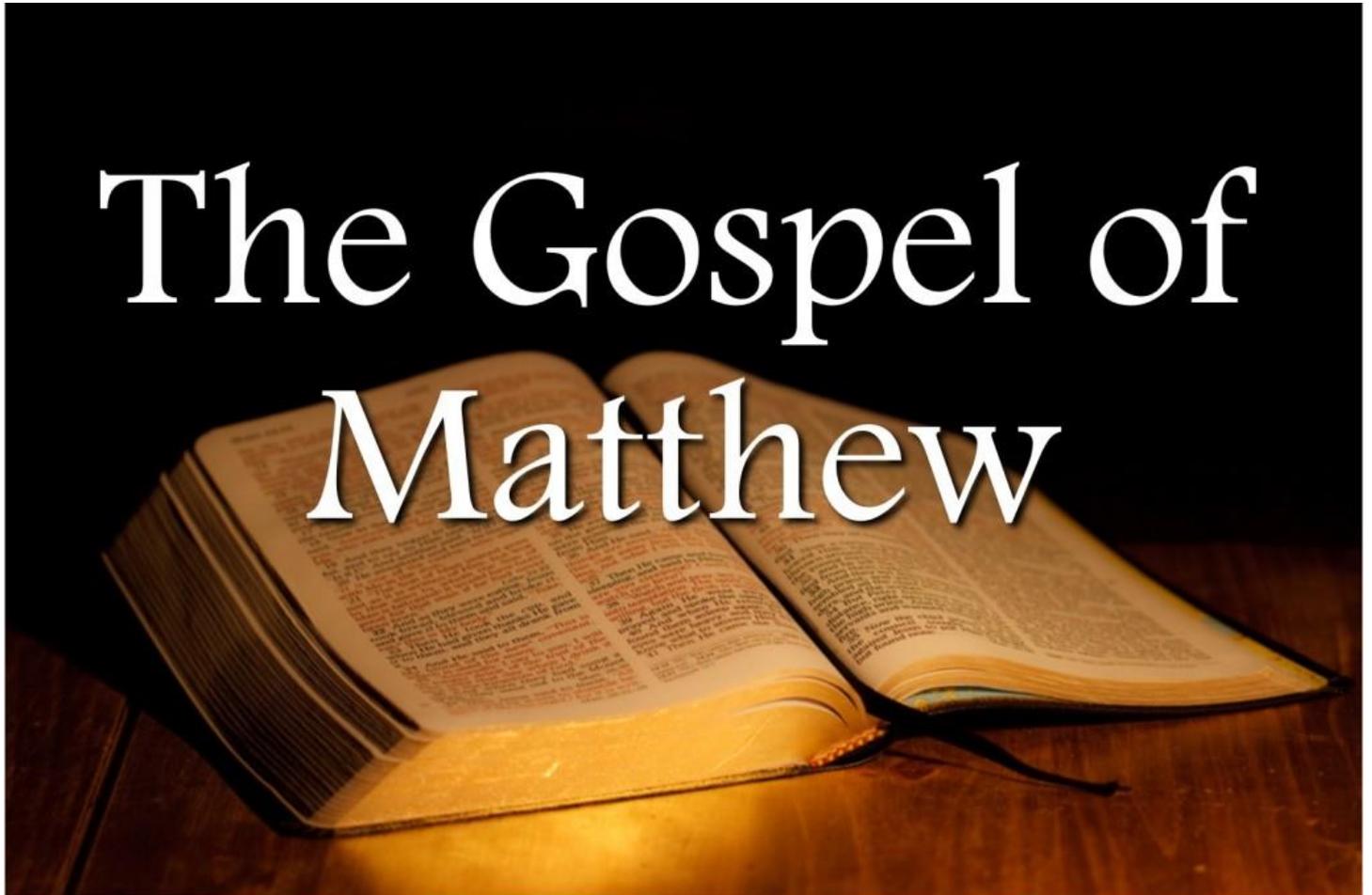


The Book of Matthew



2022 – Part 1
5 studies in Matthew's Gospel

Brief Outline of Matthew's Gospel

- 1:1 – 4:16 Introducing Jesus
4:17 – 16:20 Public ministry in and around Galilee
16:21 – 18:35 Private ministry in Galilee; preparing the disciples
19:1 – 25:46 Ministry in Judea
26:1 – 28:20 The death and resurrection of Jesus

Please Note the following:

1. It is helpful, but not mandatory, to prepare your answers before meeting with your group.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

Study 1 – The King’s Power: Peace to the Disturbed – Matthew 8:28-9:8

(Sermon on 30-Jan-22)

Before we begin: What sort of things can disturb our feeling of peace? (cf. Isaiah 57:21)

Read Matthew 8:28-34 (other accounts in Mark 5:1-17 & Luke 8:26-37)

1. Locate Gadarenes (aka Gergesa, Gergesenes or Gerasenes) on the map in Appendix 1. Why was Jesus and his disciples there? (cf. Matthew 8:23-27)

2. What is wrong with the two men in verse 28?

3. Why would the two men be coming from the tombs?

4. **Ponder:** What sort of disruption would two demon-possessed men cause in the community?

5. From the other account of this story in Mark 5:1-17 how had the community tried to deal with a person who was demon-possessed?

6. What surprising knowledge do the two demon-possessed men have in verse 29? (cf. 2 Peter 2:4)

7. What is significant in there being a herd of pigs in the area? (cf. Psalm 50:10-11 and Matthew 12:12)

8. What do we learn about demons in verse 31? (James 2:19)

9. How did Jesus resolve the problem in verse 32? What does this tell us about Jesus?

10. What did Jesus do for the men and the community?

11. How did the community respond? How is this response to Jesus typical of many today?

Read Matthew 9:1-8 (other accounts in Mark 2:3-12 & Luke 5:18-26)

12. Find Jesus' own town on the map in appendix 1 (cf. Matthew 4:13)

13. What do we learn about the man in this story?

14. What do we learn about the man's friends?

15. What "sickness" does Jesus address first in verse 2? Why?

16. What do the teachers of the law think about Jesus in verse 3?

17. What do we learn about Jesus in verse 4?

18. What does Jesus mean in verse 5 by saying *"Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"*

19. **Discuss:** Is all sickness caused by sin? Does forgiveness of sins automatically mean all physical sickness is healed?

20. **Ponder:** By what means did God create everything and by what means did Jesus control the storm (Matthew 8:26) and cast out demons (Matthew 8:32) and restore the paralyzed man (Matthew 9:6). What does this say about Jesus?

Read Psalm 103:1-6

21. How do these verses from Psalm 103 relate to Matthew 8:28-9:8?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 8:28-9:8**?



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thank God that His Son Jesus brings peace to the disturbed.

Study 2 – A Call to Discipleship – Matthew 9:9-17

(Sermon on 6-Feb-22)

Before we begin: What is a disciple?

Read Matthew 9:9-13 (other accounts in Mark 2:14-17 & Luke 5:27-32)

1. Who is the tax-collector and what is wrong with being a tax-collector in Jewish eyes?
2. What protocols does Jesus break here and what did Jesus say to Matthew; and why is that enough for Matthew to follow?
3. Why would Jesus have dinner at Matthew's house with many other tax collectors and "sinners"?
4. What objection is raised in verse 11 and by whom?
5. What "picture" in verse 12 does Jesus give to answer the objection? And what "sickness" is Jesus referring to?
6. What does Jesus mean by saying *"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'"* in verse 13? (cf. Hosea 6:6 and Micah 6:6-8)
7. What does Jesus mean by saying *"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"* also in verse 13? (cf. Luke 19:10 and 1 Timothy 1:15)
8. **Ponder:** In what "wrong" sense were the Pharisees righteous?

Read Matthew 9:14-17 (Other accounts Mark 2:18-22 and Luke 5:33-39)

9. What question do John the Baptist's disciples have?

10. What is fasting and what is its purpose?

11. What does Jesus' answer mean in verse 15? Who is the bridegroom and who are the guests? (cf. John 3:27-30)

12. What does Jesus mean in verse 16 & 17 when he talks about patching up an old garment and pouring wine into old wineskins?

13. **Ponder:** As disciples, what is Jesus calling us to be like?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 9:9-17**?



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thank God that His Son, Jesus, calls us to be disciples and spread the Gospel; ask God to help us as we fulfil our role as disciples.

Study 3 – Restoration to the Broken – Matthew 9:18-38

(Sermon on 13-Feb-22)

Before we begin: In what ways can we be broken?

Read Matthew 9:18-26 (other accounts in Mark 5:22-43 & Luke 8:41-56)

1. What is surprising about Jairus' actions in verse 18?
2. What compelled Jairus to come to Jesus and what's impressive about Jairus?
3. How did Jesus respond to Jairus' request?
4. How is Jesus interrupted in verse 20?
5. What is the woman's problem and what does she think will fix her problem? Why does she simply want to touch Jesus' garment rather than ask Jesus to help?
6. How does Jesus heal the woman and what does he say has healed her?
7. Meanwhile, Jairus' daughter has died. What scene does Jesus encounter at Jairus' home?
8. **Ponder:** Why does Jesus say "the girl is not dead but asleep" in verse 24? (cf. John 11:11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:6, 18, 20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16)

9. Why did the crowd laugh at Jesus?

10. What does Jesus do for the girl. What is this miracle a foretaste of?

Read Matthew 9:27-31

11. How easy would it be for the blind men to follow Jesus?

12. What did the blind men know about Jesus in verse 27?

13. Why did the blind men ask for mercy?

14. What allowed the blind men to be healed according to verses 28 & 29?

15. Why did Jesus say "See that no one knows about this" in verse 30?

16. Why did the men disobey Jesus in verse 31?

17. **Ponder:** What is blindness a picture of? (cf. Isaiah 6:10; Matthew 15:14 and Romans 11:25)

Read Matthew 9:32-34

18. What is wrong with the man in verse 32?

19. What response was there from Jesus' miracle?
From the man in verse 33?

From the crowd in verse 33?

From the Pharisees in verse 34? Why would they say that?

20. What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees found in the parallel story in Matthew 12:22-32?

Read Matthew 9:35-39

21. What situation was Jesus confronted with in verse 35 as he went about His ministry?

22. How did Jesus react to this in verse 36?

23. **Ponder:** Why does Jesus' ministry have to include disciples? What does that mean for us?

24. What is the problem in verse 37 (cf. **Ezekiel 5:5-12**) and what is the solution in verse 38?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 9:18-38**?



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Ask God (the Lord of the harvest) to send out workers into His harvest field because the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

Study 4 – King's Ambassadors Part 1 – Matthew 10:1-23

(Sermon on 20-Feb-22)

Before we begin: What is an ambassador?

Ponder: By whom is the *work* of salvation accomplished and by whom is the *witness* of salvation accomplished.

1. What is the context of Matthew 10 – see Matthew 9:37-38.

Read Matthew 10:1-15 (other accounts in Mark 3:16-19 & Luke 6:14-16)

2. What authority were the twelve disciples given? Why?

3. In verse 2, the twelve are called apostles; what does apostle mean?

4. How is an apostle different to a disciple? (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:1; Acts 1:21-22; Ephesians 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2 Corinthians 12:12)

5. From what you know of some of the twelve; what can you say about their backgrounds and life experiences? Why is that important?

6. Where are they to go and not to go in verses 5 and 6? How does this compare to Matthew 28:19-20? Why is it different? (i.e., compare the message of Matthew 10:7 with the message of Acts 20:24)
7. How are the people of Israel described in verse 6? (cf. **Jeremiah 50:6; Isaiah 53:6**)
8. What are the twelve to do according to verses 7 and 8?
9. How are they to provide for themselves in verses 8b to 15?
10. What will happen to the homes and towns that do not listen to the Apostles' words?

Read Matthew 10:16-23

11. In what ways do verses 16 to 23 seem to have a slightly different context to verses 1 to 15?
12. What does Jesus say will happen as they are sent out in verses 16 to 18?
13. What will happen as they are brought before governors and kings in verses 19 to 20? How would that be comforting?
14. What will be the extent of the persecution in verses 21 to 23?

15. How can we explain Jesus' words in verse 23 "truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes"?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 10:1-23**?



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Ask God to help us as we go out to be witnesses of Jesus. Ask God to both protect us and give us the words to say as we tell people about the Good News of Jesus

Study 5 – King’s Ambassadors Part 2 – Matthew 10:24-42

(Sermon on 27-Feb-22)

Introduction: In the last study we began to see what being an ambassador of King Jesus was like; and we continue to see in the remaining part of Matthew chapter 10, what this looks like in reality.

Before we begin: Summarize what we learnt in Study 4...

Read Matthew 10:24-25

1. What reason does Jesus give in these verses as to why we must face persecution as one of His disciples?

2. What does Jesus mean by saying **“If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!”** in verse 25? (cf. Mark 3:22-30)

Read Matthew 10:26-31

3. Even in the midst of persecution, why should Jesus’ disciples not be afraid?

4. What is the warning in verse 28? (cf. **Proverbs 29:25; Psalm 56:4; Isaiah 8:12-13; Hebrews 10:31**)

5. What do we learn about God’s care for His people in verses 29 to 31?

6. What phrase is used three times between verses 26 to 31? Why do you think this is so?

Read Matthew 10:32-39

7. What attitude must Jesus' disciples be equipped with in verses 32 to 33

8. What can we not escape in verses 34 to 39?

9. What does Jesus mean in verse 38 by *"taking up their cross and following Him"*?

10. What does Jesus mean in verse 39 by *"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."*?

Read Matthew 10:40-42

11. In contrast to the persecutors, what will happen to those who welcome Jesus' disciples?
(cf. Hebrews 6:10)

12. **Ponder:** When people receive us as Jesus' disciples, they welcome King Jesus, because we are His ambassadors. **Read 2 Samuel 10** for an example of what happens when people mistreat the envoys (ambassadors) of the King. What did you discover?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 10:24-42**?



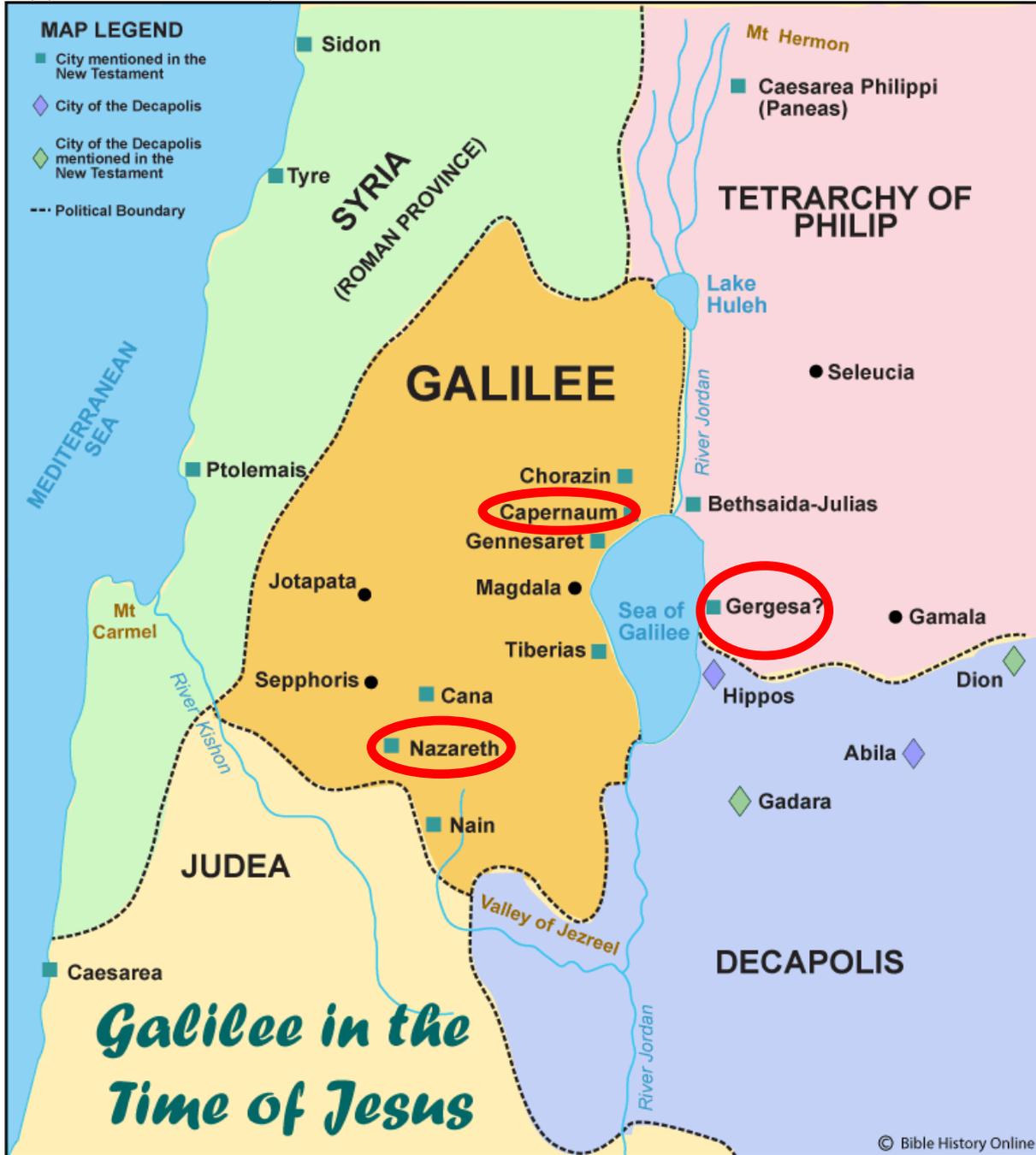
Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Ask God to help us to not fear other human beings but instead to have a reverent fear and respect for God, Himself. Thank God that He cares for us. Ask God to help us to be bold and confess Jesus. Ask God to help us to persevere through opposition to the message of Jesus. Ask God to bless those who both proclaim and receive the Gospel.

Appendix 1 - Map of Galilee



Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
January 2022

Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

Life Applications from Every Chapter of the Bible (G. Campbell Morgan)

The Message of Matthew (Michael Green)

Focus on the Bible: Matthew (Charles Price)

Matthew Volume 1 (Barclay)

Be Loyal Following the King of Kings NT Commentary on Matthew (Warren W. Wiersbe)

Notes/Prayer Points