



**THE KING
AND HIS KINGDOM**
JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

MIKE MAZZALONGO

TEACHER'S GUIDE

bible**talk**.TV



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The King and His Kingdom

Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

Mike Mazzalongo

Each gospel writer presents Jesus from different perspectives. Matthew focuses on the royal nature of the Lord and how He established His Kingdom here on earth. Our course will examine Jesus as King and the nature of His Kingdom.



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Overall Teaching Strategy

It is recommended that teachers use a combination of informal lecture and guided discussion to present these lessons. There are discussion questions associated with each lesson that teachers may use and/or supplement their own questions. A student note guide is also provided for each lesson.

It is recommended that teachers have students view the associated video or read the text for the lesson. This helps students come to the class ready to discuss the lesson and to formulate questions of their own. Teachers should begin the class with a review of key points from the video/text before starting the discussion.

Begin each lesson with appropriate introductory statements that help students focus on the lesson. Teachers should also provide a brief summary of the previous lesson and an overview of key points of the new lesson. This helps students see the ongoing narrative of scripture.

Conclude the lesson by summarizing, or having students summarize, the information from their notes. It is also helpful to ask questions from the lesson to determine that students grasp the concepts. Asking questions in this manner serves as an assessment to ensure objectives are met.

Challenge students with a call to action by applying this information to their lives as a way of helping them grow spiritually and helping others to do so as well. This can be accomplished by asking questions of students as to how this information relates to their spiritual development at this time and as they move forward.

For more information on teaching adults, please visit:
<https://bibletalk.tv/101/teaching>

Lesson #1 - The King's Birth

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the birth of Jesus. Of special note in this lesson is Matthew's account showing the royal birth of Jesus.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Summarize the events leading up to and surrounding the birth of Jesus as shown in the Gospel of Matthew.
- **Feel:** Defend Jesus as the long-prophesied Messiah.
- **Do:** Commit to faithful service to the King.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 1 – The King's Birth
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 1

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 The focus of the gospel writers
- 2.0 The Wise Men from the east
- 3.0 Herod – The earthly king
- 4.0 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What is the focus of the various gospel writers and how does this support rather than contradict the events of the life of Jesus?

Each gospel writer saw the events of the life of Jesus from their understanding and perspective and wrote to present Jesus to varying audiences. Matthew describes Jesus as a royal figure, the king of the Jews or the King of Heaven. Mark describes Jesus as the powerful Son of God by focusing on Jesus' miracles. Luke shows Jesus as fully human demonstrating that Jesus was no less human who experienced human life. John uses the imagery of Jesus as light to convey the concept that Jesus was the embodiment of God's truth showing us the way to a loving God.

2. Summarize the birth of Jesus from Matthew 2:1-12 and discuss how this differs from the popular myth of His birth. Also consider how these myths are a threat to teaching the truth.

Answers will vary as to the events of Jesus' birth based on the popular myths.

True or false, and why: There were three wise men and they presented gifts to Jesus in the manger. False. This belief comes from the presentation of three gifts. As stated by Matthew, they visited Jesus in a home. Jesus was born in a manger but the wise men visited Him at a place where Joseph had moved his family after Jesus was born.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem with glorious events seen in the heavens.

(**Note:** Jesus is our Spiritual King reigning over a spiritual kingdom thus an eternal king and kingdom. It is fitting that the heavens declared with glory who He was.) His birth and location of birth were prophesied (Micah 5:2). Wise men from the east saw the events in the sky and recognized them as announcing the birth of a special King and traveled to honor this king. When Herod heard of this, he sought to have the king killed to remove the perceived threat to his rule. The wise men were warned in a vision to not return to Herod so they left using another way.

3. What is represented by the three gifts the wise men presented to Jesus?

- **Gold** – Because of the value of gold, it was the property of kings. This gift recognized His position as a royal person.
- **Frankincense** – This incense was used for worship purposes as an offering to gods in religious services. It was given to recognize Him as a divine being.
- **Myrrh** – This material was used to prepare bodies for burial. It was given showing His anticipated death as an atonement for our sins.

4. Why does Matthew present the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to David to Joseph, his earthly father?

The Hebrew people put great store in proving which tribe they belonged to. By showing the genealogy of Jesus, Matthew is showing that Jesus is the Messiah as long prophesied and is legitimate according to His genealogy from king David.

5. Describe the actions of Herod and what we can learn from them.

Herod tried to manipulate the wise men in order to find information so he could kill the Messiah. He obviously had knowledge of prophecy but not faith in God's will. In a similar fashion, many believe who Jesus is but refuse to accept Him as the Messiah believing instead that they can control God rather than submit to God.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

We can have faith in who Jesus was based on all the events of His life, beginning with the events of His birth. These show that His humble birth fulfills the prophecies about the Messiah's birth.

Lesson #2 - The King's Temptation

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is a continuation of the portrayal of Jesus as the King. Of special note in this lesson is our Lord's temptation in the wilderness.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** The significance of our Lord's defeat of Satan in His first recorded test.
- **Feel:** Recognize Jesus as the divine King.
- **Do:** Use the example of Jesus' temptation to withstand Satan's attacks against ourselves.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 2 – The King's Temptation
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 2

Body of the Lesson

1.0 Summary of the temptation of Jesus.

2.0 The elements of the temptation

2.1 Prove yourself

2.2 Prove the word

2.3 Take the easy way

3.0 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson.

There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts.

These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as "right or wrong" responses.

1. Summarize the events of the temptation of Jesus from the various gospel accounts.

- Immediately after His baptism and declaration by God as His son, Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit where He fasted for 40 days.
- After 40 days, Satan tempted (tested) Jesus to sin but Jesus withstood the temptations by His knowledge of scripture and awareness of the importance of following God's will for His mission.
- At the conclusion of the temptations, Satan flees, and angels minister to Jesus.

2. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and answer the following question:

What is shown through the temptation of Jesus that we also have to deal with?

Answers will vary depending on one's understanding of the temptations. Look for the following in the responses:

Jesus faced the same attacks from Satan as we do. Jesus was able to withstand Satan by His understanding of and reliance upon God's word. One might argue that this was easier for Jesus since He was divine, however, we must remember that He was also fully human. This is the part of Jesus' nature that Satan attacked; His ego (prove yourself), His faith, (prove the Word), His desire to do God's will (take the easy way).

3. How do the statements by James (James 1:2-4; 14-15) and the temptations of Jesus relate, and what is the significance for us?

James states that we are tempted by our lusts no matter the form they take. Temptation is a form of seduction that lures us to sin. Jesus' temptation differed in that God cannot be tempted by evil (James 1:13). Jesus' temptations were tests to examine His true self and to reveal possible weaknesses in an attempt to discredit, discourage and distract Him from His mission. In the same way, Satan attacks us through our weaknesses in order to destroy or weaken our faith and influence for Christ. We are to see temptations (tests) as a way to grow in faith.

4. Review the three temptations of Jesus and explain the nature of the tests.

- **Matthew 4:3-4 – Prove Yourself** – The test was to see if Jesus would rely on God's word or exercise power to confirm this fact. Jesus responded from Deuteronomy 8:3
- **Matthew 4:5-7 – Prove the Word** – This second test builds on Jesus' statement about sustainment coming from God's word, thus Satan attacks the Word...Prove yourself – prove the Word. To test God is to not trust God.
- **Matthew 4:8-10 – Take the easy way** – This directly challenges the human side of Jesus' nature. Satan is saying, "What you are saying and doing is true but difficult, why not take my way, the easy way?"

5. How does the temptation of Jesus and the temptation of Adam and Eve resemble each other, and how do they relate to us?

Satan injected an element of doubt with Adam and Eve, “Did God really say...?” In the temptation of Jesus, Satan uses the same tactic with the challenging word, “If”. Satan uses doubt as a key tactic against us. Like Jesus, we must rely upon the evidence that God always keeps His promise.

Satan presented the view of pleasure, or relief from discomfort. In the same way, Satan, the Father of Lies (John 8:44) presents sin in a favorable way, but still a sin. A significant element of all temptations is that there is usually an element of truth in them, however, his truth is usually true only in the short-term and not completely as God desires. (**Note:** Other examples might include the situation between Sarah and Hagar with the birth of Ishmael).

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Jesus is proclaimed as a royal figure by the wise men and Herod. He is also proclaimed as Spiritual Deity by His defeat of Satan. As we withstand Satan’s attacks, we too affirm our relationship as members of God’s Kingdom (See also James 1:2-18).

Jesus’ use of scripture shows us a way to overcome sin. We too must use God’s word to stay faithful as Jesus shows us. We are saved and sustained by God’s word. When tempted, think of scripture teaching us about the issue. We should then apply the scripture to help us resist sin. When successful, we should offer a prayer of thanksgiving and ask for continued strength to withstand.

Lesson #3 - The Kingdom Character

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is the introduction of the Sermon on the Mount and a section known as, “The Beatitudes.” Of special note in this lesson is the difference between the understanding of the members of God’s Kingdom and those only seeking to uphold a legalistic righteousness. **Note:** Given the complexity and importance of this lesson, instructors should consider presenting it in two sessions.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Comprehend God’s view of true happiness as compared to that considered by those in the “world”.
- **Feel:** Appreciate the spiritual nature and outward view of true happiness.
- **Do:** Practice the lifestyle described by the Lord in the Sermon on the Mount.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 3 – The Kingdom Character
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 3

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Review of previous lessons
- 2.0 The Kingdom of the King
- 3.0 What constitutes true happiness
- 4.0 How Kingdom dwellers relate to the law
 - 4.1 Relationship with God
 - 4.2 Relationship with others
- 5.0 The way of life

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Complete the following sentence as given in the text associated with this lesson and explain its meaning:

“Jesus’ Kingdom exists wherever His will is done.”

There will be a variety of responses but look for those that indicate an understanding that our Lord’s Kingdom is a spiritual Kingdom and thus one that is eternal in nature and one that supersedes geopolitical entities, places and cultures. The physical numbers of citizens is not considered. Rather, the Kingdom of God exists in the hearts of those who have obeyed our Lord through faith.

2. How does Jesus compare true happiness to what the world considers true happiness?

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by stating nine elements of true happiness. Each of these symbolize a life of humility (poor in spirit), repentance (those that mourn), meek (a gentle and self-controlled spirit), thirst for righteousness (God’s way, not ours), merciful, peacemakers, persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

True happiness (blessedness) is based on God’s will being accomplished through and in us regardless of consequences. One may exhibit any number of these characteristics, but as stated in the last, “for the sake of righteousness” must be the reasoning for it. To do otherwise, although admirable, does not do so for the sake of fulfilling our Lord’s will.

3. Read Matthew 5:17-48 and discuss how Kingdom citizens relate to the law and how citizens of God's Kingdom demonstrate the character of our King.

Citizens in God's Kingdom must live according to a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness, especially self-righteousness of those in the world. The righteousness of God is what His citizens crave and find. It is through obedience that we demonstrate our faith and love for the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Murder – Jesus explains how this violation begins with anger and resentment towards others. He teaches that by avoiding the beginning of murder which is anger and hatred in our hearts towards others, we also avoid what these thoughts and feelings can lead to. If we don't resist the beginning of sin we will then be guilty for what that anger eventually conceives and gives life to.

Adultery – The custom had become very easy for a man to divorce his wife. The cause was selfishness and hidden desires of the heart. Jesus, therefore, emphasizes that adultery begins with the heart where both sin and faith are conceived.

Vows – Jesus teaches that if we are citizens of God's Kingdom then we have an honest heart. True obedience requires love and honesty and requires no oath for validation.

Justice – Jesus teaches that mercy is a greater response than retaliation. When we forgo our sense of justice, we exhibit love for others, especially those whom we perceive to have offended us.

Humility – Jesus teaches that love underscores all that God the Father has done, and what the citizens of His Kingdom show. The concepts He teaches help us to focus on the well being of others rather than a life constantly focused on self.

4. How do citizens in God's Kingdom demonstrate their relationship with God?

Our relationship with God is not demonstrated exclusively through adherence to rituals and traditions. We practice obedience towards God (vs. 1-4), communicating through prayer that is not done to impress others (vs. 5-18), and trust in God to provide all we need to faithfully serve Him (vs. 19-34).

5. How does Matthew 7:1-12 express how citizens in God's Kingdom demonstrate His will in our relationship with others?

We are to treat people in everything, the same way we want them to treat us (vs. 12).

6. What does Matthew 7:13-29 teach us as the way of life for citizens in God's Kingdom?

Note: In this section, Jesus states that those who hear and act upon His words are wise. To hear is to go beyond physical reception of sound. It is to assign the meaning as Jesus intends and allow it to cause you to act as He wills. A corollary to this is in Acts 2:41, "So those who received his words were baptized..." In this passage, they not only heard what Peter said, but they received it. This means they internalized it, accepted it, and clearly acted as God wills by obeying through their repentance and baptism. The result was they entered into a saved relationship with God.

The "way" is not the way the world expects or takes. It is not an easy calling, yet one that will be rewarded during and after with an ever-growing relationship with God. It requires taking a narrow pathway that is focused on God's way, not man's. We are to live and teach the truth of God's way thus producing fruit acceptable to God, we are to go beyond hearing by actually doing what God asks of us.

7. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Our true spiritual growth begins as we seek and obey God's will. All too often this is contrary to what we or others think is important. If we are to be disciples of Jesus and citizens in His Kingdom, then we must obey Him rather than others.

Note: The following are additional questions related to the lesson.

8. What benefit do we receive from the Sermon on the Mount?

Answers will vary. The intent of the question is to see how the Sermon on the Mount teaches us characteristics of Kingdom citizenship. Jesus explains God's view in areas that we may have come to misunderstand.

We learn 5 key points:

1. True happiness
2. Attitudes towards the Law (God's word)
3. Relationship with God
4. Relationships with others
5. Life in the Kingdom.

9. How do the Beatitudes show God's view of happiness?

The concepts related by Jesus in the Beatitudes are not physical (temporal) in nature but spiritual and get to the heart of who we are and should be seen as citizens of God's Kingdom. These characteristics are seen in Jesus and should be seen in us as His disciples.

10. As citizens of God's Kingdom, how do we relate to His will (Matthew 5:17-48)?

We honor life, purity, truthfulness, justice and humility.

11. How do we exercise our relationship with God (Matthew 6:1-4)?

We seek to please God, not men. We pray to communicate with God, not to be seen by men. We trust God to meet our needs.

Lesson #4 - The King in Action

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is the intense pace of activity of the three days at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Of special note in this lesson is the impact of these actions in establishing His Kingdom.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the impact of the initial activities of Jesus as He began His ministry.
- **Feel:** Defend the deity of Jesus as evidenced by His teachings and actions.
- **Do:** Develop a deeper active faith in Jesus our Lord.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 4 – The King in Action
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 4

Body of the Lesson

1.0 The narrative

1.1 Miracles

1.2 Teachings

1.3 Disciples

2.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Summarize the significant events in the life of Jesus from birth through the Sermon on the Mount and state their impact on identifying Jesus as the Son of God and long-awaited Messiah.

In these early chapters of Matthew, we see the birth of the King, the witness of His rule from men, angels and God Himself, as well as the nature and way into His Kingdom. We see the Lord Himself delivering His theology as He teaches the character of the citizens in His Kingdom. All of these events were significant in laying the foundation for His ministry. We will see throughout His ministry His continued teaching as presented in the Sermon on the Mount.

2. Read Matthew 8:1-9:34 and summarize the events and their significance.

(**Note:** Consider assigning someone ahead of time to review one or more of these events rather than the teacher reviewing them.)

- **Matthew 8:1-4** – The leper cleansed. A leper was saved after demonstrating his faith.
- **Matthew 8:5-13** – The Centurion's slave. A centurion's faith was noted by Jesus as greater faith than found in all of Israel.
- **Matthew 8:14-17** – Additional healings – Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and a demon-possessed man. As stated by Matthew, this was to fulfill prophecy from Isaiah of Jesus taking on our infirmities and removing our diseases.
- **Matthew 8:18-22** – Jesus begins to call his disciples and to teach them. It is significant that He let them know it would not be an easy path to follow.
- **Matthew 8:23-27** – Jesus calms a storm and was recognized by His disciples as having power over nature.
- **Matthew 8:28-34** – Jesus continues to cast out demons. In this event, the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God. Some people who witnessed this miracle welcomed Him while others implored Him to leave.

- **Matthew 9:1-8** – Jesus heals a paralytic man. Of interest here is that Jesus confronts the scribes for their thoughts. In this narrative, Jesus forgives the man’s sins, a power only God has. To confirm His claims Jesus also healed the man resulting in the people glorifying God.
- **Matthew 9:9** – The Apostle Matthew is called.
- **Matthew 9:10-13** – Jesus is accused of eating with sinners. Jesus explains the heart of His ministry in coming to heal and save the lost.
- **Matthew 9:14-17** – Jesus is questioned by John’s disciples. Jesus uses two examples to explain that the Messiah has arrived and the time now was for celebration.
- **Matthew 9:18-19; 23-26** – Jesus raises from the dead a synagogue official’s daughter. This event continued to show His power even over death itself.
- **Matthew 9:19-22** – The healing of the woman suffering from hemorrhage. This miracle is a microcosm of salvation. She demonstrated faith in Jesus and was saved by the love of Jesus.
- **Matthew 9:27-31** – Jesus heals some blind men. Jesus responds to their faith. Even though told not to spread the news of their healing, the men do so anyway and the fame of Jesus continues to spread thus limiting His free movements in the area.
- **Matthew 9:32-34** – Jesus heals a man who was mute and demon-possessed. The people recognize the Lord’s power although the Pharisees do not.

3. What do you see as the overall significance of Matthew 8:1-9:34?

These significant events show the power of Jesus over all elements in the life of those with whom he interacted. He showed His power over sin, disease, and death. All of these human maladies were brought about because of the sin introduced by Adam and Eve. Now the Messiah has arrived to bring about His Kingdom from which we find eternal hope without sin. His was a spiritual Kingdom and the events of this period focused on spiritual issues.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

All through the ministry of Jesus we see Him being validated as the Messiah by the demonstration of His power. We should continue to grow in our faith today as we read about these events.

Lesson #5 - The Kingdom in Conflict

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is a continued review of the initial actions of our Lord as He began His ministry. Of special note in this lesson is the selection of the apostles and their initial mission as Jesus sent them out to preach the gospel and heal the sick as confirmation of their ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the impact of the initial activities of Jesus as He began His ministry.
- **Feel:** Defend the deity of Jesus as evidenced by His teachings and actions.
- **Do:** Develop a deeper and more active faith in Jesus our Lord.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 5 – The Kingdom in Conflict
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 5

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Review of previous key points
- 2.0 Sending out of the apostles
 - 2.1 Granting power
 - 2.2 Instructions
 - 2.3 Warnings about responses
 - 2.4 Instructions for their response
- 3.0 Reasons for negative responses to the gospel
- 4.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. How are the characteristics of the Apostles like us today as members of God's Kingdom?

The intent of this question is to further illustrate that we work as servants of the Master. We respond to His will and timeline for us. The apostles came from a wide variety of backgrounds possessing the raw materials to further the Kingdom of God. Left alone they had no specific interest or indication that they would become the instruments of God's will. As their knowledge of Jesus grew and their understanding of their role, they grew to be what God wanted them to become.

Today, each of us come from a variety of backgrounds and possess the raw materials for the Master to use. Our education, experience and abilities can be used to serve God as He needs. Part of the refining process we go through is how we learn to interact and support one another, adapt our abilities to meet each other's needs and to use them as a body to meet our mission for the Lord.

Paul teaches this in **Romans 12**. He begins by saying we present ourselves as a living sacrifice. We are transformed to learn and obey God's will. We grow in the grace God offers us. We develop the characteristics of true Christian servants. We then reach out to others, no matter the circumstances or abilities, to bring the gospel to them.

Paul teaches us in **I Corinthians 12** that we possess gifts from God for use in His service. We sometimes want to be gifted with wonderful gifts and powers but that isn't God's plan. The simple and routine become magnified by God's power (II Corinthians 4:7).

Paul teaches us in **Ephesians 4** that God has given us not only different gifts, but different roles. We are to use these to equip the saints to fulfill our role in God's Kingdom.

2. What are some similarities between the early ministry of Jesus and the initial period of the church in Acts 2:42-47?

There will be various insights into this comparison but look for elements of the following. Both periods began with little resistance. His popularity first grew as God's power was seen in Him and what Jesus taught was heard. The miracles He performed, and the numbers of disciples grew as His ministry spread throughout the nation. In Acts 2 we see the apostles teaching and performing miracles and signs. The numbers of disciples grew significantly. In both cases, it did not take long for Satan to begin a counterattack. In both cases Satan worked through the established religion of the day to deliver his first attack against Jesus and His disciples and then, later on, against the young church.

3. Read Matthew 10:2-4 and answer the following questions:

Why did Jesus appoint twelve men as His apostles?

This number symbolized the twelve tribes of Israel. Later, in Acts 1:15-18, Peter pointed this out as they chose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot.

What is significant about the title, "apostle"?

This title designates someone as a representative of the Master who has power from the Master and the right (and responsibility) to use it. **Note:** In this case, it was an additional indication of the deity of Jesus as He transferred spiritual and physical power to another. Later, the apostles could transfer some spiritual gifts to others, but they in turn were not able to transfer those powers to other disciples.

What is signified by the order of the listing of the apostles?

In each listing of the apostles, Peter is named first. The other apostles are sequenced according to their closeness to Jesus. The first four were His “inner-circle” that were with Him at significant events in His ministry. The lists that include Judas Iscariot always list him last and include the indictment of his role in the betrayal and death of Jesus. **Note:** Their ranking, however, does not indicate a lower level of power or responsibility.

What role did the apostles fulfill in beginning of the Kingdom?

They were eyewitnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They were instrumental in establishing and facilitating the growth of the church. They confirmed and recorded the teachings of Jesus for future generations.

4. Read Matthew 10:5-42 and answer the following questions:

Who were the apostles to go to and why? (vs. 5-6)

They were to go to Jews only, not gentiles or Samaritans. This was to fulfill the prophecy from Joel 2:28-32.

What power did the apostles have and why? (vs. 8)

They had the power to perform similar miracles that Jesus performed as a confirmation His message and demonstrate His authority over sin, disease and nature.

What were the apostles to take with them and why? (vs. 9-10)

They were to take no money, luggage, extra clothing, shoes or staffs. This showed their reliance on the power and resources that Jesus provided them. This arrangement helped them place their entire reliance on God to supply their everyday needs.

What were they to do when they arrived at a city or village? (vs. 11-15)

They were to inquire who was worthy and stay at their house (worthy means willing to listen and believe). They were to bless the house if worthy and disregard those not worthy.

How did some react to the message of the apostles and how does that relate to us today? (vs. 26-39)

Some rejected their message and even persecuted them for it. However, they had to go anyways. This is still our charge today. Regardless of the situation or possible negative outcome, we are to look for opportunities to carry the gospel of Christ to all the world, where we can, when we can and as we can. This is the primary responsibility of disciples then, and now. The end result of this is that the preaching of the gospel will spread the borders of the Kingdom. The gospel will also cause division as some in families will believe and others will not. Division is not the purpose of the gospel but it is often the result.

Why does the gospel bring division and what is our response?

They (and we) are not to be surprised by their response. Some at that time rejected our Lord and will also reject Him today. Those who carry the message should not be surprised or discouraged by this.

What is demanded by the gospel and what is the reward of those who receive our Lord?

The gospel demands loyalty. Although the apostles had authority and power as representatives of Jesus, they did not have the authority or power to deviate from His message. Later, as the apostles took on the role Jesus intended for them, they did exercise authority given them by Jesus to carry out their mission. This also was power given to them by God (Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18). One thing that does not change is that those that receive our Lord will be rewarded. This is a promise that may not be fulfilled in one's lifetime, but like all promises by God, it will be fulfilled.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

This passage reflects a charge given to the apostles that would eventually be made their mission. It is now our role to continue with this charge (Matthew 28:18-20) as faithful disciples. The charge to trust in our Lord and His message, and to stay faithful to the task will result in the same outcomes: God is glorified, souls are brought into a relationship with God and we will be rewarded as faithful servants.

Lesson #6 - The Kingdom Grows

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is a continuation of the study of the initial activities of Jesus as He began His ministry. Of special note in this lesson is how Jesus used parables as a teaching method so His disciples would understand and identify with His teachings.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the impact of the initial activities of Jesus as He began His ministry.
- **Feel:** Defend the deity of Jesus as evidenced by His teachings and actions.
- **Do:** Develop a deeper active faith in Jesus our Lord.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo - 2015)
- Video – Lesson 6 – The Kingdom Grows
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 6

Body of the Lesson

1.0 Parables

2.0 Kingdom parables

3.0 Parables in Matthew

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What are parables and how did Jesus use them?

Parables are a teaching method that uses comparisons between physical things and spiritual things in order to reveal spiritual meanings. Jesus used parables to teach His disciples so they could grow in knowledge while keeping the meanings of His teachings hidden from unbelievers, especially those who wanted to use His teachings simply to attack Him. It was a method used by other teachers before Jesus but used extensively by Him to reveal the deeper meaning of God's will to those who were sincerely seeking it.

2. How can we gain an accurate meaning from parables?

Look for spiritual truths in context (what prompted the teaching, how it applied to the initial audience, and how it applies to us today.) Look for meaning within the parable itself or in the context before drawing a conclusion.

Avoid oversimplification or complication.

Don't separate Jesus (the messenger) from the parable (the message).

Look for the truth being taught.

Note: A parable doesn't prove a truth nor form a basis alone for doctrine. A parable communicates the meaning of an already established truth.

3. What can we learn from the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13:20-21?

There are various views: Some see the Kingdom coming suddenly in the future. Some see the Kingdom fully realized and completed here, we're only adding to it as time goes by. A more biblical view is that there is an earthly Kingdom (the Church) but the eternal Kingdom will be fulfilled by the return of Jesus and the resurrection and glorification of Christians at that time.

4. Summarize the following parables from Matthew and how do you understand them?

- **Matthew 13:3-17 – The Parable of the Sower**
This parable describes the response from those who are hearing the message of Jesus. He is also describing our responsibility to spread the gospel and the various reactions of those that hear the message.
- **Matthew 13:24-30 – The Wheat and the Tares**
Many will receive the message, including those who seek to rebel or destroy our Lord. In the end, God will divide them and destroy those that do not receive and respond to the message.
- **Matthew 13:31-33 – The Parable of the Mustard Seed and Leaven**
The kingdom will begin small but will grow to cover all the earth and afford protection to those within it and to influence the entire world. We see this as the church with the twelve in Acts 2 and is now known throughout the entire world.
- **Matthew 13:44-50 – The Parables of a Great Treasure, Pearl, and Net**
The Kingdom is more valuable than anything earthly and we must be willing to give up everything to obtain it. Some will accept it but for the wrong reasons and will be rejected by God at judgment.

5. How does Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:51-52 relate to His teachings on the Kingdom?

Note: Teachers may consider referring to Paul's teachings from Ephesians 5:25-33; 6:4, and Colossians 3:19-21 regarding the role of the father as the spiritual leader of the family.

Jesus asks if they understand the parable (not just hear it but gather its intended meaning. See also Matthew 13:9 and 17) Jesus compares the listeners to the head of the household whose responsibility was to provide for the needs of the household, especially spiritual needs. They were to take what they currently understand and grow in knowledge of the new truths taught by Jesus. If they do so, they will be able to provide for the spiritual needs of their family.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Jesus reveals His message in a way all should be able to understand if they are willing to listen and apply. The use of parables is a common methodology because it provides understanding based on what we know and then moves into the unknown. Also, as disciples of Jesus we dedicate ourselves to learning and following His teachings in all aspects of our lives. As we do so, we grow spiritually and take on more of the identity of Jesus.

Lesson #7 - Kingdom Kindness

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the simple kindnesses shown by our Lord. Of special note in this lesson is how these acts demonstrated His purpose in ministry and appeal to the crowds that followed Him. Given the scope and complexity of this lesson, teachers may consider presenting this lesson in two sessions.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand how Jesus communicated the nature of God through demonstrations of love and compassion for those generally rejected and overlooked.
- **Feel:** Appreciate the love and compassion of our Lord.
- **Do:** Teach others the character of God by showing the same love and compassion demonstrated by Jesus.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 7 – Kingdom Kindness
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 7

Body of the Lesson

1.0 Expressions of Kingdom Kindness

- 1.1 Feeding the 5,000
- 1.2 Strengthening the faith of His disciples
- 1.3 Healing in remote areas
- 1.4 Jesus lifts a heavy burden
- 1.5 Kindness towards the gentiles
- 1.6 Kindness towards the needy
- 1.7 Kindness for its own sake

2.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Summarize the feeding of the 5,000 from Matthew 14:31-21 and discuss what stands out to you from this event.

The intent of this question is to focus on the love and compassion of our Lord. Note how Jesus’ focus was on providing for the physical needs of others while at the same time providing for their spiritual needs. The miracle was significant, but the message of love and compassion was more to the point.

2. What connection might there be between the death of John the Baptist and the feeding of the 5,000?

The feeding of the 5,000 occurred just after John’s death. It is possible that some of the crowd had been followers of John, or certainly baptized by him. Now Jesus takes over as the leading public figure in declaring the same message of the arrival of the Kingdom but with the further message that so too has the King arrived. Jesus was able to perform miracles to validate His position as the Son of God sent to establish God’s Kingdom.

3. Read Matthew 14:22-33 and answer the following questions:

Why did Jesus send the disciples ahead in a boat?

He wanted some time in solitude for prayer. He had previously attempted this before but was interrupted by the crowds. **Note:** This is perhaps showing His attitude in putting others first before His own desires.

What was the reaction of the apostles when Jesus entered the boat and the storm ceased, and what does this show us about their faith?

They worshipped Jesus as God's son indicating their emerging faith in who He was. **Note:** They had already seen the event of feeding the 5,000, walking on water, and Peter's involvement. This only added to His demonstration of power over nature. Although He professed who He was, we would see later that this awareness needed to be reenforced. This is not an indictment against them, but an awareness that their faith was in its infancy. They had a lifetime of mistaken teaching about the King and the Kingdom to overcome. This is a reminder to us today that when we bring someone to the truth of who and what our Lord is, they too may have much to unlearn and we must be loving and patient.

Give some examples of misperceptions of who the disciples thought Jesus was and some misperceptions of who people today might believe about Jesus and how we can bring them to the truth.

As with most of Israel, they anticipated a physical and political King and kingdom. Jesus was not who and what they expected. This was due much in part to what they had been taught to believe by their religious leadership. They demonstrated the same level of misunderstanding many have today as to the nature of Jesus and His Kingdom. Again, many have been led to believe this by various religious leaders. We must ensure we understand clearly who Jesus and the Kingdom are so we can guide others to the truth.

4. What characteristic of Jesus is indicated about the healing of the people in the region of Gennesaret?

Jesus' demonstrated compassion for everyone, especially those in need who were overlooked or discarded. Jesus provided hope to the hopeless and always responded to faith. In this event some wanted only to touch His garment (**Note:** Matthew 9:18-22). We must show this same regard to others in general and especially those who are in need. We are motivated to do so when we recognize our own weaknesses and need for God's mercy in our own lives.

5. Read Matthew 15:1-9 and answer the following questions:

What had the religious leaders done to God's commands and what can we learn from this event?

The religious leaders, through either misunderstanding, love of tradition or other reasons, had imposed oppressive rules in interpreting God's will upon the people. These did not produce the joy that was originally intended by God in expressing His will for His people. We must be careful not to impose man-made rules instead of God's in our efforts to serve and please God. We don't need to impose our interpretation or will upon others. Sometimes we impose a greater weight upon traditions rather than the true will of God.

What are some examples of man-made traditions that might have greater weight than God's true will?

Answers will vary here. Look for examples of man-made traditions like ceremonies, times for coming together for worship, methods of worship, or other such traditional or expedient activities.

What is the danger from man-made traditions having greater weight than God's will?

Answers will vary but look for how man-made rules and traditions act to discourage rather than encourage. There is also the danger of overshadowing God's will with the less important rules or traditions invented by human beings. The danger here is that we convert someone to an organization or a way of doing things rather than to the Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

6. How do you understand Jesus' words from Matthew 15:17-20?

Our attitude is critical to our relationship with God. No one can fully keep God's laws (Romans 3:21-25). It has always been more important to God that we approach him with a pure heart (I Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:17).

7. How do you understand Jesus' reference to feeding dogs in Matthew 15:21-28?

Answers will vary but look for understanding that Jesus was not calling the woman a dog, simply emphasizing His mission was to the Jews first. Because of her insistence and demonstrated faith, he grants her request for healing.

8. What can we understand about the character of Jesus from Matthew 15:29-31?

Jesus continues to show compassion and rewards faith.

9. Why did Jesus again feed the crowd in Matthew 15:32-39?

He had compassion on those wanting to hear him, to the point of forsaking their basic needs.

Jesus did more than feed them, he rewarded them for their faith. Interestingly, the disciples questioned again about feeding the crowd with a small amount of food. One wonders why they doubted after several examples of Jesus' power. This further underscores the need for our patience and understanding as people come to an awareness of who Jesus truly is.

10. From the events in Matthew 14 and 15, what stands out as commonalities?

Look for examples of how Jesus shows love and compassion to all, especially those demonstrating faith in any form, and from anyone. He rewarded expressions of faith time and again.

11. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Jesus stated in John 3:15 that God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us. Jesus then spent His ministry on earth demonstrating through His life what this love looks like and what we must do as His disciples and servants. We accept God's grace and love by our demonstration of faith through our own conversion and then express that love for others. In doing so, we show them the true character of our Lord and Master. We show Jesus as He truly is and invite others to share in that love.

The love and compassion Jesus demonstrated was also taught by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 as the fruit of the Spirit. As the influence of God's Spirit grows in us, so too will these external demonstrations of His Spirit's power be seen by others. This lesson has focused on love and kindness, but the other fruit of the Spirit were evident in Jesus' life and will be evident in ours as we grow spiritually.

Lesson #8 - Who is the King?

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and promised Messiah. Of special note in this lesson is Peter's response to Jesus' question and its significance for us. Given its content and complexity, teachers should consider breaking this lesson into two sessions.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Comprehend the identity of Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah.
- **Feel:** Recognize Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah.
- **Do:** Live as a faithful subject of the King.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 8 – Who is the King
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 8

Body of the Lesson

1.0 Review previous key points from previous lessons.

1.1 Significance of the humble birth of Jesus

1.2 Significance of the temptation of Jesus

1.3 Summary of key points from the Sermon on the Mount

1.4 Summarize the miracles and teachings of Jesus and their purpose

1.5 Review of resistance from the Jewish leaders and why

1.6 The use and purpose of parables

1.7 Examples of the compassion of Jesus

2.0 The turning point for the King

3.0 Jesus' ministry to His apostles

4.0 Miracles performed for the Apostles

5.0 Special teaching

6.0 Prophecy concerning the crucifixion

7.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered “right or wrong” responses.

1. Of all the key events in the life of Jesus to this point in His ministry, which do you consider the most significant and why?

Answers will vary but encourage learners to focus on the personal nature Jesus’ ministry. The purpose of this is to look at the ministry of Jesus as he dealt with people on a personal level. It is clearly understood that Jesus is the Savior of the world but each of us must establish an individual relationship with Him for our personal salvation.

2. What is a “Gestalt moment” and how does it relate to Peter’s statement in Matthew 16:16?

A Gestalt moment is sometimes used to describe a sudden moment of clarity, also known as an “ah ha” moment. Jesus asked His Apostles who people thought that He was. The apostles answered that there were various opinions about His identity. For example, some saw Him as a reincarnation of John the Baptist or other prophets. When Jesus narrowed the question down to who they thought Jesus was, Peter quickly answered, “The Christ, the Son of the Living God.” This question and Peter’s brash answer brought clarity and focus to their understanding of who Jesus was.

We see, however, in later passages that Peter and the others did not fully understand the meaning of this or the implications of what would be involved, especially how Jesus would deliver them from sin by His death and resurrection.

Consider also John 1:41 when Jesus called Andrew as a disciple. John records that Andrew told Peter that they had found the Messiah. As events unfolded, Jesus demonstrated this by His miracles and teachings showing how prophecies were fulfilled in Him.

3. Concerning Peter's statement about Jesus, what are the associated teachings?

- It revealed to the apostles both who Jesus was and the nature of His mission.
- It represented a new role for the apostles (vs. 19, apostolic authority; see also Matthew 18:19).
- It would be the foundation idea for the "called out" (sanctified/ chosen) for whom Jesus would be savior and Lord.

4. What was significant about Jesus' teaching concerning His death and resurrection?

Jesus began to prepare the apostles for what would soon occur. We see from this time on that Jesus significantly narrowed the scope of His teachings to the apostles as He began to prepare them not only for His death and resurrection, but for their role in taking to gospel to all. It would be further evidence of Jesus as the Messiah through fulfilled prophecy.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

As followers of Christ, we must symbolically share in the death and resurrection of Jesus through our baptism. Being a Christian (disciple) of Jesus requires total commitment and a willingness to abandon all in order to follow Him. As we do so, we understand that we will also share in a resurrection at the return of Jesus. Our identity as disciples of Jesus is witnessed by our faith in Him as Savior, Lord and King. In addition to this witness we also set aside our own will for our lives in exchange for His perfect will for our lives as we serve and glorify Him.

Lesson #9 - The Kingdom's Loss

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the interaction between a prominent young man and Jesus. Of special note in this lesson is what we learn about the cost and value of citizenship in God's Kingdom.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand Jesus' teachings about the cost and value of citizenship in God's Kingdom.
- **Feel:** Commit ourselves to meeting the cost of citizenship in God's Kingdom.
- **Do:** Live faithfully according to Jesus' teachings concerning those who are citizens of God's Kingdom.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 9 – The Kingdom's Loss
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 9

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Background on the incident
- 2.0 The rich young ruler
- 3.0 The Kingdom's wealth
- 4.0 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as "right or wrong" responses.

1. Answer the following questions from the interaction between Jesus and the rich young ruler:

Why did the young man fall short in his quest for salvation?

Among his issues was his trust in the physical elements of life. These are not inherently wrong in themselves, but when they come between us and submission to our Lord, they are idols and blind us to the truth. In this incident, as Matthew records, the young man walked away saddened because he couldn't give up what Jesus asked of him (his great wealth). It seems to have been the greatest restraint to his spiritual development and he was unable to break free from it.

In what ways was the faith of the rich young ruler weak?

He didn't recognize that Jesus was the Son of God, not just another teacher or famous and successful person.

He did not understand the true nature of eternal life and how it is not something we obtain by our efforts but is granted by God through faith. By asking what good deed he must do to inherit eternal life, he demonstrated that he relied on a "works" system of salvation.

Jesus' response concerning what the young man lacked got to the point of the young man's attitude (heart). His faith was in himself (being able to do what was necessary to be saved) instead of faith in Jesus who would do what he needed for his salvation (vicarious atonement).

In what ways was the young man's view of his spiritual condition distorted and what is the danger for us?

He thought that by keeping the law, he would earn eternal life. His response that he had kept the law perfectly was flawed in itself. He did not recognize the sin in his life and the error in his thinking. One can almost hear the pride in his voice as he offered the response that he had kept all the law, what more is there? Perhaps he was hoping for Jesus to respond by saying, "You've done enough." In a same way, we face the danger today if we feel our dedicated service is enough to make us pleasing to God. We are to serve in every way we can so as to bring glory to God. But remember, as Paul states in Ephesians 2:8-10, we're saved by God's grace through faith.

Another critical verse to remember is found in Luke 17:7-10, when we've done all that the master has commanded, we are still unworthy servants doing only what is our duty.

2. Summarize the passage spoken by Jesus in Matthew 19:23-26 and discuss how it applies to us.

Jesus states that relying on riches makes it difficult to have the humility necessary to submit to our Lord. He draws the contrast between worldliness and the Kingdom. Riches don't prevent entry into the Kingdom unless that is what one relies on. Whether one is physically rich or poor is of no eternal consequence. Both conditions can lead to separation from God if the condition comes between us and obedience.

3. Summarize Matthew 19:27-30 in light of other scriptures on the importance of humility and discuss how it applies to us.

Humility is a character not only asked of us by God but demonstrated by Jesus (See Matthew 5:3). He humbly submitted to serving from His birth to even the present time as He presents us before God. Without humility, we are like the rich young ruler, relying on self rather than on God for salvation.

God's blessings will be there for those who willingly give up everything to submit to God. When we do so, we show our faith in God's promise. Some who are considered great(first) because of their wealth and power will be brought down. Some considered lowly because of their physical poverty and lack of power will be exalted. See also Psalm 138:6, Proverbs 3:34, Proverbs 29:23; Isaiah 54:7-8; Matthew 23:12; James 4:6; I Peter 5:5.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

The key elements in our relationship and standing before God are our humility and faith. It is not our riches, power or status that represent God in our lives. These things are mankind's understanding concerning the nature of blessings and acceptance before God. In reality, these things are fleeting. In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus teaches us about the value of laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven. These are not physical treasures, but the humble obedience to God we present as acceptable gifts to Him.

Never forget that to God, we are a great treasure. We are treasured so much that He gave Jesus to die for our sins. His only demand is that we obey Him willingly and lovingly. It is something all of us are capable of doing no matter our physical wealth, status or power.

Lesson #10 - The King's House

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is to review the final period of Jesus' ministry as He enters Jerusalem. Of special note in this lesson are the actions Jesus took in the first part of His final week of ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the relationship between the activities of Jesus during His final week and prophecies.
- **Feel:** Defend Jesus as the Messiah sent to save us from sin.
- **Do:** Life faithfully as Jesus commands.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 10 – The King's House
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 10

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Jesus and the First visit to the temple
 - 1.1 The coming
 - 1.2 The cleansing
 - 1.3 The cursing
- 2.0 Jesus and the second visit to the temple
 - 2.1 Challenge from the priest and elders
 - 2.2 Parables and teachings
 - 2.3 Challenge of the Pharisees and Sadducees
- 3.0 The final rebuke
- 4.0 Lessons

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What role or importance was the Temple to the Jews?

It was a symbol of the seat of God's power. It was seen as God's dwelling place among the Jews. It was also the center where they practiced their faith and was intended to prepare the people for their Savior. Ironically, Jesus visited the Temple on several occasions, especially during the last week of His ministry and was not recognized as the Savior in spite of the miracles and teachings He gave in answer to prophecy. The blindness of the Jewish leaders was staggering but we too must be careful to avoid their mistakes and recognize Jesus' true identity and respond accordingly.

2. Summarize the events and their impact from Matthew 21:1-11.

Jesus directs the apostles to obtain a young donkey for His entry into Jerusalem. He tells them where to find it and guides them in what they are to do and say. Jesus then rides upon the young donkey into Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd. He is taking this action to demonstrate the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the arrival of the Messiah.

3. Summarize Matthew 21:12-17 and discuss its symbolism.

Upon His arrival, Jesus enters the temple and sees the money changers and those selling doves for sacrifices. He becomes angry and drives them from the temple. Also, some come to Him for healing. The chief priests and scribes see all of this and recognize what is happening. Instead of accepting Jesus, they challenge Him. Jesus departs the temple for Bethany where He spends the night.

The significance of this is that despite the fact that Jesus continues to witness His identity through miracles, teaching and the clear fulfillment of prophecy, the Jewish leaders continue to reject both Him and His claims.

4. Summarize the events from Matthew 21:18-22 and discuss their symbolism.

Jesus returns to the city. Along the way he sees a fig tree that is not producing fruit. He uses this as an object lesson about faith. This event symbolizes what is taking place between Jesus and those that reject Him. He is showing that it is the right time to save His people but is rejected by those who should be supporting Him.

5. What was the challenge to Jesus in Matthew 21:23-27.

The challenge was to the legitimacy of Jesus to teach. He did not possess the acceptable credentials required for religious teachers and leaders in that society. Note, these credentials were man-made and not from God. Jesus responded to their challenge with the statement that John the Baptist was accepted without their standards of credentials and that He possessed the same and even greater powers than John in that the Baptist was a powerful preacher (as was Jesus) but the Baptist did no miracles but Jesus performed many. This stopped the challenge from the religious leaders for the time.

6. Explain the meaning behind the following parables and teachings from Matthew 21:28-22:14.

The parable of the two sons (21:28-32)

In this parable, Jesus is teaching about true obedience.

The parable of the landowner (21:33-46)

In this parable Jesus is teaching about what will happen to those that reject Him. This enrages the Jewish leaders because they recognize that He is directing the teaching towards them and in their anger, they begin to plot His death.

The parable of the marriage feast (22:1-14)

In this parable Jesus teaches that the Kingdom was offered first to the Jews. They rejected Him so it will be offered to Gentiles.

7. Read the following interactions with Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders and discuss what the issue was and how it applies to us.

- **Matthew 22:15-22** – Jesus teaches that we are to focus on spiritual matters above earthly matters. We do obey earthly laws, but first we give our allegiance and obedience to God.
- **Matthew 22:23-33** – The Sadducees challenged Jesus about the resurrection. They did not believe in it so they sought to trap Jesus with an answer. Jesus' response shows their misunderstanding of scripture.
- **Matthew 22:34-36** – The Pharisees ask of Jesus what is the greatest commands in the Law. This is a test of ongoing issues and disagreements among the religious leaders. It is a test of Jesus' knowledge, and perhaps political leanings. They sought to embarrass Jesus and their rivals. Jesus answered with what is actually the standard for judgement: our demonstrated love for God and for our neighbor. All other laws come from these.

8. What was the rebuke from Jesus in Matthew 23:1-39 and how does it apply to us?

Jesus rebukes the religious leaders and teachers for not preparing the people for His arrival. He delivers seven severe condemnations of them placing the responsibility for the people's ignorance directly on them.

As leaders and teachers in the Church today, we must take heed to ensure that we are properly preparing ourselves and others for the second and final coming of our Lord. Each of us must exercise our faithfulness by teaching others the gospel and the need to be faithful until the end.

9. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem and the events there were deliberate. The people were spiritually unprepared for Him to arrive and failed to recognize Him. As a result, they missed the blessing of Jesus in their presence.

One day Jesus will return (Acts 1:10-11). We must be vigilant (not complacent) and ready. If we are, then we will receive the blessing of being called into the presence of God for eternity. If not, then we will be cast out from the presence of God forever.

Lesson #11 - The King's Judgement

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on final judgment as taught by Jesus. Of special note in this lesson is on the three views of judgment presented in Matthew 24 and 25 and what our view should be as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand Jesus' teachings on final judgment.
- **Feel:** Defend the view that Jesus wants us to be prepared for judgment.
- **Do:** Demonstrate preparedness for judgment by living faithfully to the teachings of Jesus.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 11 – The King's Judgment
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 11

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 Proof of Jesus as our King
- 2.0 The three views from Matthew
 - 2.1 Panoramic view - vs. 4-14
 - 2.2 Telescopic to Jerusalem– vs. 15-35
 - 2.3 Telescopic to the second coming – vs. 36-44
- 3.0 Exhortation to vigilance
- 4.0 Judgment scene
- 5.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. What indicators from Matthew's gospel portray Jesus as our King?

Answers will vary but look for responses that include:

- The events of His birth (proclamation, worship received, etc.)
- The witness received from God the Father, the Holy Spirit and John the Baptist at Jesus' baptism.
- His defeat of Satan's temptations.
- His power over disease, infirmity, death and sin through His miracles.
- His teaching from a position of personal authority, ("You've heard it said...But I say").

2. Describe the three views from Matthew 24:4-44.

(Note: This is from the text and video supporting this lesson.)

- **Matthew 24:4-14 – A panoramic view** – A wide view of world history including the destruction of the temple and time afterwards and the period when he will return.
- **Matthew 24:15-35– A telescopic view to Jerusalem** – Jesus sets His focus on an event that happened in AD 70.
- **Matthew 24:36-44 – A telescopic view to the second coming** – Jesus shifts focus to His return at the end of days, including judgment.

3. Describe key elements of the panoramic view given by Jesus.

They are to be aware of false teachers claiming to be the Christ and false prophets claiming the end is near. We are to be aware of events and flow of history that will continue until His second coming. Jesus promises salvation to the faithful.

4. Describe key elements of the telescopic view of the fall of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem will fall. We know from history that prior to AD 70, the Jews were fomenting unrest. Rome sent in soldiers to quell the rebellion. After more than 4 years of siege, Jerusalem fell to the Romans in AD 70. This marked the end of the Jewish religion. During this time the temple was desecrated as Daniel prophesied in Daniel 11:31, 12:11. However, Jesus warns that as devastating as the destruction of Jerusalem was to be, it was not a sign of His return as false teachers and prophets would claim.

5. Describe the key elements of the telescopic view of the second coming of Christ.

In verses 36-44 Jesus makes the contrast of the destruction of Jerusalem with the second coming at the end of the world. No one knows the time, not even Jesus while He was with His disciples. There will not be cataclysmic signs (or “rapture”) and all will seem normal. When Jesus comes, the faithful will be prepared and will be taken with Jesus. Disbelievers and unfaithful will be removed from the presence of God forever.

6. Explain the concept behind each of the following parables and how they relate to our preparedness for Jesus’ return.

- **The evil slave – 24:45-51** – do not presume the luxury of sinning because judgment is far away. It will come at any time and judgment is sure for the unfaithful.
- **The 10 virgins – 25:1-13** – A warning about the foolishness of not being ready.
- **The talents – Matthew 25:14-30** – A warning for those in the Kingdom who fail in the mission to expand the borders of God’s Kingdom. In short, God demands our best and will not reward mediocrity.

7. How does Jesus portray the judgment scene and how does it relate to Matthew 22:37-40?

In the climax of Jesus' teaching, he gives insight into who God considers righteousness. It is seen through how we express our love for God and for our neighbor. Those that are faithful will demonstrate their love to God in how they care for others. **Note:** Each of the activities Jesus describes are within the capabilities of each of us. Also note, the Jesus is describing through these actions an attitude of love. This love for God and neighbor is what Jesus described in Matthew 22:37-40 as the two greatest commands.

8. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

The overarching theme of Jesus' words are to be ready. We are to live now as obedient, loving, and faithful servants beginning with our obedience to His will for our salvation

Lesson #12 - The King's Victory

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the key activities recorded by Matthew of the final period of time in the earthly ministry of Jesus. Of special note in this lesson is how they show our Lord's awareness of His mission to secure our salvation. **Note:** Questions and thoughts come from the text associated with this class. Teachers and students should read the biblical references and associated text before class to facilitate discussion and understanding.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand how the final period of Jesus' ministry on earth brought salvation to mankind.
- **Feel:** Appreciate the sacrifice made by our Lord as He purchased our salvation.
- **Do:** Demonstrate appreciation for our Lord's sacrifice by living faithfully to His teachings.

Support

- Series – The King and His Kingdom (Mike Mazzalongo 2015)
- Video – Lesson 12 – The King's Victory
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 12

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 The passion in Matthew
 - 1.1 The final hours
 - 1.2 The trials
 - 1.3 The crucifixion and burial
- 2.0 The resurrection
- 3.0 The commission
- 4.0 Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as "right or wrong" responses.

1. Describe the scenes from Matthew 26:1-56 and their symbolism.

The anointing – The woman anointing Jesus feet humbly recognizes Jesus as Lord and shows her devotion (see also Isaiah 52:7).

The Lord's Supper – Jesus pauses during this sacred period to teach about His sacrifice using bread and wine. This moment continues today as we are reminded each week of His love. **Note:** Consider drawing the link between the original Passover and this final Passover where Jesus becomes the sacrificial lamb.

Gethsemane – The third key event was the intense prayer of Jesus as he prepared Himself for the suffering and separation from God that was to come. **Note:** Consider asking students to identify key concepts or components of the prayer such as “not my will but thine.” Use this to show that Jesus was well aware of what was to transpire but because of His love for the Father and for us, continued on with His mission to secure our salvation.

2. Describe the trials of Jesus as He moved toward His death.

The trial before Caiaphas – This illegal trial was an attempt to have Jesus blaspheme or implicate himself. Jesus does not give the Jews true grounds for the charges. They relied on false charges and accusers.

The trial before Pilate – Since the Jews could not legally put Jesus to death, they needed the cover of the Roman government. Pilate finds no grounds for punishment but eventually gives in to their demands. **Note:** There was no credible evidence of sin in either trial, but especially this trial. Also note that those screaming for His crucifixion had just days before hailed Him as the deliverer as He entered Jerusalem.

3. Summarize the following events from Matthew's account:

The crucifixion – Once handed over to the Romans for crucifixion, Jesus is tortured and forced to carry His cross. After an intense period of time on the cross, Jesus finally submits to death but not before realizing He was separated from God for the first time in eternity (see vs. 46). The torture and death were horrible beyond our understanding, but the separation from God was the greatest pain.

The resurrection – True to His statement, Jesus rose from the dead after three days in the grave. Neither death, stone boulders nor guards could keep Him from concluding His mission and the defeat of death. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary found the tomb empty. They tell the disciples who rush to find for themselves the truth of the resurrection. They meet Jesus who tells them to tell the others of the great event and that He will appear to them in Galilee. Guards report what had taken place. They were told to lie about the event to cover it up.

The commission – As Jesus ends the time with His disciples after His resurrection, He tells them to make disciples for Him by baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all He has commanded them. This continues to be our charge and how we demonstrate faithfulness to Jesus today.

4. How did the apostles carry out the commission and how do we do so today?

Although they didn't understand it at the time, the disciples did as Jesus instructed by returning to Jerusalem to await the Holy Spirit. As we read in the early chapters of Acts, they continued to faithfully anticipate Jesus' return. Then as happened in Acts, they received the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and began to teach Jesus to all. Later, as persecution began (Acts 8), they remained in Jerusalem while the believers were scattered. Those scattered carried the good news of Jesus with them.

The same process continues today. We have the writings of the New Testament authors to teach us faithfulness and to help others discover and accept Jesus.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

We must show our faith by becoming disciples of Jesus, growing spiritually in our faith (II Peter 3:18), and teaching others about Christ and living a full life of faith until the end. In doing so we show Jesus as our King, respond to His authority, carry His message to a starving world and live faithfully until His return.

Friends, in all things, we give God the praise and glory for His love for us as shown through the ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

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