

Dr. Craig Keener, Matthew, Session 15

Matthew 19-22

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

Matthew 3-4

1. Abstract of Keener, Matthew, Session 15, Matthew 19-22, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Craig Keener **explains** Matthew chapters 19-22, focusing on **Jesus' teachings** on discipleship and the kingdom of God. Keener **discusses** the cost of discipleship, using examples from both the Gospels and ancient philosophy to illustrate Jesus' high standards. He **analyzes** parables like the landowner and the workers and the wedding banquet, emphasizing themes of grace, judgment, and the importance of humility and service. Finally, Keener **examines** Jesus' interactions with religious leaders, highlighting their misunderstandings of Jesus' identity and the hypocrisy of their outward religious practice.

2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Matthews, Session 15 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels – Acts → Matthew).



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3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Matthew 19-22, Lecture by Dr. Craig Keener

Main Themes:

- **The Cost of Discipleship:** Jesus emphasizes the need for absolute commitment and sacrifice to follow him.
- **The Nature of the Kingdom:** Jesus challenges worldly expectations of power and hierarchy, emphasizing humility and service.
- **God's Judgment and Grace:** Through parables, Jesus warns of the consequences of rejecting God's invitation while also demonstrating God's abundant grace and mercy.
- **Jesus' Identity:** Jesus gradually unveils his Messianic identity, culminating in his declaration as David's Lord.
- **Critique of Religious Hypocrisy:** Jesus challenges the religious leaders' hypocrisy, highlighting the inadequacy of outward religion without true heart transformation.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

Chapter 19:

- The rich young ruler's inability to forsake his possessions reveals the difficulty for the wealthy to enter the kingdom. Jesus states, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24)
- Jesus promises his disciples eternal life and a place in the kingdom for putting him first.
- The parable of the laborers in the vineyard illustrates that God's grace is not earned but freely given.

Chapter 20:

- James and John's request for positions of honor in the kingdom leads to Jesus' teaching about suffering and servanthood. He asks, "Are you able to drink the cup that I am going to drink?" (Matthew 20:22)

- Jesus models humility and service, stating, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Matthew 20:28)

Chapter 21:

- The triumphal entry fulfills prophecy (Zechariah 9:9) and presents Jesus as a meek king.
- Jesus cleanses the temple, quoting Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11, criticizing the religious leaders for turning God's house into a "den of robbers."
- The parable of the murderous tenants warns of the judgment awaiting those who reject God's messengers and ultimately his son.

Chapter 22:

- Jesus skillfully answers the Pharisees and Herodians' question about paying taxes to Caesar, stating, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."
(Matthew 22:21)
- Jesus refutes the Sadducees' denial of the resurrection using an argument from the Torah (Exodus 3:6).
- In response to a question about the greatest commandment, Jesus cites the twofold command to love God and neighbor (Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18).
- Jesus challenges the Pharisees' understanding of the Messiah, declaring himself as David's Lord based on Psalm 110:1.

Quotes from Dr. Keener:

- "Jesus doesn't lower his standard. He lets us know what the standard is. And we have to show that we are determined to follow Jesus no matter what."
- "Grace isn't fair. None of us has the right to look down on someone else."
- "Outward religion is not enough to stay the judgment of God."
- "Religion does not make us holy. Only God can make us holy."

Overall:

Dr. Keener's lecture provides a detailed examination of Matthew 19-22, highlighting the key themes and significant events. He utilizes historical and cultural insights, biblical references, and personal anecdotes to illustrate the enduring relevance of Jesus' teachings for today. The lecture underscores the importance of genuine discipleship, humility, service, and a deep understanding of God's grace and judgment.

4. Matthew Study Guide: Session 15, Matthew 19-22

Understanding the Gospel of Matthew: Chapters 19-22

Short Answer Questions:

1. How does Matthew clarify Mark's account of the rich young ruler? Why is this clarification significant?
2. Describe the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard. What is the main message of this parable?
3. What symbolic act of judgment does Jesus perform in the temple? What Old Testament passages does this act relate to, and how?
4. In the parable of the Wedding Feast, how is the king's son treated? What does this parable teach about rejecting God's invitation?
5. How does Jesus respond to the question of paying taxes to Caesar? What is the significance of his answer?
6. What issue do the Sadducees raise with Jesus? How does Jesus counter their argument?
7. What does Jesus identify as the greatest commandment? Why does he link this commandment to loving one's neighbor?
8. How does Jesus demonstrate that the Messiah is more than just David's son? What Old Testament passage does he cite?
9. What is an "inclusio," and how does Matthew use one in chapters 19-20?
10. Explain the significance of the cup that Jesus speaks of to James and John.

Answer Key:

1. Matthew clarifies Mark by having Jesus explicitly refer to God as "good." This clarifies that Jesus is not denying his own divinity, as some might have interpreted from Mark's account.
2. The parable describes a landowner who hires workers throughout the day, paying them all the same wage regardless of how long they worked. It teaches that God's grace is not based on merit or fairness, and that we should rejoice in his generosity even if it seems unfair to us.

3. Jesus cleanses the temple, overturning the tables of the moneychangers and driving out the animals. This relates to Isaiah 56:7, which speaks of God's house being a house of prayer for all nations, and Jeremiah 7:11, which condemns Israel for turning the temple into a "den of robbers" through their sinfulness.
4. The king's son is insulted when those invited to his wedding feast refuse to attend. This parable teaches that rejecting God's invitation is a serious offense, signifying a deliberate insult to his honor and dignity.
5. Jesus says, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." This acknowledges the legitimate authority of earthly rulers while emphasizing the ultimate allegiance owed to God.
6. The Sadducees challenge the idea of resurrection by presenting a hypothetical scenario of a woman with multiple husbands. Jesus counters by citing Exodus 3:6, where God identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, implying that they are still alive in some sense, even though they are physically dead.
7. Jesus identifies "loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind" as the greatest commandment. He links this to loving one's neighbor because both are grounded in love and fulfilling the second flows naturally from fulfilling the first.
8. Jesus cites Psalm 110:1, where David calls the Messiah "my Lord," even though the Messiah is also David's descendant. This indicates a level of authority and divinity that goes beyond mere human lineage.
9. An *inclusio* is a literary device where a passage begins and ends with similar phrases or themes, creating a thematic bracket. Matthew uses an *inclusio* in chapters 19-20 by beginning and ending with the phrase "the first will be last, and the last will be first," framing the discussion of discipleship and reward.
10. The cup symbolizes the suffering and death that Jesus would face. He asks James and John if they are willing to share in his suffering, emphasizing that true discipleship involves taking up one's cross and following him.

Essay Questions:

1. Analyze Jesus's interactions with the wealthy and powerful in Matthew 19-22. How does he challenge their assumptions about wealth, power, and righteousness?
2. Compare and contrast the parables of the Laborers in the Vineyard and the Wedding Feast. What are the key similarities and differences in their messages?
3. Discuss the significance of Jesus's cleansing of the temple in Matthew 21. How does this act foreshadow the coming judgment on Jerusalem and the establishment of a new covenant?
4. Examine the various challenges posed to Jesus by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians in Matthew 22. What do these challenges reveal about their beliefs and motivations? How does Jesus effectively respond to each one?
5. Explore the theme of discipleship in Matthew 19-22. What does Jesus teach about the cost and rewards of following him? What lessons can modern disciples learn from these teachings?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Messianic Secret:** The idea that Jesus concealed his true identity as the Messiah for a period of time, revealing it gradually to his disciples and others.
- **Parable:** A short, allegorical story designed to teach a moral or spiritual lesson.
- **Hallel:** A series of Psalms (113-118) traditionally recited or sung during Jewish festivals, including Passover.
- **Gezerah Shavah:** A rabbinic principle of biblical interpretation that links passages with similar wording, drawing connections between them.
- **Sanhedrin:** The highest Jewish council in Jerusalem, composed of religious leaders and elders, responsible for legal and religious matters.
- **Denarius:** A Roman silver coin, representing a day's wage for a laborer.
- **Pharisees:** A Jewish sect known for their strict adherence to the Law of Moses and their emphasis on ritual purity.
- **Sadducees:** A Jewish sect composed primarily of the priestly aristocracy, known for their rejection of the resurrection and oral traditions.
- **Herodians:** A political faction that supported the rule of Herod and his dynasty.
- **Scribe:** A professional copyist and interpreter of Jewish law and scripture.
- **Kingdom of God:** The central theme of Jesus's preaching, referring to the reign of God in the hearts of individuals and in the world.
- **Eschatological Feast:** A symbolic banquet anticipated in Jewish tradition, representing the ultimate celebration of God's victory and the restoration of creation.
- **Outer Darkness:** A metaphorical term for a place of punishment and separation from God.

5. FAQs on Keener, Matthew, Session 15, Matthew 19-22, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ about the Gospel of Matthew (Chapters 19-22)

1. What is the main theme of Matthew 19-22?

The central theme of Matthew 19-22 is **discipleship and the cost of following Jesus**. This section explores the absolute commitment required to enter the Kingdom of God, highlighting the challenges of wealth, pride, and religious hypocrisy. It also emphasizes Jesus' authority and identity as the Messiah, the Son of God, and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

2. What does Jesus teach about wealth and eternal life?

In his encounter with the rich young man, Jesus teaches that **eternal life requires obedience to God's commandments, and that includes a willingness to detach oneself from material possessions**. He uses the powerful metaphor of a camel passing through the eye of a needle to illustrate the difficulty the wealthy face in entering the Kingdom of God due to their attachment to their riches.

3. What is the meaning of the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard?

The parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard illustrates the concept of **God's grace and its seemingly unfair nature**. The landowner, representing God, shows generosity to all workers, even those who worked for only a short time, by giving them a full day's wage. This parable teaches that salvation is not earned by our works but freely given by God's grace, and that we should rejoice in God's generosity rather than comparing ourselves to others.

4. How does the Triumphal Entry reveal Jesus' kingship?

The Triumphal Entry, where Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, depicting him as a **humble and peaceful king**. While the crowds welcome him with messianic expectations of a powerful earthly ruler, Jesus' actions demonstrate his true nature as a servant-king who comes to bring salvation through humility and sacrifice.

5. What is the significance of Jesus cleansing the temple?

Jesus' cleansing of the temple is a **symbolic act of judgment against the religious hypocrisy and corruption** prevalent in the temple system. By overturning the tables of the money changers and driving out the animals, he challenges the exploitation of worshipers and the distortion of God's purpose for the temple. His actions also foreshadow the temple's destruction and the establishment of a new covenant.

6. What is the main message of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet?

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet warns of **the consequences of rejecting God's invitation to the Kingdom**. The king, representing God, invites guests to his son's wedding, but many refuse and even mistreat his messengers. This parable emphasizes the seriousness of spurning God's offer of salvation and highlights the invitation extended to both Jews and Gentiles. The story also includes the expulsion of a guest without proper attire, symbolizing that mere outward profession of faith is insufficient for entrance into the Kingdom.

7. How does Jesus respond to the question about paying taxes to Caesar?

When questioned about paying taxes, Jesus famously replies, "**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" This response cleverly navigates the political trap set by his opponents while also emphasizing the importance of recognizing both earthly and divine authority. It also subtly points to the ultimate allegiance owed to God, who holds true sovereignty.

8. How does Jesus affirm his identity as greater than David?

By quoting Psalm 110:1, where David refers to his own Lord, Jesus demonstrates that the Messiah is not merely a descendant of David but also his divine superior. This passage affirms Jesus' unique identity as **both David's son and David's Lord**, pointing to his divinity and his role as the ultimate fulfillment of messianic prophecies.