

ST. MATTHEW

The Gospel according to

6

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Psalm 42**. How wonderful when the soul is satisfied and finds rest in God!

INTRODUCTION

St. Augustine, a prominent church leader in the 400s AD, became a Christian as young man. Up until he became a Christian he lived a wild, rather loose life and sought meaning for his life in a number of different religious philosophies. When he found the truth of Christianity, he found peace with God and rest for his soul. He said, "Lord, you made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

Christians can encounter stresses uncommon to those who are not believers. Christians face persecution and ridicule for their faith. Christians carry burdens on their hearts for the repentance and faith of others. Christian consciences are offended by things that don't bother other people one bit.

At the same time, Christian hearts find rest and comfort in their Savior, bearing the easy yoke and light burden of being a follower of Jesus.

REST FOR THE WEARY

Read Matthew 11:1-19

What vexing question was troubling John the Baptist? (v. 3)

How did Jesus answer John's question?

Discuss: Did John the Baptist doubt? How can Jesus say, "He who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he?"

In verses 16-19 Jesus uses some intriguing language to describe the people of his day. What does he mean by comparing the Jews to "children sitting in the marketplace"?

How was the contrast between John the Baptist and Jesus Christ obvious? Whom do you resemble more: John or Jesus?

Explain the significance of the phrase "Wisdom is proved right by her actions" (v. 19).

Read Matthew 11:20-24

Jesus is very harsh in his condemnation of these towns. Where are these towns located in Palestine? Why was Jesus so strong in his condemnation of these places?

Read Matthew 11:25-30

How are the mysteries of God hidden from the wise and learned but revealed to little children? See **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**.

Evaluate the phrase "Know Jesus, know God; no Jesus, no God" in the light of verse 27.

Describe in your own words how Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden light. Is going through life on earth as a Christian harder or easier than as an unbeliever?

Read Matthew 12:1-21

Why were the Pharisees so hung up on the Sabbath? What were they missing?

What does it mean to break a bruised reed and snuff out a smoldering wick? How was Jesus' ministry directed toward bruised reeds and smoldering wicks? Place this all into the context of the previous miracle on the Sabbath.

Read Matthew 12:22-37

What horrible assertion did the Pharisees make about Jesus' authority and ministry? Why did they say this?

What is the point of verse 29? Who is the "strong man," and what is Jesus teaching here?

What is the "unforgivable sin"? Why is this sin unforgivable?

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks"?

We've met this question before: Can we ever know certainly whether someone *is* or *is not* a Christian? How can we tell?

Read Matthew 12:38-50

Why was the request from the Pharisees and the teachers of the law for Jesus to perform a sign so absurd? Why did Jesus refuse – with the exception of giving them the sign of Jonah?

What important truth do we learn from verses 43-45?

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Matthew 11:28 *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

For next time read Matthew chapters 14-16.