

Insights From Matthew

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Insights From Matthew

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 10/12/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Matthew.....	8

Matthew

- The out-of-wedlock child that Judah had with his daughter-in-law was an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:3, Genesis 38).
- One of the ancestors of Jesus was Ruth, a Moabite (Matthew 1:5).
- One of the ancestors of Jesus was Solomon, the child that David had with Bathsheba after he committed adultery with her, murdered her husband, married her, and then their first child died. However, Solomon was an ancestor through Joseph, the *adopted* father of Jesus (Matthew 1:6).
- Although the angel visited Mary in person, the angel who visited Joseph went to him in a dream (Matthew 1:20).
- Mary had other sons after Jesus was born (Matthew 1:25).
- Jesus was called the King of the Jews from the time He was born (Matthew 2:2).
- When Jesus was born, there was a heavenly sign (a star) that indicated His arrival (Matthew 2:2).
- There were Gentiles who were watching for a heavenly sign that the King of the Jews had been born (Matthew 2:2). It seems that only the wise men noticed the star. The Jews don't seem to have been aware of it.
- The wise men expected the Jews to know where the King of the Jews could be found (Matthew 2:2).
- All of Jerusalem heard that the wise men were looking for someone who was born the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:3). However, when the wise men left Jerusalem to find

Jesus, no one went with them. None of the religious leaders had any interest in finding the Messiah. That means Jesus was rejected by His own people *from birth*.

- Herod understood that the Messiah was the true King of the Jews (Matthew 2:3).
- The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah was going to be born. Yet they missed His birth, even though Bethlehem was only 5 miles from Jerusalem *and a host of angels announced His birth* (Matthew 2:5, Luke 2:13).
- One day the Messiah (the Lord Jesus Christ) will rule over Israel (Matthew 2:6).
- It seems that no one in Jerusalem realized that the Messiah had been born (Matthew 2:7). All of them missed it.
- The text doesn't say the wise men found Jesus in Bethlehem. It says the star led them to Jesus, but it doesn't say where He was found (Matthew 2:9).
- The star led the wise men to a specific house (Matthew 2:9). It seems that the star *moved*.
- The wise men were filled with joy at the prospect of meeting Jesus and worshiping Him (Matthew 2:10). This is very different from the religious leaders, who had no interest in Him and ignored His birth entirely.
- When the wise men found Jesus, He was in a house (not a barn or a cave) (Matthew 2:11).
- The wise men gave Jesus gold (an offering for a king), frankincense (an offering for a deity), and Jesus myrrh (an offering that pointed to His sacrificial death and burial)

(Matthew 2:11). The gifts revealed that the wise men understood who Jesus was and what He came to do. This is remarkable, because the disciples of Jesus had no idea what was going on until after His resurrection.

- The first people to worship Jesus, recognize Him as the Messiah, and give Him gifts were Gentiles, not Jews (Matthew 2:11).
- When God wanted Jesus to go to Egypt to escape Herod, He sent an angel to speak to Joseph, not to Mary (Matthew 2:13).
- Joseph traveled to Egypt by night (Matthew 2:14).
- When Joseph went to Egypt, the only people in his family at that time were the young child (Jesus) and Mary (Matthew 2:14). There's no mention of any other children existing at this time, which is evidence against the theory that Joseph already had children from a previous marriage before he took Mary as his wife.
- It seems that two years passed between the time the wise men saw the star of Jesus in the east, and the time they reached Jerusalem (Matthew 2:16). This means Jesus would have been around two years old when the wise men found Him.
- John the Baptist commanded people to repent (Matthew 3:2). The reason people needed to repent was because the kingdom of heaven was at hand.
- John the Baptist was widely known (Matthew 3:5). This means his message that the Messiah was about to appear would have also been widely known.
- Part of repentance includes being baptized and confessing your sins (Matthew 3:6).

- Those who repented, confessed their sins, and were baptized were fleeing from the wrath to come (Matthew 3:7).
- The people who John the Baptist called a generation of vipers were not the publicans and prostitutes, but the religious leaders of his day (Matthew 3:7).
- Repentance must be more than just words. It needs to be accompanied by a changed life (Matthew 3:8).
- The religious leaders believed they were saved simply because they were the descendants of Abraham. They weren't looking for a savior because they didn't believe they needed one (Matthew 3:9).
- God will cast all those who bring forth bad fruit into everlasting fire (Matthew 3:10).
- Not everyone will be saved. Some people will be saved, but others will be cast into everlasting fire (Matthew 3:12).
- Although Jesus was baptized, there's no mention that He repented or confessed any sins (Matthew 3:15). This is because He was sinless.
- There should have been no question among the Jews that Jesus was from God, since God Himself called out from Heaven when Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:17).
- When the devil tempted Jesus, He hadn't eaten anything in 40 days and had been weakened by hunger (Matthew 4:2). This means the devil tempted Him when He was weak.
- The devil is called the "tempter" (Matthew 4:3). Some temptations really do come from the devil.

- We must pay attention to every single word that God has said. We must miss none of them because they're all important (Matthew 4:4). Jesus didn't say that we needed some of the words of God. Instead He said we needed *all* of them.
- Jesus defeated the temptation to turn stones into bread by saying that we must live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4). Since God the Father never commanded stones to become bread, Jesus wasn't going to do that either. Jesus only did whatever His Heavenly Father did.
- Our needs, no matter what they are, can never justify sin (Matthew 4:4).
- The devil has the power to physically transport people to different places (Matthew 4:5).
- The devil tempted Jesus to do something dangerous and stupid just to prove that God was taking care of Him (Matthew 4:6-7). It's wrong for us to deliberately put ourselves in danger just to see if God is going to save us. The promises of God aren't an invitation to foolish and irresponsible behavior.
- There was a brief time when Jesus lived in Capernaum (Matthew 4:13). The reason He did that was to fulfill a Messianic prophecy (Matthew 4:14).
- Jesus preached a message of repentance (Matthew 4:17).
- The reason great multitudes followed Jesus was because He healed people (Matthew 4:25).
- When Jesus saw a great multitude of people, He took the opportunity to teach them (Matthew 5:2).
- God has given the kingdom of Heaven to those who are

poor in spirit (humble), not those who are proud (Matthew 5:3).

- God cares about those who mourn, and will comfort them (Matthew 5:4).
- God will give the earth to those who are meek, not those who are proud (Matthew 5:5).
- God will give righteousness to those who earnestly seek it (Matthew 5:6).
- If we want to receive mercy from God then we must be merciful to others (Matthew 5:7).
- In order for us to see God we must be pure of heart (Matthew 5:8).
- One of the characteristics of the children of God is that they're peacemakers (Matthew 5:9).
- Those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness are blessed, because the kingdom of Heaven belongs to them (Matthew 5:10).
- Jesus taught the multitudes that those who were persecuted for His sake were blessed (Matthew 5:11). That was a testimony of His divinity. No prophet ever said anything like that about themselves.
- If we're persecuted for the sake of Jesus, we should rejoice and be exceedingly glad (Matthew 5:12). The reason persecution is a cause for great rejoicing is because those who are persecuted will be given a great reward in Heaven.
- We are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). A candle that's lit but isn't providing light is useless. It's not

fulfilling its purpose (Matthew 5:15).

- The good works that we do are our light. We must show them to the world and not hide them (Matthew 5:16). However, we must do them in such a way that when other people see them they glorify God, not us.
- This universe isn't eternal. One day the heavens and the earth will pass away (Matthew 5:18).
- Some people in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater than others (Matthew 5:19).
- Some of God's commandments are greater than others (Matthew 5:19).
- Whoever breaks the least of God's commandments, and teaches other people to do the same, will be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:19).
- It's a very serious matter to break even the least of God's commandments (Matthew 5:19).
- Whoever keeps God's commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:19).
- It's possible to do things in this life that impact our status in the life to come. We can do things that will cause us to be the least in the kingdom of Heaven, or will cause us to be great. Our actions matter and have an impact beyond this life (Matthew 5:19).
- When people misinterpreted the law of God, Jesus corrected them (Matthew 5:21).
- If we're angry with someone who's innocent, or if we curse or slander them, then we're guilty in the sight of

God (Matthew 5:22). God holds us accountable for our words as well as our actions.

- If we've wronged someone then we shouldn't be bringing gifts to God. He doesn't want them until we've reconciled with the person we wronged (Matthew 5:23). That means if we've wronged someone, we can't make it right by giving gifts to God.
- Those who are wicked shouldn't give gifts to God (Matthew 5:23). The Lord doesn't desire the gifts of the wicked.
- If a person refuses to come to an agreement with their adversary, they risk being cast into prison until they pay everything they owe (Matthew 5:26) Likewise, those who don't repent and make peace with God risk being cast into Hell forever.
- God holds us accountable for our desires and our thoughts (Matthew 5:28). If we desire (lust after) something wicked then we've sinned.
- It's far better for us to lose something precious to us and save our soul, than to keep that precious item and be cast into Hell (Matthew 5:29). Hell is so terrible that it's worth paying any price to avoid. *Nothing* is worth going to Hell over.
- The people who are cast into Hell still have bodies (Matthew 5:29).
- Hell is a terrible place of *tremendous* suffering and pain (Matthew 5:29).
- Those who divorce their wives cause them to commit adultery (Matthew 5:32). This is because when people remarry, God considers their new relationship to be

immoral because in His sight they're still married to their original spouse.

- Divorce is allowed in the case of sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32).
- Heaven is the throne of God (Matthew 5:34).
- The earth is the footstool of God (Matthew 5:35).
- Jerusalem is the city of the great King (Matthew 5:35).
- Instead of resisting legal judgments, we should comply with them (Matthew 5:40).
- We must be law abiding, not rebellious (Matthew 5:41).
- God doesn't allow us to take revenge against our enemies. Instead we must do good to them and pray for them (Matthew 5:44).
- When God requires us to bless those who curse us and pray for those who oppress us, He's commanding us to do the same thing that He's doing. He blesses the wicked with the sun and the rain, even though they hate Him. God requires us to follow His example (Matthew 5:45).
- Jesus doesn't command us to get the big things right and not worry about the rest. Instead He calls us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- If we don't love our enemies then we're not perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- We must be like God the Father. That means we must always do His will instead of our own, just as Jesus always did the will of His Father. That's what it means to be perfect (Matthew 5:48).

- While we must do our good works publicly to let our light shine, that's not true when it comes to giving money. God doesn't want us to draw attention to ourselves when we give money (Matthew 6:1-2). That doesn't honor God.
- We must seek the praise of God, not the praise of other people (Matthew 6:4).
- God sees the things that we do in secret (Matthew 6:4).
- One of the ways we can earn a reward from God is by giving money in secret (Matthew 6:4).
- God isn't honored when we pray for the purpose of receiving glory from others (Matthew 6:5). Those who draw attention to themselves when they pray are hypocrites.
- God wants us to pray privately, in a way that prevents anyone else from knowing that we're praying (Matthew 6:6).
- One of the ways we can get a reward from God is by praying in secret (Matthew 6:6).
- When we pray, we must not repeat ourselves in hope that God will hear us if we pester Him enough (Matthew 6:7). That doesn't honor God.
- We must not copy the prayer practices of pagans (Matthew 6:8).
- When we pray, we're telling God things He already knows (Matthew 6:8).
- In our prayers, God wants us to praise His name as holy (Matthew 6:9).
- In our prayers, we should begin by focusing on God

(Matthew 6:9).

- In our prayers, we should seek for God's will to be done (Matthew 6:10).
- The will of God is done in Heaven (Matthew 6:10).
- In our prayers, we should ask God to meet the needs we have today (Matthew 6:11).
- In order for God to forgive us, we must forgive those who've sinned against us (Matthew 6:12).
- Temptation is something we should avoid, not something we should seek (Matthew 6:13).
- In our prayers, we should seek God's glory (Matthew 6:13).
- In our prayers, we should praise God (Matthew 6:13).
- When we fast, we must hide it from others (Matthew 6:18). We must fast in the sight of God, not in the sight of other people.
- One of the ways we can earn a reward from God is by fasting in secret (Matthew 6:18).
- We must not lay up treasures for ourselves upon earth (Matthew 6:19). Whatever we lay up in this world will be corrupted or stolen. We won't be able to keep it.
- We *must* lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:20). Those who aren't seeking to do this are being disobedient to God, because this is something Jesus commanded us to do.
- Heavenly treasures can't be corrupted or stolen (Matthew 6:20).

- When Jesus spoke of laying up treasures in Heaven, He was talking about *physical goods*. He wasn't speaking about spiritual blessings because moths can't eat those and rust can't corrupt them (Matthew 6:20).
- Some people will have more treasure in Heaven than others, because they laid up treasure in Heaven while others did not (Matthew 6:20).
- Our heart will be wherever our treasure is located (Matthew 6:21). One of the reasons God doesn't want our treasure to be in this world is because then our heart would be in this world as well. God wants our treasure to be in Heaven so that our heart will be focused on Heaven.
- We must seek to be wholly free of all corruption (Matthew 6:22).
- We can't love God and this world at the same time (Matthew 6:24). We will either love God and hate the world, or love the world and hate God.
- We must not worry about the future (Matthew 6:25). It dishonors God when we worry about things.
- God cares about animals, and watches over them (Matthew 6:26). That means He will surely take care of us as well.
- When we worry about the things that we need, we're displaying a lack of faith in God (Matthew 6:30). We must have faith that God will provide us with what we need.
- God knows what we need (Matthew 6:32).
- If our first priority is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness then He will provide all the other things we need (Matthew 6:33).

- It's more important to seek the kingdom and righteousness of God than to seek the things we need to survive (Matthew 6:33). That must be our greatest and highest priority, because it's more important than life itself.
- God is the one who provides us with the things we need to survive (Matthew 6:33).
- Instead of worrying about things that might happen tomorrow, we should deal with the things that are going on today (Matthew 6:34).
- We will be judged according to how we judge others. If we hold others accountable for something then we can expect God to hold us accountable for that same thing (Matthew 7:2).
- It's wrong for us to find fault in others but ignore that same fault in ourselves (Matthew 7:3).
- It's wrong for us to criticize others over small things when we have much bigger problems in our own life (Matthew 7:3-7). Before we can help others, we must address the problems in our own life. Until then we're in no position to help anyone else.
- It's wrong to give holy things to people who are unholy. They will just damage the holy things and then injure you (Matthew 7:6).
- The Christian life isn't about being passive and waiting for things to happen. Instead it's about asking God for things, seeking for things, and knocking on doors (Matthew 7:7). The way to obtain things is to *ask God for them*, not to wait around and do nothing. The way to find things is to seek for them, and the way to have doors open is to

knock on them.

- The entire Mosaic Law, and the message of all the prophets, can be summed up like this: we must treat other people the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).
- The Bible doesn't teach that the majority of people will be saved. Instead it teaches that many people will go the way that leads to destruction, and few will be saved (Matthew 7:13).
- Some people who appear to be sheep are actually dangerous predators (Matthew 7:15).
- We can tell if a person is good or evil by their fruit (Matthew 7:17). Their lives reveal who they truly are.
- Those who bear good fruit are good, not evil (Matthew 7:18).
- Those who bear evil fruit are evil, not good (Matthew 7:18).
- It's not wrong to judge people by their fruit (Matthew 7:20).
- The only people who will enter into the kingdom of Heaven are those who do the will of God the Father (Matthew 7:21). We must do God's will, not our own.
- Just because a person casts out demons in the name of Jesus, or performs miracles, doesn't mean he's saved (Matthew 7:22). Casting out demons and performing miracles aren't signs of salvation.
- Those who hear the words of Jesus *and do them* are wise (Matthew 7:24).

- God warned us that we would have problems (Matthew 7:25). Those who build their life on the solid foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ (by hearing and doing His words) will survive the storms of life because they have a solid foundation.
- Those whose lives aren't built upon Jesus will fall when the storms of life come (Matthew 7:27).
- The reason the people were astonished by the doctrine of Jesus was because He taught as if He had authority (Matthew 7:29). The way that Jesus taught testified that He was God.
- When Jesus healed the leper, He commanded him to not tell anyone (Matthew 8:4). However, Jesus never commanded anyone to not tell others about His teachings or doctrines.
- The reason lepers who were cleansed had to give an offering was as a testimony to the priests (Matthew 8:4).
- There were times when Gentiles went to Jesus for help (Matthew 8:5).
- The reason the centurion believed Jesus could heal people was because he believed Jesus had authority over all things (Matthew 8:9). That's why he thought Jesus could simply command someone to be healed, and it would happen.
- The person who Jesus said had the greatest faith in Him wasn't a Jew or any of His disciples. Instead it was a Roman centurion (a Gentile) (Matthew 8:10). Jesus regularly chastised His disciples for *lacking* faith (Matthew 8:26).

- Many Gentiles will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 8:11).
- Peter was married (Matthew 8:14).
- The animals had it better than Jesus, because they had homes while Jesus did not (Matthew 8:20).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to put Him above their families and their parents (Matthew 8:22).
- Even though the disciples of Jesus saw Him heal the centurion's servant with a command, and saw Him heal many sick people and cast out many demons, they were still amazed when He calmed the sea with a command (Matthew 8:27).
- Demons know their ultimate fate is to be tormented (Matthew 8:29).
- Demons know Jesus has more power than they do (Matthew 8:29).
- The people of the Gergesenes kept a large herd of swine, even though swine were unclean under the Mosaic Law (Matthew 8:30).
- Animals can be demon-possessed (Matthew 8:31). In fact, demons can possess an entire herd of animals.
- Demons can kill animals (Matthew 8:32).
- Demons can kill the bodies that they possess (Matthew 8:32).
- When the people of the Gergesenes saw Jesus after He cast the demons into the swine, they didn't repent and believe in Him. Instead they asked Him to leave (Matthew 8:34).

- The greatest need that the paralyzed man had was having his sins forgiven. That was greater than his physical infirmity (Matthew 9:2). Likewise, our greatest need is to have our sins forgiven.
- Jesus used His miracles to prove that He had the power to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6).
- When Jesus shared a meal with publicans and sinners, He used that opportunity to work in their lives (Matthew 9:12).
- Jesus came into this world to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13).
- Fasting only makes sense when we're not physically present with Jesus (Matthew 9:15). If we're with Jesus then there's no need to mourn that He's gone. That means fasting is something we do in this life, not in the life to come.
- Jesus referred to Himself as the bridegroom (Matthew 9:15).
- Demons can prevent people from speaking (Matthew 9:32).
- The Pharisees claimed that Jesus cast out demons using the power of the devil (Matthew 9:34). However, the Pharisees knew that was a lie. Nicodemus told Jesus that the religious leaders knew He was from God, because otherwise it would be impossible for Him to do the things that He did (John 3:1-2).
- The Pharisees wanted people to believe that Jesus was from the devil, not from God (Matthew 9:34).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to pray that God would

send laborers (Matthew 9:38).

- Jesus gave all 12 of His disciples the power to cast out unclean spirits and heal all kinds of diseases (Matthew 10:1). That means Judas was given that power as well.
- Jesus had two disciples who were both named Simon (Matthew 10:2, 4). One was Peter, and the other was a Canaanite.
- Jesus once sent Judas out on a missionary journey to preach to the Jews (Matthew 10:6).
- When lepers were healed, the Bible says that they were cleansed. This is because lepers were unclean under the Mosaic Law (Matthew 10:8).
- It's not wrong for people who minister to others in spiritual things should have their physical needs met by those they are serving (Matthew 10:10).
- If the disciples were rejected by the cities they visited, they were to shake the dust off their feet as a witness against them. They weren't allowed to take any further action (such as putting people in prison or executing them) (Matthew 10:14).
- In the future there will be a day of judgment for cities (Matthew 10:15). In that day, things will be more tolerable for some cities than others.
- The final judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah is in the *future*, not the past (Matthew 10:15).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to be harmless when they were on their missionary journey. They weren't allowed to put people in prison or force them to convert (Matthew 10:16).

- It won't always be possible for people to trust their families. There will be times when families will seek to put their own relatives to death for the sake of the gospel (Matthew 10:21).
- Jesus told His disciples in advance that they would be hated by everyone for His sake (Matthew 10:22).
- Those who endure to the end will be saved (Matthew 10:22).
- Jesus didn't command His disciples to remain in a city when they were persecuted. Instead they were told to flee (Matthew 10:23). It's not wrong to flee from persecution.
- Since Jesus was persecuted, we can expect to be persecuted as well because we're not greater than Jesus (Matthew 10:24).
- Since people didn't listen to Jesus, we can expect them to not listen to us as well because we're not greater than Jesus (Matthew 10:24).
- God doesn't want us to be afraid (Matthew 10:26).
- Jesus didn't want His disciples to hide any of His teachings or doctrines. Instead wanted them to publicly proclaim *everything* He taught them (Matthew 10:27).
- We must not be afraid of those who can kill the body but not the soul (Matthew 10:28).
- The reason we must fear God is because He can do much more than just kill our body. He can destroy our body and soul in Hell (Matthew 10:28).
- Although Hell destroys both the soul and the body, it

doesn't annihilate people. Jesus taught that the wicked are subjected to eternal conscious torment (Matthew 10:28).

- God knows every detail of our lives (Matthew 10:30). He knows the things that we need and He cares about us.
- People are more valuable in the sight of God than animals (Matthew 10:31). That means it's wrong to value people more than animals.
- Only those who confess Jesus to others will be saved. Those who deny Him won't be saved (Matthew 10:32). *We must not deny Jesus.*
- Jesus came into this world to bring division, not peace (Matthew 10:34). This is because the world hates Him and His children. Peace will only come when Jesus returns at the end of the seven-year tribulation period, because that's when He will rule over this world with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9, Revelation 19:15).
- We must love Jesus more than we love our families (Matthew 10:35).
- Part of being a Christian is enduring suffering and persecution (Matthew 10:38).
- Those who love their life of wickedness and depravity, and who don't repent of it, will one day lose their life and be sent to Hell (Matthew 10:39).
- Those who lose their life for the sake of Christ will receive everlasting life (Matthew 10:39). It's far better to give our life to Jesus and gain everlasting life than to keep our life and be sent to Hell.
- We must love Jesus more than we love our life (Matthew

10:39).

- It's possible to gain a reward by giving gifts to children (Matthew 10:42).
- The reward that's gained for giving a little child a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus can't be lost (Matthew 10:42).
- In order to obtain a reward from God, we must do things in His name (Matthew 10:42). That means it matters if we do things in Christ's name or some other name.
- There were times when Jesus preached alone, without His disciples present (Matthew 11:11).
- The things that Jesus said and did proved that He was the Messiah (Matthew 11:4).
- The greatest person who lived up to the time of John the Baptist was John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10-11). The reason he was greater than a prophet was because he prepared the way for the Messiah, which is something none of the prophets did.
- Those who are part of the church are greater than John the Baptist. John prepared the way for the kingdom of Heaven, and thing he was pointing to was greater than him (Matthew 11:11).
- John the Baptist wasn't part of the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 11:11). This is because he was executed before it came into existence. The church began after the resurrection of Jesus on the day of Pentecost, which was after John the Baptist was killed.
- The ministry of John the Baptist was the culmination of all of the prophets and all of the Mosaic Law (Matthew

11:13).

- The Jews accused both Jesus and John the Baptist of being demon-possessed (Matthew 9:34, 11:18). That's how the religious leaders slandered people who clearly came from God.
- The Jews condemned John the Baptist for *not* drinking alcohol, and they condemned Jesus *for* drinking alcohol (Matthew 11:19).
- It wasn't wrong for John the Baptist to live a rough lifestyle that consisted of eating insects. It also wasn't wrong for Jesus to feast and drink alcohol (Matthew 11:19).
- Jesus holds cities accountable (Matthew 11:20).
- Because Capernaum saw the mighty works of Jesus and didn't repent, and Sodom would have repented if they had seen those same mighty works, it will be worse for Capernaum than for Sodom in the coming day of judgment (Matthew 11:23).
- Even though there were cities that would have repented if mighty works had been done there (Matthew 11:23), God didn't send anyone to do those mighty works and so they were lost. That means God could have saved cities such as Sodom but He chose not to.
- God deliberately chose to hide the gospel from some people and reveal it to others (Matthew 11:25).
- The only way we can know God the Father is if Jesus chooses to reveal Him to us (Matthew 11:27).
- If those who labor and are weary go to Jesus, He will give them rest (Matthew 11:28).

- If we take the yoke of Jesus upon us then we will find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:29).
- The commandment to feed the hungry and love your neighbor is greater than the commandment to not give holy shewbread to people who aren't priests (Matthew 12:4). This means some commandments are greater than others.
- Jesus repeatedly rebuked the Pharisees for their wrong interpretation of the Sabbath law. He reasoned with them, gave them examples from the Old Testament, and performed miracles on the Sabbath that required God's power. Yet they still didn't repent (Matthew 12:5).
- Jesus is greater than the temple (Matthew 12:6).
- It's better to be merciful than to give gifts to God (Matthew 12:7).
- Jesus could have avoided healing people on the Sabbath, but He didn't. Instead He publicly healed people on the Sabbath in front of those who believed it was wrong, and He used that as an opportunity to correct them (Matthew 12:10). Jesus didn't avoid confrontations.
- Jesus used the actions of the Pharisees to prove that they believed it wasn't wrong to help others and do good on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:11).
- When Jesus told people to not tell others about His miracles, He was fulfilling a Messianic prophecy (Matthew 12:17).
- God has a soul (Matthew 12:18).
- Jesus knows our thoughts (Matthew 12:25).

- Jesus reasoned with the wicked to show them their error (Matthew 12:25).
- Division is fatal. This is true of kingdoms, cities, and houses (Matthew 12:25).
- The devil would never cast out demons (Matthew 12:26). It makes no sense for him to attack his own kingdom and destroy it. That means demons aren't cast out using the power of the devil.
- Jesus cast out demons so He could spoil the devil's kingdom. By casting out demons He was making the devil's kingdom vulnerable (Matthew 12:29). That was necessary to lay the foundation of the church.
- It's impossible to be neutral with Jesus. If you're not for Him then you're against Him (Matthew 12:30).
- Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost won't be forgiven (Matthew 12:31). This refers to witnessing Jesus perform miracles in person and then saying He did those mighty works by the power of the devil. That was blasphemy against the Holy Ghost because it attributed His work to the devil, and it was unforgivable.
- The things that we say come from the abundance of our heart (Matthew 12:34). If our heart is full of evil then we'll speak evil things. In order for us to speak good things, the abundance of our heart must be good.
- A person's words and actions reveals the nature of their heart (Matthew 12:35).
- In the day of judgment God will hold people accountable for every word that they say (Matthew 12:36).
- Our words can justify us or condemn us (Matthew 12:37).

- Jesus believed that Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40). That historical event foreshadowed the burial and resurrection of the Messiah. When Jonah was in the great fish for three days and three nights, he might have been dead (just as Jesus was dead when He was in the grave for three days and three nights).
- Jesus told people in advance that He was going to be in the grave for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40).
- Since Jesus was in the grave for three days and three nights (Matthew 12:40), He couldn't have died on a Friday because there aren't three days and three nights between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. That means He must have died on a Thursday.
- The burial and resurrection of Jesus was a sign to a wicked and adulterous generation that He was the Messiah (Matthew 12:40).
- In the coming judgment, the men of Nineveh will condemn the generation of the time of Jesus for not repenting at His preaching (Matthew 12:41). That means in the judgment, some people will condemn others for not repenting and believing in Jesus.
- In the life to come, people will remember their previous lives (Matthew 12:41).
- The wisdom of Jesus is greater than the wisdom of Solomon (Matthew 12:42).
- Demons are unclean spirits (Matthew 12:43).
- It's possible for unclean spirits (demons) to reside inside a

person and possess him (Matthew 12:43).

- One of the reasons demons possess people is because they're seeking rest (Matthew 12:43).
- Demons congregate in dry and desolate places (Matthew 12:43).
- A person's body is referred to as a house (Matthew 12:44). This is because our physical body can contain spirits such as Holy Spirit or unclean spirits (but not both at the same time).
- Christians can't be demon-possessed because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Since He's sealed within us, our body isn't empty and demons can't enter in (Matthew 12:45). Those who aren't saved are vulnerable to demon possession because their body isn't being protected by the Holy Spirit.
- Some demons are more wicked than others (Matthew 12:45).
- It's possible for multiple demons to enter into a single person and possess him (Matthew 12:45).
- If a person doesn't become a Christian after having a demon cast out of them then things will become much worse than they were before. This is because the person will become possessed again, only this time there will be more demons and they will be more wicked (Matthew 12:45).
- Jesus went through Israel and cast out many demons. However, if those people didn't repent and believe in Him then they would eventually be repossessed by worse demons, and their final state would be much worse (Matthew 12:45).

- Jesus had brothers (Matthew 12:46).
- Jesus didn't elevate His mother Mary above others. Instead He said that all those who believe in Him are His mother and brothers (Matthew 12:49).
- Our life *must* consist of doing God's will, not our own (Matthew 12:50).
- Jesus began using parables to teach people after they rejected Him and said He was demon-possessed (Matthew 13:3).
- Jesus hid His teachings from those who didn't believe in Him (Matthew 13:9). He revealed His teachings to those who did believe in Him.
- God didn't give everyone the right to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 13:11).
- The reason Jesus taught in parables was to reveal the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven to some people but hide them from others (Matthew 13:11). He wanted to make His teachings impossible to understand by those who weren't given the right to understand them.
- God will give more truth to those who believe in Jesus, and He will take away truth from those who don't believe in Jesus (Matthew 13:12). That means wicked people will become worse as their lives progress because God is taking truth away from them.
- Since people were unwilling to listen to God, He chose to speak to them in a way that would prevent them from understanding Him (Matthew 13:15).
- There are some people who God chooses not to save (Matthew 13:15).

- If a person hears the gospel but doesn't understand it then the devil will come and take it away from his heart (Matthew 13:19). That means the devil can prevent people from being saved.
- Just because a person hears the gospel and receives it with joy doesn't mean he's actually saved. That person might abandon the faith (Matthew 13:20). This means it's impossible to tell right away if a person is saved or not. The only way to know is to wait and see what the person does over time.
- Persecution separates those who are genuine Christians from those who aren't (Matthew 13:21). Those who fall away when persecution arises are false converts.
- Enduring persecution requires roots (Matthew 13:21). Those who aren't well-rooted in the faith won't endure persecution.
- The cares of this world can prevent us from bearing fruit (Matthew 13:22).
- Jesus compared riches to thorns. Wealth can choke the Word of God in our lives and make us unfruitful (Matthew 13:22).
- In order for us to bear fruit we need the Word of God (Matthew 13:22). We must not allow anything in our life to distract us from it.
- In order to bear fruit we must understand the Word of God (Matthew 13:23). We can't bear fruit if we don't understand God's Word.
- In the parable of the wheat and the tares, the reason the owner didn't allow his servants to immediately gather up

the tares was because he didn't want them to accidentally uproot the wheat as well (Matthew 13:29). The owner cared about his wheat and didn't want any of it to be lost.

- In the parable of the wheat and the tares, both the wheat and the tares were allowed to grow in the same field until the time of harvest (Matthew 13:30). At that time they would be fully grown, and it would be obvious to everyone which plants were wheat and which were tares.
- In the parable of the wheat and the tares, the tares were destined to be gathered and burned while the wheat was destined to be gathered into the barn of their owner (Matthew 13:30). This means the wheat was never in any danger, and the tares were always destined for destruction.
- In the parable of the wheat and the tares, no wheat turned into tares and no tares turned into wheat. Instead the passage of time revealed their true nature (Matthew 13:30).
- Because of sin, the kingdom of Heaven (the church) will appear to be far larger than it actually is (Matthew 13:33). There are many people in the church who aren't saved. The number of false converts is much greater than the number of true believers.
- When Jesus taught in parables, He was fulfilling a Messianic prophecy (Matthew 13:35).
- Jesus revealed things that had kept secret from the foundation of the world (Matthew 13:35).
- In order for us to understand the parables of Jesus, we need Him to provide the interpretation (Matthew 13:36).

- In the parable of the tares, the person who sows the good seed is Jesus (Matthew 13:37).
- Some people are the children of the kingdom of Heaven, and others are the children of the devil (Matthew 13:38).
- The devil is trying to fill this world with wicked people (Matthew 13:38).
- When Jesus returns to this world at the end of the seven-year tribulation, He will send His angels throughout the world to gather all of the wicked and cast them into everlasting fire (Matthew 13:41-42). When the millennium begins, there will be no wicked people left in the world. Only the righteous will remain.
- In order to enter into the kingdom of Heaven we must sacrifice everything for Jesus. We must give our lives to Him and wholly submit to Him (Matthew 13:44).
- The kingdom of Heaven is an exceedingly great treasure (Matthew 13:44). It's worth sacrificing everything we have to obtain it.
- We can have either the things of this world, or the kingdom of Heaven. We can't have both (Matthew 13:46).
- Jesus called Hell a furnace of fire (Matthew 13:50).
- One day the wicked will be cast into Hell and tormented (Matthew 13:50). Hell is a place of wailing, gnashing of teeth, and terrible pain.
- Even the enemies of Jesus admitted that He had great wisdom and performed mighty works (Matthew 13:54).
- Joseph, the adopted father of Jesus, was a carpenter (Matthew 13:55).

- Mary had at least five sons (Matthew 13:55). That means she had more children after Jesus was born.
- Jesus had sisters (Matthew 13:56).
- Even though John the Baptist baptized Jesus and pointed Him out as the Messiah, Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead (Matthew 14:2).
- It's not wrong to publicly rebuke rulers for their sins (Matthew 14:4).
- The reason Herodias was angry with John the Baptist was because he rebuked her for her sin (Matthew 14:4).
- Rulers don't have the right to sin (Matthew 14:4). They must obey God's commandments.
- Herod was attracted to the daughter of a woman he was committing adultery with (Matthew 14:6).
- When the daughter of Herodias was given the right to ask for anything she wanted, she chose to use that opportunity to execute a great man of God (Matthew 14:8).
- When Herod was given a choice between executing a righteous man and breaking his promise, he chose to put a righteous man to death (Matthew 14:9).
- The loaves of bread that Jesus used to feed the multitude were broken before they were multiplied (Matthew 14:19).
- The reason Jesus fed 5000 people was because when John the Baptist was beheaded, Jesus went into a desert place. The multitude then followed Him to a place where there was no food (Matthew 14:19).

- Jesus spent time in prayer (Matthew 14:23).
- Peter could only walk on the water when he had faith. Once he became afraid he began to sink (Matthew 14:30).
- Doubt is dangerous (Matthew 14:31).
- Jesus didn't stop people from worshiping Him (Matthew 14:33). Instead He accepted their worship, which was a sign of His divinity.
- When the scribes and Pharisees told Jesus that His disciples weren't following the tradition of the elders, Jesus didn't look for a way to compromise. Instead He rebuked them for their sin (Matthew 15:3).
- When Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees for violating God's commandments with their tradition, He told them what commandment they were breaking and explained how they were breaking it (Matthew 15:5).
- It's not enough for us to honor God with our words. Our heart must be close to Him as well (Matthew 15:8).
- Those who honor God with their lips, but whose heart is far from Him, worship Him in vain (Matthew 15:9).
- People don't have the right to add anything to what God has said (Matthew 15:9). That means we aren't allowed to take something that God has condemned as sinful and say it's good, or take something God has said is good and condemn it as sinful.
- When the scribes and Pharisees did wicked things in public, Jesus rebuked them in public (Matthew 15:10).
- People aren't defiled by what they eat. Instead they're

defiled by what they say (Matthew 15:11).

- The Pharisees didn't repent when Jesus rebuked them. Instead they were offended (Matthew 15:12).
- Jesus wasn't concerned about offending the Pharisees. He made no attempts to avoid offending them. Since they weren't of God they were going to be cast into Hell (Matthew 15:12-13).
- Our heart can be a source of sin (Matthew 15:18).
- Those who have evil thoughts, or are sexually immoral, or blaspheme, have an evil heart (Matthew 15:19).
- If we want to overcome our sin then we must cleanse our heart (Matthew 15:19).
- Sin defiles people (Matthew 15:20).
- Children are more important than dogs, and have more value than dogs (Matthew 15:26).
- During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He prioritized helping the Jews over helping the Gentiles (Matthew 15:26).
- The Canaanite woman continued to ask Jesus for help even when He told her no. She kept asking for help until He healed her daughter. The way she got Him to help her was by humbling herself before Him (Matthew 15:25-28).
- People who were lame went to Jesus for healing even when He was at the top of a mountain (Matthew 15:30).
- When Jesus fed the multitude of 4000 people, they hadn't eaten for three days (Matthew 15:32).
- Even though Jesus had previously fed 5000 with a small

amount of food, the disciples didn't understand how Jesus could feed 4000 people. Although they had seen Him do it before, they didn't take the miracle to heart (Matthew 15:33).

- The people who asked Jesus for a sign were religious leaders who didn't believe in Him and rejected everything He did (Matthew 16:1).
- The reason the religious leaders asked Jesus for a sign was because they couldn't discern the signs of the times. Jesus gave many signs but they missed them (Matthew 16:3).
- Jesus repeatedly rebuked His disciples for lacking faith (Matthew 16:8).
- The only way anyone can believe Jesus is the Messiah is if God the Father reveals it to them (Matthew 16:17).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to not tell anyone that He was the Messiah (Matthew 16:20). He said this after the people rejected Him and accused Him of being demon-possessed, which was an unforgivable sin.
- Jesus told His disciples in advance that He was going to be killed and resurrected on the third day (Matthew 16:21). However, they didn't believe Him. In fact, Peter actually rebuked Jesus for saying that and told Him that He was wrong (Matthew 16:22).
- Even though the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would suffer and die and be resurrected (Isaiah 53), none of the disciples of Jesus believed it (Matthew 16:22). That means none of His disciples believed the gospel before His resurrection. All of them rejected it, and Peter even rebuked Jesus for teaching it.

- Those who don't deny themselves, and seek their own will instead of the will of God, aren't saved (Matthew 16:24-25). They will be cast into Hell.
- A person's soul is worth more than the whole world combined (Matthew 16:26).
- There's nothing we can give in exchange for our soul (Matthew 16:26). Our soul can't be saved by money or our works.
- One day Jesus will return and reward everyone according to their works (Matthew 16:27). This includes both the wicked and the righteous.
- Jesus said there were some people standing there who wouldn't die until they saw the Son of man come in His kingdom (Matthew 16:28). In every case this statement was said right before His transfiguration, which seems to be the fulfillment of that promise.
- The kingdom of Heaven belongs to Jesus (Matthew 16:28).
- God the Father approved of the things that Jesus did (Matthew 17:5).
- God the Father commanded the disciples of Jesus to hear what Jesus had to say (Matthew 17:5).
- Hearing the voice of God the Father fills people with fear (Matthew 17:6).
- There were times when Jesus gave some of His disciples an experience that He didn't give to others (Matthew 17:9).
- Jesus talked about the return of Elijah as a future event,

not a past event. He said that Elijah would return, not that he had already returned (Matthew 17:11). That means Elijah's return is still in the future.

- John the Baptist wasn't Elijah, but he did come in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matthew 17:12).
- Some demons are harder to cast out than others (Matthew 17:16). There were some demons that even the disciples of Jesus couldn't cast out.
- Children can be demon-possessed (Matthew 17:18).
- It doesn't take an enormous amount of faith to move mountains. Instead it only takes a very small amount of faith (Matthew 17:20).
- Unbelief is very damaging (Matthew 17:20).
- Some demons can only be cast out by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21). That means prayer and fasting are effective tools for casting out demons.
- Even though Jesus taught that His disciples were exempt from paying taxes because they were the children of a king, He commanded them to pay taxes anyway (Matthew 17:27). The reason Christians must pay taxes is to avoid offending the government.
- After Jesus told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem to be betrayed and crucified, they ignored that entirely and asked Him who was going to be the greatest in His kingdom. They were focused on their own greatness instead of His impending betrayal and death (Matthew 18:1).
- When the disciples asked Jesus who was going to be the greatest, He didn't tell them that no one was going to be

the greatest because everyone would be equal (Matthew 18:2). Instead He accepted the premise that some people in the kingdom would be greater than others.

- When the disciples asked Jesus who was going to be the greatest, He didn't tell them that Mary was the greatest, nor did He say that Mary was the Queen of Heaven. In fact, Jesus never elevated Mary above anyone else (Matthew 18:2).
- In order for us to enter into the kingdom of Heaven we must become like children (Matthew 18:3). That means we must have complete faith in Jesus and believe everything He has told us, just as little children believe what they're told.
- Jesus told His disciples that if they weren't converted then they wouldn't enter into the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:3). When He said this, none of His disciples believed in the gospel. They weren't converted until after they saw Him risen from the dead. Since Judas never converted, he didn't enter into the kingdom.
- The key to becoming great in the kingdom of Heaven isn't having a large ministry, or doing great works, or doing miracles. Instead it's humbling ourselves before God and becoming as a little child, who believes what God says and who has complete faith in Him (Matthew 18:4).
- It's possible for little children to be saved (Matthew 18:5).
- Those who do terrible things to little children who believe in Jesus will be punished with a fate that's worse than death (Matthew 18:6).
- The reason there's oppression in the world is because it's necessary to carry out God's will (Matthew 18:7).

However, those who oppress others will one day suffer grievously.

- One day the wicked will be cast into everlasting fire (Matthew 18:8).
- We must remove *everything* from our life that causes us to sin, no matter how dear it is to us. It's far better to repent and be saved, than to *not* repent and be cast into everlasting fire (Matthew 18:8). We must be willing to pay *any* cost to avoid being cast into everlasting fire and tormented forever.
- There is fire in Hell (Matthew 18:9).
- There are angels who watch over little children that believe in Jesus (Matthew 18:10).
- The famous instructions that Jesus gave in Matthew 18 for resolving conflicts addressed situations where *someone sinned against you*. Those instructions have *nothing* to do with rebuking false teachers, which Jesus handled very differently (Matthew 18:15).
- If someone sins against you personally, you aren't allowed to do nothing and hope that person repents. Instead you must confront him about it. It's your responsibility to try to get him to repent (Matthew 18:15).
- If someone sins against you and they repent, you've resolved the situation. The goal is for the sinner to repent (Matthew 18:15). If someone sins against us and repents, we must forgive him.
- The church must get involved in cases where one person sins against another but won't repent (Matthew 18:17). That means there are some sins that need to be brought before the entire church and addressed.

- We don't have the option of ignoring sin in the lives of others. If a person sins against us and won't repent then we *must* end the relationship until he repents. We aren't allowed to overlook it and move on (Matthew 18:17).
- The church must treat those who are living a life of unrepentant sin different from those who are living a godly life (Matthew 18:17). If a person is living a sinful life then the church must treat that person as a pagan, not as a Christian.
- Jesus didn't say that if someone sins against us, we must forgive him even if he doesn't repent. Instead He taught that if he doesn't repent then we must treat him as a pagan (Matthew 18:17). That means it's wrong for us to forgive those who haven't repented. *God wants us to treat them as unbelievers and pagans. People must repent before we can forgive them.*
- Peter isn't the only person who was given the privilege of binding things on earth and heaven. Jesus gave it to all of His disciples (Matthew 18:18).
- When Jesus said that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, that promise was given in the context of what to do when a person sins against you (Matthew 18:18).
- There's power in getting a group of people to pray for something. When a group agrees on something and prays about it, God will hear their prayers (Matthew 18:19).
- God the Father is the one who answers our prayers (Matthew 18:19).
- When two or three people are gathered together in the name of Jesus, He is present in their midst (Matthew

18:20). That means there are times when Jesus is in our midst, even though we can't see Him.

- One of the ways people became slaves in the ancient world was by being sold to pay a debt (Matthew 18:25).
- If we don't forgive others from our heart then God won't forgive us either (Matthew 18:35).
- The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking tricky questions that were designed to get Him into trouble (Matthew 19:3).
- When the Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce, it wasn't a sincere question. Instead it was a trap (Matthew 19:3).
- When a man gets married, he and his wife become one person. They're no longer two separate individuals, but instead become one (just as God the Son and God the Father are one, with a single purpose and a single will) (Matthew 19:5).
- People aren't married by the government or by a pastor. Instead they're united in marriage by God (Matthew 19:6).
- The reason divorce is wrong is because God is the one who unites people in marriage. Divorce is an act of man that destroys something God created (Matthew 19:6).
- Divorce is a sign that people's hearts have been hardened (Matthew 19:8).
- Divorce and remarriage is permitted in cases of sexual immorality (Matthew 19:9).
- Jesus didn't teach that no one should be married. Instead He taught that a life of singleness should only be pursued

by those who are able to do it without sin (Matthew 19:12).

- Even after Jesus taught His disciples the importance of receiving children, the disciples still tried to keep children away from Jesus. They ignored what He said (Matthew 19:13).
- We must not forbid children from going to Jesus (Matthew 19:14).
- Jesus told the rich young ruler who came to Him, seeking eternal life, that he had to follow Him in order to obtain it (Matthew 19:21).
- The rich young ruler who came to Jesus seeking eternal life was willing to obey some of God's commandments, but he wasn't willing to give his whole life to God. He wanted to keep his life and his riches, and was unwilling to sacrifice it – not even to gain eternal life (Matthew 19:21).
- Those who give to the poor will have treasure in Heaven (Matthew 19:21).
- Jesus didn't tell the person who came to Him to sell his possessions and give Him the money. Instead Jesus told him to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor (Matthew 19:21). During His earthly ministry He never asked anyone to give Him money.
- Riches are an obstacle to being saved (Matthew 19:23). This is because people are tempted to love their riches and choose their wealth over God.
- Just as it takes a miracle for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, so it takes a miracle for a rich man to be saved. By nature both are impossible (Matthew 19:24).

- When Jesus said that all things are possible with God, He was addressing the topic of salvation (Matthew 19:26).
- When Jesus rules over the world during the millennium, His twelve disciples will sit upon twelve thrones and judge the tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28). (For the record, Judas was replaced by Matthias in Acts 1:26.)
- One of the ways Jesus rewards people for their faithful service is by giving them positions of authority in His kingdom (Matthew 19:28).
- In the millennium, some people will be given a greater position than others, and will rule over them (Matthew 19:28).
- In the millennium, Israel won't be a democracy. Instead Jesus will reign over Israel, and His disciples will reign under Him over individual tribes (Matthew 19:28).
- In the millennium, all those who forsook their wife or children for the sake of Jesus will receive a hundred fold (Matthew 19:29).
- Those who forsake things for the sake of Jesus will inherit everlasting life (Matthew 19:29).
- Everlasting life is something we inherit (Matthew 19:29). It's a gift that we're given, not something we earn.
- Although there will be no marriage after the resurrection (Matthew 22:30), people will still have wives and children in the millennium (Matthew 19:29). This implies that the covenant of marriage will be replaced by a better covenant (just as the Mosaic Law and its covenant of works was replaced by the covenant of grace).
- People's status in this life doesn't reflect what their status

will be in the millennium (Matthew 19:30). Those who are great in this life may not be great after the resurrection, and those who are the least in this life may not be the least after the resurrection.

- In the parable of the laborers, the only people who agreed on a set payment were those who were hired at the beginning of the day. Everyone else was told that they would be given what was right (Matthew 20:7).
- In the parable of the laborers, the householder didn't pay his laborers until after the day was over and they completed their work (Matthew 20:8).
- In the parable of the laborers, people were paid in the opposite order that they were hired. The last people who were hired were paid first, and the first people who were hired were paid last (Matthew 20:8).
- In the parable of the laborers, those who were hired in the eleventh hour were still given a day's wage, even though they only worked for a single hour (Matthew 20:9). That means they were given what they needed in order to survive, not what they deserved.
- In the parable of the laborers, those who were hired first (and worked the longest) expected to be paid more, even though they were given exactly what they agreed upon (Matthew 20:10-12). Their expectations changed based on what the householder gave to others, even though their agreement with him hadn't changed and their needs were met.
- In the parable of the laborers, it wasn't wrong for the householder to give people more than what they deserved (Matthew 20:13).

- In the parable of the laborers, working through the heat of the day didn't earn people anything extra (Matthew 20:14). Instead Heavenly rewards come from giving to the poor, giving a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus, being persecuted, and teaching others to do what's right. Working more hours doesn't earn anything extra.
- When God gives people what they need (even if they don't deserve it), it's wrong for us to be angry about it (Matthew 20:15).
- Even though Jesus knew that He was going to be killed in Jerusalem, He went anyway (Matthew 20:18). Jesus didn't try to avoid being killed.
- Jesus laid the blame for sentencing Him to death to the chief priests and scribes (Matthew 20:18).
- Jesus laid the blame for crucifying Him to the Gentiles (Matthew 20:19).
- When Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be killed once they reached Jerusalem, they didn't believe Him. Instead they focused on their own greatness (Matthew 20:20).
- The disciples of Jesus kept fighting with one another to see who would be the greatest in the coming kingdom. They wanted to rule over one another, even though Jesus kept teaching them that they should seek to serve one another instead (Matthew 20:20).
- The highest positions of authority in the kingdom of God are obtained through *tremendous* suffering (Matthew 20:22). The greater the position in the kingdom, the greater the amount of suffering it costs.

- Those who will one day have the greatest position of authority in the kingdom of God, and will sit at the left and right hand of Jesus, will also suffer as Jesus suffered (Matthew 20:22).
- Not everyone is able to endure the suffering that's required to obtain the highest levels of authority in the kingdom of God (Matthew 20:22).
- Jesus isn't the one who determines what authority people will be given in the kingdom of God. Instead God the Father decides that (Matthew 20:23).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to serve one another, not rule over one another (Matthew 20:26). Those who seek to be great in the kingdom of God must serve others, not rule over others.
- Jesus came to serve others. He sacrificed His life to save us (Matthew 20:28).
- Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for “many” people, not for everyone (Matthew 20:28). The Bible doesn't teach universal salvation. Some people will be saved, but many will not.
- Even though Jesus told His disciples that He was going to give His life as a ransom for others, they still didn't understand the gospel until after His resurrection (Matthew 20:28).
- The multitude that followed Jesus didn't try to help the two blind men of Jericho reach Him. Instead they tried to silence them (Matthew 20:31). The multitude lacked compassion and mercy.
- Jesus only asked the two blind men of Jericho what they

wanted after they ignored the multitude and kept calling out to Him, and He only healed them after they asked Him to do so (Matthew 20:32-34).

- Jesus deliberately sought to fulfill Messianic prophecies (Matthew 21:4). He knew the prophecies that spoke of Him.
- Jesus is the King of the Jews (Matthew 21:5).
- The fact that Jesus rode to Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey was a sign of His meekness (Matthew 21:5). It's not bad to be meek.
- When Jesus rode on the donkey during His triumphant entry, He wasn't sitting on a saddle. Instead He was sitting on the clothes of His disciples (Matthew 21:7).
- Although the multitudes praised and glorified Jesus during His triumphant entry, a week later they demanded that Pilate crucify Him (Matthew 21:9, 27:20-22).
- The multitude that accompanied Jesus during His triumphant entry called Him a prophet, not the Messiah (Matthew 21:11).
- When Jesus cast out those who were buying and selling merchandise in the temple, He told them that they had turned the temple of God into a den of thieves (Matthew 21:13).
- The chief priests and scribes didn't believe in Jesus, in spite of being eyewitnesses to the things He said and did (Matthew 21:15).
- The chief priests and scribes wanted Jesus to make people stop praising Him (Matthew 21:16). Jesus refused.

- It's good for small children to praise God (Matthew 21:16).
- When the children in the temple said "Hosanna to the son of David", they were fulfilling a Messianic prophecy (Matthew 21:16).
- Jesus wants us to have faith, and not doubt (Matthew 21:21).
- Jesus wants us to believe that God hears our prayers and will grant them (Matthew 21:22).
- The day after Jesus cast out the money changers from the temple, the chief priests and elders asked Him where His authority came from (Matthew 21:23). They did this even though Jesus had repeatedly told them that He was from God, and He always did the things that God the Father did.
- Jesus didn't answer every question that people asked of Him (Matthew 21:24).
- The chief priests and elders (the religious leadership of Israel) rejected John the Baptist (Matthew 21:25).
- There are times when wicked people reject something that's of God in order to hide their sin and make themselves look better (Matthew 21:25).
- One of the reasons people accept and teach heresy is to hide their sin (Matthew 21:25).
- There are times when religious leaders hide their heretical beliefs from the public so that they'll remain popular (Matthew 21:26). Religious leaders aren't always honest about what they believe.

- In the time of Jesus, the publicans and harlots were more righteous than the religious leadership of Israel. This is because they repented while the religious leaders didn't (Matthew 21:31).
- When the religious leaders put Jesus to death, they knew exactly who He was. They didn't kill Him out of ignorance (Matthew 21:38). The Roman soldiers who crucified Him were ignorant, but the religious leaders were not.
- The Old Testament foretold that even though Jesus would be rejected, He would still become the head (Matthew 21:42).
- Jesus warned the chief priests and elders that there would be terrible consequences for killing Him, and yet they sentenced Him to death anyway (Matthew 21:43).
- The parable of the king who made a marriage for his son is about the people who the king invited to the wedding. It's *not* about the bride of the king's son (the church) (Matthew 22:4).
- In the parable of the king who made a marriage for his son, the people hated the king so much that they murdered the servants who invited them to the bountiful feast (Matthew 22:6). The king responded to this by burning down the people's city (Matthew 22:7). Forty years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem – the city of the people who rejected Jesus and persecuted His followers.
- In the parable of the king who made a marriage for his son, the second group of people weren't given invitations. Instead the king's servants went out and gathered both good and bad people (Matthew 22:10). Those who were unrighteous were bound and cast into outer darkness

(Matthew 22:13).

- Only those whom God has chosen will be saved (Matthew 22:14).
- One of the tactics the wicked use to ensnare people is by asking questions that are designed to trap them no matter how they're answered (Matthew 22:15).
- One of the tactics the wicked use to deceive people is flattery (Matthew 22:16).
- One of the tactics the wicked use to deceive people is lies (Matthew 22:16).
- We must give to the government the things that belong to the government (Matthew 22:21).
- The Sadducees asked Jesus whose wife a woman would be in the resurrection if she had seven different husbands (Matthew 22:28). They asked this even though the Mosaic Law clearly taught that death ends the marriage relationship. The Sadducees were trying to ridicule the doctrine of the resurrection with a question that was based on ignorance of the Law.
- There are times when wicked people try to make the truth look ridiculous by coming up with hypothetical situations that are far removed from reality (Matthew 22:28).
- There are times when wicked people try to make the truth look ridiculous by asking questions that are based on an incorrect interpretation of what the word of God has to say (Matthew 22:28).
- Jesus expects us to know the Scriptures (Matthew 22:29).

- Jesus expects us to know the power of God (Matthew 22:29).
- It's possible to ask a foolish question (Matthew 22:29).
- The Sadducees rejected the doctrine of the resurrection but believed what Moses wrote. When Jesus defended the doctrine of the resurrection, He quoted Moses (Matthew 22:32).
- Jesus defended the doctrine of the resurrection based on the tense of a single word. He taught that since God said that "*I am*" the God of Abraham instead of "*I was*", that meant Abraham had to still be alive because God wasn't the God of the dead (Matthew 22:32).
- Jesus believed that the tenses of the words in the Old Testament were authoritative and accurate, and that entire doctrines (such as the resurrection of the dead) could be based on them (Matthew 22:32).
- The greatest commandment in the law is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). That means the greatest thing we can do is love God.
- Jesus agreed that one commandment was greater than all the others (Matthew 22:37). He didn't teach that all commandments were the same, and none of them were greater than others.
- The fact that David called the Messiah his "Lord" meant that the Messiah had to be someone greater than just his son. The Messiah had to be divine, because otherwise David wouldn't have worshiped Him (Matthew 22:45). That testified to the divinity of Jesus.

- Jesus silenced the Pharisees by asking them questions that they couldn't answer (Matthew 22:46).
- Although the Pharisees commanded people to obey the Mosaic Law, they didn't obey it themselves (Matthew 23:3).
- The scribes and Pharisees sought honor from other people, not honor from God (Matthew 23:5).
- Jesus commanded people to not allow themselves to be called "Rabbi" (meaning "master") (Matthew 23:8). The people of God only have one master, and that's Christ. Although some people have authority over others, Christians should never allow others to call them their master because all of us are brothers.
- Jesus commanded His people to not call one another "father" (Matthew 23:9). (This is in reference to a religious setting, not a family setting.) God has forbidden us from calling those in the church "father". Christians only have one father, and that's God the Father.
- No one who's saved is fatherless, because they have God the Father as their father (Matthew 23:9).
- The greatest positions in the kingdom of God are positions of service. Those who are in those positions will serve others, not rule over them (Matthew 23:11).
- God will humble those who exalt themselves, and exalt those who humble themselves (Matthew 23:12).
- Jesus publicly called the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites in front of the multitude (Matthew 23:13).
- Jesus put praying long prayers for pretense on the same level of evil as devouring the houses of widows (Matthew

23:14). It's that serious. We must be very careful about the motives for our prayers to God.

- Some people are the children of hell (Matthew 23:15).
- The scribes and Pharisees taught people to break their oaths (Matthew 23:16).
- The scribes and Pharisees valued gold more than God's temple (Matthew 23:16).
- The scribes and Pharisees valued the gifts that were brought to the altar more than the altar itself (Matthew 23:18).
- God dwelt within the temple that existed during the earthly ministry of Jesus (Matthew 23:21).
- The throne of God is in heaven (Matthew 23:22).
- One of the reasons Jesus pronounced woe upon the scribes and Pharisees was because they tithed plants, but ignored the weighty matters of the law like judgment, mercy, and faith (Matthew 23:23). They should have paid attention to *all* of the law – both the big things and the small things.
- One of the reasons Jesus pronounced woe upon the scribes and Pharisees was because they were like whited sepulchers. On the outside they looked beautiful, but on the inside they were full of death and uncleanness (Matthew 23:27). If we're clean on the outside but full of uncleanness on the inside then we're unclean in God's sight.
- It's possible for people to appear righteous but be full of hypocrisy and iniquity (Matthew 23:28).

- During the earthly ministry of Jesus, people built tombs for the prophets (Matthew 23:29).
- The scribes and Pharisees claimed that if they had lived in the days of the prophets, they wouldn't have persecuted them (Matthew 23:30-31). However, they were lying. They rejected John the Baptist and persecuted both Jesus and His disciples. This made them the spiritual children of those who killed the prophets.
- Those who go to hell are damned (Matthew 23:33).
- Jesus said that He was the one who was sending prophets to Israel (Matthew 23:34). When He said that He was claiming to be God.
- The scribes and Pharisees would be held responsible for all the righteous blood that had ever been shed upon the earth (Matthew 23:35). All of the prophets and all of that righteous blood pointed to Jesus – and the religious leaders responded to that testimony by rejecting *and killing* both Jesus and His followers. They were truly the spiritual descendants of those who killed the prophets, and God held them accountable for it.
- Jesus testified that the story of Cain and Abel really happened (Matthew 23:35).
- There were many times throughout history when Jesus wanted to regather the Jews, but when He reached out to them they ignored Him, refused to repent, and persecuted the righteous (Matthew 23:37).
- Jesus told the Jews that they weren't going to see Him again until they accepted Him as both their Messiah and their God (Matthew 23:39). That means Jesus won't return to Israel to reign as King until the Jews accept Him.

- Since every stone in the temple was cast down when it was destroyed, that means the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem can't have been part of the temple (since it's still intact) (Matthew 24:2).
- The disciples of Jesus thought that the destruction of the second temple coincided with the end of the world (Matthew 24:3). They didn't realize that when they asked Jesus about the destruction of the temple, the coming of Jesus, and the end of the world, they were asking about different events that would be separated by thousands of years.
- The disciples of Jesus didn't ask Him to reveal the exact day and hour when He would return. Instead they asked for the sign that would indicate His return (Matthew 24:3).
- When the disciples asked Jesus about end-times prophecy, Jesus didn't rebuke them for being interested in the subject. Instead He answered their questions in great detail (Matthew 24:4).
- Jesus didn't want His disciples to be deceived when it came to end-times prophecy. He wanted them to understand the subject so that they wouldn't be led astray by false teachers (Matthew 24:4).
- When the disciples asked Jesus what sign would indicate His return, He didn't rebuke them for seeking signs. Instead He told them exactly what signs to look for (Matthew 24:4).
- God doesn't want us to be troubled (Matthew 24:6).
- Jesus didn't say that in the end times there would be a steadily increasing number of earthquakes. Instead He

said there would be earthquakes in diverse places, which is completely different (Matthew 24:7).

- In the end times, persecution will cause many people to leave the faith, betray one another, and hate one another (Matthew 24:10).
- In the end times, false prophets will deceive many people (Matthew 24:11).
- In the end times, iniquity will abound (Matthew 24:12).
- In the end times, the love of many people will wax cold (Matthew 24:12).
- Iniquity is the enemy of love (Matthew 24:12).
- In the end times, people will have to endure wars, famine, pestilence, hatred, betrayal, persecution, and *death* in order to be saved. Those who endure all of those things *and remain in the faith* will be saved (Matthew 24:13).
- Before the end of the world comes, the gospel will be preached in all the world (Matthew 24:14).
- The gospel is a witness to the nations (Matthew 24:14).
- In the end times, there will be a temple (Matthew 24:15).
- Daniel's prophecy that the abomination of desolation would stand in the holy place of the temple was still a future event during the earthly ministry of Jesus (Matthew 24:15). It will happen in the end times.
- Jesus testified that the book of Daniel was written by the prophet Daniel (Matthew 24:15). They weren't written centuries later by someone else.

- In the end times, people need to watch for the appearance of the abomination of desolation in the temple. That's a critical sign that those who are in Jerusalem must flee *immediately* (Matthew 24:16).
- Jesus didn't know what time of year the abomination of desolation would take place (Matthew 24:20).
- It seems that if people pray, it might be possible to change the time of year that the abomination of desolation takes place (Matthew 24:20). If that's true then the start and end of the tribulation isn't locked to the feasts in the Mosaic Law, but can happen on any date (because the abomination of desolation happens halfway through the tribulation).
- The great tribulation that follows the abomination of desolation will be *much* worse than all the wars and death that came before it (Matthew 24:21-22). Jesus said it would be the worse time since the beginning of the world, and nothing worse would ever happen in the future. Things would be so bad that if the great tribulation wasn't shortened, *every living thing in the world would die*.
- The reason the time of great tribulation will be shortened is for the sake of the elect (Matthew 24:22).
- It's possible for false prophets to perform great signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the period of great tribulation, He will be like lightning. Everyone will see Him (Matthew 24:27). Those who claim that Jesus already returned in secret are liars because His return will be obvious and impossible to miss.

- One of the signs that the Lord Jesus Christ is about to return is that the sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars will fall (Matthew 24:29). This will take place *after* the time of great tribulation (and it's a different return from the rapture, which takes place long before the tribulation begins).
- There are times when God uses the sun, moon, and stars as a sign (Matthew 24:29).
- In the end times, the whole world will recognize the sign of the Son of man in heaven and will understand that it means Jesus is about to return (Matthew 24:30). When the world sees it, they will mourn because they don't want Him to return.
- After the period of great tribulation is over there will be a gathering of the saints (Matthew 24:31). This is different from the rapture, which takes place *before* the tribulation begins. The Bible teaches there will be two "gatherings": one before the tribulation and one after.
- The parable of the fig tree teaches that just as there are signs which indicate that summer is near, so there are signs which indicate that the return of Jesus is near (Matthew 24:33). The way we can tell what time it is prophetically is by looking at the signs.
- During the earthly ministry of Jesus, the only person who knew when He would return was God the Father (Matthew 24:36). Even Jesus didn't know. That means there was something God the Father knew that God the Son didn't.
- The angels don't know everything (Matthew 24:36).
- Jesus taught that the Old Testament account of Noah and

the great Flood was true. It was a real event that actually happened (Matthew 24:37).

- After the period of great tribulation, people will still be eating and drinking and marrying. Life will go on, even after all that destruction and death (Matthew 24:39). The return of Jesus will catch them by surprise.
- When Jesus spoke of people being taken from a field, He was speaking of His return after the period of great tribulation (Matthew 24:40). He wasn't speaking of the rapture, which takes place before the tribulation.
- When Jesus returns after the period of great tribulation, modern technology will no longer exist. People will be grinding grain at a mill instead of using technology to do it (Matthew 24:41).
- We must be watching for the return of Jesus (Matthew 24:42).
- We must be ready for the return of Jesus (Matthew 24:44).
- When Jesus returns, He wants to find us faithfully carrying out the responsibilities He's given us (Matthew 24:46). If we're faithfully serving Him when He returns then He will give us greater responsibilities in the kingdom to come (Matthew 24:47).
- One of the reasons religious leaders abuse people is because they believe Jesus has delayed His return and isn't going to catch them (Matthew 24:49).
- When Jesus returns, He will cut asunder the wicked religious leaders who oppressed His saints and treat them as if they were unbelievers (Matthew 24:51).

- In the parable of the ten virgins, all of the virgins had the same type of lamp. However, the wise ones had oil (which was needed to make the lamp shine) while the foolish ones didn't (which meant their lamp was incapable of doing anything) (Matthew 25:4).
- In the parable of the ten virgins, the bridegroom came when all of the virgins were asleep (Matthew 25:6).
- In the parable of the ten virgins, the people who were excluded from the marriage were *bridesmaids*, not the bride (Matthew 25:11). The bride wasn't excluded from her own wedding. The reason this matters is because the church is the bride of Christ, *not* a collection of bridesmaids. The parable isn't addressed to the church; instead it's about people who are saved after the rapture.
- One of the reasons that Jesus commanded us to watch for His return is because He's going to tarry, and will return later than people expect (Matthew 25:13).
- In the parable of the talents, the master gave more to the servants who were more skilled, and less to the servants who were less skilled (Matthew 25:15).
- In the parable of the talents, the servant who was given five talents tried to earn more (Matthew 25:16). He spent his time working diligently for his master, even though his master wasn't there.
- In the parable of the talents, the servant who was given one talent did nothing to serve his master, even though he was given a job to do and was entrusted with a large amount of money (Matthew 25:18).
- In the parable of the talents, when the master returned he held his servants accountable for what they had done

in his absence (Matthew 25:19).

- In the parable of the talents, the servant who was given the most was judged first, and the servant who was given the least was judged last (Matthew 25:20, 24).
- In the parable of the talents, the faithful servants gave everything they earned back to their master (Matthew 25:20).
- In the parable of the talents, the reward which was given to faithful servants was greater authority than they had before (Matthew 25:21).
- In the parable of the talents, the faithless servant who was given one talent began by criticizing his master, which is something the other servants didn't do (Matthew 25:24).
- In the parable of the talents, the master expected his servants to make his property increase while he was away. He blessed those who did that and cursed those who did nothing (Matthew 25:27).
- In the parable of the talents, the master commanded that the talent be taken away from the faithless servant who did nothing with it, and given to the servant who earned him the greatest return (Matthew 25:28).
- In the parable of the talents, even though the faithful servants brought the talents they earned back to their master, it seems they got to keep them. Only the wicked servant had his talent taken away from him (Matthew 25:28).
- In the parable of the talents, there were only two possible outcomes. The good and faithful servants who worked for their master while he was away, and who earned an

increase on what they had been entrusted, were blessed with greater responsibilities. However, the wicked servant who despised his master and refused to serve him was cast into outer darkness (a place of torment), and what little he had was taken from him and given to someone else (Matthew 25:30).

- When Jesus returns at the end of the time of great tribulation, He will sit upon His throne and judge all those who are still alive in the world (Matthew 25:32). This is a judgment of the *living*, not of the dead.
- The righteous have been waiting for the kingdom that God has prepared for them. They will receive the kingdom when Jesus returns to this world after the period of great tribulation and reigns over it as King (Matthew 25:34).
- We will only obtain the kingdom when Jesus returns and gives it to us (Matthew 25:34). It's not something we can make happen by our own efforts.
- The righteous demonstrated their righteousness by giving food to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, giving clothing to those who need it, taking in strangers, and visiting the sick and those in prison (Matthew 25:35-36). That means they demonstrated their righteousness by their works.
- Those who've helped the least of the saints have helped Jesus (Matthew 25:40). That means when we help other Christians, Jesus interprets it as if we were helping Him.
- During the period of great tribulation, it will be very important to help the saints who are in need. When Jesus returns He will bless those who did that (Matthew 25:40).

- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation and judges the nations, none of the wicked will be allowed to enter into the millennium (Matthew 25:41). Instead they'll be cast into everlasting fire.
- The place of everlasting fire was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). The ultimate fate of the devil isn't to rule over hell; instead it's to be tormented forever.
- God holds people accountable for how they treat the saints (Matthew 25:42). When people don't help them, He takes it personally. It's as if they're not helping Him in His hour of need.
- The wicked will be punished for all of eternity. Their torment is a punishment from God, and it will never end (Matthew 25:46).
- Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be crucified on the day of the Passover (Matthew 26:2). Although Jesus knew that He was going to be betrayed and crucified, He didn't attempt to escape.
- The religious leaders didn't want to kill Jesus on the feast day (the Passover). However, that's exactly when Jesus was killed (Matthew 26:5).
- The disciples were very concerned about their own glory, but they had little concern for the glory of Jesus. When a woman honored Jesus with expensive ointment, they criticized her for it and thought it was a terrible waste (Matthew 26:8).
- Jesus used the gift of the woman to teach that His death was near (Matthew 26:12).

- Jesus honored the woman who gave Him a gift of expensive ointment by telling the whole world what she had done, so her gift would always be remembered (Matthew 26:13).
- It seems that one of the reasons Judas betrayed Jesus was because he was offended when a woman honored Jesus by giving Him an expensive gift (Matthew 26:14).
- The chief priests didn't go to Judas and ask him to betray Jesus. Instead Judas sought them out on his own (Matthew 26:14).
- Judas wanted to be paid to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:15). He specifically asked for money.
- When Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, Judas had already made arrangements to betray Him. In spite of this Judas didn't change his mind (Matthew 26:21).
- When Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, none of them suspected Judas (Matthew 26:22). That means Judas successfully fooled all of the other disciples.
- The reason Jesus didn't stop His betrayal was because He wanted to fulfill the Messianic prophecy which said that He would be betrayed (Matthew 26:24).
- It would have been better for Judas to have never been born than for him to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:24) Even though the betrayal of Jesus was prophesied, it was still a terrible sin for him to betray Jesus and there were terrible consequences for it.
- When Judas asked Jesus if he was the one who would

betray Him, Jesus said yes (Matthew 26:25). Even after Jesus told Judas that He knew, and even after He said there would be terrible consequences for doing it, Judas ignored the warnings and betrayed Jesus anyway.

- The first communion was celebrated with bread that Jesus had blessed and broken (Matthew 26:26). That means it was celebrated with actual pieces of broken bread.
- During the first communion, all of the disciples drank from the same cup (Matthew 26:27).
- Jesus said the reason His blood was shed was to forgive sins (Matthew 26:28).
- Jesus told all of His disciples that they were going to flee from Him that night, but none of them believed Him. They all said it would never happen (but it did) (Matthew 26:35).
- When Jesus was filled with sorrow, He didn't pray alone. Instead He brought three of His disciples to pray with Him (Matthew 26:37).
- Before Jesus was betrayed, His soul was sorrowful to the point of death (Matthew 26:38).
- There was a time when there was a difference between what God the Son wanted and what God the Father wanted. When that happened, Jesus humbled Himself and accepted the cup of suffering from His Father (Matthew 26:39). Jesus didn't do His own will. Instead He always did the will of God the Father (and that must be true of us as well).
- The reason Jesus commanded His disciples to watch and pray was so they wouldn't enter into temptation

(Matthew 26:41). That means temptation is something we must seek to avoid, and prayer is a tool we can use to do that.

- There are times when our spirit wants to do something, but our flesh makes it impossible (Matthew 26:41). Our flesh can create spiritual problems in our life.
- Judas chose to betray Jesus with a kiss (Matthew 26:48).
- When Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, Jesus called him "friend" (Matthew 26:50).
- When Jesus was arrested, He had the power to pray for more than twelve legions of angels to deliver Him (Matthew 26:53). A Roman legion was composed of around 4,500 people. Jesus could have avoided being arrested but He didn't.
- Jesus literally fulfilled the prophecies that spoke of Him (Matthew 26:54). No prophecy has ever been fulfilled in a spiritual or symbolic manner.
- At the trial of Jesus, people remembered that He said He could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Matthew 26:61). This was a reference to His death and resurrection. The false witnesses unknowingly quoted what was actually happening at that very moment.
- When the high priest demanded that Jesus reveal whether He was the Messiah, He told him that He was (Matthew 26:64).
- One day the people who sentenced Jesus to death will see Him sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 26:64).
- The reason the high priest sentenced Jesus to death was

because He was the Messiah (Matthew 26:65).

- Although Judas regretted betraying Jesus, the chief priests and elders didn't (Matthew 27:4). They were far more passionate about killing Jesus than Judas.
- Although Judas regretted betraying Jesus, he didn't repent and believe in Him (which is what Peter did). Instead he committed suicide (Matthew 27:5).
- The chief priests said it wasn't lawful to take blood money and cast it into the temple treasury (Matthew 27:6). However, they had no problem sentencing the Messiah to death. The chief priests observed very tiny parts of the Mosaic Law, but ignored enormous matters like not murdering innocent people.
- Since people knew how the potter's field was purchased, that means they knew the chief priests bribed Judas to betray Jesus, and Judas regretted it and returned the money (Matthew 27:8).
- When the chief priests turned Jesus over to Pilate, he asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews (Matthew 27:11). Jesus said that He was.
- Pilate knew the reason the chief priests wanted to kill Jesus was because they envied Him (Matthew 27:18). He knew there was no legitimate reason to sentence Jesus to death.
- Pilate's wife had a dream about Jesus on the same day He was brought to him (Matthew 27:19).
- The chief priests and elders were willing to release a notorious murderer in order to put Jesus to death (Matthew 27:20). That's how much they hated Him.

- When Pilate asked the multitude what evil thing Jesus had done, the people had no response. They couldn't name a single evil deed (Matthew 27:23).
- The soldiers mocked Jesus by giving Him a crown of thorns, a reed, and a scarlet robe (Matthew 27:29). They knew that Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews and they mocked Him for it.
- The sign that was put over the head of Jesus on the cross testified that He was being put to death because He was the King of the Jews (and the Jews recognized no king but Caesar) (Matthew 27:37).
- When Jesus was on the cross, people told Him that if He had the power to destroy the temple and build it in three days then He should save Himself (Matthew 27:40). They didn't realize that He was fulfilling those very words as they spoke, because the temple He was talking about was His body.
- The religious leaders claimed that if Jesus came down from the cross then they would believe in Him (Matthew 27:42). Yet when Jesus rose from the dead, exactly as He said He would, they still didn't believe. Instead they persecuted His followers and put them to death.
- When Jesus died, there was a resurrection of the saints (Matthew 27:52).
- When Jesus died, the Roman soldiers saw what happened and were convinced that He was the Son of God (Matthew 27:54). However, the Jews saw all those same signs and *ignored them*. They saw the three hours of darkness, the earthquake, the torn temple veil, and *the resurrection of the dead*, and yet they didn't repent.

- The religious leaders knew that Jesus had said He would rise again on the third day (Matthew 27:63). Yet none of His followers expected it, and His disciples refused to believe it until they saw Him with their own eyes. It seems that the only people who took His words seriously were His enemies.
- The stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb by an angel (Matthew 28:2).
- The soldiers who were guarding Jesus' tomb saw the angel who rolled away the stone (Matthew 28:4).
- Angels are terrifying (Matthew 28:4).
- It seems the reason the angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb wasn't to let Him out (for He was already gone) but so people could see that He was no longer in the tomb (Matthew 28:6).
- The angel didn't tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. Instead he told that news to the women who went to the tomb looking for Him. Since those women came and looked for Jesus, they were the ones who got to meet the angel and hear the news (Matthew 28:7).
- It's possible to experience both fear and joy at the same time (Matthew 28:8).
- The women believed that Jesus had risen from the dead *before* they encountered Him (Matthew 28:9).
- The women saw Jesus before His disciples did (Matthew 28:9). The first people who saw Jesus on the day He was resurrected were the women who were looking for Him, not the disciples who weren't.

- The religious leaders knew what happened at Jesus' tomb. They knew there was an earthquake, an angel had come and rolled away the stone, and the tomb was empty. That means they knew Jesus had risen from the dead and yet they still refused to believe (Matthew 28:11).
- Even though the soldiers who guarded Jesus' tomb were eyewitnesses to what happened, they didn't believe. Instead they accepted a bribe to cover up the truth (Matthew 28:12).
- There was no doubt that the tomb of Jesus was empty. No one disputed that (Matthew 28:13).
- Although it was commonly reported among the Jews that the disciples stole Jesus' body, it seems no one actually believed it. The disciples were arrested multiple times but no one ever mentioned the accusation that they stole His body. It's possible the reason people repeated the lie was because they didn't want to acknowledge the truth (Matthew 28:15).
- Before Jesus was crucified He told His disciples that after He had risen from the dead they should go into Galilee to a specific mountain, and He would meet them there (Matthew 28:16-17). After the resurrection the disciples did go into Galilee and they did see Him on that mountain. (Based on the accounts in the other gospels, it's possible this didn't happen until later.)
- Jesus accepted the worship of His disciples (Matthew 28:17). This is more evidence of His divinity.
- The being who has all power in heaven and on earth is the Lord Jesus Christ, not Mary or the devil (Matthew 28:18).

- We must be baptized in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- Jesus requires us to obey *all* of His commandments (not just some of them) (Matthew 28:20).