

Matthew 10-12



Harvest
Time



KIAMA ANGLICAN
CHURCHES

**Acts 10:38 ... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power,
and how he went around doing good
and healing all who were under
the power of the devil,
because God was with him.**

HARVEST TIME

Part 1: Studies 1-5

Program

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Sun 2 Feb	1	Lord of the Harvest	9:35-38	6
Sun 9 Feb	2	Workers in the Harvest	10:1-23	8
Sun 16 Feb	3	Harvest Priorities	10:24-42	10
Sun 23 Feb	4	Harvest Doubts	11:1-19	12
Sun 1 Mar	5	Harvest Consequences	11:20-30	14
Sun 8 Mar	6	Harvest Lord	12:1-14	9
Sun 15 Mar	7	Harvest Servant	12:15-21	10
Sun 22 Mar	8	Harvest Slander	12:22-37	11
Sun 29 Mar	9	Harvest Sign	12:38-45	12
Sun 5 Apr	10	Harvest Relationships	12:46-50	13

This set of studies will come out in two parts.

Studies 5-10 will be published in due time.

REFERENCE BOOKS

Wilkins, Michael J. Matthew (NIV Application Commentary) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2004). *Excellent exposition and application sections.*

France, R.T. Matthew (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries) (IVP, Leicester, 1985). *One of the standards.*

Blomberg, C. Matthew (The New American Commentary) (Nashville, B&H Publishing, 1992) (*Semi-technical but very helpful insights.*)

In addition, this is a more technical commentary but regarded as the best: Carson D.A. "Matthew" in Expositors Bible Commentary (Revised) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010)

And another technical but very helpful one:

Osborne, G. R. Matthew (Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2010).

MATTHEW 9:35-12:50

Introduction

In Matthew 13:52 *He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law (Scribe) who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."*

In his book on Matthew Patrick Schreiner[#] argues that Matthew in writing his Gospel is acting as a Scribe (teacher of the law) who is pointing people to the kingdom message of Jesus and showing his readers the new treasures of Jesus' life and teachings while seeing them in the context of the 'old' treasures of God's dealings with Israel.

In these studies, we delve with Jesus (and Matthew) into the nature of kingdom ministry and the importance of right response to the gospel.

As we study these 10 sections of the scripture I trust that you see the great treasure that Jesus brings with the good news he preaches and will continue to see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly*.

Greg Holmes,

February 2020

Matthew 11:2-6 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

[#] Schreiner, P., *Matthew, Disciple and Scribe*. (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2019).

* From St Richard of Chichester (13thC) or 'Godspell' depending on your generation.

Study 1: Matthew 9:35-38

Lord of the Harvest

Before You Start

What have we learned about Jesus from our studies in Matthew so far?

Listen Carefully to Matthew 9:35-38

The Text

1. What has Jesus been accused of being in the previous passage (9:34)?
2. What had he been doing in the time before that that provokes such a response?
3. What is Jesus' response to the accusation?
4. What challenges does he bring before the disciples?

Connections

1. What is Jesus' motivation for his actions (note v36)?

2. What does 'sheep without a shepherd' imply about Israel?
(Note Ezekiel 34:1-15.)

3. A plentiful harvest, harassed and helpless people in need of a shepherd, few workers - is this what we see today?

4. What is a right 21stC response?

Impact

1. To whom should we turn for the first answer to this situation?

2. Commit yourself to praying for the harvest in Kiama every day next week!

To Think About.

If Matthew is the 'teacher of the law' who brings out 'new treasures as well as old' (Matthew 13:52), what here is new and what references to the 'old' can you see?

Study 2: Matthew 10:1-23

Workers in the Harvest

Before You Start

Discuss what part you are playing in the 'harvest'?

Listen Carefully to Matthew 10:1-23

The Text

1. Why list the 12 apostles here? Which ones get a comment? Why?
2. What authority are the apostles given? What is their task? (Note v1 and v7-8)
3. What preparations are they to make? What difficulties will they face? What is to be their attitude to the difficulties?
4. What is the message they take?

Connections

1. V6 "Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel" Why them and not the gentiles or Samaritans (v5)? Note also Matthew 28:18-20.

2. What are they to do when they are opposed? When brought before rulers? When betrayed?

3. Sheep, Wolves, Snakes, Doves!!! What does verse 16 mean?

4. What do you think Jesus is referring to in v23?

Impact

1. As you witness for Jesus what assurance do you gain from v19-20?

2. How do you think the disciples felt?

To Think About.

If Matthew is the 'teacher of the law' who brings out 'new treasures as well as old' (Matthew 13:52), what here is new and what references to the 'old' can you see?

Study 3: Matthew 10:24-42

Harvest Priorities.

Before You Start

What is it that keeps you from witnessing for Jesus?

Listen Carefully to Matthew 10:24-42

The Text

1. Review the sort of reception Jesus says his disciples will get in v5-23.
2. What warnings does Jesus give to his disciples in this passage?
3. What encouragements?
4. From v34-36 what has Jesus come to bring? If Jesus really is the prince of peace what does this mean?

Connections

1. Read 10:24-26 and note 9v34. What is Jesus saying about the nature of the task that he has sent them out with?

2. How do we heed the warning of 10:32-33? Remember our God is a God of forgiveness and grace?

3. What do verses 37-39 say to us about our allegiances?

4. What encouragement for our mission are the words v40-42?

Impact

1. Tom Wright maintains that “Don’t be afraid” is the most repeated command in the Bible (here in v26, 28 and 31 and Matthew 1:20; 28:5; 28:10). What should that mean to us?

2. Read Matthew 28:16-20. How does this command relate to us?

If Matthew is the ‘teacher of the law’ who brings out ‘new treasures as well as old’ (Matthew 13:52), what here is new and what references to the ‘old’ can you see?

Study 4: Matthew 11:1-19

Harvest Doubts

Before You Start

Is it OK to have doubts about who Jesus is and what he has done?

Listen Carefully to Matthew 11:1-19

The Text

1. What does Jesus do after finishing his instructions to the disciples? Where does he do this?
2. Who sends to Jesus to ask if he is the 'one'? What is Jesus' answer?
3. What does Jesus say about John the Baptist?
Note Matthew 3:1-12.
4. What are verses 16-19 saying about Jesus and the reactions to him?

Connections

1. In verse 5 what does Jesus refer John's disciples to? Where should they look for further information?

2. What is the importance of John the Baptist?
Again note 3:1-12 and 4:12 and 14:3-12.

3. Verse 15 tells us to listen very carefully, so what is Jesus saying in v11-14?

4. What is Jesus using this discussion about John the Baptist to say about himself?

Impact

1. How do we cultivate 'ears to hear'?

2. Does the description: "here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" sit well with you as a description of the Lord Jesus? Why? Why Not?

If Matthew is the 'teacher of the law' who brings out 'new treasures as well as old' (Matthew 13:52), what here is new and what references to the 'old' can you see?

Study 5: Matthew 11:20-30

Harvest Consequences

Before You Start

What do you say to people who maintain all religions lead to God?

Listen Carefully to Matthew 11:20-30

The Text

1. In 11:20-24 what does Jesus say about those who reject him? What does he compare them to?
2. Read verses 25-26. Who can truly appreciate Jesus' mission and what he offers them?
3. In verse 27, who is the one who knows (and communicates) the hidden things?
4. What does Jesus promise instead of woes in verses 28-30?

Connections

1. What cities does Jesus speak his 'woes' on? Where are they? What do we know about Sodom, Tyre, and Sidon? Why does Jesus choose these towns?

2. Note v27 and then look at John 13:6, 8-11. What are these saying about Jesus?

3. How do verses 28-30 relate to the previous paragraphs we have been looking at?

4. Jesus and then the epistles speak fairly often of hidden things. Look at Deuteronomy 29:29; 1 Corinthians 4:12:6-10; Ephesians 1:9; 3:1-6. Where do we find the revelation of these things?

Impact

1. Does the harshness of Jesus' words in v20-24 surprise you? Why? What do these verses say to our society?

2. Do you find Jesus' yoke to be easy and the burden of serving him light? What is the paradox here?

If Matthew is the 'teacher of the law' who brings out 'new treasures as well as old' (Matthew 13:52), what here is new and what references to the 'old' can you see?