

Matthew Survey — Section Three

Complete Overview — All Topics & Content

Matthew 16:21 – 23:39 · Lessons 1–36

1st Pronouncement & Edification · Lessons 1–11

Matthew 16:21 – 17:21

P1

Overview: Structure of Section 3

Lesson 1 · Matt 16:21 – 23:39 (Introduction)

- Three pronouncements, each followed by an edificational block

The Three Pronouncements

- 1st (16:21) — it MUST take place (the necessity)
- 2nd (17:22–23) — it WILL take place, by betrayal
- 3rd (20:17–19) — the specific players are identified
- Primary focus: equipping the remnant to endure the transferred hatred of a hostile world

P2

The 1st Pronouncement & the Ignorance of Peter

Lessons 2–3 · Matt 16:21–23

- “From that time forth began” — brand-new disclosure; disciples had not believed this gospel before
- Peter’s rebuke exposes the ignorance factor — judicial blinding God placed on Israel (Luke 18:34)
- The Lord’s rebuke underscores the MUST: to resist the rejection is to savor the things of men, not God

P3

The Ignorance Factor: Its Origin & Purpose

Lessons 3–5 · Background to Matt 16:22

Root in Deuteronomy 29

- The ignorance factor allowed God to legally forgive Israel for crucifying Christ (Acts 3:17)
- Lifted after the resurrection when the Lord “opened their understanding” (Luke 24:45)
- The Lord repeated the pronouncements so they would be remembered and believed after the resurrection

P4

The Cost of Discipleship

Lessons 6–8 · Matt 16:24–28

- “Take up his cross” — taking up the instrument of one’s own execution as a condemned man would
- Foundation: the recompense of reward — esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches (Heb 11:26)
- Willingness doctrine traced through Heb 10–12 and Rev 2–3

P5

The Mount of Transfiguration: Three Purposes*Lessons 8–9 · Matt 17:1–13***Purpose 1: 'Hear Ye Him'**

- Father's voice authorizes the Lord's pronouncements over natural reluctance

Purpose 2: Equipping Against Scribal Misuse of Malachi

- Sight of Moses & Elijah equips against the VRS misuse of Mal 4:5–6

Purpose 3: Foretaste for Testimony After the Resurrection

- A foretaste for eyewitness testimony — 2 Pet 1:16

P6

Correcting the Scribal Misuse of Malachi*Lesson 9 · Matt 17:10–13*

- VRS used Mal 4:5–6 to claim Elijah hadn't appeared — therefore John wasn't the forerunner
- John came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1), fulfilling Mal 3:1; literal Elijah still future

P7

The Disappointing Foretaste: Advanced Policy of Evil*Lessons 10–11 · Matt 17:14–21*

- Coming down from the mount, the disciples encounter severe demonic oppression — a foretaste of phase 3
- Their failure: (1) unbelief, (2) this kind requires prayer and fasting
- Prepares the remnant: the policy of evil will not simply dissipate — it intensifies

2nd Pronouncement & Edification — Part A · Lessons 12–18*Matthew 17:22 – 18:35*

P1

The Second Pronouncement*Lesson 12 · Matt 17:22–23*

- Adds the betrayal detail — one of their own would deliver him over
- Ignorance factor still in effect; disciples could not yet identify Judas

P2

Not Offending the Gentiles*Lesson 12 · Matt 17:24–27*

- 1st of three edificational issues: do not offend during the times of the Gentiles
- A coming day of Gentile visitation is prophesied — Matt 24:14 (gospel to all nations)
- Peter's later instruction (1 Pet 2:12–13) draws directly from this corrective doctrine

P3

Humility vs. Highmindedness*Lessons 13–14 · Matt 18:1–6***Object lesson: the little child**

- 2nd edificational issue: 'Who is greatest?' — reveals pride and ambition in the remnant
- "Converted" = complete change of thinking and conduct (not change of salvation)
- Greatness pertains to rewards in the kingdom — positions of rulership (Prov 16:18–19)

P4

Warnings to the World & Valuing the Little Ones*Lessons 15–16 · Matt 18:7–14*

- Those of the world urged to deal radically with whatever hinders kingdom response (18:7–9)
- Angels of the little ones always behold the Father's face — Ps 8:2 fulfilled in Matt 21:15–16

P5

Dealing with a Trespassing Brother*Lessons 17–18 · Matt 18:15–20*

- 3rd edificational issue: three-stage process counters the VRS's frowardness and tale-bearing
- "Church" here = the called-out remnant, not the Body of Christ
- Verses 18–20: authoritative confidence to act on isolation even when the offender is unmoved

P6

Unlimited Forgiveness — The Unmerciful Servant*Lesson 18 · Matt 18:21–35*

- Peter's question: "Until seven times?" — rooted in greed and self-centeredness
- The remnant = the forgiven servant; they have received mercy beyond calculation
- "Delivered to the tormentors" = loss of rewards, restricted entry into the kingdom

2nd Pronouncement & Edification — Part B · Lessons 19–23*Matthew 19:1 – 20:16*

P1

The Lord's Route Toward Jerusalem*Lesson 19 · Matt 19:1–2*

- Third body of doctrine (Matt 19–20) = five major issues, paralleling the five issues of Matt 18
- The route — beyond Jordan, through Jericho, up to Jerusalem — parallels the Lord's return route at his second coming

P2

Marriage, Divorce, and Eunuchs*Lessons 19–20 · Matt 19:3–12*

- 1st of five issues: Pharisees tempt with divorce question; Lord reiterates Sermon on the Mount doctrine

Eunuchs & urgency of the kingdom

- Isa 56:5 — eunuchs given a name better than sons and daughters
- First of three categories the disciples were tempted to despise

P3

Little Children — A Persistent Stronghold*Lesson 20 · Matt 19:13–15*

- 2nd issue: same correction as Matt 18 — VRS influence runs deep; disciples again rebuke those bringing children

P4**The Rich Young Man — Three Options for Justification Dismantled***Lessons 20–21 · Matt 19:16–22***Three options in Israel's VRS (John 1:13)**

- Option 1 — Born of blood: righteousness by genealogical purity (Pharisee claim)
- Option 2 — Born of the will of the flesh: righteousness by prescribed law-keeping
- Option 3 — Born of the will of man: a Pharisee father pronounces someone justified
- The Lord's "none good but God" destroys all three options simultaneously

P5**Riches as a Stumbling Block***Lessons 21–22 · Matt 19:23–26*

- VRS taught riches = sign of God's blessing; the Lord dismantles this (Prov 11:28)
- V. 23 → entrance difficulty in the 4th installment; v. 24 → intensifies in the 5th installment

P6**Twelve Thrones, Hundredfold Reward, and the Last Shall Be First***Lesson 23 · Matt 19:27–20:16*

- The twelve thrones (Matt 19:28) — restoration of Israel's judges (Isa 1:26)

Parable of the Laborers (Matt 20:1–16)

- Eleventh-hour workers = those responding near the climax of the fifth installment
- "Chosen" = chosen on the basis of faithfulness to corrective doctrine (Matt 20:16)

3rd Pronouncement & Edification — Part A · Lessons 24–28*Matthew 20:17 – 21:16***P1****The Third and Final Pronouncement***Lesson 24 · Matt 20:17–19***Progression of detail across the three pronouncements**

- 1st: the MUST factor (16:21)
- 2nd: the betrayal factor (17:22–23)
- 3rd: the players (chief priests, scribes, Gentiles) and the method — crucifixion (20:17–19)
- Psalm 22:14–18 written centuries before crucifixion became a Roman method of execution

P2**The High Cost of Apostolic Discipleship***Lessons 24–25 · Matt 20:20–28***Two criteria for being chief among the Lord's worthies**

- Criterion 1: willingness to drink the Lord's cup and share his baptism (vv. 22–23)
- Criterion 2: responding to persecution by ministering rather than lording (vv. 24–28)

P3**The Return Route: The Book of the Wars of the LORD***Lessons 25–26 · Frame of reference for Matt 20:29–21:16*

- The Lord deliberately follows the route from Num 21:14 — Red Sea → Jordan → Jericho → Jerusalem
- Joshua crossing the Jordan (Josh 3–4) is a type: twelve stones, Israel passing over on dry ground
- Hab 3:2–3 gives a prophetic synopsis of the entire return route; Zech 14 anchors the Mount of Olives

P4

The Blind Men: Foretaste of the Remnant on the Final Leg*Lesson 27 · Matt 20:29–34*

- At the Lord's return, the world will be in total darkness (Matt 24:29); the remnant will cry 'have mercy'
- Hab 3:2 — "In wrath remember mercy" exactly parallels the blind men's cry

P5

The Triumphal Entry: Foretaste and Rehearsal*Lessons 27–28 · Matt 21:1–16***Zechariah 9:9 — what was NOT quoted**

- Matt 21:5 deliberately omits "having salvation" — the Lord comes first to suffer, not reign

Psalm 118 behind the Hosanna

- "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the LORD" — the climactic declaration of the remnant
- Temple cleansing: foretaste of the sanctuary cleansing of Dan 8; children's praise fulfills Ps 8:2

3rd Pronouncement & Edification — Part B · Lessons 29–34*Matthew 21:17 – 22:46*

P1

The Cursing of the Fig Tree*Lessons 29–31 · Matt 21:17–22*

- Fig tree = Israel's religious life under the VRS; the curse signals phase 2 of the VRS

The fig tree and the mountain combined

- The mountain = the satanic hindrance the remnant will cast into the sea in phase 3
- "All things" (v. 22) = God's provisions for the remnant in phases 2 and 3

P2

Three Phases of the Vain Religious System*Lesson 29 · Review of Matt 16 Framework***Phase 1 — Matt 16 through the cross**

- Lord seals off proactive dealings; VRS leads Israel to reject & crucify Christ

Phase 2 — Acts 2 through Daniel's 70th week

- Extension of mercy; VRS rejects the Spirit's testimony; Saul converted; program suspended

Phase 3 — Daniel's 70th week to Armageddon

- Worst false teachers ever (2 Pet 2; Jude); ends with God's judgment destroying the VRS

P3

The Four Trees of Israel's Program*Lessons 30–31 · Judg 9; Jer 11, 24; Ps 80***Olive tree**

- Israel's spiritual privileges and position (Rom 11)

Fig tree

- Israel's religious life under the VRS

Vine

- Israel's national identity and entity in the land (Ps 80:8–9)

Bramble

- The satanic policy of evil operating in Israel through the VRS (Judg 9)

P4

The Temple Confrontation: The Foundation Exposed*Lessons 31–32 · Matt 21:23–32*

- The Lord exposes the VRS's foundational rejection of the counsel of God (John's baptism)

Four cornerstones of the foundation of rebelliousness

- (1) Rejection of the counsel of God; (2) Declared arrival of Israel's climatic stage
- (3) First part of Israel's prescription for cleansing (Ezek 36; Lev 26)
- (4) Manifestation of Christ to Israel (John 1:30–31)

P5

The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen*Lesson 32 · Matt 21:33–46*

- Built on Isa 5:1–7 — the original 'song of the vineyard'; the VRS kills the Son (the heir)
- "Falling on the stone" = repentance (during mercy extension); "stone falling on him" = judgment in phase 3

P6

The Parable of the Marriage Feast*Lesson 33 · Matt 22:1–14*

- Carries the historical synopsis forward through the extension of mercy and into the fifth installment
- The man without a wedding garment = a member of the remnant who is called (justified) but unfaithful
- "Many are called, but few chosen" — chosen on the basis of faithfulness to the corrective doctrine

P7

The Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Final Offering*Lessons 33–34 · Matt 22:15–46***Pharisees' pet doctrine: tribute to Caesar (vv. 15–22)****Sadducees' pet doctrine: no resurrection (vv. 23–33)**

- Matt 22:29 — "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God"

V. 34 — "Gathered together": the ominous pivot**Final offering of corrective doctrine (vv. 35–46)**

- Two issues: (1) the great commandment; (2) whose son is the Christ
- No man able to answer — the stage is set for the denouncement (Matt 23)

Final Denouncement & Exhortation · Lessons 35–36*Matthew 23:1 – 39*

P1

Structure of the Final Denouncement*Lesson 35 · Matt 23:1–2***Three distinct sections**

- Section 1 (vv. 1–12): addressed to the disciples
- Section 2 (vv. 13–36): addressed to the scribes & Pharisees — the eight woes
- Section 3 (vv. 37–39): addressed to Jerusalem itself

P2**Exhortation to the Disciples***Lesson 35 · Matt 23:1–12***Issue 1: hearing the law discerningly (vv. 2–4)**

- Equipped disciples can distinguish what to observe from what not to do

Issue 2: not emulating their self-exaltation (vv. 5–12)

- “He that is greatest among you shall be your servant” — opposite of the VRS's standard

P3**The Eight Woes & Their Isaiah Parallel***Lessons 35–36 · Matt 23:13–33*

- The eight woes parallel the eight woes of Isa 3–5 — the original indictment of the VRS

Isaiah woes (original order)

- Woes 1–2 (Isa 3): ungodly thinking · Woes 3–5 (Isa 5:8–18): ungodly living
- Woes 6–8 (Isa 5:20–22): ungodly labor

Matthew woes (reversed order)

- Ungodly labor first (vv. 13–15) → ungodly living (vv. 16–26) → ungodly thinking (vv. 27–33)

P4**Woes Against Ungodly Labor & Ungodly Living***Lesson 36 · Matt 23:13–26***Woes 1–3: ungodly labor (vv. 13–15)**

- Woe 1: shut up the kingdom · Woe 2: devour widows' houses · Woe 3: make proselytes twofold worse

Woes 4–6: ungodly living (vv. 16–26)

- Blind guides · Omitting weightier matters (Matt 23:23) · Clean outside, corrupt inside

P5**Woes Against Ungodly Thinking & Filling Up the Measure***Lesson 36 · Matt 23:27–36***Woes 7–8 (vv. 27–33)**

- Woe 7: whited sepulchres — outwardly righteous, inwardly full of hypocrisy & iniquity
- Woe 8: honoring slain prophets while claiming they would not have done so — filling the measure

Filling up the measure (vv. 32, 34–36)

- Phase 2 VRS persecutes the remnant — indictment reaches back to Abel (v. 35)

P6**Lament Over Jerusalem***Lesson 36 · Matt 23:37–39*

- “Your house is left unto you desolate” — the Lord no longer calls it his Father's house
- “Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh” — Ps 118:26
- Closes Section 3 (Matt 16:21–23:39); looks forward to Sections 4 & 5 (Matt 24–28)