

An abstract painting in shades of purple and blue. The top half features a dark, textured sky with a bright, circular sun or moon in the upper left. Below the sky, there are several vertical, rectangular shapes of varying heights and widths, rendered in lighter purple and blue tones, suggesting a city skyline or architectural structures. The bottom half of the image is a solid, lighter purple color.

# ZION

your king comes to you

TERM 1 2023  
BIBLE STUDY BOOK

# BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 1 2023

## - *Zion: Your King Comes To You* -

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# Zion: Your King Comes to you

Matthew 21-27

## Introduction

Welcome back to The Gospel of Matthew. This series of studies, 'Zion: your King comes to you', marks our fifth year studying Matthew:

- 2019: A Light to Lead us Home (Matthew 1-4)
- 2020: Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- 2021: Set Free, We Follow (Matthew 8-13)
- 2022: Counter Kingdom (Matthew 14-19)
- 2023: 'Zion: Your King comes to you' (Matthew 21-27)

As we dive back in, it's worth remembering how the whole book is structured. The book is framed by the birth and death/resurrection of Jesus. Within this frame are five sections, each with its own discrete "sermon" or "lesson" where Jesus, off the back of a series of events, will speak about the new reality he ushers in.

- Chapters 1-2: The Birth of the King and his kingdom
- Chapters 3-7: The Call of the King
  - Events: 3-4
  - Sermon: 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount)
- Chapters 8-10: The Mission of the King
  - Events: 8-9
  - Sermon: 10 (Sending out the Disciples)
- Chapters 11-13: Responses to the Kingdom
  - Events: 11-12
  - Sermon: 13 (Teaching the crowds in Parables)
- Chapters 14-20: The Counter Kingdom
  - Events: 14-17
  - Sermon: 18-20 (Teaching the disciples in Parables)
- Chapters 21-25: Zion: Your King comes to you
  - Events: 21
  - Sermon: 22-25 (Rebuking the Pharisees in Parables)
- Chapters 26-28: The Death and Resurrection of the King and his Kingdom

We jump back into the story at the point Jesus is about to arrive in Jerusalem. This city has always been central to God's plans for redemption. In Genesis 22 when God called Abraham to kill his son Isaac but then provided a ram to be sacrificed in his place, it was at Mount Moriah, on the same mountain range where Jerusalem and the temple would be built. Moses also writes long before David captured Zion the Jebusite stronghold in Exodus 15:17: *"You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O Lord, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established."*

In 2 Samuel 7, as David offers to build God a house in Jerusalem, we get an incredible promise about the future of the city foretelling the coming of the Messiah:

*“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”*

As Jesus enters Jerusalem in Matthew 21 he is initially welcomed like a triumphant king with joy on the streets, yet this soon turns to rejection as the religious leaders step up their opposition to him. Central to this section are numerous interactions between Jesus and Pharisees as he outlines their complete failure, past and present, to bear fruit, listen to God’s prophets, and lead His people faithfully. Time and time again, Jesus foretells his own death and resurrection, breaking expectations held of the messiah, as the tension builds towards his arrest, trial and crucifixion.


Within this Matthew Series is our annual Vision Series. Our Vision Series is a moment when, over the course of three weeks at church and in bible study groups, we let God’s word remind us of the mission Jesus gave his church and followers. During these three weeks we’ll be looking at Jesus’ sermon on the Mount of Olives when he speaks of the coming judgement on Jerusalem and the ‘end of the age’. Jesus’ words are a stark reminder to live prepared for the return of Jesus and to use the time we have to grow his kingdom.

The final section of Matthew’s gospel is deeply emotive. Repeatedly we will be baffled by the Jewish leaders blindness, frustrated by the disciples’ slowness to understand, and heartbroken as we see King Jesus often alone preparing to suffer and die. Yet this is all of God’s ordained plan. For his King to come to rescue his elect, and to equip and send out his church to the ends of the earth.


Each week we’ll ask this question: *What is something new you have learnt about Jesus as your king? How has it encouraged or challenged you as you go out into the week ahead?* It is my hope and prayer that as we spend this time in Matthew’s gospel together we might grow in deeper knowledge and love of our saviour king, and see all that he has done for us have more of our lives submit joyously to his lordship.


# 40 Days in Matthew


At this time of the year, we can often feel like a lot of our spiritual disciplines have been on a break. Below is a plan for working through the book of Matthew this term in your quiet times. Not only will it get you back on track in God's words, but also help remind you of all that we've learnt these last bunch of years in Matthew. Here are five questions that might help you navigate your daily time with the Lord:

 What stands out?

 What questions do you have?

 What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

 What could you pray?

 Who could you encourage?

Day 1 Matthew 1	Day 2 Matthew 2	Day 3 Matthew 3	Day 4 Matthew 4	Day 5 Matthew 5:1-20
Day 6 Matthew 5:21-48	Day 7 Matthew 6	Day 8 Matthew 7	Day 9 Matthew 8	Day 10 Matthew 9
Day 11 Matthew 10	Day 12 Matthew 11	Day 13 Matthew 12:1-32	Day 14 Matthew 12:33-50	Day 15 Matthew 13:1-23
Day 16 Matthew 13:24-58	Day 17 Matthew 14:1-21	Day 18 Matthew 14:22-36	Day 19 Matthew 15:1-20	Day 20 Matthew 15:21-39
Day 21 Matthew 16	Day 22 Matthew 17	Day 23 Matthew 18	Day 24 Matthew 19	Day 25 Matthew 20
Day 26 Matthew 21:1-22	Day 27 Matthew 21:23-46	Day 28 Matthew 22:1-22	Day 29 Matthew 22:23-46	Day 30 Matthew 23
Day 31 Matthew 24:1-28	Day 32 Matthew 24:29-51	Day 33 Matthew 25	Day 34 Matthew 26:1-25	Day 35 Matthew 26:26-46
Day 36 Matthew 26:47-75	Day 37 Matthew 27:1-23	Day 38 Matthew 27:24-44	Day 39 Matthew 27:45-66	Day 40 Matthew 28

# Study 1: The King's House

Matthew 21:1-17

## Talk

- 1) Listen to the song, "Jerusalem" by City Alight.<sup>1</sup> What takes place in Jerusalem in this song? How does it make you feel?

OR

As a group, try to make a list of significant moments in the Bible that take place in Jerusalem.

## Read Matthew 21:1-11

- 2) Where has Jesus just arrived? With your group, try to locate it on a Bible map and try to work out the significance.

- 3) As Jesus arrives on a donkey, Matthew tells us it fulfilled what was prophesied in the Old Testament. Read Isaiah 62:11 & Zechariah 9:9-10

- Where was "Zion" that both prophets speak about?

- What do both prophets look forward to?

- Why do you think Jesus rides on a donkey?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4ZCHRksBA>



Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Please pray for Brett as he seeks to encourage, serve and build up the wider staff team. Pray for wisdom that he and the team develop ministry plans that will help St Luke's stay faithful and grow into the future.

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra, Joanna and Samuel Thomas and their mission work with OMF International to an unreached people group in South East Asia.

Bring before God those who are physically or mentally ill, grieving or experiencing financial hardships.

Please pray that the way we welcome people would encourage them to seek Jesus and make St Lukes their home. Pray that we would continue to connect with hospitality and warmth.

Pray for our seniors as we minister and care for those around them and share the love of Jesus with those in their lives. Pray also for those who live in residential villages and the strong witness they provide to their neighbours.



## Study 2: The King's Vineyard

Matthew 21:18-46

### Talk

- 1) Are you much of a gardener? Share your best success OR failure story in the garden.

### Read Matthew 21:18-46

- 2) There are a number of repeating themes throughout this passage. Before we break it up into smaller sections, as a group, try to make a list of all the ideas/words/themes you notice are repeated.

### Re-read Matthew 21:18-27

- 3) What makes us uncomfortable as we listen to the account of Jesus cursing the fig tree?
- 4) Considering the context (vv15-17 & vv23-27), who do you think is the fig tree? Why is it cursed?
- 5) How might this help us understand Jesus' words about receiving whatever we ask in prayer?
- 6) What are some gigantic prayers you've given up asking God? Why ought we be encouraged to keep praying in light of these verses?

## Re-read Matthew 21:28-46

7) In verses 28-31, who do you think are the two sons? How does it mirror what Jesus has just said?

8) What do you think the following represent in the parable of the tenants?

- The landowner
  
  
- The vineyard
  
  
- The tenants
  
  
- The servants
  
  
- The son
  
  
- The others who the vineyard is given to

9) What does Jesus anticipate as he quotes Psalm 118:22-23?

- 10) A strong theme of this passage has been promising much fruit but delivering nothing. Share with the group an area of your life where you feel convicted you've seen the same trend.
- 11) Often, we can feel rejected or fear being rejected by others because of our trust in Jesus. How might what we heard today encourage us to keep sharing the good news of Jesus?
- 12) What is something new you have learnt about Jesus as your king? How has it encouraged or challenged you as you go out into the week ahead?

### **Prayers**

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Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as she ministers and cares for the people who attend the Thursday Service. Pray for her as she continues to pray and care for those who are unable to attend due to health.

We pray for Ministry Trainee Matt Peck, working alongside Sam.

Pray for the Sparks Family and their mission work making disciples in Spain.

Pray for our Prime Minister and government. Pray for our state and federal members, our Premier and government. We pray also for our local Council including our Mayor.

Pray for christian teachers in the public school sector, as they strive to educate and care for their students with the love of Jesus always on display in their lives.

# Study 3: The King's Banquet

Matthew 22:1-14

## Talk

- 1) Have you ever invited someone to your party who said they'd come but, in the end, didn't come? Why didn't they come? How did you feel?

OR

For creative and tactile people- draw a comic strip of the parable of the tenants.

## Read Matthew 22:1-14

- 2) This is the third parable Jesus tells in a row. Can you remember what was the uniting theme in the Parable of the Two Sons and the Parable of the tenants? How might this set the scene for this next parable?
- 3) What strikes you about the invitation, and then the response of the guests?
- 4) Do you think the king's response is fair? Explain your answer.
- 5) Who do you think the following represent in the parable?
- 6) Do you feel comfortable about the king throwing out the wrongly clothed guest from the banquet? Why or why not?



## Prayers

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Pray for Colin as Office and Site Manager. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as he looks after staff and the Church site.

Pray for Theyn our Finance Officer that she would bring Glory to God in her work.

Pray for Lisa as Admin Assistant, as she looks after the administration of the Church.

Pray for Sarah and husband Tim and Lizzy and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

Pray for our witness to our local community – especially as more units are developed and more people move into the area. Pray for opportunities to connect with our community.

Pray for our craft group that meets on Wednesday. Praise God for the amazing opportunity they have to share the gospel while crafting.

# Study 4: The King's Enemies

Matthew 22:15-23:39

## Talk

- 1) If Jesus was preaching and ministering today, do you think he'd receive just as much opposition? Who would be the types of people who would want to get rid of him?

OR

Have a mock 5 minutes debate with half of the Bible study "for" and the other half "against." The topic: "Jesus is way too harsh on the Jewish Leaders in the gospels"

## Read Matthew 22:15-46

- 2) Do a recap of the last couple of weeks: what had Jesus been saying to incite the Pharisees to trap him?

- 3) This section is structured around four questions, three directed towards Jesus and then of his own. Work through each question and fill in the table below:

	Who asks the question?	What is the question?	What was the trap?	What is Jesus/their answer?	What is their response?
Matthew 22:15-22					
Matthew 22:23-33					

Matthew 22:34-40					
Matthew 22:41-46					

- 4) As we've looked at who came questioning Jesus and what they asked, are there any common themes which emerge?
  
- 5) What might we be able to learn from Jesus' answer about paying taxes to Caesar when it comes to living in a secular society now?
  
- 6) The Sadducees were overly short sighted and denied the resurrection. How can we by our actions sometimes deny that we are living for a future resurrection?
  
- 7) Discuss in your group, which command do you find harder to keep: loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind, OR loving your neighbour as yourself?





## Prayers

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We pray for Nicole & Luke Murray. Give Nicole creativity and enthusiasm as she pastors our Youth and Young Adults. We pray for Luke, as he seeks to bring community to our church.

Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Pray for Nonhlanhla Tshabalala, who is undertaking a ministry apprenticeship with Kylie Zietsch in women's ministry and pastoral care at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to church. Pray that God would be preparing the hearts of people we could invite to a service at St Luke's.

Thank God for the outreach that occurs in Anglican Christian schools and retirement villiages in our community who share the good news of Jesus with families who dont know Jesus.

Study 5: Vision Week 1

Study 6: Vision Week 2

Study 7: Vision Week 3

# Study 8: The King's Cup

Matthew 26:31-75

## Talk

1) When is it hard to stand up and say you follow Jesus? Have you ever kept quiet about being a Christian?

OR

For creative and tactile people - draw a comic strip of the reading

## Read Matthew 26:31-75

2) There are a number of repeating themes throughout this passage. Before we break it up into smaller passages, as a group, try to make a list of all the ideas/words/themes you notice are repeated.

3) The prediction and fulfilment of Peter's denial, bookends this entire section. Why do you think Matthew arranged it this way?

4) As Jesus predicts his disciples falling away, he quotes from Zechariah 13:7-9. What does this passage further anticipate?

5) Compare Jesus and his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. What do we learn about both?

- 6) When have you been confronted with the weakness of your commitment to the Lord? How might we be encouraged by Jesus' faithfulness here?

## Re-Read Matthew 23:47-67

- 7) At the arrest of Jesus, there is a significant mention of swords and clubs. Why is Jesus opposed to what this represents?

- 8) Twice during the arrest scene Jesus states that the Scriptures are being fulfilled. Imagine you were a disciple, a person in the crowd, and a religious leader hearing these words. How might you feel?

- 9) How would you describe the law court Jesus is put before? Why does Jesus remain silent throughout his first trial?

- 10) Who does Jesus admit to being? Although Jesus is on trial, what event does he point to (see Daniel 7:13-14)

- 11) What do you think it looks like in our lives to not "take up the sword," rather to keep denying ourselves and take up our cross daily?

12) What is something new you have learnt about Jesus as your king? How has it encouraged or challenged you as you go out into the week ahead?

## **Prayers**

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Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy, Lois, Finn and Cleo Morton. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry and high school Scripture.

Pray for Russell Denten as comes on staff to help us serve & worship faithfully during our weekend and midweek gatherings.

Pray for Rob and Jo, Lili, and Jemma Copland. Pray for Rob's work as the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Wollongong and for his work as Campus Director of the University Bible Group.

Pray for our ongoing and various Children's, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries; that God would be using the leaders and volunteers to sow seeds and help people grow into mature and loving relationships with Jesus. Pray that this would be a great witness to the wider community.

Pray for our ESL team who teach and share the love of Jesus with those in our community who are seeking to improve their language and connect with others. We pray those who attend will come to know true grace and freedom in Christ.

# Study 9: The King's Court

## Matthew 27:1-31

### Talk

- 1) Share a time when you were a victim of a gross injustice? (e.g. recipient of an umpire howler, robbed of a famous monopoly victory, overcharged by the local café, wrongly fined for speeding in a school zone, accused of taking the last Tim Tam from the fridge)

### Read Matthew 27:1-31

- 2) There are numerous characters who are mentioned in this passage. Make a list of them and your initial reaction to each.

### Re-read Matthew 27:1-10

- 3) How do you feel as you read of what happens to Judas?

- 4) Do you think Judas went to heaven? What is the difference between remorse and repentance?

### Re-read Matthew 27:11-31

- 5) What compelling reasons did Pilate have not to have Jesus executed? Why does he go through with it?

- 6) Can you relate a bit to Pilate caving under social pressure? In what ways have others pressured your relationship with Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What do we learn about the crowd as they choose between Jesus and Barabbas? How are we both the crowd and the criminal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) How do the soldiers mock Jesus? How do they speak and act better than they know? (Compare it with Revelation 19:11-16)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) The word blood is mentioned a number of times in this passage. Try to locate them all. What is the common thread which binds them together? What is ironic about their view of Jesus' blood?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 10) What is something new you learnt about Jesus as your king? How has it encouraged or challenged you as you go out into the week ahead?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 11) To end the series and prepare for Easter, you might like to listen and reflect on the song "How deep the Father's Love for us". Share how you feel as you remember that Jesus suffered and died to bring you to glory?



## Prayers

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Pray for Jess, Luke, Cooper, Ace and penny Moran. Pray for Jess as she heads up Children's Ministry at St Lukes, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, and Children's Thursday arvo programs.

Pray for David and Kathryn, Reuben and Felix Luis. Pray for David as Campus Director of Geelong Christian Union at the Deakin University Campus in Victoria.

Pray for Peter, Katharine, Noah and Atticus Yock. Pray as they work amongst the students at the campus of Griffith University.

Pray for our Church Wardens: Colin Adams, Helen Webster and Phil Moss. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Timothy Clipsham, Laurie Davidson, Amanda Garlato, Kath Telfer, Alex Kiefer, Brendan Carpenter and Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer). Pray for our Parish Nominators: Timothy Clipsham, Michael Easton, Amanda Garlato, Louise Parkes and Alan Gibson. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

Pray for Chaplains in Anglican retirement villages, especially Donald Robinson Village and Woollooware Shores.