

[The Global Christ-based Headquarters:](#)

Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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--You'll find the formatting change as the commentary moves beyond 1/2014--

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Matthew

C16 Vss 1-28 Again we see those who look for signs (See Matt. 12:39-40). Jesus warns the disciples to be aware of the Pharisee's condition as liars and hypocrites. Jesus was speaking in metaphors and we learn from Him that we need to understand how He teaches. He uses metaphors. They understood what leavening action does to bread. They took Jesus too literally. This is a problem for anyone who does not consider all the methodology Jesus uses to reach people (7-11).

Jesus ask the question that every believer must answer. Who do you say that I am. These followers (disciples) continue to learn about Jesus. Remember they were only called to follow Him as any believer and to learn about Jesus. Peter responds, "the Messiah, Son of the living God" (14-16). Only God reveals this truth.

The keys of the kingdom always mean the authority to govern, control, or administrate. By extension today the Church is allowed or given permission to adjudicate its affairs. But it is limited to the framework that God has given (18-19).

Peter reprimands Jesus for saying He would be killed. Then these incredible words, "you are only seeing things only from a human point of view." Jesus called it a trap.

C17-19

C17 Vss 1-27 What an extraordinary experience when Jesus was transfigured. This is the point. Believers have extraordinary experiences in Christ. We have the experiences when it is as if we can hear the voice of the Father as they did literally (1-6). Jesus gives the writing disciples instructions not to say anything until after He is resurrected. He tells them but they don't understand (9).

The disciples, still learning could not exorcise a demonic. Jesus' answer demonstrates the need for daily prayer and regular fasting. Persons need spiritual muscle with many circumstances. These youngsters did not realize the importance of being persons in daily fellowship with The Lord (14-20). Matthews account uses the term "faith" as what

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they lacked. But other writers identified the lack of faith by their poor prayer-life (14-20).

Jesus continues throughout His ministry to let His disciples know His destination with death. He came to die like a choice animal prepared for sacrifice (22).

Jesus always knows the issues before we call upon Him, but will we call and He honors the tax system. We see these truths on the temple tax experience. The point is to be lawful so there won't be issues presented as obstacles to ministry. There would be times when presenting the word was the issue. Therefore it is important to mitigate other hindrances. Pay taxes (24-27). The Lord will make a way.

C18 Vss 1-35. The "who is the greatest in the kingdom" is an ego issue that confronts everyone. But each believer must listen and make Jesus' answer a reality. Humility as an objective is far more godly than seeking who is going to be the greatest. Interestingly, Jesus connects the question with causing people to stumble (1-6). Today, the monarch or king leader mentality with the rich and posh treatment is a major stumbling block. It creates "who is the greatest" copycats, and largely presents a poor impression of the faith. Literally, Jesus is talking about having the appropriate perspective of children while he also addresses a sober perspective of ourselves among fellow believers (7-10).

Concerning the lost sheep, Luke did a more extensive presentation (Luke 15).

Jesus recognized the need for correcting interpersonal issues. The offended goes to the offender. If there is acceptance great. If not other witnessed should be invited. If there is still no acceptance the matter is taken before the church. The church is always understood as persons with a record of faithfulness. There's no such thing as placing matters before people who do not have a complete commitment to the church. The church at the time were persons in the community residing daily. Nothing is more unfortunate than to have a critical decision decided by persons who are on a local church's membership rolls (15-19).

One of the most misunderstood text concerning forgiveness is in Matthew's version of forgiveness. Although the question concerns how often a person should be forgiven, the subsequent parable concerns the size of the debt or sin. This incongruence depends on Luke to give the clarity concerning forgiveness where repentance is required (21-27, See Luke 17:14).

C19 Vss 1-18. Jesus revisits the matter of divorce. This was addressed in Chapter 4. Here his disciples see Jesus' perspective as extremely difficult. They reasoned it was not good to get married . Jesus Parable of the Eunuchs is clear and infers the disciple would still be involved in sex. Figuratively, they needed to be as Eunuchs who had no sexual genitalia if they were going to serve the kingdom of a God.

Now this is where it is clear that Jesus previous discussion concerning children was more figurative addressing all believers and focused on the "who is greater" mentality.

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It is a stumbling block (Matthew 18). Here Jesus is literally talking about children and not simply the spirit of children that adult leaders need to have (13-14).

The rich have no special place with The Lord because of their riches.

He was not ready or willing to give all. His riches prevented him. However, one does not have to be rich to have a similar problem.

The disciples thought it was impossible if the rich could not make it. Jesus reply is another keeper. Nothing is impossible with God (25-30).

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