

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

11-05-2023 // WEEK 44 NOTES

Mark 10 - 16 and Matthew 1 - 9

This past week, you finished the **gospel of Mark** and began the **gospel of Matthew**. Mark is probably the first of all the gospel accounts. Most think it was written in the 50's AD. If that is true (and I think it is), that means people's names who are listed in the book were still alive by the time of Mark's writing and circulation. That means people could have gone to them and personally asked if what happened in the book actually happened. It wouldn't take long to unauthenticate the veracity of the stories, correct? Another reason to believe in the Bible's accuracy.

Highlights from Mark this week:

- **Chapter 9:** The Transfiguration story. A glimpse of heavenly glory for Peter, James, and John - and us!
- **Chapter 10:** The meaning of servanthood.
- **Chapter 11:** The power of prayer and faith (**Matthew 11:22-26**).
- **Chapter 12:** The widow's mite.
- **Chapter 13:** Prophecy of Jesus's Second Coming.
- **Chapters 14 - 15:** Jesus's arrest, cross, and pain.
- **Chapter 16:** Jesus's Resurrection. Especially note **vs 7**: the angel told the women to tell the disciples **and Peter** (who surely was beset with grief with his threefold denial looming in his heart). This is one of my favorite messages in the Bible.

On to the **gospel of Matthew**. This week you have read **Matthew 1-9**. Matthew could have had Mark before him because there is so much similar material. That would mean it was written in the 60's (same idea as Mark with names and messages and witnesses). Matthew was an apostle, chosen and called by Jesus. He was a tax collector, which means he was skilled and trained in meticulous detail. That's why this gospel has many Old Testament prophecies - all fulfilled in Jesus. The primary audience of Matthew's gospel was the Jews (Mark's is the Romans).

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Highlights from Matthew this week:

- **Chapter 1:** Jesus's genealogy (note the five women in the list - amazing - all broken people whom God restored) and the angel coming to Joseph telling him to remain with Mary.
- **Chapter 2:** The Wise Men and Herod's hatred.
- **Chapter 3:** John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus.
- **Chapter 4:** Jesus's temptation narrative: notice the two ways Jesus defeated the devil's temptations.
- **Chapters 5-7:** The Beatitudes (Jesus's most personal and powerful teachings in all the gospel accounts):

The sermon on the Mount. Probably Jesus's most in depth teachings in the gospel accounts. The beatitudes are the "attitudes" that bring the most happiness in life.

Then Jesus teaches about anger, adultery, forgiveness, divorce, prayer, the dangers of money, not judging, yet discerning people's fruit, to what it means to be a life built on his rock of truth. Please note the last words when Jesus said, "those of you who hear and DO these things are like a life built on the rock." The doing must be a part of the hearing or you're not a true disciple.

Note also the number of times in these chapters where **Jesus contrasts fear with faith.** Faith is the overcoming power of God to all fear. Complete and total trust. For example, when he calmed the storm in **Matthew 8**, he rebuked his disciples: "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" It's a good reminder for us all.

Again, I hope you are enjoying the journey as you follow Jesus: our most precious possession!

David