

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



“Depart From Me”

Study: Matthew 7:21-23

Reading: Romans 3:1-31

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

The year my that I took my family on a trip to Disney World, Disney World had an offer where we could earn free tickets by serving at a local community event. We did this by serving at a local food pantry for a day, and in return we earned free ticket vouchers. When we arrived at the park and took our vouchers to the window, my wife had left her ID at the hotel so she wouldn't have to carry it around all day. The lady at the ticket booth told me I was the only one who could redeem the voucher since I was the only one with an ID. After pleading with her for a few minutes, she talked to a manager and they made an exception for the children since the kids really didn't have any form of ID, but they wouldn't make an exception for my wife. We then decided that I would take the kids into the Magical Kingdom while my wife went back to the hotel to get her licence. When she returned with her ID, they had no problem redeeming her voucher.

Today, we are going to see that without the proper spiritual ID, no one will be allowed into the kingdom of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

The evidence of a true follower of God will be seen by the fruit of their life. There have been and continue to be many people who think they are followers of God, but are not. Jesus talked about a group of people who claim Him as their Lord, but will not enter the kingdom of heaven. The reason for this is that a true follower of Christ will also act on what He knows to be true. Jesus was not teaching that you need to do things to earn your salvation but was declaring that those who are saved will reveal the evidence of their salvation through their outward works. Jesus taught that a person will reveal who they really are by their works (vs 21).

Jesus continued this teaching in next few verses, and I believe these are some of the saddest verses in the Bible. Jesus referred to “that day” which is a reference to the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:1-15) where men stand before Jesus and give an account for their choice not to

accept Him as their Savior. The group referenced here won't be a handful of people, but Jesus described the number of this group as "many." On the judgment day, these people will come to Jesus declaring all the wonderful works they had done for Him. They will declare how they cast out demons, prophesied and did many miraculous works for Him. This appears to be a direct rebuke to the Jewish leaders who based their spirituality on the wonders they did to impress men rather than humbling themselves to trust God (vs 22).

The response of Jesus will be blunt and straight to the point. He will sentence them to eternity in hell and tell them to depart from His presence because He never "knew" them. This is a clear reference to the fact that these people were never real children of God but were religious people seeking to gain the approval of other men. Jesus stated that they were men of "iniquity" (KJV) or "lawlessness" (ESV). This did not mean that the people mentioned here were deep into "great" sin but that they trusted in themselves rather than obeying God's will. They did "good" things many times, but these "good" things were not enough to satisfy their sin debt. Only those who enter into a relationship with God through accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as an atonement for sin have the ability to know God intimately. The works of a person often reveal if they are serving themselves or serving God (vs 23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you a true follower of Christ, or do you just go through the motions of Christianity? These verses should not be taken lightly but should be a little "scary" as you read through them. This is because the verses are a stern warning to all those who claim to be religious but do not truly know God. God does not want people to only know about Him or do many things for Him, He wants you to really know Him. The only way to know Him is to hear His Word, humble yourself to choose to follow what He says. What He says is that you must come to Him by faith, in humility and repentance and trust Jesus to be the sacrifice for your sin. You will read the further teachings of Jesus on this tomorrow and how they declare that true believers are ones who listen to His Word and choose to obey it. This passage is not given so that you can go around attempting to judge others, but it was given for you to evaluate your life to see if you truly know God. Take time today to let God reveal to you the true intentions of your heart and let His Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God.

What did Jesus declare about everyone who called Him "Lord" (vs 21)?

Who did Jesus say would enter the kingdom of heaven (vs 21)?

How do you think a person could declare Jesus as their "Lord" but not do the will of God?

What does this reveal about the importance of your actions?

Are actions alone enough to get you into the kingdom of heaven? Explain.

What do you think it looks like to do the will of God on a daily basis?

What day do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 22?

What three things did Jesus say people would declare (vs 22)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Do you think this was a comprehensive list? Explain.

Why do you think that Jesus listed these particular things?

What will Jesus declare to some people (vs 23)?

Why would Jesus reject these people (vs 23)?

What does this reveal about those who seek to earn their salvation by doing religious deeds in the name of Jesus?

How would a person not be known by Jesus (vs 23)?

Verse 21 declares that only those who do God's will have the ability to enter the kingdom of heaven, but verses 22-23 say that God will reject those who don't know Him. Describe what you think is the proper understanding of knowing God and doing His will?

“Building on the Rock”

Study: Matthew 7:24-29, Luke 6:46-49

Reading: Ephesians 2:14-22, Psalm 119:1-16

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

When I first started building an ice rink where I lived in Wisconsin, I was constantly battling the fact that one end was over two feet lower than the other end. To build the rink, I would lay down a large sheet of plastic laid inside a wooden frame and begin filling it with water. As it would fill up, the water pressure would become very strong and would push out on the boards. I had to keep a constant eye on the bulging boards and would continually try to reinforce them. There were many times when the boards or braces would break, causing me to lose much of the water I had already put in. Year after year I tried to solidify my boards and, though they got stronger, I wasn't able to ever get them to be strong enough to withhold all of the pressure so I had to fill the plastic in layers. This is because it was a temporary structure built with wood and screws and the foundation was simply not strong enough.

Today, we are going to read about the importance of a solid foundation. To build something that will last, it has to be built on a foundation that will stand the test of time. We will read how building our lives upon the Word of God will result in lives that will last for all eternity.

What Does the Bible Say?

Obedience is one of the key signs which reveals a person is a believer. Jesus stated that many who call Him “Lord” don't obey what He tells them to do. This fits millions of people today who call themselves Christians, but choose not to live out His Word. The emphasis that Jesus placed on works was clearly an emphasis on obedience. The religious leaders of the day were full of all sorts of outward works, but those works did nothing to earn them a spot in heaven. It is true belief in the saving work of Jesus that will open up the door of eternal life for you. When you truly believe, you will have the new birth and the new birth will be marked by obedience (Luke 6:46-47).

To illustrate His point, Jesus gave a story of two men who both chose to build new houses. The first one mentioned was described as a wise man

because he took great care in building the foundation of his new home. He dug down in the ground to find rock and it was on the rock that he started to build the foundation. When completed, this house would stand for a long time and would withstand fierce winds and violent storms. Even if the river which was near this house flooded, the house would not be washed away, but would stand firm (Matthew 7:24-25, Luke 6:48).

The other man chose not to take time to dig to the rock, but instead built his house upon unstable ground. When the winds started to blow and the river started to flood, there was nothing to hold the house firm and the ground shifted, causing the house to be destroyed. The house would be completely washed away which would result in a total loss for that man (Matthew 7:26-27, Luke 6:49).

What we refer to as “The Sermon on the Mount” had now come to an end. Those who heard this sermon were in awe of what they had just heard. These people had listened to the religious leaders teach on a regular basis and much of their teaching was based on what other religious leaders taught or said. Jesus taught the Word of God and this teaching amazed the people because it had power and authority behind it (Matthew 7:28-29).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Would you be described as a wise man according to what Jesus declared in this passage? A wise man is one who seeks to know what God says and chooses to follow it. Sadly, we as humans are often lazy and don't really seek to know what God says or desires. We are often satisfied with a surface religion or just listening to what someone else tells us that God wants us to do. The more you choose to seek the Word of God and the more you choose to listen to it and obey it, the stronger foundation you will be building in your life. You will be preparing your life for the storms and difficulties before they come and you will be able to withstand the attacks of the wicked one.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His Word which provides a solid foundation.*
- * *Ask God to help you live obedient to His Word.*

Thought for the day

What two things did God want His followers to do (vs 24)?

- 1.
- 2.

What happens when you are just a hearer and not a doer?

What happens when you are a doer and not a hearer?

How can you ensure that you are both a hearer and doer of the Word?

What did Jesus compare the person who hears and does His Word to (vs 24)?

What happened to the house that was build on the firm foundation (vs 25)?

What do you think are some of the storms and trials that come in this life?

How have you found that your firm foundation as a hearer and doer has helped you through these storms in life?

What did Jesus say that those who heard His words but did not do them were like (vs 26)?

What happened to this man's house when the storms came (vs 27)?

What are some storms in life that can easily destroy a person if they did not build on the right foundation?

Describe a time when your spiritual life struggled because you had been building on the wrong foundation?

How have you seen others come to great ruin who once were active hearers of the Word but failed to act on what they heard?

How can you know if you are an active doer of the Word rather than just a person who hears, but never acts?

What does this reveal about the great importance of you living out God's Word on a daily basis?

“Great Faith”

Study: Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

What Does the Bible Say?

Once finished with his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus traveled to Capernaum. The centurion mentioned in this passage appears to have been a very unique individual, as evidenced by his great love and concern for his servant, and also seen by the willingness of Jewish leaders to plead to Jesus on his behalf. Matthew seems to indicate that the centurion went directly to Jesus, but Luke reveals that the centurion appealed to Jesus through some of the Jewish elders. It would have been rare for Jewish elders to act on the behalf of a Roman soldier, but this man must have been respected enough in the region that they were willing to do so. The Jewish elders told Jesus that the Centurion had a love for the Jews and had greatly helped them build their Synagogue (Matthew 8:5-6, Luke 7:1-5).

Another reason we can see the uniqueness of this Centurion is by His actions when Jesus came near his home. The Centurion sent messengers to tell Jesus that he was not worthy to have a great person like Jesus enter into his house and trusted that if Jesus would just speak the words of healing that his servant would be healed. Though the centurion was a leader over 100 men and knew what authority was all about, he fully understood that the authority of Jesus was far greater than his authority. This man's faith was clearly seen by Jesus and those who had followed Jesus. Jesus also chose to emphasize the faith of this man by telling the crowd that He



Foundation stones of the synagogue in Capernaum that the centurion helped build

had not seen this type of faith among any of the Israelites. Going on to describe how many Gentiles will be saved from all over the world because of their faith, Jesus also declared that many Jews would go to hell because of their lack of faith. Jesus described this hell as a place of great darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. He emphasized the misery of eternity apart from God, attempting to get the Jews to realize that the kingdom of God was not automatic for them just because they were born into the Jewish nation. (Matthew 8:7-12, Luke 7:6-9).

Jesus declared that the servant would be made well and when the messengers returned back to the centurions' home, they found that the servant was healed, just as Jesus had said (Matthew 8:13, Luke 7:10.)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have faith in Jesus? Do you really believe that God can do the miraculous for you? The fact that Jesus was so thrilled about the faith of the centurion helps us see how much God desires you to simply trust in Him by faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him." The response of Jesus also reveals how difficult faith is for all humans. The reason this centurion had such great faith was in part due to his understanding of authority, power and humility. Being a leader of others, he knew what it was like to be able to have the power to have his way once he gave a command. He also realized that there was a chain of command and fully understood his place in life. Though he had a respected position among the Romans, he also realized that compared to Jesus, he was nothing. To have faith similar to this man, you need to follow his example. You need to approach God with humility, realizing His great power and your unworthiness. You need to approach Him in faith, trusting that He has all the power to hear and answer your request.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the ability to have faith in Him.*
- * *Ask God to increase your faith.*
- * *Praise God because He is worthy of your respect and honor.*

Thought for the day

Luke 7:1-10

Where did Jesus travel to once He finished His "Sermon on the Mount" (vs 1)?

What have you read about Capernaum so far in your study of the Gospels?

Who had a sick servant (vs 2)?

What was a centurion?

Why do you think a centurion would be in Capernaum?

How sick was this centurion's servant (vs 2)?

What did the centurion decide to do when he heard about Jesus (vs 3)?

What did these Jewish leaders do (vs 4)?

What does their whole interaction reveal about this centurion (vs 4-5)?

Why do you think this centurion had a love for the Jews?

****This is a tough question to answer since we aren't given many details about him.*

What did Jesus decide to do (vs 6)?

What happened when Jesus was close to the centurion's home (vs 6)?

What did the centurion declare about Jesus (vs 7-8)?

Why do you think this caused Jesus to "marvel" (vs 9)?

What does the faith of the centurion reveal about himself and what God desires from those who trust in Him?

What did Jesus do for this man (vs 10)?

What powerful lesson of faith can you learn from this passage?

“*Standing in Awe*”

Study: Luke 7:11-17

Reading: John 11:1-44

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

There is not a lot in my life that has caused awe and amazement (yes I am quite a boring guy), but one of the things in my life that did amaze me was seeing lightning strike an electrical pole. When I was in high school, I worked at a pizza place, and one night there was a big storm. As we watched the storm pass by, there was a lightening strike right across the street which caused one of the large electrical units on the electrical pole to “blow up.” There was a bright blue flash, followed by some flames, as the electricity in the building went out. It was certainly a sight that made an impression on me and is one of the few things that I can remember that truly amazed me.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus performed a miracle that amazed all those who were following Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

The ministry of Jesus led Him to the little town of Nain which was located a little southeast of Nazareth. A great crowd followed Jesus, not knowing what they were about to see. There was a man who had died and his dead body was being carried out of the city, apparently on the way to a tomb. There were many people coming out of the city with this woman and the dead body of her only son. The loss of a son was always difficult, but for a woman whose husband had already died, facing the loss of her only son meant that she would most likely live a life of poverty since there was no one to provide for her. When Jesus saw this woman weeping, He was moved with compassion towards her and told her that she did not need to weep anymore (vs 11-13).

Jesus asked those carrying the coffin to stop, and as they did, He reached out his hand and touched the coffin. As everyone’s eyes were fixed on Jesus, He told the man in the coffin to get up. This coffin was apparently open as evidenced by the fact that after Jesus spoke to the dead man, the man sat up and began to talk. Luke says that Jesus then gave the man to his mother, indicating that she now had her son back. It is not clear what age this man was. He was referred to as a “man” and “young man”

and the statement about Jesus giving him to his mother seems to indicate that he was quite young, though it might not mean that He physically put the boy in his mother’s arms (vs 14-15).

As you could imagine, fear came over all the people who had seen this as they marveled at the great power of Jesus. They had just witnessed something completely amazing for which there was no explanation other than that the power of God was at work through Jesus. Though they had seen several of His miracles up to this point, this miracle topped them all. His fame had already been spreading but was now spreading even faster as His power was being revealed (vs 16-17).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the great power that God has? Do you understand that Jesus was the Son of God with access to all the power of God? Do you have compassion on others as Jesus did? Scripture tells us that you have power through the Holy Spirit and have access to God because of the work of Christ on your behalf. This does not mean that God wants you to travel around attempting to raise people from the dead, there were many people that died around Jesus that He did not heal. It does help you understand that He has the power to do anything that He desires to do and challenges us to go to Him in prayer and ask Him for things that might seem impossible. It also reminds you to have compassion on others when they are hurting. Though you might not be able to miraculously help others by raising people from the dead, you can help them with the compassion and care you show to others while they are hurting.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for having compassion on you.*
- * *Ask God to help you to be compassionate towards others.*
- * *Praise God because He has power over death.*

Thought for the day

Where did Jesus travel to next (vs 11)?

Why do you think the name of this town is given?

****It is unclear why some places are named and others are not. Nain would have been a small, insignificant town, and one thing the name does reveal is that Jesus cared about all people. He didn't just stay in one place, but he traveled around to reach out to the many towns and villages in the region.*

What did Jesus see when He came near the village (vs 12)?

Why do you think that Luke pointed out that this was outside the city gates (vs 12)?

Why do you think Luke carefully described that this was the only son of a widowed woman (vs 12)?

What happened when Jesus saw the woman (vs 13)?

Why do you think Luke described how Jesus touched the "bier" (vs 14 - ESV)?

****A bier was like a frame that was used to carry the casket.*

What did Jesus tell the young man to do (vs 14)?

What happened as soon as Jesus said this (vs 15)?

How did the people who witnessed this respond (vs 16)?

Why do you think this revealed that a prophet was among them (vs 16)?

What happened after this miracle had taken place (vs 17)?

Why do you think this was a very significant miracle?

****It was one thing to heal the sick and cast out demons. It was something else to raise a person from the dead.*

"Fighting Discouragement"

Study: Matthew 11:2-6, Luke 7:18-23

Reading: Philippians 1:12-30

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

When I wake up in the morning, one of the first things that I do is check my email. During times that I was selling items on the internet, I found that the emails I received could mess with my attitude. This was especially true if there was a complaint from someone I sent an item to. It was easy to let that one complaint bother me for quite some time and get me a little discouraged. It was easy to forget about the hundreds of satisfied customers and focus on the few that weren't happy. Though I could tell myself something several times and know what was really true, it was tough at times to fight discouragement because I let a few circumstances control my attitude.

Today, we are going to see how John the Baptist was human just like you and I. He began to question whether or not Jesus was the Messiah because he was in jail and circumstances weren't working out the way he thought they should.

What Does the Bible Say?

While the fame of Jesus was spreading, John the Baptist was in jail hearing reports about Jesus from his followers. He wanted to know if Jesus was really the Messiah they had been looking for. This seems odd at first if you think back to how John had declared that Jesus was the Messiah, but you must remember that John was human. Though the popularity of Jesus was rising, so was the hatred of the religious leaders towards Him. It didn't seem to make human sense because the Messiah was supposed to come and rule the world. Now, John was in jail probably realizing he might die, and the Jewish leaders were making plans to kill Jesus. In all human reasoning, this didn't make sense, and that is most likely why John wanted to be assured that Jesus was the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-3, Luke 7:18-20).

The disciples of John asked Jesus if He was the Messiah right after they witnessed Him doing several miraculous things. In response to their question, He told them to go back to John and tell him about all the miraculous events that had just taken place. Jesus quoted Isaiah 35:5 & 6 which declared how the Messiah would have the power and ability to

perform all the great miracles that they had just seen. Jesus didn't need to state that He was the Messiah because His actions revealed who He was (Matthew 11:4-5, Luke 7:21-22).

Before they left, Jesus told the disciples of John that those who are not offended because of Jesus will be blessed. By this, Jesus was simply sending a message of encouragement to John, telling him that it was okay to suffer for His cause. As humans, it is natural to think that if things are not going well or the way that we want them to go that there is a problem. From all that John was hearing about Jesus and what he was experiencing in prison, he began to doubt what he knew to be true. In a great act of love, Jesus was graciously encouraging John to trust, rather than rebuking him for his lack of faith (Matthew 11:6 Luke 7:23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when things don't seem to go the way you thought they would? Do you find yourself discouraged when it seems that the more you follow Christ the more things go wrong? John's life and the coming of the Messiah wasn't going as he thought they should and he began to question what he had been convinced of a short time before. This is not at all a rebuke of John, but serves to remind us of the importance of trusting God even when things aren't going well. It can also be an encouragement to you when you find yourself doubting God because of your circumstances. John the Baptist doubted, and though it doesn't give you permission to doubt, it does help you see that God does understand when we doubt.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the encouragement He gives you in His Word.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust Him in negative circumstances.*
- * *Praise God because He is always in control.*

Thought for the day

Luke 7

What had some of the disciples of John seen (vs 18)?

Why do you think they reported these things to John (vs 18)?

What detail does Matthew 11:2 add to this narrative?

Why is this a very important detail?

What question did John want his disciples to ask Jesus (vs 19)?

Why do you think he was asking this?

What did Jesus do in response to their question (vs 20-21)?

Why do you think Jesus responded to their question by performing miracles (vs 21)?

What are the things that Jesus told John's disciples to tell them about (vs 22)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Why do you think Jesus said this?

****These were things that were predicted about the Messiah in the Old Testament. Jesus was telling John and his disciples to look at the proof of who He was by the works that He was doing. He was fulfilling all the predictions about the Messiah.*

Who did Jesus say would be blessed (vs 23)?

Why do you think Jesus made this statement in this context?

“A Great Privilege”

Study: Matthew 8:7-14, Luke 7:24-30

Reading: I Corinthians 3:1-23

Memory: Psalm 51 Review

Though the baby and toddler stages of our children were cute and enjoyable, I absolutely loved the period of time when my children could do many things on their own. When our youngest was headed out of the toddler stage, I remember times where she still wanted her mom and dad to feed her. We would cut her food up, but we insisted that she was big enough to start eating for herself and that she didn't need us to help put the food on the fork and put it into her mouth. Though she relished the attention and often played the “baby of the family card,” we knew the importance of her learning to do things on her own.

Today, we are going to see how important it is for believers to “grow up” and learn to feed themselves.

What Does the Bible Say?

Once the disciples of John left to go back to John, Jesus capitalized on the opportunity to help further reveal how He was the Messiah. Many of the people from Galilee had traveled to see John and to listen to the message that he had been declaring. Jesus asked them what they had gone out into the wilderness to see. They didn't see a man dressed in fine clothes like you would see in the palace of a king. Neither did they see a man who was easily shaken or thrown off course like a reed that would blow in the wind. What they saw was a prophet. A man who was boldly declaring the truth of the Word of God for the people and was helping to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Jesus declared that John was much more than a prophet. Jesus quoted Malachi 3:1 which stated that there would be a man come who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Jesus pointed to John as being the one that the prophets had prophesied would come. In a human sense, Jesus declared that John was the greatest man ever born of a natural birth. John was great because He was able to understand who Jesus was and was the only prophet who was able to see Jesus with his own eyes. This was better than the prophets before him who could only imagine what the Messiah would be like. Then Jesus stated that those who are the least in the

kingdom of God have a greater privilege than John. Not only would many of them see Jesus, but they will come to understand the complete work of salvation. We today are greatly privileged because we have the whole Bible and are able to clearly understand much more than those who were alive during the time of Jesus (Matthew 8:7-14, Luke 7:24-28).

The declaration of Jesus about John the Baptist caused joy in the hearts of some and stirred up anger in the hearts of others. Many of the common men of the day, including the publicans and sinners, had gone out and had been baptized by John. They rejoiced in the mercy of God, realizing they had an opportunity to be part of the kingdom of heaven though they had been rejected and shunned by the religious leaders of the day. At the same time, anger stirred in the minds of the Pharisees because they had chosen not to be baptized by John and did not believe the message he had delivered (Luke 7:29-30).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize how blessed you are to have the understanding that you do of the whole Word of God? Do you realize what a privilege you have here in the United States to be able to own many copies of the Word of God and have access to numerous biblical resources? Many times it is easy to take the Word of God for granted and the faith that it can bring, but when you realize how much you really have, it should cause you to be thankful and inspire you to use the resources you have. You are so blessed and privileged as a believer living today with all the books and resources available to you, but do you take advantage of them? Are you any wiser about the true Word of God than the Pharisees were? Sadly, statistics reveal that many people who claim to be Christians today know much of what they know based on what preachers or teachers have told them. Though preaching and teaching are great, there is nothing like feasting on the Word of God for yourself. In today's society, there is no excuse for not digging deep into the Word and being able to really understand it. You have access to multiple Bible translations, commentaries, books and most importantly, the Holy Spirit. Realize the great privilege you have and determine to dig deeper into the Word of God on a regular basis.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for the ability to grow in Him through His Word.*

Luke 7

What question did Jesus ask once John's disciples had left (vs 24)?

Why do you think Jesus referenced a reed shaking in the wind (vs 24)?

****That was a phrase used to describe something that wasn't stable or firm. It pictured something that could easily be moved.*

How was John dressed differently than most people (vs 25)?

What point do you think Jesus was making in verse 25?

****No one traveled to see John because of his looks, his wealth or his status in life.*

Why did Jesus say the people went to see John the Baptist (vs 26)?

Who did Jesus say John was (vs 27)?

Why do you think Jesus quoted Malachi 3:1?

What did Jesus declare about John (vs 28)?

Why do you think He made this statement?

Why did the tax collectors rejoice at the statement of Jesus (vs 29)?

Why did the Pharisees reject the statement of Jesus (vs 30)?

Matthew 11

What did Jesus declare about the kingdom of heaven (vs 12)?

What had all the Law and prophets even until John point to (vs 13)?

What did Jesus say the people should be willing to accept (vs 14)?

What point do you think Jesus was trying to make in this narrative?

Why is it important to realize that Jesus was the Messiah?

Psalms 51:1-19

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.