ISSUE NO.8 MATTHEW 22-25

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The Wedding Banquet, Give to Caesar, Life After Death, The Greatest Commandment, Whose Son is He? Humble Yourself, Calling Out Hypocrisy, Jesus Loves the Lost, Standing Firm in Persecution, Jesus' Second Coming, Your Last Day, Wise and Foolish, Faithful Servants, You Did It For Me.

Matthew 22-25

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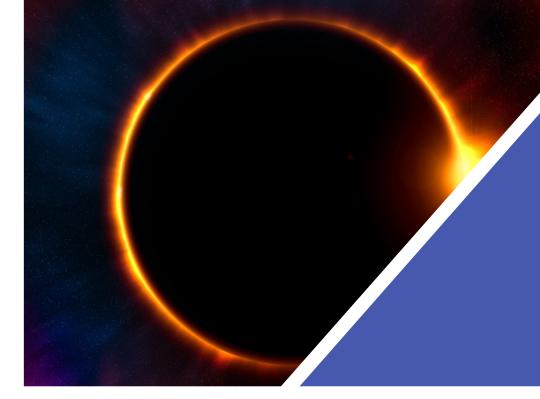
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Introduction

THE BIBLE COMMUNITY ISSUE 8 CONTAINS 14 BIBLE STUDIES FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 22-25.

In Matthew 22, the Pharisees and Sadducees tried to trap Jesus. In chapter 23, Jesus warned against their hypocrisy and spoke out against them. In Matthew 24, Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple, the End Times and his second coming. Then, in chapter 25, Jesus gave his disciples three parables to teach them how to prepare for his return.

TOPICS COVERED

The 14 Bible studies in this series look at the following topics: The Wedding Banquet, Give to Caesar, Life After Death, The Greatest Commandment, Whose Son is He? Humble Yourself, Calling Out Hypocrisy, Jesus Loves the Lost, Standing Firm in Persecution, Jesus' Second Coming, Your Last Day, Wise and Foolish, Faithful Servants, You Did It For Me.

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Each Bible study has four questions. The four questions follow a model based on the anagram READ.

1. Research

Look at the Bible text in more detail.

2. Explore

Look for themes throughout the Bible.

3. Apply

Look back at examples from your own life or those around you.

4. **Do**

Look forward to the future, and plan any changes you need to make.

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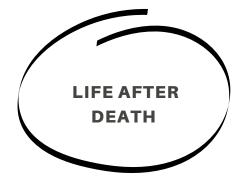
Matthew 22:1-14

What does this parable mean? When Jesus spoke about the king, servants, banquet, people on the streets, and wedding clothes, what was he referring to?	What does the Bible say about wedding clothes? What do they symbolise? (See, for example — Isaiah 61:10-11; Revelation 19:7-9)
How can we prepare for Jesus' second coming?	God wants to spend time with you today. Will you accept his invitation?



Matthew 22:15-22

What did Jesus mean when he said, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's"?	According to the Bible, how should we treat those in authority? (See, for example — Romans 13:1-7)
Who has authority over your life? Who are your leaders, managers, employers, and politicians?	Pray for those in authority over you that they would come to know Jesus.



Matthew 22:23-33

What can we learn about the resurrection from this passage?	Where else in the Bible does it talk about life after death and the resurrection? (See, for example — Genesis 49:33; Daniel 12:1-4; Luke 14:13-14; John 11:17-26; Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15)
How do you think people in your community would answer if you asked them about life after death?	What excites you most about the resurrection? Praise God that he is not the God of the dead but of the living.





What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind?	How do these two commandments fulfil the Old Testament Law and Prophets?
How can we love our neighbours as ourselves in modern society?	Is there something practical that you can do to share God's love with those around you?



Matthew 22:41-46

How can the Messiah be David's son and also his Lord?	In Matthew's Gospel, whose son is Jesus? (See, for example — Matthew 1:1, 18-25; 16:13-17; 21:9; 27:54)
How can we ensure we don't develop hard hearts and closed minds like the Pharisees?	Pray for your loved ones to understand the true identity of Jesus.





Why did Jesus instruct people not to imitate the behaviour of the teachers of the law and the Pharisees?	Why did they wear phylacteries and tassels?
How much importance do you attach to your job title or the clothes you wear?	How can we humble ourselves?



Matthew 23:13-32

What were the seven "woes" that Jesus proclaimed to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees?	Compare Jesus' words in Matthew 23:13-32 with Isaiah's prophecies. (See, for example — Isaiah 5)
How can we live lives full of justice,	Are there any areas of your life where
mercy and faithfulness (Matthew	your behaviour contradicts your
23:23)?	words? Ask God to help you change.



Matthew 23:33-39

Why was Jesus deeply concerned about Jerusalem? How was his prophecy fulfilled?	How could the Pharisees and teachers of the law escape being condemned to hell? (v33) (See, for example — John 3:1-21; Philippians 3:1-14)
What insight does verse 37 provide	Pray that the people in your
into Jesus' thoughts and emotions	neighbourhood will repent and choose
regarding those who don't believe in	to follow Jesus. Is there anything you
him?	can do to share the Gospel with them?





Why did Jesus warn his disciples about the future?	Can you think of any examples from the Bible of people who stood firm during persecution?
Look around at the world today. Can you see any of the events Jesus mentioned in this passage?	Spend some time praying for Christians who are experiencing persecution.





What can we learn about the second coming of Jesus from this passage?	What are the similarities between the language Jesus used in his prophecy in Matthew 24 and the prophecies in the Old Testament? (See, for example – Isaiah 13:9-13, 34:1-4; Daniel 7:13- 14, 9:27, 11:31-32, 12:1-13)
How does Jesus' second coming affect the way we live today?	Pray and ask God for wisdom and discernment. Pray for strength so you can endure hardship and stay true to Jesus.



How can we prepare for Jesus' return if we do not know when it will happen?	What does the Bible say about the day of the Lord? (See, for example — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2 Peter 3:10-14)
How can we be faithful and wise servants?	What would you do today if you knew it was your last day on Earth?





Who are the wise and foolish virgins? What is the significance of the wedding, the lamps and the oil?	Where else does the Bible talk about wisdom and foolishness?
What lessons can we learn from the people in this parable?	Are you ready for Jesus to return?





Why did the master give the talents to his servants?	What does the Bible teach us about rewards? (See, for example - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:23- 24)
What is the difference between serving God faithfully and serving him out of fear?	Where does God want you to invest your time, money, or resources?





What does this parable teach us about the end times and eternal life?	Examine this parable alongside the Bible's teachings on salvation by faith, not works. Is it possible to combine the two? (See, for example — Romans 3; Galatians 3; Revelation 21:11-15)
Who in your community are the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, or strangers?	Who has God placed on your heart to help?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lou Allen is a Christian blogger, YouTuber and Podcaster. She writes Bible studies to help people grow in their relationship with God and get equipped to live the Christian life. She is part of a Pentecostal church in South-West England. She studied at Mattersey Hall Bible College and later at the University of Exeter, gaining a BA Honours in Biblical Theology and an MA in Theology.



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