

STREETLIGHTS

NEW TESTAMENT

THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT



NLT®



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THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT



TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS

CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

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THE INTRO



WHAT'S UP!

WELCOME TO THE STREETLIGHTS FAMILY.

If you find yourself opening this New Testament and reading this note, then you're in a good spot.

Your life may not be anywhere near perfect. Even holding this Bible may seem a little weird or foreign to your experience. But you're in a good spot because you've received a gift. The Word of God is a gift for anyone who reads or listens to it—and more importantly, so is the person it paints a picture of: Jesus Christ.

All of us at Streetlights know this because God has changed each one of our lives through the Bible. We understand the Good News of Jesus and have personally received forgiveness and new life because we've heard the gospel through God's Word.

WHO IS GOD? WHO AM I? WHAT DO I DO?

God's Word is what He's given us so we can come to know who He is, who we are, and what to do about it. By reading and listening to the Bible, we can understand how to have a relationship with our creator. God gave us His Word through real people as they were walking through their world, which, like ours, was filled with all kinds of brokenness.

But the teaching—or unfolding—of God's Word gives light (see Psalm 119:130). God's Word is the light that can overcome the darkness all of us have experienced and the darkness we still feel, see around us, and—let's be real—sense in our own personal, private lives. God's Word is like a streetlight guiding us through the city: Its purpose is to shine on every corner so people can see in a place that would otherwise be covered in darkness. God knows the spiritual darkness we all live in, and He doesn't want us to stay in that darkness anymore. So out of His deep love for us, He has given us His Word.

WHY CREATE ANOTHER EDITION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

We created the *Streetlights New Testament* because we want to help you read, listen to, and take in the message that God has for you. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us—He Himself is the light in this dark world. From beginning to end, God's Word points to Jesus.

The only way to cut through all the misconceptions about the Bible is to listen to, read, and study it yourself. God promises to help you hear from Him as you do those things. Our purpose in giving you this gift is no more complex than this: We want you to get to know who Jesus is and receive the new life He wants to give you by faith. Then we want you to grow in His truth and live it out daily in love for God and other people.

SPECIAL TOOLS & FEATURES

We made a few tools to help you intentionally dig into God's Word. Take a look.



Streetlights Audio Bible App

Connect with the New Testament by listening to the Streetlights Audio Bible. One scan with your phone's or tablet's camera will take you directly to the audio album of the book of the Bible you want to hear. The gospel of Jesus is freely given, so we freely give. Streetlights is supported entirely by the generosity of others, so the app is available at no cost.



Corner Talk Devotionals

The Corner Talk devotionals break down the answers to three big questions about the chapters you're reading in the Bible: "Who is God?," "Who am I?," and "What do I do?" These features help you study on the go and explore the timeless truth of God's Word, given not just for the people who originally received it but also for you today. Scan the page with your phone's or tablet's camera, and it will take you to the Corner Talk devotional videos online.



Profiles & Portraits

The Bible is composed of real-life stories of God interacting with real people. The things you read about here happened a long time ago, but they are mirrors for us in many ways. The profiles you'll find in these pages cover a span of biblical people and highlight truths we can all learn from in our present day. Scan each one with your phone's or tablet's camera, and it will transport you to our fresh street-art profiles and lessons online.



Quick Overview of Each Bible Book

The books of the Bible were written by and to specific people in the contexts of their own neighborhoods, lives, and issues. Check out these introductions to get to know the background of each book before reading or listening to it.

Let God speak to you. That's our prayer!

As you read this New Testament, take advantage of every QR code, every feature written to connect ancient people to our modern-day lives, and every lesson intended to help you understand what God is saying through His Word. We pray that whether you read or listen, whether you study solo or in a group, and whether you are cracking the Bible open for the first time or the millionth time, God will speak to you and show you how much He loves you.

Trust us: When you come to know the light, your life and eternity will be changed! Jesus said it best: "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12). We have experienced this ourselves, and we created every audio track, video, and written lesson so that you, too, can know the Light of the World!



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A NOTE TO READERS

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, was first published in 1996. It quickly became one of the most popular Bible translations in the English-speaking world. While the NLT's influence was rapidly growing, the Bible Translation Committee determined that an additional investment in scholarly review and text refinement could make it even better. So shortly after its initial publication, the committee began an eight-year process with the purpose of increasing the level of the NLT's precision without sacrificing its easy-to-understand quality. This second-generation text was completed in 2004, with minor changes subsequently introduced in 2007, 2013, and 2015.


The goal of any Bible translation is to convey the meaning and content of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts as accurately as possible to contemporary readers. The challenge for our translators was to create a text that would communicate as clearly and powerfully to today's readers as the original texts did to readers and listeners in the ancient biblical world. The resulting translation is easy to read and understand, while also accurately communicating the meaning and content of the original biblical texts. The NLT is a general-purpose text especially good for study, devotional reading, and reading aloud in worship services.

We believe that the New Living Translation—which combines the latest biblical scholarship with a clear, dynamic writing style—will communicate God's word powerfully to all who read it. We publish it with the prayer that God will use it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world in a fresh, new way.

The Publishers

A full introduction to the NLT can be found at tyndale.com/nlt/process.

A complete list of the translators can be found at tyndale.com/nlt/scholars.



THEN JESUS SAID, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

MATTHEW 11:28-30





THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Who wrote it and why?

Matthew was a tax collector (a person in society people typically did not like) whom Jesus befriended and called to a life of justice and obedience (Matthew 9:9). Matthew became one of Jesus' twelve apostles. Matthew's Gospel stresses Jesus' call to men and women to be baptized, to follow Him as disciples, to obey His teachings, and to enjoy fellowship with Him (Matthew 28: 19-20).

WHO

Who received it first?

Unlike the letters of Paul or the Revelation of John, the settings of the Gospels must be inferred from comments and emphases within the books themselves since direct evidence is unavailable (see the clues in Matthew 24: 15, 27:46, and 28: 15, for example).

Matthew appears to have been written at a time when Christians and Jews were fiercely debating lots of issues: How should the law be obeyed? Who is the Messiah? Who are the true people of God—Israel or the church (see Matthew 21:33-46)? Who are the rightful leaders of God's people? How are the Gentiles related to the church and to Israel? There is serious debate as to whether Matthew's Gospel sprang from a community that was still within Judaism or one that was already outside Judaism. (In discussing this topic, scholars examine the following passages: Matthew 2: 1-12; 4:12-16; 8:5-13; 10:5-6; 15:21-28; 17:24-27; 19:28; 21:43; 22:7; 23: 1-39.)

WHAT

Quick Summary

Matthew demonstrates that Jesus of Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah, the King of Israel, who fulfills the Old Testament promises. The Gospel of Matthew shows how both Jewish and non-Jewish people fit together in God's unfolding Kingdom. It challenges the reader to live with total commitment to Jesus Christ as King.

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death cast its shadow, a light has shined.”

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

MATTHEW 4:16-17

WHERE

Where did this happen?

Many today think that Matthew was first written at Antioch in Syria, which is more probable than any other proposed setting.

WHEN

When was Matthew written?

Matthew was probably written sometime between AD 65 and AD 80. Those who argue that Matthew used Mark's Gospel as a source usually date Matthew after AD 70; those who claim that it is independent tend to date it earlier. Some have suggested that Matthew's Gospel was written in the fifties AD.

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*Word-for-word Scripture read dynamically
over a hip-hop musical soundtrack*



The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

1 This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:

- ² Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.
- ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- ⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).
Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).
Obed was the father of Jesse.
- ⁶ Jesse was the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
- ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asa.
- ⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.
Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.
- ⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham.
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
- ¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.
Manasseh was the father of Amon.
Amon was the father of Josiah.
- ¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).
- ¹² After the Babylonian exile:
Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
- ¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.
Abiud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.
- ¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok.
Zadok was the father of Akim.
Akim was the father of Eliud.
- ¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.
Matthan was the father of Jacob.
- ¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Visitors from the East

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of
Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people
Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

¹⁶Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under; based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. ¹⁷Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A cry was heard in Ramah—
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted,
for they are dead.”

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰“Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹So Joseph got up and returned to the land

of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²²But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

⁴John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried

to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ²For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you.
And they will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot on a
stone.'"

⁷Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'"

⁸Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the LORD your God
and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

The Ministry of Jesus Begins

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. ¹³He went

first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan
River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles
live,

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where
death casts its shadow,
a light has shined."

¹⁷From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

The First Disciples

¹⁸One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ²⁰And they left their nets at once and followed him.

²¹A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. ²²They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Crowds Follow Jesus

²³Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ²⁴News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. ²⁵Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ²and he began to teach them.

PROFILE

SIMON PETER

MATTHEW 4

FOLLOW OR FAIL?

FOLLOW OR FAIL? OR FAIL AND KEEP FOLLOWING? Jesus' first words to the young man named Simon Peter were "Come, follow me" (Matthew 4: 19). His last words to him were also "Follow me" (John 21:22). And Jesus made Peter—a guy who failed a lot—one of the main leaders of the church after He went to heaven.

Every step of the way between those two challenges, Peter never failed to follow Jesus, even though he often stumbled. His denial of Jesus is one of the most epic failures described in Scripture, yet Jesus still restored him.

How about you? Will you continue to follow Jesus even when you fail, knowing that God gives you the grace to get back up and follow Him along the road of this Jesus walk?



Will you follow?

WE ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AS SIMON PETER. One moment we tell God, *I'm all in—I'll never deny you!* But the next moment, we fail Him. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He calls us even though He knows we can't uphold perfection like Him. And yet He still tells us, "Be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

So how do we keep following Jesus if we know we will inevitably fail? Our great hope is in the fact that God gives us His grace for our mistakes. He has made us perfect through faith in Him and is making us perfect as we continue in that faith. Meanwhile, His faithful hand is working in us in both our failures and our victories over sin. (Check out Romans 6, 7, and 8 when you get a chance.) God also gives us His Holy Spirit, His Word, and other Christians to teach us from our failures and help us continue to grow in becoming obedient, joyful followers of Jesus who desire to live as He did.

Peter continued to get up and follow Jesus—even after denying Him many times and stumbling in sin—because Jesus Himself picked him up and said, "Follow me" (John 21:22). Jesus will not deny us, and He always wants us to receive His grace and depend on Him to grow through every mistake and victory. Follow Him, and don't give in to failure or condemnation. Our perfect heavenly Father does not give up on His kids—Peter or you!

THINK & PRAY

The Beatitudes

- ³ "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.
- ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.
- ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.
- ⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.
- ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹²Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.

And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Teaching about Salt and Light

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

¹⁷"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the



Who is God?

MATTHEW 5

PERFECT

IN MATTHEW 5, we listen to Jesus breaking down God's way, God's Kingdom, and God's original desire for how life should work in our world and our lives. If you have read or listened to it, you may respond to many of His statements in two ways: (1) *That sounds like a better world!* or (2) *Wow, that sounds perfect . . . but I have failed in all those areas.*

Jesus ends the chapter with the words "But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven [God] is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). That seems like a tough standard to keep, or even think about keeping! Perfect? Like, love my enemies when they have hurt me? Don't ever lust? Never lash out when I'm angry? But the emphasis here is not simply on us. Jesus is emphasizing that *God* is perfect. He establishes that as impossible as it seems for us—broken people—to be perfect, God remains perfect. And this is still His desire for us. One of God's defining characteristics is that He is without flaw—perfect in every way.



same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”

Teaching about Anger

²¹“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ ²²But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

²³“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

²⁵“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.”

Teaching about Adultery

²⁷“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Teaching about Divorce

³¹“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ ³²But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

Teaching about Vows

³³“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ ³⁴But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God's throne. ³⁵And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won't.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

Teaching about Revenge

³⁸“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. ⁴⁰If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. ⁴¹If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. ⁴²Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

Teaching about Love for Enemies

⁴³“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Teaching about Giving to the Needy

6 “Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.



Who am I?

MATTHEW 5

IMPERFECT, BUT HOPEFUL

IF WE KEPT A LIST of all that Jesus lays out in Matthew 5 about God's perfect way, none of us could ever check off each element to perfection. Even if we wanted to, when we hear Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we see our real condition: We are imperfect. In other words, we fail to fulfill the desires God has for us. When Jesus shows us His perfect law—what it looks like to live without sin, without doing anything bad—we see that we are *all* sinners.

The crowd Jesus was speaking to was made up of all different kinds of people; some thought they were pretty perfect in God's eyes, others were ashamed and knew that they weren't, and others may not have thought too much about how God saw them at all. Here Jesus lays out the purpose of the perfect law of the Old Testament (think of the Ten Commandments): to show us that God the Father is perfect, that we are not, and yet that we can have hope.

That seems funny . . . hope? Yes, hope. Jesus says, "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish [destroy] the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets [the Old Testament]. No, I came to accomplish their purpose" (Matthew 5:17). Jesus was stating that He could keep the law, and through Him, imperfect people could be forgiven of their sin and seen as perfect again by their heavenly Father. We can have hope when we believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our faults! He came to save us from a checklist we couldn't keep.



Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

⁵“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,

¹² and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin
against us.

¹³ And don’t let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. ¹⁷But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Money and Possessions

¹⁹“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²²“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think

you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³²These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Do Not Judge Others

7 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ²For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

³“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

⁶“Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

Effective Prayer

⁷“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find.



What do I do?

MATTHEW 5

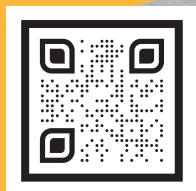
ADMIT & ACCEPT

HAVE YOU EVER held up a mirror to yourself and felt like you don't meet the standards of the way you want to look? Do you see flaws in yourself that you don't like? We often feel this way because we have an idea of what "perfect" is—and it's not us.

Now, that ideal is most likely flawed, but when God holds up His character in front of us like a mirror, it reveals that we actually do have a lot of glaring moral imperfections. For example, God is perfectly loving, while it can be very hard for us to love others above ourselves. God loves His enemies, but we tend to hate anyone who has done us wrong. God's desires are never selfish or lustful, but we have to fight our selfish desires on a daily basis in many different areas—lust, greed, trying to get our way, fighting for control, wanting to take center stage.

When Jesus holds up the mirror of His character to us in Matthew 5, we find ourselves genuinely saying, *Okay, Jesus, I get it. I cannot keep this perfect standard the heavenly Father has set for me. What do I do?*

Jesus wants us to be honest and admit who we really are. If you are sick and deny it, how can you ever get better? But if you humbly admit your need for God and accept the offer of His perfect Son, Jesus, to forgive you of your sins, He will make you perfect. (Yes, perfect!) Admitting and accepting that God is right and we are not is the first step to being made right with Him and fulfilling His desires for us.



Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

The Golden Rule

¹²“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

The Narrow Gate

¹³“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

The Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ¹⁹So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

True Disciples

²¹“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²²On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Building on a Solid Foundation

²⁴“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the

winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

8 Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. ²Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. “Lord,” the man said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”

³Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” And instantly the leprosy disappeared. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “Don’t tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

The Faith of a Roman Officer

⁵When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, ⁶“Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.”

⁷Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.”

⁸But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel! ¹¹And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹²But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹³Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has

happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Jesus Heals Many People

¹⁴When Jesus arrived at Peter’s house, Peter’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. ¹⁵But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him.

¹⁶That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. ¹⁷This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

“He took our sicknesses
and removed our diseases.”

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

²⁰But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”

²¹Another of his disciples said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

²²But Jesus told him, “Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead.”

Jesus Calms the Storm

²³Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. ²⁴Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

²⁶Jesus responded, “Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!” Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

²⁷The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked. “Even the winds and waves obey him!”

Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men

²⁸When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

²⁹They began screaming at him, “Why are

you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God’s appointed time?”

³⁰There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance. ³¹So the demons begged, “If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs.”

³²“All right, go!” Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

³³The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

9 Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ²Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.”

³But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, “That’s blasphemy! Does he think he’s God?”

⁴Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’? ⁶So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

⁷And the man jumped up and went home! ⁸Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?”

¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.”

PROFILE

MATTHEW

MATTHEW 9



THE GREATEST EXCHANGE

MATTHEW WAS A TAX COLLECTOR. In biblical times, being a tax collector meant being a shady individual. If you were a tax collector, you were seen as the scum of society. You were known to be crooked. Tax collectors served the Romans and took advantage of the Jews. This meant that from the outside, Matthew was not an ideal candidate to become a follower of God. Wouldn't Jesus choose only religious people, or at least people who had a good reputation? But Jesus called out to Matthew, "Follow me and be my disciple" (Matthew 9:9). And Matthew followed Him and never looked back. It's almost shocking how, in a moment, Matthew knew his need for Jesus and responded by following Him instantly. He left his messed-up way of making money and the thing that defined his identity, exchanging it for a new life and purpose with Jesus. He knew the one calling him was worth the exchange.



Which seat do you sit in— sick or blind?

MATTHEW KNEW HIS NEED FOR GOD. He heard Jesus' call and left everything to follow Him. The religious people of Matthew's day thought Jesus was crazy for making Matthew a disciple. In their opinion, he was scum! They couldn't believe Matthew was being given a chance to be made new. But Jesus cut through their pride with two powerful statements. First, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do" (Matthew 9:12). Second, "I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners" (Matthew 9:13). Jesus loves making people well when they humble themselves and follow Him. It's incredible to think that Matthew went from being the shady scum of society to the author of the Gospel we are reading now. But God transforms whoever will follow Him!

So which seat do you sit in? Are you like Matthew? Do you know your need for Jesus? Or are you like the religious leaders, who were blind to their need for Jesus because they thought they were righteous already? It's clear in Matthew 9:9-13 that those who admit they are spiritually sick sinners who need Jesus' new life will receive forgiveness and a new identity. But those who think they are well already, without Jesus' help, will remain in their self-righteous and sick spiritual state.

THINK & PRAY

¹³Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

A Discussion about Fasting

¹⁴One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, "Why don't your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

¹⁶"Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

¹⁷"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."

Jesus Heals in Response to Faith

¹⁸As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. "My daughter has just died," he said, "but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her."

¹⁹So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. ²⁰Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, ²¹for she thought, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed."

²²Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, "Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well." And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³When Jesus arrived at the official's home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. ²⁴"Get out!" he told them. "The girl isn't dead; she's only asleep." But the crowd laughed at him. ²⁵After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! ²⁶The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

Jesus Heals the Blind

²⁷After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

²⁸They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?"

"Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do."

²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." ³⁰Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't tell anyone about this." ³¹But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.

³²When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn't speak was brought to Jesus. ³³So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!" they exclaimed.

³⁴But the Pharisees said, "He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons."

The Need for Workers

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. ²Here are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon (also called Peter),
then Andrew (Peter's brother),
James (son of Zebedee),
John (James's brother),

³ Philip,
Bartholomew,
Thomas,
Matthew (the tax collector),
James (son of Alphaeus),
Thaddeus,

⁴ Simon (the zealot),
Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

⁵Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, ⁶but only to the people of Israel—God's lost sheep. ⁷Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

⁹"Don't take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. ¹⁰Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed.

¹¹"Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. ¹²When you enter the home, give it your blessing. ¹³If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. ¹⁴If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

¹⁶"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. ¹⁷But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. ¹⁸You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. ¹⁹When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. ²⁰For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹"A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. ²²And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.

²⁴"Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. ²⁵Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

²⁶"But don't be afraid of those who threaten

TYNDALE VERSE FINDER

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable for every word that we speak

MATTHEW 12:36 • *page 22*

Confronting others with their sins should be done in private

MATTHEW 18:15 • *page 29*

We should hold each other accountable

LUKE 17:3 • *page 102*

We are accountable for what we believe

JOHN 3:18 • *page 124*

God holds Christians accountable

ROMANS 14:11-12 • *page 224*

God will reward Christians for their good deeds

1 CORINTHIANS 3:8 • *page 231*

God will examine our actions

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 • *page 251*

ACCUSATIONS

Jesus was falsely accused

MATTHEW 26:59-60 • *page 41*

Christians' sins are forgiven

COLOSSIANS 1:22 • *page 290*

Accusations against church leaders must come from more than one person

1 TIMOTHY 5:19 • *page 315*

Satan is known as the Accuser

REVELATION 12:10 • *page 404*

ADOPTION, SPIRITUAL

God is our Father

MATTHEW 6:9 • *page 11*

Christians are God's children

JOHN 1:12 • *page 120*

God's Spirit leads His children

ROMANS 8:14-17 • *page 218*

Christians should be separate from the world

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-18 • *page 253*

All of God's children are equal in God's eyes

GALATIANS 3:28 • *page 263*

God's children will receive a spiritual inheritance

GALATIANS 4:4-7 • *page 263*

God chose us to be His children

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 • *page 268*

Jesus is our spiritual brother

HEBREWS 2:11 • *page 337*

ADULTERY

God considers lust as sinful as adultery

MATTHEW 5:27-28 • *page 9*

Divorce often leads to adultery

MARK 10:11-12 • *page 61*

God can forgive the adulterer

JOHN 8:1-11 • *page 140*

ADVICE

Give advice to those in need

1 THESSALONIANS 5:14 • *page 303*

ALCOHOL

Becoming drunk is sin

ROMANS 13:13-14 • *page 224*

God hates drunkenness

GALATIANS 5:19-21 • *page 264*

Church leaders should not be controlled by alcohol

TITUS 1:7 • *page 324*

ANGELS

Angels do not marry

MATTHEW 22:30 • *page 35*

Angels do not die

LUKE 20:36 • *page 111*

Angels will be judged by people

1 CORINTHIANS 6:3 • *page 233*

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14 • *page 257*

Angels encourage Christians

HEBREWS 1:14 • *page 333*

Angels who sinned were thrown into hell

2 PETER 2:4 • *page 366*

Angels are holy

JUDE 1:14 • *page 389*

Angels are in the presence of God

REVELATION 4:8 • *page 399*

Angels should not be worshipped

REVELATION 22:8-9 • *page 414*

ANGER

Anger is like murdering someone

MATTHEW 5:21-22 • *page 9*

Jesus grew angry at sin

JOHN 2:13-17 • *page 121*

Anger can give Satan a place in your life

EPHESIANS 4:26-27 • *page 274*

Christians should get rid of anger

COLOSSIANS 3:8 • *page 294*

Leaders in the church should not be quick-tempered

TITUS 1:7 • *page 324*

Be slow to become angry

JAMES 1:19 • *page 353*

ANTICHRIST

Many will claim to be God's messenger

MATTHEW 24:5 • *page 37*

Many will have miraculous powers

MATTHEW 24:24 • *page 37*

Many will claim to be Christ

LUKE 21:8 • *page 112*

The Antichrist will be lawless and deceitful

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-10 • *page 306*

There are many antichrists

1 JOHN 2:18 • *page 374*

The Antichrist will oppose God

1 JOHN 4:3 • *page 379*

The Antichrist will curse God

REVELATION 13:1-8 • *page 404*

The Antichrist will be punished by God

REVELATION 20:10 • *page 411*

APPEARANCE

Do not worry about clothes

MATTHEW 6:25-34 • *page 11*

Appearances can be deceiving

MATTHEW 23:27 • *page 36*

Christians should care more about their spiritual welfare than their physical appearance

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10 • *page 311*

Do not judge others by their appearance

JAMES 2:2-4 • *page 353*

Inner beauty is more important than physical beauty

1 PETER 3:1-6 • *page 361*

ARGUMENTS

Avoid arguing with a weak Christian

ROMANS 14:1 • *page 224*

We should avoid arguments

PHILIPPIANS 2:14 • *page 284*

Arguments between Christians are useless

TITUS 3:9 • *page 325*

ARMOR

Spiritual armor prepares us for life

ROMANS 13:12 • *page 224*

Righteousness is a spiritual weapon

2 CORINTHIANS 6:7 • *page 253*

God's weapons conquer Satan's strongholds

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 • *page 256*

Put on the armor of God

EPHESIANS 6:11-18 • *page 277*

ASSURANCE

False assurance is dangerous

LUKE 18:18-30 • *page 105*

We can be assured of eternal life

JOHN 5:24 • *page 133*

God will not refuse any who come to Him

JOHN 6:37-40 • *page 137*

Our place in God's family is secure

JOHN 10:27-28 • *page 143*

Christians have peace with God

ROMANS 5:1-5 • *page 213*

Nothing can separate us from God's love

ROMANS 8:35-39 • *page 220*

Salvation cannot be canceled

ROMANS 11:29 • *page 223*

Accountability should help others

GALATIANS 6:1 • *page 265*

Our salvation was guaranteed before Creation

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 • *page 268*

Assurance comes from faith

EPHESIANS 3:12 • *page 272*

God will guard what has been entrusted to Him

2 TIMOTHY 1:12 • *page 319*

ATONEMENT

Atonement is good news

LUKE 4:18-19 • *page 82*

Jesus willingly died for our sins

JOHN 10:17 • *page 143*

Christ secured salvation through His blood

ACTS 20:28 • *page 195*

Jesus provided the atonement for sins

ROMANS 3:23-25 • *page 212*

Jesus' death purchased forgiveness

1 CORINTHIANS 7:23 • *page 234*

Jesus died for sins

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 • *page 240*

Our atonement allows us to know God

EPHESIANS 2:13 • *page 272*

Jesus' death rescues us from eternal punishment

COLOSSIANS 1:13 • *page 290*

Christ's death purifies God's people

TITUS 2:14 • *page 324*

Sin requires that a sacrifice be made

HEBREWS 9:22 • *page 341*

Jesus' sacrifice was perfect

1 PETER 1:18-19 • *page 360*

Jesus took our punishment

1 PETER 2:21-24 • *page 361*

We cannot improve Jesus' sacrifice

1 PETER 3:18 • *page 362*

ATTITUDE

God will reward the humble

MATTHEW 5:5 • *page 7*

God gives Christians a new attitude

PHILIPPIANS 1:20-25 • *page 281*

We should imitate Jesus' attitude

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 • *page 284*

Christians should always rejoice

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 • *page 286*

Never worry

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 • *page 286*

AUTHORITY

(SEE ALSO RESPECT)

Jesus is the highest authority

MATTHEW 28:18 • *page 45*

God gave government its authority

JOHN 19:11 • *page 157*

Christians should obey the government

ROMANS 13:1-2 • *page 224*

Parents are authorities to their children

EPHESIANS 6:1 • *page 277*

The Bible is our authority

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 • *page 320*

Church leaders are authoritative

HEBREWS 13:17 • *page 348*

BAPTISM

Baptism signifies repentance

MATTHEW 3:11 • *page 4*

All followers of Jesus should be baptized

MATTHEW 28:19 • *page 45*

Jesus was baptized

MARK 1:9 • *page 48*

Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit

JOHN 1:32-33 • *page 120*

Baptism is closely linked with a changed life

ACTS 2:38 • *page 165*

New Christians should be baptized

ACTS 8:12-17 • *page 174*

Entire families of the early church were baptized

ACTS 16:33-34 • *page 189*

Baptism initiates us into Christ

ROMANS 6:3-8 • *page 215*

Salvation is identified with baptism

1 PETER 3:21 • *page 362*

BELIEF

Belief affects the way we live

MARK 1:15 • *page 48*

Right beliefs are important for salvation

ROMANS 10:9 • *page 221*

Believing is more than acknowledging

JAMES 2:21 • *page 356*

BIBLE

The Bible reveals the truth

ACTS 18:28 • *page 193*

The Bible is holy

ROMANS 1:2 • *page 207*

God's Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible

1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-16 • *page 231*

The Bible is authoritative

GALATIANS 3:10 • *page 262*

The Bible is a Christian's spiritual weapon

EPHESIANS 6:17 • *page 277*

The Bible is inspired by God

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 • *page 320*

The Bible judges our lives

HEBREWS 4:12 • *page 338*

The Bible helps us grow spiritually

1 PETER 2:2 • *page 360*

BIRTH

Jesus' birth

LUKE 2:7 • *page 79*

God's children are reborn spiritually

JOHN 1:12-13 • *page 120*

People must be reborn spiritually to enter heaven

JOHN 3:3 • *page 124*

BLESSING

God blesses us when we seek to please Him

MATTHEW 6:33 • *page 11*

Christians should bless their enemies

LUKE 6:28 • *page 85*

Salvation is our greatest blessing

EPHESIANS 1:3 • *page 268*

The Bible brings us blessing

JAMES 1:25 • *page 353*

BLOOD

Jesus' blood seals God's relationship with His people

MATTHEW 26:28 • *page 40*

Jesus' blood allows us to have access to God

ROMANS 5:8-9 • *page 215*

Christians are redeemed by Jesus' blood

EPHESIANS 1:5-7 • *page 268*

Blood is required for forgiveness

HEBREWS 9:22 • *page 341*

BODY OF CHRIST

The body of Christ has been given many gifts

ROMANS 12:4-8 • *page 223*