

ST. MATTHEW

The Gospel according to

2

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Psalm 15**. Jesus came to be the fulfillment of the law, the perfect obedience that God requires.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus was baptized “to fulfill all righteousness.” Everything that Jesus did, he did as the substitute for sinners. Jesus’ obedience becomes our obedience when the hand of faith lays hold of Jesus our substitute.

We see Jesus’ obedience in action, as he overcomes the devil’s threefold temptation. In the Sermon of the Mount he not only shows his disciples the correct way to understand the law. He reveals himself as the fulfillment of the law. In every instruction Jesus gives his disciples, we also see Jesus himself as the one who carried out that instruction perfectly.

THE VICTOR PREVAILS

Read Matthew 4:1-11

Each of the three temptations attacked Jesus in a particular way:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did Jesus resist the devil’s attacks? How did Jesus’ technique deepen the understanding of Matthew’s Jewish readers?

Read Matthew 4:12-18.

Locate Capernaum on the map. Explain how Jesus’ ministry in Galilee was also fulfillment of a prophecy.

Martin Luther’s first of the 95 Theses was, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ he willed the entire life of the believer to be one of repentance.” What does the word “repent” mean? How does this fit with Jesus’ ministry and preaching?

A CALL TO A NEW LIFE

Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel of Matthew are known as Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” In-depth study of the Sermon on the Mount is for another Bible class. Here we’re going to overview the main themes of Jesus’ sermon in the light of his message of repentance and his own obedience to the law.

The Beatitudes. Read Matthew 5:1-12

In what ways does Jesus’ teaching completely upend standard human thinking? (How does this fit with repentance?)

How do you see Jesus mirrored and fulfilled in his own teaching in the Beatitudes?

Fulfillment of the law. Read Matthew 5:13-48

How are Jesus' disciples the salt of the earth? How are they the light of the world?

Explain how Jesus' teaching about the law is very different from the approach of the religious leaders of Jesus' day, in regard to:

Murder

Adultery

Divorce

Oaths

Revenge

Love

When Jesus explains the law in this way, what effect does it have on his listeners? How does Jesus' teaching touch you and me?

Understand this whole sermon in the light of Matthew 5:17. Explain how Jesus is the fulfillment of the law.

Read Matthew 6:1-34

In addition to outward obedience, what does Jesus emphasize over and over again? What is the fulfillment of the law? (See Romans 13:8.)

Show where in this chapter an understanding of "repentance" is brought out in Jesus' teaching.

The words of Jesus themselves are instrumental to *create* faith; very rarely does the Bible *command* faith. How does this whole chapter illustrate the importance and blessings of faith?

Read Matthew 7:1-28

If someone were to ask you where to find "the gospel in a nutshell" in the Bible, where would you direct them? If someone were to look for "the Golden Rule," where would you turn?

Jesus says, "By their fruit you will recognize them," specifically referring to prophets. What is the fruit he's speaking of?

Can we ever tell for certain if a person is or is not a believer?

How does Jesus' word provide a firm foundation for our hearts and lives? (See Hebrews 6:19, 20.)

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Matthew 7:12 *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

For next time read Matthew chapters 8-13.