

One Year through the New Testament

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Matthew

January 1: Matthew 1:1 – 2:12

- 1) Listed is Jesus' genealogy. Why?
- 2) Why did verses 7 – 12 sound a bit familiar?
- 3) Joseph is often the forgotten man in the Christmas story. What traits do you want to imitate?
- 4) Why is belief in the Virgin birth so important?
- 5) Matthew quotes a lot from the prophets of the Old Testament. This gives us a clue as to the readers of the letter he wrote. Who are they?
- 6) What is so important about including the Magi in the Christmas story?
- 7) When they saw Christ, what were they led to do? What are we led to do?

Important questions and thoughts:

Dear Lord Jesus, when you walked the streets and lanes of city and country in Palestine you were touched by the handicaps and pains of many afflicted people, young and old. Your love and compassion never fails, and so we are bold to bring our troubles to your attention and to commit them to your wise and tender care. In your mercy heal us, or strengthen us to bear our burdens. Amen

January 2: Matthew 2:12 – 3:6

- 1) What were the two reasons for the escape to Egypt?
- 2) Why does Jesus evoke such reaction as from Herod?
- 3) Why did Jesus need to live in Nazareth?
- 4) How many years are there between chapters two and three?
- 5) What was John the Baptist's message and purpose?

Important thoughts and questions:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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January 3: Matthew 3:7 – 4:11

- 1) John demanded fruit in keeping with repentance. What is fruit in keeping with repentance?
- 2) What does John say Jesus would do?
- 3) What does Jesus mean when John objected to baptizing him that His baptism was to “fulfill all righteousness?”
- 4) How is the Triune God demonstrated?
- 5) Why is the temptation of Jesus such an important story?
- 6) How do we fight temptation?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). What a precious gift you have given to us in Your Word. It is a lamp to show us the way and a light to brighten the path that leads to our home in heaven. Awaken in us by Your Spirit a new desire to hear and learn that Word. Bless the efforts of the congregations in Sunday schools and Bible classes for teens and adults to provide opportunities to hear and learn your word. Move parents to take advantage of these agencies of the church as they seek to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let the light of Your word shine ever more brightly in our homes, in our churches, and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

January 4: Matthew 4:12-25

- 1) As chapter four begins many years have passed since his birth. What was Jesus' reason for living in Capernaum?
- 2) What does “repent for the kingdom of God is near” mean?
- 3) What is the kingdom of God?
- 4) What is a fisher of men?
- 5) Why did Jesus perform miracles?
- 6) Important thoughts and questions

Lord Jesus Christ, you instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion to seal to me the personal guarantee that all my sins are forgiven. Lead me to true sorrow and repentance for all my sins. Give me faith to believe your body and blood, once given and shed on the cross, are present with the bread and wine that I receive in this sacrament. Fill my heart and mind with comfort, peace, and joy, knowing that all my sins are pardoned. Give me renewed zeal each day and lead me to live a godly life in loving obedience to your commandments. I ask this in your precious name, O Savior. Amen.

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January 5: Matthew 5:1-26

- 1) It is important to remember that Jesus is preaching this sermon to those who follow him. Why is that important to remember?
- 2) In the beatitudes (5:3-10) there are contrasts and paradoxes. What is the paradox of Christianity?
- 3) What kind of salt is spoken of in 5:13?
- 4) How did Jesus come to fulfill the Prophets?
- 5) What righteousness is that found in verse twenty?
- 6) How are we to settle differences between people?

Important thoughts and questions.

Almighty Father, giver of life and health, I pray for and for all who are sick and suffering. Grant that in the midst of pain they may be comforted by your presence and sustained by your love. If it be your gracious will, restore them to health by your love in Christ. Amen.

January 6: Matthew 5:27-48

- 1) When does sin begin?
- 2) Some would say that sin is not that bad since God forgives it anyway. What does Jesus have to say about it?
- 3) Does Jesus really mean we should mutilate ourselves if we are caught in sin?
- 4) What is Jesus' powerful statement on marriage?
- 5) God obviously wants us to watch our tongues. What does he mean when say let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' to mean 'No'?
- 6) What does God want our attitude be about 'wanting our rights'?
- 7) What is the real challenge of love?
- 8) What does he end with God demanding us to be perfect?

Important thoughts and questions.

Dear Jesus, you are the Great Physician of body and soul. You know the health problems our loved ones are experiencing. You know the fear they have inside as they see their bodies deteriorating. You know the guilt they might be feeling. We come to your cross for forgiveness and healing. Have mercy on them, for all are made of dust. Help them to find the medical help they need in this time of crisis. Give them peace in the midst of these problems. We trust in your unfailing love. Bear all of us up in your arms and keep them safe as they commit their lives to you. Amen.

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January 7: Matthew 6:1-24

- 1) Why does the Christian do good works?
- 2) What does Jesus say about the economy of prayer?
- 3) What is Jesus saying about faith?
- 4) How would you divide the Lord's prayer?
- 5) What is true fasting? In the Old Testament God tells us what true fasting is. Isaiah 58:2ff
- 6) How does what Jesus say in 6:19-23 prepare for 6:24?

Important thoughts and questions:

O Lord, it grieves me that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of my life. Forgive my sins and renew my spirit so that I will pardon others, correct the mistakes I have made, and be more cheerful toward those around me. Remind me through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change. Amen.

January 8: Matthew 6:25 – 7:14

- 1) Why don't we need to worry?
- 2) Which verses in 6:25-33 are most striking to you?
- 3) What is God's kingdom and his righteousness (verse 32)?
- 4) What kind of judging doesn't God want us to do?
- 5) What is the pearl that God doesn't want us throwing to pigs?
- 6) What very important aspect of prayer does God want us to know and practice?
- 7) What is the narrow gate?

Important thoughts and questions:

Your Word, O God, is truth and leads us to holiness in Christ, by the Spirit. Teach us, Lord, always to revere, love, and treasure your Word and its blessings. Work in us the desire to read and study our Bibles in order to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. By the Holy Spirit, keep us ever faithful to your Word. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

January 9: Matthew 7:15-29

- 1) What is the fruit the wolves in sheep's clothing produce?
- 2) Verse 21ff are kind of scary. Why?
- 3) What is the rock on which we build our lives?
- 4) What is the sinking sand?
- 5) Why were the people amazed at Jesus?

Important thoughts and questions:

It is not new or strange, blessed Jesus, that sinners want to see you and bring their gifts of gratitude to you. The wise men did it many years ago. Give me such a grateful heart also. In this season, warm my heart through the power of your Word that I may witness to your grace and confess you before the world as the only Savior from sin. Let the gospel be the bright beacon that leads beyond Bethlehem to the very home you have promised to all who receive you in faith. Amen.

January 10: Matthew 8:1-17

- 1) What is leprosy?
- 2) How did the man ask Jesus to be healed an example for us all?
- 3) Why did Jesus tell the man not to tell anyone that he was cleansed?
- 4) What is significant that a centurion should come to Jesus for the healing of his servant?
- 5) How did the centurion show great faith?
- 6) In verses 14 and 15 who did Jesus heal?
- 7) How was Scripture fulfilled when Jesus healed the people?

Important thoughts and questions:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying--and all for your love's sake. In Christ we pray. Amen.

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January 11: Matthew 8:18-34

- 1) What is the challenge of following Jesus?
- 2) What are the obstacles to following Jesus?
- 3) What was the purpose of the miracle of the calming of the storm?
- 4) What does the story of the casting out of the demons from the pigs teach us about demons?
- 5) What does it teach us about Jesus and demons?

Important thoughts and questions

All things we have come from and belong to you, O God. Guide us, therefore, to use all we have to the glory of your name and for the good of your kingdom. Take our hearts and fill them with your love; take our lips and move them to speak of Jesus; take our lives and use them to serve in your church. Move us, by the Spirit of Jesus, to do what is needed to spread the gospel of Jesus worldwide for his name's sake. Amen.

January 12: Matthew 9:1-17

- 1) What was the point of Jesus' question in verse five?
- 2) Why did Jesus do miracles?
- 3) What was so great about Jesus calling a tax collector (Matthew) to follow him?
- 4) What was Jesus saying when he reminded the people that the sick need the doctor and not those who are well?
- 5) What was Jesus' point about the wineskins and the patch of new cloth on the old?

Important thoughts and questions:

Dear Father, from whom all good gifts come, make the earth fruitful to fill our mouths with good things. Keep us grateful for the quality and the abundance of the food we enjoy. And where the pains of famine and hunger are felt, show yourself to be a gracious and merciful God. We pray especially for our Christian brothers and sisters who are in need. Do not let their daily bread fail, but relieve their distress for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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January 13: Matthew 9:18-38

- 1) Why is there the emphasis on the miracles that Jesus did?
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he says, "Your faith has healed you?"
- 3) A Christian does view death as sleep. Why is that a good term?
- 4) What is significant about the term "Son of David?"
- 5) Notice the variation in the miracles he did. What did he show that he had power over?
- 6) Why do workers need to be sent into the harvest? Isn't that the responsibility of everyone?

Important thoughts and questions:

God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him. Even the outcasts and despised. Give me a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give me a love that accepts others, as I have been accepted by you through your Son. Amen.

January 14: Matthew 10:1-25

- 1) What do you notice about the disciples that Jesus called?
- 2) Why did Jesus say that the disciples should not go to the Samaritans at this time but only to the lost sheep of Israel?
- 3) What was the focus of their message?
- 4) Why didn't Jesus want his disciples moving around and staying in different homes when they went to towns and preached the good news?
- 5) How can a Christian be as shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove as he preaches the Gospel?
- 6) Has it ever happened where the opportunity to witness presented itself and the words were there to say? (Verse 20)
- 7) How is the Good News divisive?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord God, you are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Truly our cup of blessing is filled to overflowing. We thank you for grace which gives us what we do not deserve . . . and for your mercy which does not give us what we do deserve. For this bright day, for the love of family and friends, for the food I eat and the water I drink - all gifts from your gracious hand - I give you my heartfelt praise. Above all I thank you for my Savior without whom my life would be empty and meaningless. Surrounded by countless blessings I still ask for one more - a thankful heart. Amen.

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January 15: Matthew 10:26 – 11:6

- 1) Why does Jesus say we should not be afraid to witness of Him?
- 2) Who is the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell?
- 3) Where do we get our worth?
- 4) Verses 34-39 are a paradox. Why?
- 5) Does giving a child a cold constitute good works? Is Jesus teaching that is the way to heaven?
- 6) Was John the Baptist doubting if Jesus was the Christ?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord of the Church, we bow before you in humble thanksgiving for the blessings you have bestowed on our congregation. Bless the work of those servants whom you have called to lead us into a deeper understanding of your Word. Preserve the spirit of unity and peace among us. Stir up our hearts and the hearts of our fellow believers to give eager and generous support to the spreading of your Word. Prosper the work that is being carried out in our missions, at home and abroad. Send laborers into your harvest in the power of your Spirit. Let your kingdom come, and let your will be done among us and among all people, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

January 16: Matthew 11:7-30

- 1) What did Jesus say about John the Baptist?
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he says that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist?
- 3) How does God's kingdom advance forcefully?
- 4) What was Jesus' frustration as he expressed it in 11: 18, 19?
- 5) Agree or Disagree – Miracles convert people.
- 6) When Jesus says, "Come to me.... (Verse 28 – 30), is that a command or an invitation? What's the difference?

Important thoughts and questions:

O God, almighty and all wise Father, we pray you to help our friend who is looking for meaning in his/her life and in life in general. Our friend sees a world running amok and doesn't understand why. Our friend experiences sadness and doesn't see any way to be sure of happiness. Our friend lives but is looking for the meaning of life. Help our friend, dear God, to see the answers to his questions in the good news of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Guide him to look to the cross of Calvary for his answers and to the empty tomb of Jesus. Fill our friend with the comfort of the full forgiveness that comes from Jesus. Let him experience the joy of knowing that Jesus lives and wishes to walk with him through life here and accompany him into heaven's glories after this life. Guide him on his walk of life here always secure in your love and care. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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January 17: Matthew 12:1 – 21

- 1) What were the disciples doing that irritated the Jewish leaders?
- 2) How did Jesus answer the complaints?
- 3) What does he mean when he says that he desires ‘mercy and not sacrifice?’
- 4) What is he saying the purpose of the Law really was and is?
- 5) In what two ways does Jesus prove his point about the purpose of the Law?
- 6) How does that all apply to us?

Important thoughts and questions:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for gift of grandparents. In their love I see a picture of your love. Thank you for their wisdom, which comes with the passing of years. Thank you for the time they generously give to children and grandchildren. Help us not to be in such a hurry that we cannot spend time with them. Teach us to number our days so that we use the days and hours you give us to show our grandparents how much we love and appreciate them before it is too late. Forgive us our failures to do this through your Son, Jesus, our Savior, and keep every generation in the one true faith so that we can look forward to an eternal reunion in heaven. Amen.

January 18: Matthew 12:22 – 45

- 1) As you think back over the last few chapters, over what does Jesus demonstrate his power?
- 2) The enemies of Jesus said that he was casting out demons in the name of Beelzebub. Why was their thinking silly?
- 3) What is the unpardonable sin?
- 4) Why do the verses about the sin against the Holy Spirit follow all that was said about a house divided against itself?
- 5) While we can't judge hearts, what can we judge?
- 6) Verses 43-45 are a little difficult to understand. When people decide to reform their wicked ways, what needs to fill the one who wants to change their ways?
- 7) If they don't, what can happen?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord Jesus, wonderful Savior and God's own Son, we look to you for rest for our weary souls. As you, on Calvary's cross, sacrificed your body and shed your blood for our forgiveness, so let us, at your altar, receive your same body and blood together with the bread and the wine for the full assurance that we are counted among those you saved. In your Holy Supper we unite with you at the cross and with our fellow believers everywhere, who share the joy and comfort of your salvation. Keep us ever with you in faith by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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January 19: Matthew 12:46 – 13: 23

- 1) How are we Jesus' family even more so than his own earthly family?
- 2) How are we as individuals a collection of all the soils?
- 3) What does Jesus teach when he says that people produce thirty, sixty and a hundred fold.
- 4) Why do some hear and some not, understand and not understand?

Important thoughts and questions:

Give me a caring heart, O my Savior. to love and seek the lost. Overcome my fear, and grant me courage to share my hope of salvation with those who have no hope. Make me faithful in my daily life so that all I say and do may glorify you. Amen.

January 20: Matthew 13: 24 – 46

- 1) What is a parable?
- 2) What is Jesus saying about the reality of how the devil wants to interfere with his kingdom?
- 3) What is going to happen when Judgment Day comes?
- 4) What reassurances does Jesus give in the parable about the mustard seed?
- 5) Yeast is often used in the Bible as something bad. Not so in the parable about the dough and yeast. What is Jesus' point?
- 6) Why did Jesus speak in parables?
- 7) What is man's attitude about God's kingdom?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord Jesus, wonderful Savior and God's own Son, we look to you for rest for our weary souls. As you, on Calvary's cross, sacrificed your body and shed your blood for our forgiveness, so let us, at your altar, receive your same body and blood together with the bread and the wine for the full assurance that we are counted among those you saved. In your Holy Supper we unite with you at the cross and with our fellow believers everywhere, who share the joy and comfort of your salvation. Keep us ever with you in faith by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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January 21: Matthew 13:47 – 14:12

- 1) What is the point that the net was full of good and bad fish?
- 2) Do you think that in a much smaller way pastors and teachers couldn't go back to the place of their roots?
- 3) Why did the people use his family as reason not to believe in Jesus?
- 4) There is a sad story as background to John the Baptist's demise. The Devil never wants to stop. Why do you think that the king was actually distressed enough about the oath to lead him to commit murder?

Important thoughts and questions:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you have showered upon our land. Thank you for your gift of prosperity in days of peace and protection in days of war. Thank you for our natural resources, our talents, and our abilities. Thank you for giving us freedom of worship and all other freedoms we possess. We confess that we are sinners and deserve nothing. Nevertheless, for Jesus' sake, we ask you to accompany us with your forgiving grace. Bless our government, prosper the work of our hands, and especially enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of your kingdom of grace and to be conscientious citizens of this good land. Amen.

January 22: Matthew 14:13 – 36

- 1) Why had Jesus withdrawn from the crowds?
- 2) What does that say about Jesus?
- 3) What lessons do we learn from the feeding of the five thousand?
- 4) Notice how Jesus took time to pray. If he needed to pray we certainly need to. How can you develop a better prayer life?
- 5) There are those who say that Jesus was walking on a sandbar. How does one refute that?
- 6) What is the lesson from Peter? Why did he begin to sink?
- 7) What is the conclusion we come to on all the miracles that Jesus did?

Important thoughts and questions:

O Holy Spirit, come to me with your comforting Word, which alone can drive away my doubts. Direct me to my Savior. Jesus, that I may trust in him with my whole heart. Amen

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January 23: Matthew 15: 1 – 28

- 1) What was the complaint of the enemies of Jesus?
- 2) What were the disciples in fact “breaking?”
- 3) These words are often used to show how Jesus claims the Old Testament is the Word of God (verses 1-9). How is that done?
- 4) What is Jesus’ definition of “uncleanness?”
- 5) How is “original sin” taught in these verses?
- 6) What is significant about the fact that Jesus dealt with a Canaanite woman?
- 7) What exactly is so great about her faith?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord God, you know our human weaknesses and frailties. You know our needs and cares. We do not in any way deserve your help, Lord, but we truly need it. Therefore we come to you. Grant us peace of mind, so that we may face the difficulties that now confront us. Strengthen our weak faith, lead us with your strong hand, and work things out so that they serve our eternal good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January 24: Matthew 15: 29 – 16:12

- 1) Jesus did two great miracles of feeding thousands. Compare them.
- 2) How many were there at this feeding?
- 3) What role did the miracles play in the ministry of Jesus?
- 4) What were the Pharisees and scribes really not interpreting correctly?
- 5) What was the yeast of the Pharisees? How is the yeast of false teaching still applicable today?

Important thoughts and questions:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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January 25: Matthew 16: 13 – 17: 9

- 1) Who did the people think Jesus was?
- 2) Who do people think Jesus is?
- 3) As you read this reading how did Peter have everything right and then wrong in such a short time?
- 4) What are the keys to the kingdom?
- 5) What is the Christian's cross?
- 6) How did Jesus value your soul?
- 7) How do you value your soul?
- 8) What was the purpose of the Transfiguration?
- 9) Why did they need to come down from the mountain?
- 10) What is our mountain?
- 11) Why do we need to come down from that mountain?

Important thoughts and questions:

Dear Jesus, help us, for you understand our weakness. During your ministry of suffering, you felt first hand the sorrows and distresses that wrack our souls. Remember us in our need and have mercy on us. Amen.

January 26: Matthew 17: 10 – 27

- 1) Why was John the Baptist compared to Elijah?
- 2) Why didn't the disciples drive the demon from the young man?
- 3) What kind of encouragement do we find in verses 20, 21?
- 4) What was Jesus teaching Peter with the thoughts about the temple tax?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord of the nations, how can we ever thank You for the country which you have given us, the USA? Who can fathom all the blessings which You have showered on us as Americans? But, now we are at war. An enemy has risen who seeks to rob us of our freedom. How thankful we are that young men and women have answered the call to duty and have ventured out into foreign lands to meet the foe. We plead for their safety. Shield them from the weapons of the terrorists. Above all, keep them mindful of their mission. Give them patience and courage. Keep them united, working as a team, ever mindful that You are in charge. We commend them into Your hands, confident that then they are safe for all eternity. We pray this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen

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January 27: Matthew 18: 1-22

- 1) What makes a child such a great example of faith?
- 2) A lot is said about the sad sin of child abuse. How does Jesus say that child abuse takes place here?
- 3) Does Jesus really mean we ought to disfigure ourselves if a member of our body is a source of sin all the time?
- 4) What does Jesus say about children here?
- 5) How should we deal with problems we have with one another? What does this say about the way NOT to deal with them?
- 6) What is Jesus' point with forgiveness?

Important thoughts and questions:

O God of peace, I turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for my spirit and light for my thoughts. I bring my work to be sanctified, my wounds to be healed, my sins to be forgiven, my hopes to be renewed. In you through your Son there is perfect harmony. Draw me to yourself, and silence the discords of my wasteful life. Your greatness is beyond my highest praise. Take me out of the loneliness of self, and fill me with the fullness of your peace. Amen.

January 28: Matthew 18: 23 – 19:12

- 1) The parable about the unmerciful servant is unmistakable in its meaning. How is the unmerciful servant lived everyday in our lives?
- 2) What compels us to forgive?
- 3) Is there ever a time we forgive too much?
- 4) What about forgiving and forgetting?
- 5) When Jesus quotes word for word the from the book of Genesis, what is he saying about that section of the Scriptures?
- 6) When does God permit divorce? To whom?
- 7) Why did the disciples say this was so hard to accept?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord Jesus, you are the great healer of body and soul. As you bid us pray for the spiritual health of our fellow believers, so you call on us to petition your grace for their physical health as well. Comfort all the sick with the promise that in everything you work for the good of those who love you. If it is your will, restore to health those who are burdened by sickness of body or mind. Give wisdom and love to doctors and nurses, and let them be your instruments to bring healing. Trusting in you, we pray. Amen.

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January 29: Matthew 19: 13-30

- 1) Was the man who came to Jesus with questions about eternal life sincere or was he an enemy of Jesus?
- 2) We know we are going to heaven all by the grace of God, so why did Jesus say that he needed to keep the Ten Commandments?
- 3) What makes the appeal of riches detrimental to our going to heaven?
- 4) What in the context is Jesus referring to when he says "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible?"
- 5) What does he mean that we will be judging the twelve tribes of Israel?
- 6) When are the last first and the first last?

Important thoughts and questions:

Dear God, compassionate Father, you have found us spiritually blind and deaf because of our sin and opened our eyes and ears to the truth of your salvation in Christ. Thank you for your forgiving love. Now in thankfulness and reflecting the hope of our salvation, we desire to show love also to those who have similar physical weaknesses. Help us in our service so that in our labor of love we glorify your name and build up the saving faith of those we reach. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

January 30: Matthew 20: 1-28

- 1) What does the hiring equate to in the parable?
- 2) Did anyone complain that the Lord was not generous with his wages?
- 3) How would you use this parable?
- 4) What did Jesus announce to the disciples? Why?
- 5) How did the disciples seem to understand that they were going to Jerusalem?
- 6) Why was there this request from the mother of Zebedee's sons?
- 7) What is it like to serve with Jesus?

Important thoughts and questions:

Dear Creator and Preserver of life, frailties of body and soul plague each of us. I come to you on behalf of those who are confined to sickbeds. If it is your will, ease their pain, restore their health, and allow them to return to their daily activities. Enable them to see their sickness as an opportunity to give glory to you. Because you sent Jesus to take away the lasting effects of sin and disease, comfort these people with the timeless message of your love. Renew in them the certain hope of eternal life. And grant them all joy in living now and in eternity, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

January 31: Matthew 20:29 – 21:22

- 1) What is the importance of the title “Son of David?”
- 2) What is admirable about the blind men?
- 3) When was this in the career of Jesus?
- 4) What was the paradox of Palm Sunday?
- 5) Why did Jesus overturn the tables? What can we learn from this?
- 6) Why the mention of the praise of children?

Important thoughts and questions:

Lord of all nations, I praise you for the blessings you have showered on my country. Guide and guard your representatives in government as they care for the needs of all citizens. Give them wisdom to rule our society with honesty and justice that we may have peace in our lives and opportunities to witness to your love. Amen.