> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
> — *Matthew 1:18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Holy Spirit, miracles

Interpretation:
In the book of Matthew, the birth of Jesus Christ is described in a very special way. According to this gospel, the conception of Jesus was the work of the Holy Spirit, which emphasizes the **divinity of the Son of God**.

At the time when Mary and Joseph lived, the engagement or dissolution of the engagement was a commitment before witnesses or even a marriage certificate could be signed. However, the couple did not live together and did not have sexual relations until the marriage was celebrated, which could take up to several years. If infidelity occurred during the engagement, the innocent party could seek a divorce decree.

The virginal conception of Mary is one of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity, but it is also one of the most difficult concepts to understand by human logic and biology. According to Christian theology, the Holy Spirit fertilized Mary without the intervention of a man. Although this may seem impossible, for the Christian faith, the power of the Holy Spirit is limitless thanks to divine omnipotence.

In addition, the virginal birth of Jesus has a deep theological meaning. As theologian Karl Barth wrote: *“God did what humanity could not do: go beyond all boundaries and create something completely new.”* The virginal conception is a sign **of Jesus’ divinity**, as the verse from Matthew indicates.

The birth of Jesus, according to Christian tradition, is the fulfillment of a prophecy mentioned in the Old Testament: *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14)*. For believers, the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of a divine promise and the beginning of the new era of redemption.

On the other hand, the birth of Jesus is the event that marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ on Earth. *Jesus was sent into the world to save it from perdition and to offer new life to all who*

believe in Him. His birth, therefore, is the first step in his saving work.

Some critics have argued that conception by the Holy Spirit diminishes Jesus' humanity. However, this is not the case: the fact that Jesus was born of a human woman and grew up as a child and had a life of flesh and blood means that Jesus had a real human nature.

Furthermore, Jesus' virgin birth means that he did not inherit original sin from Adam. Thus, Jesus is considered the second Adam, who came to redeem original sin and restore humanity to divine grace.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”
> *— Matthew 1:20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Angels, Christmas, Holy Spirit

Interpretation:
Matthew 1:20 is a very significant verse in the Bible. In this verse, the story of Joseph, who was about to marry Mary, is presented. Joseph was terrified to discover that Mary was pregnant before they were married. But, thanks to the appearance of an angel of the Lord in his dreams, Joseph was able to understand the situation.

Joseph was a carpenter, descended from the line of David and very prominent in his community. He planned to marry Mary, who was said to have conceived a child before their marriage. Joseph was confused and hurt by this, as he was a righteous man and observant of Jewish law.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that he should not be afraid to marry Mary, as what had been conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit. The angel urged him to take Mary as his wife and by doing so, Joseph would become the legal father of the future Messiah.

This Bible passage teaches us that God can intervene in our lives in times of conflict, doubt, and uncertainty. Sometimes the path is not clear and it is easy to feel fear and insecurity. In these situations, we must trust in God's guidance and have faith that He will show us the right path.

In addition, there is an important lesson we can learn from Joseph's behavior. He was willing to listen to the angel's message, despite his own doubts and fears, and he made a decision that seemed difficult, but right. In the same way, we too must be prepared to do the right thing, even if it seems difficult.

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> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
> — *Matthew 1:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, Redeemer

Interpretation:
The Bible verse we are dealing with today is considered one of the most important in the entire New Testament, as it sums up the main purpose of Jesus Christ's coming into the world. We are told that the Virgin Mary will *give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins*. This brief statement has in itself great theological richness, which deserves to be explored in detail.

The name given to the child born to the Virgin Mary is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating aspects of this verse. The word **"Jesus"** comes from the Hebrew **"Yeshua,"** which means **"Jehovah is salvation."** Thus, from the very moment of his birth, the child who is to be called Jesus has a name that announces his mission on earth: to save humanity from its sins and reconcile it with God. This name is the one that has been invoked throughout history by millions of Christians around the world, as a symbol of hope, salvation and divine love.

As the verse itself says, Jesus Christ's primary mission is to **"save his people from their sins."** To understand the meaning of this phrase, it is important to remember that sin is that which distances us from God's grace and makes us deserving of eternal punishment. The Bible teaches us that we have all sinned and are far from divine perfection *(Romans 3:23)*, and that only through faith in Jesus Christ can we be justified and restored to our relationship with God *(Romans 5:1-2)*. That is, the saving work of Jesus Christ consists of cleansing our sins and making us worthy of eternal life, through his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection.

This verse has many aspects that invite reflection. For example, we can ask ourselves: how is it possible for a man to save humanity from its sins? Why is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ necessary? What does the word **"salvation"** really mean? These are deep and complex questions, which have multiple answers depending on each individual's perspective. Some possible reflections are:

Salvation is a continuous process that involves the transformation of our inner being and communion with God. It is not just a matter of avoiding sins, but of living according to the divine will at every moment.

The saving work of Jesus Christ is an expression of God's unconditional love for humanity. Through the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of his Son, God shows us that he is willing to do anything for our salvation and invites us to love him and follow him.

Salvation *is a promise and a gift that we can only receive by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ*. It is not something that we can achieve by our own means, but it is given to us freely by divine love.

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> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
>
> *— Matthew 1:22-23*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, miracles, prophecy

Interpretation:
Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a celebration of the most spectacular event in human history. Christmas is a time to celebrate that God loves us and that He is always with us.

Man was created to have fellowship with God. God created us in His image so that He and we could enjoy personal relationships. Sin robbed us of that fellowship. That is the fellowship Jesus came to restore to this earth.

God could have chosen many ways to communicate with us, but because He created us, He knew that the best way to communicate with us was **face to face**. That is why He became one of us. He did not send an angel, a prophet, a politician, or an ambassador. **No! He came Himself!**

If you want someone to know how much you love them, you do not send a representative to communicate with them. *You go and tell them! That is what God did at Christmas!*

The Bible tells us that God is love. Love is the essence of God's character. It is His very nature! We were created to be the object of God's love. He created us to love us. **His love is the reason we are still alive**. Did you know that God was thinking about us before He created the world?

Because God's love is unconditional, He loves us on our good days and our not-so-good days. He loves us when we feel His love and even when we don't. He loves us despite our behavior, mood, actions, or thoughts. His love doesn't change!

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that He would be born as Emmanuel – God with us, to save humanity from its sins.

One of the problems with Christmas is that many people think of Jesus as if He was just a baby. Their idea of ??Him is that of a helpless newborn in His mother's arms. If Jesus had never grown to do what He did, He would not have had the power to change our lives.

But the baby born in Bethlehem did not remain a baby. Jesus grew up, became a man, and showed us a way of life pleasing to God. *And let us not forget that this was God himself!*

He paid for our sins by dying on the cross. And then he rose again! This is the Gospel! Good news!

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> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
>
> *— Matthew 10:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: body, death, fear, hell, soul

Interpretation:
This verse challenges us to consider the importance of our souls and the afterlife. *Jesus* teaches about evangelism and the importance of spreading God's word, making it clear that the disciples may face many obstacles and dangers in their work. Despite all this, He emphasizes that we should not fear those who can harm us physically, but rather fear the One Who can destroy our soul and body in hell.

Do not fear those who kill the body

Fear is an emotion common to all humans, and it often manifests itself in the face of danger. In His instructions, Jesus does not encourage us to be reckless and recklessly expose ourselves to dangerous situations, but rather to remember the brevity of this temporary life and that the most important thing is our soul.

In this sense, we should not fear those who can harm us physically, since the circumstances of our earthly life are beyond our control. While it is important to take safety precautions to protect our physical integrity, we must not allow fear to keep us from doing the work God has for us to do.

Fear Him Who can destroy soul and body in hell

Jesus speaks of God having the power to condemn us to hell if we break His commandments. The idea of eternal damnation is difficult to understand, but the Bible shows us that hell is a real place of suffering, pain, and torment.

It is important to emphasize that God does not desire to condemn anyone to hell, but desires for everyone to repent of their sins and receive eternal life. Therefore, we must fear God, understanding this as respect and reverence for Him as the Creator and Supreme Judge, and keep His commandments, knowing that He has the power to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
> *— Matthew 10:29-31*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Father, fear, valuable

Interpretation:
Matthew 10:29-31 teaches us an important lesson about how God is present and cares for all of creation, even the seemingly insignificant ones. This passage shows us that God is omnipresent, watching over even the smallest details of life. We humans tend to think that little things don't matter much, but to God, every detail matters.

Selling birds

People often underestimate the importance of bird life. Even small, seemingly insignificant birds play an important role in nature. Birds help pollinate plants, control insects, and provide food for animals. But in this passage, *Jesus* shows us that God looks even further, taking responsibility for each of them.

In *Matthew 10:29-31*, *Jesus* tells us that *"two sparrows are sold for a penny."* That is, they are not so valuable that they demand a high price on the market. However, even these seemingly insignificant birds are important to God. The verses go on to say, *"Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care."* This means that God is present everywhere, even in the lives of the smallest birds.

God is always present

It is easy to forget that God is always present and cares about all of creation. In our daily lives, we often take things for granted and do not realize the importance of the little things. But in *Matthew 10:29-31*, *Jesus* shows us that God is present even in the most insignificant details of life.

This teaching can help us develop a greater appreciation for life and all that exists. We can learn to pay more attention to the little things, to recognize the importance of every moment, every person, every creature, and in turn, learn to live in harmony with the rest of the world. We can also trust that God is always there, protecting, guiding, and caring for us in all of life's circumstances.

Our value in God's eyes

Moreover, these verses also speak about our value in God's eyes. What may seem insignificant to others is of great value to God. Jesus points out that even the hairs on our head are important to God, and therefore, so are we. This passage of Scripture reminds us of the importance of our connection to God and that our worth is not measured by our abilities or earthly possessions, but by our relationship with Him.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
> — *Matthew 10:34*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Jesus, peace, world

Interpretation:
As we read this verse, we may feel that it contradicts what we know *about Christ*. He is the Prince of Peace *(Isaiah 9:6)*, preached love and unity during His earthly ministry, and died on the cross to reconcile all of humanity to Himself. So why did Christ say that He came to bring not peace but a sword?

To understand the interpretation of this verse, it is important to analyze the context in which it is found. Christ was speaking to His disciples about the consequences of following Him and preaching His teachings. He was explaining to them that the truth of His teachings would not be accepted by everyone, and that there would be negative consequences for those who followed Him. In this sense, the sword that Christ speaks of is not a literal instrument of destruction, but rather an image of the division that His teachings can cause among people.

Furthermore, Christ meant that His message can cause divisions even within families and homes. The idea is that when someone stands firm in their faith, even those closest to them may reject, judge, and persecute them. This can be painful and difficult, but at the same time, it is comforting to know that we are not alone in our suffering.

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> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
> — *Matthew 10:38*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Crucifixion, following, Jesus, suffering

Interpretation:
Matthew 10:38 is found in *Jesus'* address to the disciples. He was giving them instructions on how to share the gospel with the world, but we want to highlight the part where He tells them the cost of following Him. At that time, taking up the cross was a death sentence, and following Jesus meant accepting an uncertain fate.

Reflecting on the verse

Jesus made the consequences of following Him clear. He called us to deny ourselves and take up our cross. For some, the cross may symbolize illness or hardship, for others, persecution or rejection. Either way, Jesus calls us to follow Him even in difficult times.

The cross is a symbol of our faith and a constant reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection. Instead of rejecting the cross, we must embrace it so that we can follow Jesus with all our hearts.

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> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.
> — *Matthew 10:39*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Eternal life, life, suffering

Interpretation:
This phrase in *Matthew 10:39* may seem contradictory and difficult to understand at first, but it is actually one *of Jesus'* most profound teachings on the importance of sacrifice and self-denial in the Christian life.

Historical context

This passage comes in the middle of a sermon in which Jesus was preparing His disciples to preach the gospel to the world, warning them of the dangers and persecutions they would face. In this sermon, Jesus reminds them that they must be willing to lose everything for Him, even their lives if

necessary.

Losing life to find it

Jesus emphasizes that life is a gift, not something to be earned. The idea of *“finding life”* is to find joy, peace, love, and a life that truly has meaning by pointing to Him.

However, this verse indicates that we cannot find that life unless we are willing to give everything to God. It is a stunning paradox that tells us that the more we try to hold on to our lives and control our destiny, the more we despair and lose true meaning and happiness.

Eternal life is a life of self-denial; it is the sacrifice of one’s own ambitions, goals, desires, dreams, and fears and the surrender of them into the hands of God.

Free yourself from selfishness

Jesus’s teaching calls us to free ourselves from the great obstacle of selfishness and the obsession with material things. It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that happiness lies in material accumulation, fame, or power, but true eternal life lies in surrendering our whole being to God and trusting Him.

Embracing suffering

Jesus also gives us profound teaching on suffering and persecution. We all experience suffering, whether it is due to our own actions or circumstances beyond our control. But Jesus says that even when we suffer for His sake and for the sake of the gospel, we can be sure that God is with us and will reward us in ways we cannot even imagine.

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> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.
> — *Matthew 10:8*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, healing, health, receiving, sickness

Interpretation:

Matthew 10:8 is a verse found in the context of Jesus calling His disciples to go and preach and perform miracles in His name. In this verse, Jesus gives them specific instructions on what they are to do during their mission. He tells them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. Furthermore, it reminds them that they have received the gift of God's grace and are to give it generously.

Healing and miracles are central themes in the Gospels. Through them, Jesus demonstrated his power and divinity to those who followed him, as well as proclaimed the Kingdom of God. The fact that Jesus asks his disciples to do the same indicates that the mission he has given them is as important as his own.

Exorcism is a recurring theme in the Bible. Several times in the New Testament, people are described as being possessed by demons or evil spirits, who are cast out by Jesus or his disciples. In the context of Matthew 10:8, Jesus tells his disciples that they also have the power to cast out demons. This suggests that while evil is real, God's power is much greater and can overcome it.

Another thing that stands out in this verse is the **importance of giving grace** to what we have received from God. God's love and grace are free and should not be commercialized. This is often forgotten in the modern church, where sometimes more emphasis is placed on the monetary aspects than the spiritual ones.

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> Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
> — *Matthew 11:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: encouragement, hope, rest, weakness

Interpretation:
In *Matthew 11:28*, *Jesus* calls all who are weary and heavy laden to come to Him and find rest. This message is set in the context *of Jesus Christ's* public ministry on earth.

In the previous verses, Jesus spoke of His relationship *with the Father* and how He is the only one who can truly know God. He also spoke of His power and authority to heal and set free those oppressed by the devil.

Meaning of the verse

Jesus' call in *Matthew 11:28* is a message of hope and encouragement to those who are weary and burdened by life. Jesus promises that He can give these people the rest they need and free them from their burdens.

In a world full of constant demands and pressures, Jesus' message reminds us that we can find true rest in Him. We no longer have to carry the weight of our worries, fears, and sins. We can find rest *in Christ*.

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> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
> — *Matthew 11:29-30*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: humility, learning, rest

Interpretation:
Jesus is clear in this verse and calls us to take His yoke upon us to find rest for our souls. But what does that mean? What is a yoke and how can it help us?

The meaning of a yoke

A yoke is a farm implement used to join two animals together to work in the field, pulling a plow or other implement. A yoke is a piece of wood placed around the necks of animals to distribute the weight evenly and allow them to work as one.

When Jesus speaks of His yoke, He is telling us to bear our lives with Him. He is inviting us to join Him in working together in the spiritual arena, helping each other bear our burdens and responsibilities.

Learn from Me

Jesus not only calls us to take His yoke upon us, but He also calls us to learn from Him. What does that mean? How can we learn from Jesus?

Jesus calls us to follow His example of meekness and humility. He humbled Himself to come into this world, serve us, and show us the way back to God. Through His example, we can learn to live with humility, love, and service to others.

Rest for our souls

Jesus promises that if we take His yoke and learn from Him, we will find rest for our souls. But how is this possible?

Carrying our burdens and worries can be very difficult and exhausting. But by joining Jesus and working together in the spiritual realm, we can find the peace and calm that only He can give.

Moreover, through His example and teaching, we can find a clear direction in life, a renewed outlook, and a meaningful purpose. All of this can contribute to a deep inner peace for our souls, even in the most difficult situations.

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> How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.
>
> *— Matthew 12:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: sabbath, valuable

Interpretation:
This verse is found in a passage where the Pharisees accuse *Jesus* and His disciples of breaking the law by gleaning grain on the Sabbath. The Pharisees interpreted the law very strictly and considered any work, even gleaning, to be a violation of the Sabbath. However, Jesus responds that the Sabbath was created for the benefit of mankind, not to enslave mankind.

It is important to understand that in the cultural and religious context of the time, a sheep was very valuable because it was an important source of food and clothing, as well as wealth for the family. So the question of how much more valuable a person was than a sheep in that culture implied that the value of the person was above all else.

The meaning of the verse

In this passage, Jesus makes an important statement. He is declaring that the value of the person is above any religious law or cultural custom. He is putting the person at the center of everything and saying that the well-being and dignity of the person is paramount.

This verse has been used throughout history to advocate the idea that people should always come first in any situation, even if that means breaking established norms and traditions. It is a radical affirmation of the value of every human being.

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> And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.
> — *Matthew 12:31*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Forgiveness, Holy Spirit, punishment, sin, Spirit

Interpretation:
Matthew 12:31 has been the subject of much interpretation and, therefore, much debate. In this verse, *Jesus* speaks of the forgiveness of sins and blasphemy against *the Holy Spirit*, and reflects on the importance of sincere repentance.

What is blasphemy against the Spirit?

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is a complex and sensitive topic. There are various interpretations of the word, but in general it means denying the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. Jesus said that anyone who insults or denies the influence of the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven. In other words, it is a willful and stubborn denial of God's work.

Why is blasphemy against the Spirit unforgivable?

Jesus said that blasphemy against the Spirit is unforgivable because the one who does it does not repent. This attitude hinders the work of the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy against the Spirit is an unforgivable sin, not because God does not want to forgive it, but because the blasphemer himself

does not want to be forgiven. It is stubbornness and rejection of God. Blasphemy is a complete denial of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and therefore means that there is no room for repentance and salvation in such a person.

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> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
> — *Matthew 12:32*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Eternal life, Forgiveness, Holy Spirit, Jesus

Interpretation:
Matthew 12:32 is one of the most quoted and studied passages in the Bible. It speaks of the importance *of the Holy Spirit* and warns of the consequences of speaking evil of Him.

Understanding the context of the verse

Before we analyze this verse in detail, it is important to understand the context in which it is found. In the opening verses of this chapter, *Jesus* is confronted by the Pharisees who accuse Him of healing on the Sabbath.

In His response, Jesus explains to them that the Sabbath was made for human welfare, not for human suffering. Then, in verse 31, Jesus warns the Pharisees that any sin or blasphemy they commit against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but speaking evil of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

The importance of the Holy Spirit

Why is the Holy Spirit so important? *The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity*, who together with *the Father and the Son* form the essence *of God*. The Holy Spirit guides, helps, comforts, and sanctifies believers. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, believers are transformed and empowered to live a full life of obedience to God.

The unpardonable sin

So what does the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit mean? Essentially, it means a persistent and deliberate denial of the work of the Holy Spirit. It is a stubborn refusal to accept His influence in our lives. Therefore, it is not a question of any specific sin, but of a hardened state of heart, deliberately alienated from God.

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> But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.
> — *Matthew 12:36*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: judgment, speaking

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of passages that teach us about the power of our words and their impact on others and ourselves. In *Matthew 12:36*, *Jesus* powerfully reminds us of the importance of what we say.

What does “idle talk” mean?

In this context, “idle talk” refers to any empty, meaningless, or meaningless word that may come out of our mouths. It also refers to words that may be offensive or hurtful to others. That is, any word that does not serve a constructive purpose or is not necessary for communication.

Why should we be accountable for our words?

This passage teaches us that every word that comes out of our mouths has consequences, and that we will ultimately be held accountable for them before God. This does not mean that God is ready to punish us for every “idle word” that comes out of our mouths, but rather that He is teaching us the importance of being responsible and mindful of what we say.

Impact on our relationships

Our words can have a profound impact on our relationships, both positively and negatively. They can build bridges or destroy them; they can strengthen or weaken the trust, respect, and love we have for others. So it’s important to be careful about what we say and how we say it.

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> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.
>
> — *Matthew 13:22*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Fruitfulness, money, temptation, Word of God, worrying

Interpretation:
To better understand *Matthew 13:22*, it is important to know the context in which it was written. *Jesus* uses the parable of the sower to illustrate the different types of hearts that receive the Word of God.

One of the hearts Jesus mentions is one that was planted among thorns. The seed in this heart begins to grow, but then it is choked by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches.

The Problems of This Century

One of the problems that dominates Jesus' narrative is the concept of worldly cares. The deception of wealth draws us into worldly cares and distances us from God.

If we allow these cares to dominate us, our growth in faith can be stunted and suffocated. When worldly cares begin to become our primary concern, our spiritual growth becomes secondary and we can forget about what is truly important.

The Deception of Riches

Jesus also mentions the deceitfulness of riches along with worldly cares. Wealth can become a hindrance to our relationship with God if we are not careful. Material possessions can be deceiving because once we have them, we can fall into the trap of thinking that we don't need anything else.

We can begin to think that our material possessions satisfy all our needs. The problem is that while physical wealth may provide temporary satisfaction, it will never be enough to meet the eternal needs of our soul.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
> *— Matthew 16:15-16*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Jesus, Messiah

Interpretation:
The Bible verses found in *Matthew 16:15-16* are of great significance to Christians, especially those seeking to understand the divinity *of Jesus Christ*. This is *Peter’s* confession *of Jesus*, where he clearly calls Him *“the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

Who was Jesus to the people?

Jesus of Nazareth is one of the most famous names in history, but most people know him by different names. Who was Jesus to those who knew Him during His lifetime? By asking the question in verse 15, *“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus* was seeking to understand the perception of His disciples, who followed Him during His ministry and listened to His teachings.

Peter’s response

After Jesus asked His question, Peter responded, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,”* demonstrating his faith and conviction in the divinity of Jesus. This answer is of great significance because it confirms that *Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior* promised in the Old Testament, and part *of the Divine Trinity*.

Who is Jesus to us today?

This question from Jesus remains relevant today because each of us has a different idea of who Jesus is. For some, he may be a religious leader, for others, a historical figure, and for others, *the Son of God*.

Regardless of how someone views Jesus, His life and teachings continue to have a significant impact on millions of people every day, and His message of love and compassion is still relevant today.

What does “Christ” mean?

The word “Christ” comes from the Greek “Christos,” meaning “anointed,” referring to the ancient custom of anointing kings and priests with oil in Israel. Thus, when Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ, he recognized Him as the leader and authority among God’s people.

What does "Son of the living God" mean?

The phrase "Son of the living God" refers to *Jesus'* relationship with *God the Father*, emphasizing His divine nature. By acknowledging *Jesus as the Son of God*, Peter was proclaiming that Jesus was not just a great teacher or prophet, but part *of the Divine Trinity*.

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> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
>
> *— Matthew 16:18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Church, community, hell

Interpretation:
In Matthew 16, *Jesus* encounters His disciples as they pass through the area around Caesarea Philippi. He asks them who they think He is. *Peter*, filled with deep faith and conviction, replies, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)*.

Jesus acknowledges the importance of this statement by declaring that this revelation did not come from human flesh and blood, but from *the Father in heaven*. It is at this point that Jesus tells Peter, *“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

Peter as a rock

This statement by Jesus has been the source of controversy and disagreement throughout Church history. Some have interpreted it to mean that Jesus was speaking of Peter as the rock upon which the Church would be built.

However, others have argued that the “rock” Jesus refers to is Peter’s confession of faith, and that Jesus is indicating that the Church will be built upon the truth of his confession.

The Church of Jesus

Regardless of the precise interpretation, this passage emphasizes the importance of the Church of Jesus and its foundation in the supernatural truth of divine revelation. Through His Church, Jesus provides saving grace to all the nations of the world, and the “gates of hell” will never prevail against it.

This verse also serves as a reminder that the Church belongs to Jesus, not to anyone who has authority over it. Its foundation in divine truth makes it stable and able to withstand the ravages of time and history.

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> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
>
> *— Matthew 16:19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, Kingdom, world

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew is an account of the ministry and teachings *of Jesus*, which focuses on establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. Matthew 16 emphasizes the importance of believing *in Jesus as the Messiah* and committing to follow Him. One of the highlighted verses in *Matthew 16:19* concerns the “keys of the kingdom of heaven,” which *Christ* gives to *Peter* as the head of the Church.

The significance of the keys

In the Old Testament, keys symbolize power and authority in governing a country and enforcing the law. That is, keys represent access to control and leadership. Therefore, when Jesus announces to Peter that He will give him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, He is giving him the authority to govern and spread the gospel on earth.

The significance of the key

The significance of the “keys of the Kingdom of Heaven” is that through them, Peter has the authority to act on earth in the name of God. Peter is commissioned to make disciples and preach *the gospel of Jesus Christ* in its fullness. This includes answering the questions and doubts of believers as well as those who do not yet know Christ.

Using the keys

The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven tell us about our authority as Christians to proclaim and preach the gospel of Christ. If we are true followers of Jesus Christ, then we also have access to the power and authority that this key gives us. But it is not just about preaching; it also means that whatever we bind or loose on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven.

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> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.
> — *Matthew 16:25*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: death, life, Salvation

Interpretation:
One of the most difficult verses in the Bible to understand is *Matthew 16:25*. *Jesus* is talking about the deeper meaning of life, its purpose, and how to find true happiness.

What does it mean to lose your life?

Most of us view our lives as a collection of goals, dreams, and desires that we want to achieve. We seek happiness by living what society deems important: a successful career, a happy marriage, a beautiful home, and material possessions. However, Jesus tells us that if we want to find true happiness and secure our eternal life, we must be willing to lose all of these things for Him.

Losing your life does not necessarily mean ceasing to exist, but rather giving up our selfish desires and worldly attachments in order to follow Jesus. We must learn to put the needs of others above our

own and follow His teachings rather than our selfish instincts. It is a call to leave behind our ego and self in order to follow the higher path of love and sacrifice.

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> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
> — *Matthew 16:26*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: life, materialism, soul, world

Interpretation:
Before we dive into the teaching of *Matthew 16:26*, it is important to understand the context in which it is said. In this passage, *Jesus* asks His disciples who they think He is. *Peter* responds that *He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God*. It is then that Jesus tells him that He will build His Church on this rock and declares His authority to bind and loose on earth and in heaven.

The meaning of this verse

The phrase, *"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* is an important teaching of Jesus. He reminds us that life is not about amassing wealth or seeking fame, power, or recognition. These things are temporary and perishable and will not bring us the true happiness or inner peace we seek.

The soul, on the other hand, is eternal and of inestimable value. We must care for it and nourish it, protecting it from sin and corruption. When we lose our soul, we lose our essence, our identity as children of God and our purpose in life.

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> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.
> — *Matthew 16:27*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Angels, Father, Jesus, reward, Second coming

Interpretation:
Matthew 16:27 speaks of the Last Judgment, an event where people will be judged by God. The Bible is clear about this event and how God will reward each person according to their deeds. The Last Judgment is a major theme in the Bible, mentioned many times in the New Testament.

The glory of God

The verse begins with the mention of “the glory of God,” which refers to the manifestation of His divine power. The glory of God is a recurring theme in the Bible, expressing the majesty and power of God. This verse anticipates the coming of *Jesus* in all the glory and power *of His heavenly Father*.

The coming of Jesus

The verse continues with the promise that *the Son of Man* will come in all His glory. This refers to the Second Coming of Jesus, which was prophesied in many parts of the Bible. Christians believe that Jesus will return one day to perform the Last Judgment and take the righteous to heaven.

The Second Coming of Jesus is a fundamental element of the Christian faith, and the fact that it is mentioned in this verse makes it even more important.

Reward according to works

The second part of the verse says that God will *“he will reward each person according to what they have done.”* This means that God will judge each person according to his deeds and reward him accordingly. The righteous will receive their reward in heaven, and the wicked will be punished. This verse clearly shows that salvation is achieved not only by faith, but also by good works.

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> He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”
>
> — *Matthew 17:20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: faith, miracles, trust

Interpretation:
Faith is one of the fundamental pillars of the Christian life. Without it, it is impossible to please God, as *Hebrews 11:6* says. Faith allows us to believe in the unseen and trust in the perfection of God’s plan for our lives. However, we often encounter situations that test our faith and cause us to doubt.

Interpretation of the verse

In *Matthew 17:20*, *Jesus* tells His disciples about the importance of faith. He tells them that if they have faith the size of a mustard seed, they will be able to move mountains. Here, Jesus wants to show that the faith needed to do the impossible is small, but still necessary. Therefore, to do the impossible, faith is needed.

Jesus used the comparison of a mustard seed to show that faith can grow if we feed it. Faith is not something we simply possess, but something we must cultivate in our lives. Likewise, a mustard seed is small, but under favorable conditions it will grow into a large, strong plant. So too, our faith can grow and strengthen if we nourish it.

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> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”
>
> — *Matthew 17:5*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: God, Jesus, joy

Interpretation:
Matthew 17:5 is one of the most important verses in the Bible that deals with the relationship between *God and His Son, Jesus Christ*. It tells of the transfiguration *of Jesus* and the words *of God the Father* during this scene.

The transfiguration of Jesus

The transfiguration of Jesus, described in the preceding verses, is a turning point in His life and ministry. Jesus took His disciples *Peter, James, and John* to the top of a high mountain, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became brilliantly white.

It is important to note that Jesus did not change His appearance, but His divine attributes were temporarily revealed to the disciples. This event confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised.

The voice of God

In this context, a cloud of light covered them, and God spoke from the cloud, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"* These words are full of power and meaning.

First, God confirms that *Jesus is His beloved Son*. This title points to a unique relationship between Jesus and God, a connection that goes beyond earthly fatherhood. God not only calls Jesus His Son, but also expresses His love for Him.

Second, God confirms that He is pleased with Him. This statement seems to be addressed directly to Jesus, but it is also a message to the disciples and to us as followers of Christ. If God is pleased with Jesus, we can be sure that He is pleased with us if we follow His teachings.

Third, God calls us to listen to Jesus. This statement is a call to all who hear these words from God to listen to Jesus and His teachings. Jesus is the most important teacher we will ever know, and His words are worthy of our attention and reflection.

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> If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.
> — *Matthew 18:15*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, reconciliation, sin, speaking

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew is one of the four canonical Gospels and the first in the New Testament. It tells of the ministry *of Jesus* and His teachings to His disciples and the people at large. This verse from *Matthew 18:15* is part of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches His followers a number of valuable lessons about how they should live the Christian life.

Interpretation

In *Matthew 18:15*, *Jesus* teaches us the importance of brotherly correction in the Christian community. In this verse, He tells us that if a brother sins against us, we should go and talk to him privately. This means that we should address the issue directly and personally, rather than spreading rumors and gossip. If our brother listens to us and repents, we have gained our brother.

This verse reminds us that as Christians, we are not called to judge others, but to love them and help them grow in faith. Brotherly correction is an act of love because it aims to help our brothers and sisters improve their behavior and relationship with God. Jesus gives us a practical tool to help restore broken relationships and harmony in society.

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> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
> — *Matthew 18:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Church, listening, sin

Interpretation:

Matthew 18:17 is part *of Jesus'* teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation in the church. This passage tells us what to do when someone in the church has sinned and refuses to repent and ask for forgiveness.

Why is this passage important?

Matthew 18:17 is of great importance to the church and Christians because it gives us clear guidance on how to approach sin and forgiveness in the Christian community. It reminds us that the church has a responsibility to help those who have sinned, not just to punish or judge them. Furthermore, it reminds us that all members of the church have a responsibility to correct and build others up.

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> For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
> — *Matthew 18:20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Church, community, Jesus, Prayer

Interpretation:
In *Matthew 18:20* we find a verse that tells us about the power of gathering together in the *name of Jesus*. In this passage, Jesus talks about the importance of coming together in community and how God's presence is revealed through the union of His followers.

The idea of ??gathering together in the name of Jesus has been an important theme of the Christian church since its inception. In the early days of Christianity, believers gathered in homes to worship and study the word of God. The early church was a committed and close-knit group of Christians who shared a faith and goals. This is the type of community that Jesus had in mind when he spoke of gathering together in His name.

In modern life, we continue to gather together in religious communities to worship God and grow in our relationship with God. When we gather together in the name of Jesus, we do more than just gather together. We acknowledge the presence of God in our lives and in our community.

The importance of gathering together in the name of Jesus is that it gives us the opportunity to share our experiences. It allows us to worship God together, study God's word, and share ideas and

thoughts. Christian community offers support and help in times of need, as well as the guidance and support needed to deal with life's challenges.

Moreover, the *presence of the Lord* among two or more people gathered in His name shows us the value of personal connections within the community. Each of us plays an important role in the lives of others and in the life of the church as a whole. When we gather together, our lives are connected and enrich each other.

It is important to note that gathering in the name of Jesus does not have to be an exclusive activity of the church. We can find opportunities to gather in the name of Jesus in our homes, communities, and workplaces. Every time we gather with others in a spirit of love and unity, we are building a community of faith around the presence of the Lord.

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> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
> — *Matthew 18:21-22*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Forgiveness, grace, mercy, neighbor, sin

Interpretation:
In the Bible verses *Matthew 18:21-22*, we find *Peter* asking *Jesus* how many times he should forgive his brother who had wronged him. In this passage, Jesus emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and how we should learn to forgive our neighbors.

The value of forgiveness

To better understand the value of forgiveness, it is important to know the meaning of the word. Forgiveness involves releasing another person from the punishment or revenge that they deserve for hurting us. In other words, forgiveness is releasing guilt and pain so that you can move on.

That is why Jesus answers Peter by saying that we should forgive not only seven times, but seventy-seven times. In other words, we should learn to forgive always. That is, we should forgive not just

once, but several times, without any reasonable limit.

The importance of forgiveness

Jesus also shows us an example of the importance of forgiveness in our lives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15)*.

This teaching of Jesus shows that forgiveness is crucial to our happiness and well-being. When we forgive others, we free our hearts from bitterness and resentment and allow ourselves to freely experience inner peace and harmony with others.

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> Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
> — *Matthew 19:14*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: children, heaven, Kingdom

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:14 talks about children. With this statement, *Jesus* emphasizes the importance of children for entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus’ attitude toward children

Jesus always showed great compassion and love for children, accepting them without judgment or discrimination. This verse shows us Jesus’ attitude toward them: He not only loved children, but He considered them the basis for the exercise of faith and their participation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

What does “Let the little children come to me” mean?

The phrase *“let the little children come to me”* tells us the importance of accepting little ones and not burdening them with a burden they are not prepared to bear. We must learn from them and allow them to relate to Jesus from their own childlike perspective, without trying to force a religion on them that is

tailored to us.

Why are children important in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus speaks of the purity and lack of prejudice that children have to emphasize the importance of innocence and humility. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must approach God simply and impartially, like children who are unaware of the dividing lines created by adults in this world.

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> ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’
>
> — *Matthew 19:18b-19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: desires, family, law, love, lying, reliability

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew in the Bible is a rich source of teachings and principles that provide guidance to believers. *Matthew 19:18b-19* occurs in the context *of Jesus'* conversation with a rich young man who asked Him what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminded him *of the Ten Commandments*, including the command to honor parents and love one's neighbor.

Thou shalt not kill

The commandment "Thou shalt not kill" is one of the Ten Commandments *of the Law of Moses* and is considered a grave sin. This commandment not only prohibits the killing of another person, but also violence and hatred towards others. In our daily lives, this commandment can be applied through compassion, tolerance, and love for others.

Thou shalt not commit adultery

The act of adultery involves sexual relations with someone other than one's spouse. This commandment emphasizes the importance of marriage and fidelity. We must honor the commitments and promises made in marriage and be faithful to our partners.

Do not steal

The commandment “do not steal” prohibits theft and misappropriation of another’s property. It also manifests itself in honesty in our daily lives, in our handling of money, and in our treatment of others.

Do not bear false witness

This commandment calls us to honesty and truthfulness in our words and actions. By deceiving, lying, or dishonoring others, we undermine the trust, integrity, and confidence that are built on human relationships.

The meaning of “honor your father and your mother”

“Honor your father and your mother” is one of the oldest and most universal commandments. In Jewish culture, honoring parents included respect and obedience and was considered a sacred duty to family and society. In the New Testament, honoring parents becomes an expression of love for one's neighbor and a reflection of God's love.

The meaning of the phrase "love your neighbor as yourself"

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is a commandment found in *Leviticus 19:18* and quoted *by Jesus* many times in the Gospels. Its essence is to love your neighbor as yourself and to treat others as you would like to be treated. This commandment is the basis of Jesus' teaching and is considered a summary of the entire Law and the Prophets.

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> Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”
>
> *— Matthew 19:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Blameless, following, giving, heaven, Jesus, materialism

Interpretation:

Matthew 19:21 is one *of Jesus'* most famous teachings. Here, Jesus is addressing a rich young ruler who asks Him what he needs to do to gain eternal life. Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, but then makes a shocking statement.

Jesus tells the rich young ruler that if he really wants to be perfect, he must get rid of all his material possessions and follow Him. This may seem like a lot, but it's important to remember that Jesus is not telling us all to do the same thing. Instead, He is addressing a man who was very attached to his possessions and giving him a personalized lesson on what he needs to do to follow Jesus.

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> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
> — *Matthew 19:26*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: miracles, Salvation, understanding

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:26 is one of the most famous passages in the Bible, revealing one of the most fundamental truths of the Christian life.

The importance of faith in God

This passage tells us about faith in God and His power. *Jesus'* words encourage us to trust God and believe that He is able to overcome even seemingly impossible situations.

In our daily lives, we face challenges that bring us to despair, but this verse reminds us to always trust God. He has the power to transform our pain into joy, our weaknesses into strength, and our adversity into opportunities for His glory.

The power of God is limitless

This verse also shows us the limitless power of God. We, as humans, are often limited by space, time, and resources, but God has no limitations or barriers that can stop Him. He is able to do what seems impossible in our lives.

Throughout history, we have seen many examples of people experiencing God's power in their lives. From the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt to the resurrection of Jesus, the Bible is filled with stories of God's power. It is important to remember that this same power is available to us today if we trust in Him and follow His ways.

God's will for our lives

Moreover, *Matthew 19:26* also reminds us that God has a plan and purpose for our lives. His plans are perfect and designed to take us where He wants us to go. Sometimes this means facing challenges and trials, but we must trust that we can overcome them with God's help.

It is important to remember that while we may plan, God is in control, and His will should always be our priority. Instead of clinging to our own plans and ambitions, we should always seek God's will for our lives and be willing to let Him shape us.

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> But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.
> — *Matthew 19:30*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: reward

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:30 contains one of the most interesting and mysterious quotes from *Jesus*. Most people don't fully understand what this quote means when they first hear it. But if we look at the context of this verse, we can better understand what Jesus was trying to say.

Verse context

In this chapter, Jesus is talking to a rich young man who wanted to know what he needed to do to gain eternal life. After Jesus told him to sell all his possessions and follow Him, the young man went away sad because he was so rich.

Jesus also told His disciples that it was hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Then *Peter* asks *Jesus* what reward would come to those who left everything to follow Him. That's when Jesus utters this famous verse.

Meaning of the verse

The message of this quote is essentially that first is not always best. Jesus is talking about the importance of humility and faith in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. The reward of the disciples who left everything to follow Him will not be measured by who was with Jesus from the beginning, who did the most deeds, or who accumulated the most wealth. It is the faith of the person that counts; that is what God sees, and that is how his worth is assessed.

In other words, Jesus is saying that social status, material well-being, and position in society do not matter; what matters is the quality of the person's spiritual life.

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> “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”
>
> *— Matthew 19:4-6*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: creation, marriage, sexuality

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:4-6 clearly points to the marriage union through God. These verses state that when a couple gets married, they become one flesh and therefore should not separate. Marriage was designed by God for a man and a woman to become one and be united forever.

Understanding marriage according to God

When *God* created *Adam and Eve*, He created them to complement each other. In *Genesis 2:18*, *God* says, *“The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.””* Thus, God instituted marriage and designed a couple to be one flesh. When a man and a woman come together, they become one flesh, united by God.

The importance of maintaining marriage

It is important that a marriage remain whole, as God intended. When a couple gets married, they commit to being together and supporting each other for life. In this process, love, respect and loyalty play a vital role. Spouses should strive to become the best version of themselves for the sake of the well-being of their marriage and family.

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> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
>
> *— Matthew 2:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, worship

Interpretation:
We are presented with the story of some wise men who came to Jerusalem in search of the newborn king of the Jews. This event takes place in the political and social context of the reign of Herod the Great, who ruled the territory of Judea as a subject of the Roman Empire.

The original term used in the Greek text for the Magi (wise men) is *"Magoi"*, which in ancient times was used to refer to a group of priests and scholars from Persia and Babylon. These wise men were experts in astronomy, astrology and magic, and had a good reputation for their prophetic and mystical abilities.

The wise men were guided by a star, which they believed to be a divine sign that a new king was coming to Israel. This belief may have been influenced by the prophecy in the Book of Numbers, which spoke of *"a star coming out of Jacob"*. The wise men therefore interpreted the star as a sign that the Messiah had been born and that they should go to Jerusalem to worship Him.

When Herod heard the news from the Magi, he was filled with fear at the thought of a possible threat to his throne. He sought information about the birthplace of the Messiah in order to destroy Him, and,

under the guise of religious interest, he called the wise men to tell him the exact location of the birthplace.

The star that guided the Magi has been interpreted in different ways. For some, the star is a symbol of the divinity of Jesus and an extraordinary sign that God sent to announce His arrival. Others interpreted the star in a more esoteric sense, as a sign that the Messiah was illuminating the world and that His light should be followed.

The wise men who appear before Jesus also provide an example of how truth and divine wisdom can be sought in the world, beyond religious boundaries. Just because they were wise men from a pagan land does not mean that they could not be people who were seeking God's truth.

Herod's reaction is an example of how the powerful and the rulers have much to lose from the coming of the Messiah. However, Herod's attitude can also be seen as an image of the resistance people experience to accept the coming of Jesus into their lives and to surrender control of their existence to the Lord.

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> We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!
>
> *— Matthew 20:18-19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Crucifixion, Easter, Jesus, Resurrection, sacrifice

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:18-19 is a prophecy that *Jesus* gave to His disciples about His upcoming crucifixion in Jerusalem. He warns them that He will be handed over to the religious leaders and condemned to death, but that He will rise again on the third day. This is interesting because it shows how aware Jesus was of His destiny, and also demonstrates His courage and divine power that enabled Him to fulfill His mission on earth.

At that time in history, the chief priests and scribes were the Jewish authorities who were against Jesus. They were the ones who handed Him over to the Roman authorities to be tried and convicted of blasphemy. It is clear that even though Jesus performed many miracles and preached the truth to the common people, He was not accepted by those in power.

Reflection of verses

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the most important events in the history of Christianity. Jesus' death was God's way of offering forgiveness and salvation to all mankind. No one else could pay for our sins, so God came to earth to do it. Jesus suffered and died in our place so that we could have eternal life.

Jesus' resurrection is proof that He had the power to conquer death, and a promise that those who believe in Him can also conquer death. Death no longer has power over those who believe in Jesus.

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> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.
> *— Matthew 20:26-27*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: humility, neighbor, serving, slavery

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:26-27 is written in the context of a discussion about greatness in the kingdom of God. The disciples *James and John*, along with their mother, approached *Jesus* to ask permission to sit on His right and left sides in His glory.

Jesus responded by telling them that they did not know what they were asking for, since they could not drink from the same cup of suffering that He did, and that they must humble themselves to follow His example. Jesus then teaches them that greatness in the kingdom of God is not achieved through power or authority, but through service and humility.

What does it mean to serve others?

The Gospel of Matthew presents us with this phrase from the lips of Jesus, who is speaking to His disciples to teach them about the importance of service and humility in their lives. In these verses, Jesus teaches them that it is not about seeking glory, power, or authority, but about serving others and being available to them.

The word "slave" comes from the Latin "servus." However, in the context of this verse, it is not about forced or imposed slavery, but about a personal choice to serve others. Being a servant means putting the needs of others above your own, humbling yourself before them, and being willing to help.

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> Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
>
> *— Matthew 20:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Jesus, sacrifice, Salvation, serving

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:28 presents one of the most important biblical teachings on service and sacrifice. In this verse, *Jesus* emphasizes the importance of serving others, even to the point of laying down his life for them.

First, it is important to highlight Jesus as the ultimate example of service and sacrifice. He himself says that he came not to be served, but to serve, which means that His main goal was always to help others. Jesus spent His entire earthly life serving those in need, healing the sick, comforting the suffering, and teaching *the Word of God*. Even when He faced death on the cross, He did so out of love for humanity, seeking to save everyone from sin and death.

This example of Jesus' service and sacrifice should inspire us all to follow His path. In our daily lives, we can find opportunities to serve others in many ways. Instead of focusing only on our own needs and desires, we can look for ways to help others. This could be through giving charity, giving advice, or simply listening to someone in need. In doing so, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to serve others.

On the other hand, it is also important to mention the concept of *"ransom"* in this verse. Jesus says that He gave His life as a ransom for many, which means that His death and resurrection have the

power to save us from sin and death. This ransom is an act of unconditional love and mercy on the part of God that makes it possible for us to be freed from our condition of sin and death and to have eternal life with Him.

Another important lesson to learn from this verse is that *Jesus* calls himself *“the Son of Man.”* This points to His humanity, His ability to suffer and feel pain just like any other human being. This statement shows us that Jesus is not only a divine being, but also close, accessible, and sympathetic to our needs.

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> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.”
> — *Matthew 21:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: faith, miracles, speaking, trust

Interpretation:
Matthew 21:21 talks about the importance of having faith without doubt and how it can help us do great things. *Jesus* tells His disciples that if they have faith without doubt, they will be able to move mountains or wither a tree.

But what does it mean to have faith without doubt? One possible interpretation is that we can fully trust God and His divine power to help us overcome any obstacle that may come our way. If we have trusted Him, we should have no doubt that He will help us and guide us along our path.

However, in practice, this can seem difficult. Often we experience doubts or fears that prevent us from having strong and unwavering faith. But it is important to remember that faith is not something that is achieved overnight; it is a process that takes time and effort.

Faith and trust in God

Faith and trust in God are the fundamental pillars of our Christian life. As *Proverbs 3:5-6* says, we must trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding. If we do this, He will

direct our steps and lead us in the way we should go.

It may seem difficult to fully trust someone we cannot see or touch, but we must remember that God is always present in our lives and is ready to help and guide us when we need it. We must learn to trust Him so that He can work in us, transforming us and making us better.

Faith allows us to do great things

Faith also allows us to do incredible things. As *Hebrews 11:1* says, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. If we firmly believe in something, we can achieve it if we put in the effort and dedication to it.

But it is also important to remember that it is not our faith in ourselves that allows us to do great things, but our faith in God. It is He who gives us the strength and authority to do the impossible if we trust Him and are willing to follow His will.

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> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
> — *Matthew 21:22*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: faith, Prayer, reliability

Interpretation:
In *Matthew 21:22* we find a wonderful promise from *Jesus* about the effectiveness of prayer in our daily lives.

These words of Jesus are an invitation to trust Him and the power of prayer. If we pray to God with faith and confidence in His answer, He will give us what we ask for. However, this promise does not mean that we can ask God for anything and expect Him to automatically give it to us. There are certain conditions that must be met in order for our prayers to be answered.

The importance of faith in prayer

The most important condition for our prayers to be answered is faith. *Hebrews 11:6* says that *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he*

exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." If we do not have faith in God and His ability to answer our prayers, our requests are unlikely to be answered.

Faith also means believing that God loves us and wants the best for us. When we pray in faith, we trust that God will give us what we ask for if it is best for us and His eternal purpose.

Ask according to God's will

In addition to faith, it is important to pray according to God's will. In *1 John 5:14* we read, *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."* When we ask God for anything, we must be willing to accept His answer, even if it does not match our expectations. If we pray for God's will to be done in our lives, we can be confident that He will answer in the best way.

The importance of persistence in prayer

Another important factor in prayer is persistence. Jesus taught us to pray continually and never give up. In *Luke 18:1-8*, *Jesus* told a parable about a widow who persistently sought justice from an unjust judge until he finally granted her request. This story highlights the importance of persistence in prayer and not becoming discouraged by the apparent lack of response from God.

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> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
>
> — *Matthew 21:9*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Easter, Jesus, worship

Interpretation:
One of the most moving passages in the Bible is found in *Matthew 21:9*. This verse describes *Jesus'* triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, where He was greeted by the multitudes who recognized Him as the long-awaited *Messiah*.

The importance of historical context

To understand the full meaning of *Matthew 21:9*, it is important to consider the historical context. In Jesus' day, there was great anticipation among the Jews that God would send a Messiah who would deliver them from Roman rule and restore the kingdom of Israel. Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem was interpreted by many as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Popular applause

The shouts of the people are an expression of joy and rejoicing at the coming of the Messiah. The word *"Hosanna"* is a translation of the Hebrew word meaning "save now," a plea for divine help to deliver Israel from its oppressors. The cry, *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,"* is a quotation from *Psalm 118:26*, which was recited on feast days as an invitation to God to come and save His people.

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> Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
> *— Matthew 22:37*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heart, mind, soul

Interpretation:
One of the most important commands that Jesus gave us in Scripture. This command calls us to total submission to God and offers us a unique perspective on how we should relate to Him.

When Jesus talks about **"loving the Lord with all your heart"**, he means total surrender. This means that we are to give every area of ??our lives to God, holding nothing back. We are to seek His will and direction in everything we do and be willing to give up our own desires for His sake.

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> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
>
> — *Matthew 22:39*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: law, love, neighbor

Interpretation:
One of the most important commandments in the Bible is *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* This command was given *by Jesus* in the Gospel of Matthew and is found in many other Bible passages.

The meaning of the words “Love your neighbor as yourself”

The meaning of this commandment seems very clear and straightforward: *we are to treat others with the same love and respect that we treat ourselves*. But what does it really mean to love someone?

Love is not only affection or concern for someone, but also acting for their good. We must do everything we can to help others as we do ourselves.

The importance of love in our everyday lives

Love is a powerful transformative force in our lives and the foundation of our Christian faith. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we fulfill God’s law and draw closer to Him.

Moreover, love helps us to establish healthy and harmonious relationships with others, promoting peace and healthy coexistence. It also helps us to understand the needs of others and to act humbly and selflessly, helping others without expecting anything in return.

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> But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
>
> — *Matthew 24:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: patience, Salvation, end times

Interpretation:

Matthew 24 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible, where *Jesus* addresses His disciples and gives them an overview of the events of the last days. In this chapter, Jesus also gives some important clues to help us determine when the end of the world will come.

Interpretation of the verse

In this verse, *Jesus* talks about perseverance and tells His disciples that they must endure to the end to be saved. The word *“endure”* means to endure, to persist, and not to give up in the face of difficulties. Jesus tells them that everyone will face trials and hardships, but those who endure to the end will be saved.

We must trust God and ask for His help to stay on track. Perseverance is not easy, but it is necessary if we want to gain eternal life.

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> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
>
> *— Matthew 24:14*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Evangelism, Kingdom, world, end times

Interpretation:
Matthew 24:14 is one of the most important verses in the Bible. It describes the ultimate purpose of teaching and preaching the gospel in the world. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news of the coming *of the kingdom of God* to earth and the key role *of Jesus Christ* in it.

The fact that it is preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations is significant because it means that all people must know the truth before the final *coming of our Savior*.

In-depth analysis

The purpose of preaching the gospel throughout the world as a witness to all nations is clear: to enable people to receive the gift of eternal life. In other words, it is a clear indication that God does not want anyone to perish, but that all will come to the knowledge of His truth and be saved.

This verse points to what is called the Great Commission, which calls Christians to go into the world and preach the gospel to all people. This applies not only to pastors and preachers, but to each of us, since every Christian is an ambassador of the kingdom. We must bring the gospel message to people not only through words, but also through behavior, attitude and deeds.

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> So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
>
> *— Matthew 24:26-27*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Jesus, Second coming, end times

Interpretation:
Matthew 24:26-27 is found in a chapter in which *Jesus* is speaking to His disciples about the signs that will precede His second coming and the end of time. In this context, Jesus is warning His followers not to believe anyone who tells them that *the Messiah* has come and is in a specific location, whether in the desert or in some secret place.

This warning from Jesus is important because throughout history there have been countless false prophets who have claimed to be the Messiah and have vainly urged many to follow them. Some have tried to use specific locations and settings to supposedly prove their messianic identity.

But Jesus reminds His disciples that His coming will be universal, not limited to a particular region or a specific group of followers. The Lord thus assures us that His return will be obvious and undeniable, and no false strategy will be able to deceive the believers.

This passage also teaches us to be careful and cautious before we believe in anything or anyone. In a world full of false beliefs, prophets, and messages, it is vital to have a clear criterion and always seek the truth. *Jesus* calls us to trust only Him as *the true Messiah and Savior of the world*.

As for the practical application of these verses in our lives, we must realize that blind faith is not enough. It is easy to fall into the trap of following someone who seems to have the answer or solution to our problems, but that does not necessarily mean it is the truth. We must remain committed to truth, honesty, and integrity, and realize that it is very important to study God's Word for ourselves.

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> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
> — *Matthew 24:35*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, reliability, Word of God, end times

Interpretation:
In this verse, *Jesus* is talking about the finiteness of the physical, material world in which we live. The things we see and the places we know will not last forever, as the earth and the sky will eventually pass away. Everything in this life will eventually pass away, but what about the Word of God?

What did Jesus mean when he said that His words will not pass away?

Jesus is saying that even if everything known passes away, His words will last forever. *He is the Word of God (John 1:1)*, and His teachings and promises assure us of eternal salvation. *Jesus' words* are consistent and unchanging, meaning that if we hold fast to them, we can be confident in their truth and power.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
> — *Matthew 24:42*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: patience, Second coming, end times

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Matthew 24:42* calls us to be watchful and attentive for the coming *of our Lord Jesus Christ*, since we do not know when He will appear. This concept of constant vigilance is an important biblical teaching, the meaning of which is deep and multifaceted.

First, the term “watchfulness” implies the idea of being alert and prepared for any eventuality. This call is especially important in the context of the coming of the Lord, since His return may occur at any moment. Therefore, Christians need to be always prepared for His coming through prayer, meditation, and the practice of Christian values.

On the other hand, this teaching also suggests that time is a precious and limited resource that we must use wisely. Instead of passively waiting for the coming of the Lord, we should engage in activities that promote our own self-realization and the self-realization of our neighbors. This may include the pursuit of knowledge, community service, or the promotion of justice and peace.

Moreover, the call to watchfulness involves humility and the recognition of our own fragility and incompleteness. We must remember that our knowledge of God and His plans is limited, and therefore our work must always be humble and directed toward serving others.

As for the practical application of this teaching, we can reflect on the need to live in the present and use time effectively. Life is a precious gift that we should value and use to the fullest, avoiding procrastination and delay. The call to watchfulness encourages us to remember our purpose as Christians even in the most difficult times.

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> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
> — *Matthew 24:44*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Messiah, Second coming, end times

Interpretation:

Christians have always been called to be prepared for the coming *of the Son of Man*. This verse from *Matthew 24:44* reminds us that *Jesus* will return at any moment, and that we must always be ready for that moment. The question is, how should we be prepared?

How can we prepare?

The answer is simple: we must maintain an ongoing relationship with God and keep His commandments. We must read and meditate on Scripture, pray, and attend church regularly. We must also ensure that our daily lives are in line with what God desires of us. This means treating others well, helping them, being generous, and abstaining from anything that displeases God.

We will never know when the time will come

God reminds us that we do not know when Jesus will return and call us to account. Therefore, we must always be ready and prepared. This should guide our daily lives, ensuring that all our decisions and actions are in line with what God expects of us. Ultimately, everything we do should be for the glory of God and to be prepared for His Second Coming.

There will eventually be a day of judgment

It is important to remember that *the coming of Christ* and our Last Judgment are not simply events that will happen in the distant future. Every day we make choices that will affect our eternal life. Therefore, every day we must be prepared for the coming of Christ and our Last Judgment.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
>
> — *Matthew 25:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, money, reliability, reward, serving

Interpretation:

In the Bible verse *Matthew 25:21* we find a story about a servant who was rewarded for being faithful in doing what he was asked to do. This story is an important teaching about the importance of being faithful in small things, as it can lead us to receive greater blessings.

This passage is part of the teaching about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus shared with his disciples. In the story, a rich man who was about to go on a journey gave his servants charge of his property. He gave one of them five talents, another two, and another one talent, according to each one's ability.

The servant who received five talents used them wisely and was able to double them, as did the one who received two talents. But the servant who received only one talent hid it and did nothing with it.

When the master returned, he called his servants to give an account of what they had done. Then the one who had received five talents gave him ten, and the one who had received two gave him four. The master was pleased with them and congratulated them, saying, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

This story teaches us the importance of being faithful and diligent in small things, and the fact that God has given us different talents and abilities that we can use for the good of His Kingdom. Often we want to have big opportunities and responsibilities, forgetting that everything begins with small tasks and wise stewardship of what we have been given.

We can also learn from the example of the servant who hid his talent, who showed paralyzing fear and did not dare to use what was entrusted to him. It is important to remember that God calls us to be courageous and trust Him even in situations that seem small or insignificant.

This verse can help us understand that in our Christian walk, every step we take is important and that God values ??our faithfulness. We can apply this to many areas of our lives, work, personal and spiritual. In addition, it also encourages us to take risks, trust God and take risks in doing new things, even if they seem small or insignificant to us.

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> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."
>
> *— Matthew 26:26*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: body, bread, Jesus

Interpretation:
In *Matthew 26:26* we see a turning point in the lives *of Jesus* and His disciples. During a meal together, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, *“Take and eat; this is my body.”*

This passage has become a foundational symbol for the church, as it represents the beginning of the institution *of the Lord’s Supper*.

Bread as a symbol of life

The use of bread in religious life has clear biblical roots in the Old Testament, where it was considered a staple food, a gift from God to sustain life. Bread is also a symbol of unity, as its preparation involves mixing different ingredients together to form a single dough. This is important because unity is a fundamental idea of the Christian community; we are taught to work together in harmony to achieve a common goal.

In this passage, Jesus’ action of taking the bread, blessing it, and breaking it shows us that *He is the bread of life*. It is through His sacrifice that all Christians can be saved and have eternal life. It is important to remember that when we partake of the bread of the Lord's Supper, we not only remember His death and resurrection, but also celebrate His continued existence in us.

The act of blessing

Another important element of the passage is the blessing of the bread. Blessing is a way of expressing gratitude and reverence to God for His blessings and for what He gives us. In this case, Jesus thanked God for the bread, but He also sanctified it, making it sacred.

The idea of blessing applies to our daily lives in many ways. If our lives are filled with gratitude and prayer, we can find the peace and happiness that God has promised us. Blessing also involves passing on blessings to others, becoming a conduit for God's grace and love. As Christians, we should always be ready to bless others and help them along their journey.

The Body of Christ and the unity of the church

When *Jesus* said, *“Take and eat; this is my body,”* He was symbolizing the sacrifice He would make for us on the cross. But He was also talking about the importance of community, the church. The idea that all Christians are part of the Body of Christ became one of the dominant concepts of New Testament theology.

This passage teaches us that as Christians, we are one *in Christ*, despite our differences. We are called to work together as one church to spread God’s love and grace throughout the world. We are to care for our brothers and sisters, to help them in their needs, and to pray for them. Only through unity can we achieve our goals as a Christian community.

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> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
> — *Matthew 26:27-28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blood, covenant, Forgiveness, Jesus, sin, wine

Interpretation:
These verses are found in the biblical account *of Jesus' Last Supper* with His disciples before the crucifixion. During the meal, *Jesus* took the bread and broke it, saying that this was His Body, and then took the cup of wine and said that this was His Blood, which would be shed for the salvation of many.

The context of this passage is *the establishment of the New Covenant*, which is the relationship between God and humanity through *Jesus Christ*. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the final fulfillment of the Old Covenant that God made with His people in the Old Testament, and the beginning of the New Covenant, which offers salvation to all who believe in Him.

Sin and salvation

The New Covenant, established by the blood of Jesus, is the key to the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Sin separates us from God and leads to eternal death, but through Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, we can be restored to a relationship with God and receive the promise of eternal life.

This passage shows us that Jesus was sent by God to be the final and complete sacrifice for sin. His shed blood is the perfect offering that satisfies God's justice and makes grace and forgiveness available to us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
> *— Matthew 26:41*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: addiction, body, desires, Prayer, temptation, weakness

Interpretation:
The historical context of this passage relates directly to the arrest and crucifixion *of Jesus*. He is speaking to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking them to pray so that they will not fall into temptation.

The phrase *"watch and pray"* implies readiness and vigilance for trials and difficulties, and the second part of the phrase *"the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"* refers to the constant struggle between the flesh and the spirit of man.

The importance of watching and prayer

Jesus was preparing His disciples for what was to come after His departure. Temptations and struggles with the flesh are a constant reality of our lives, and Jesus teaches us that we cannot face these trials alone. We must watch and pray for *the Holy Spirit* to guide and strengthen us.

It is important to emphasize that temptation itself is not necessarily a sin, but rather a test of our faith and perseverance. It is normal to feel the weakness of the flesh and give in to these temptations, but the call to watch and pray is a powerful tool for resisting and overcoming temptations.

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> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?
> — *Matthew 26:53*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Angels, Father, Jesus, protection

Interpretation:
Matthew 26:53 shows how much *Jesus* trusts in prayer and the protection that God can provide at any time. Jesus' rhetorical question reminds us that God is always ready to protect His children and hear our prayers.

Context and interpretation

This verse is part of the account of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, shortly before His handover to the Jewish religious leaders and subsequent crucifixion. Jesus had retired with His disciples to pray when they were surprised by an armed mob sent by the religious leaders. *Peter*, one of the disciples, tried to protect Jesus with a sword, but *Jesus* rebuked him, knowing that His mission was to carry out God's will, not to resist violence.

This verse demonstrates Jesus' absolute trust in God's will and the power of prayer. He knew that the Creator of the universe had His back and that divine protection was always available to Him. His words also contain a reflection on the importance of humility and accepting God's will above one's own ideas and desires.

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> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.
> — *Matthew 27:28-29*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Easter, sacrifice, suffering

Interpretation:
Matthew 27:28-29 are Bible verses that describe one of the most striking passages in the story *of Jesus*. After His flogging, the Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head and gave Him a reed as if it were a scepter. This Bible passage challenges us to consider the meaning *of Christ's* suffering.

To better understand the meaning of these verses, it is important to know the context in which they are found. *Matthew 27* tells the story of Jesus' crucifixion and how He was brought before Pilate for trial. After beating and humiliating Him, the Roman soldiers mock Him and place a scarlet cloak on His back before leading Him to the cross. This cloak symbolizes the pain and shame that Jesus felt before his death.

The cruelty of crucifixion

Crucifixion itself was a cruel form of torture used by the Romans to punish criminals. However, the soldiers did not stop there. They added a crown of thorns, implying that the thorns were driven into Jesus' head, causing Him unimaginable pain.

Furthermore, they beat Him with a stick and mocked Him as if He were a king, when in fact He was being sentenced to death for allegedly inciting a rebellion.

Jesus, the humble king

However, it is interesting to see how Jesus responded to this extreme humiliation. He did not become angry or defensive. Instead, He remained quiet and meek, doing the will *of His Heavenly Father*.

This aspect of the story reminds us that Jesus did not come into the world to be an earthly king, but to be *the Savior of the world*. Jesus knew that His true Kingdom was not of this world, but in heaven, where He reigns in glory with His Heavenly Father.

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> Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews.
> — *Matthew 27:37*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Easter, Jesus

Interpretation:
Matthew 27:37 tells us about the time when *Jesus Christ* was crucified. This scene is one of the most famous and memorable in the Bible story because it represents the most critical moment in the life of Jesus. Although it was a time of great pain and suffering for Jesus, His sacrifice and love for us remain a source of inspiration and hope for millions of people around the world.

Jesus Christ: King of the Jews

The placing of the sign on Jesus' head was a mockery by the Roman soldiers who wanted to shame and ridicule Jesus. However, for followers of the Christian faith, the sign is a sign of Jesus' identity and purpose. In this verse, we see how Jesus was recognized as the King of the Jews not only by His followers, but also by those who condemned Him to death.

The sacrifice and love of Jesus

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of the most important moments in the Bible story. Through this act of sacrifice, Jesus teaches us unconditional love, humility, and selflessness. Despite the suffering He endured, Jesus carried out His mission to the very end, showing us that life is not only about our own interests, but also about fulfilling God's will.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
> *— Matthew 28:19-20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: baptism, Evangelism, Holy Spirit, learning

Interpretation:
Matthew 28:19-20 is part *of the Great Commission*. The resurrected *Jesus* stands before His disciples and commands them to go and make disciples of all nations. The purpose of this command is, of

course, salvation and the spread *of the Kingdom of God* throughout the world. But Jesus not only commands them to make disciples, but He also teaches them to obey everything He has taught them and promises to always be with them.

What does it mean to be a disciple?

In the biblical context, a disciple is someone who follows Jesus and learns from Him. So discipleship is not just about attracting someone to church, but about accompanying them on their journey to spiritual maturity and helping them transform their lives into the image *of Christ*. Discipleship is a task that takes time, effort, and love for others.

How can we fulfill the Great Commission?

Fulfilling the Great Commission is not just for religious leaders or missionaries. This is a task for all believers, and it can be done at many levels. Here are some ways to make disciples:

1. *Share the Gospel*. All people need to hear the good news of the Gospel in order to be saved. Sharing the Gospel with friends, neighbors, co-workers, and strangers is a powerful way to make disciples. It is important to remember that the Gospel is not just for those who do not know Christ, but for those who already believe, and they should be reminded of this often.
2. *Teaching*. Teaching is an important way to make disciples on a deeper level. It involves sharing your experience and understanding of God's Word with others. Teaching can take the form of small group classes, conversations, and sermons in churches and communities, as well as in everyday life.
3. *Modeling*. The way we live directly impacts others. Sharing advice and stories of your experiences and mistakes is a valuable tool. You can personally help someone in need, and they can also learn from your life.

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> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."
>
> — *Matthew 28:5-6*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Angels, Crucifixion, Easter, Jesus, Resurrection, Savior

Interpretation:
Matthew 28:5-6 recalls the glorious resurrection *of Jesus Christ* after the crucifixion. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most important events in the Christian faith and the cornerstone of our hope for eternal life.

This passage shows the angel's response to the women who came to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They sought out Jesus to honor His body and perform the proper burial rites. However, instead of finding the body, they encountered an angel who gave them the contradictory message that Jesus had risen. These verses provide compelling evidence that the resurrection of Jesus was a real, supernatural event that cannot be explained in any other way.

The resurrection of Jesus – why is it important?

The resurrection of Jesus is important to the Christian faith because it confirms that *Jesus is the Son of God* and that His promise of eternal life is a reality. The resurrection also teaches us that death is not the end, that God has power over death, and that life continues beyond our temporary existence on earth. Furthermore, Jesus' resurrection is concrete proof that He fulfilled His divine purpose, that His sacrifice on the cross was effective, and that our salvation is possible.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
> — *Matthew 3:11*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: baptism, conversion, Holy Spirit

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Matthew 3:11* allows us to reflect on water baptism, repentance, and baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire. In this passage, **John the Baptist** speaks to the crowd about the difference between his water baptism and the one that will come after him, which will be performed by **Jesus Christ**.

First, John talks about the water baptism he was performing for repentance. By being baptized, people publicly showed that they had decided to change their lives and turn away from sin. Water baptism was an external symbol of an internal change. John called people to repent and turn to God. Through repentance, people could receive God's forgiveness and mercy.

This passage shows us the importance of repentance in the Christian life. **Repentance** is a continuous process of recognizing, confessing, and turning away from sin. It is an act of humility and trust in God's grace to change our lives. Water baptism is a way to publicly show our commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to turn away from sin.

Secondly, John announces that the one who comes after him, that is, **Jesus Christ, has the power to baptize people in the Holy Spirit and fire**. What does this mean?

In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, who is sent by God to guide, teach, and empower believers. **The Holy Spirit** is a real and personal presence in the lives of Christians. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** is an event in which a person receives the presence of the Holy Spirit in a powerful and profound way.

Fire is used in the Bible to represent judgment and purification. By combining both elements in the passage, it can be seen that **baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire** is an event that has a dual nature. On the one hand, it implies the reception of the Holy Spirit as a guide and power in the life of the Christian. On the other hand, it implies the purification and transformation of the Christian through the fire of divine judgment.

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> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
> — *Matthew 3:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: acknowledging, God, Holy Spirit, Jesus

Interpretation:
Matthew 3:17 presents the scene of **Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist** in the waters of the Jordan River. This event is significant in the life of Jesus because it *highlights His commitment to God and the*

beginning of His earthly ministry. However, verse 17 further emphasizes the importance of this event by telling of a voice heard from heaven identifying **Jesus as the Son of God** and expressing His satisfaction with Him.

The voice from heaven is one of the most interesting aspects of this Bible verse. It could be interpreted as evidence that **God recognizes Jesus as His Son** and accepts Him for His ministry on earth. The voice expresses divine acceptance and recognition that makes it clear that **Jesus is a special person**. At this point, Jesus receives confirmation from the Father confirming His decision to be baptized by John.

The title **“Son of God”** bestowed upon Jesus by the voice from heaven can be understood in several ways. First, it sheds light on the nature of Jesus and His unique relationship with God. Jesus is not considered the son of God in a physical or biological sense, but rather by virtue of **His divinity and special relationship with the Father**.

Secondly, the title emphasizes Jesus' mission on earth to do God's work. At the same time, His divine nature is perfectly suited to this task. The phrase **"with him I am well pleased"** shows the pride and satisfaction God feels in choosing Jesus to preach His message.

At this holy moment, **all three Persons of the Trinity** were revealed. **The beloved Son** was there. **The Holy Spirit** was there in the form of a dove. **The Father's voice**, pronouncing a blessing upon Jesus, was heard from heaven.

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> Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.
> *— Matthew 3:2*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, Kingdom, nearness, repentance

Interpretation:
In this Bible verse we can find a very important phrase that calls us to repent and prepare to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. But what does it really mean to repent?

Repentance is a process that involves acknowledging our sins, feeling pain for them, and changing our lifestyle. It is an act of humility that encourages us to draw closer to God and seek His forgiveness.

The Kingdom of Heaven refers to the place where God reigns and where His children will be received after their death. But it is also a state of grace that we can achieve here on earth by living according to God's commandments. It is a state of peace, love, and happiness that we can experience if we draw closer to God and follow His teachings.

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> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
> *— Matthew 3:4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: clothing, food

Interpretation:
John the Baptist is an important figure in the New Testament and is known as the forerunner of **Jesus**. He appears in all four Gospels and is described as a prophet who came to prepare *the way for the Messiah*. John preached in the Judean desert, calling for repentance and baptizing people in the Jordan River.

This verse describes John the Baptist's clothing as *"were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist."* The fact that John wore camel's hair clothing indicates his humble lifestyle and willingness to forgo worldly comforts. Additionally, the leather belt may symbolize his moral authority as a prophet.

The verse also says that *"His food was locusts and wild honey."* Locusts were John's source of protein, and honey was his source of energy and natural sweetness. While this diet may seem strange to us, we must remember that John lived in the desert and food was hard to come by. However, many believe that this diet was also a form of renunciation of materialism and ascetic practices.

Today, Christians may find it difficult to understand the life of John the Baptist, but there are some lessons we can apply to our own lives. First, we must learn to renounce the worldly and focus on the spiritual. Second, we must be willing to take bold action and communicate God's message to others,

as John did in the desert. Finally, it is important to remember that humility and simplicity are important values ??in the Christian life.

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> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
> — *Matthew 3:8*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: conversion, Fruitfulness, life, repentance

Interpretation:
The Bible passage in *Matthew 3:8* is found in the context of the preaching of *John the Baptist*, who exhorted the multitudes to repent of their sins and be baptized as a symbol of their decision to change their lives. This verse is a call to action for those who had responded to his message.

In this verse, John the Baptist focuses on the need to *produce fruits* that demonstrate genuine repentance. In other words, it is not enough to say that one repents of one's sins; there must be clear evidence of a change in behavior and lifestyle. This indicates that repentance is an active process that requires a response in our daily lives.

The idea of ??producing fruit is not new to the Bible. In *Galatians 5:22-23*, we are told of *the fruits of the Spirit, which include love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. These fruits are the result of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit and are a visible expression of our faith in action.

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> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
> — *Matthew 4:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: conversion, Evangelism, heaven, Jesus, Kingdom, repentance

Interpretation:
The verse *Matthew 4:17* is a call to repentance and a promise that the kingdom of heaven has already arrived. In this context, **Jesus** begins his public ministry. He is speaking to the people after being baptized by **John the Baptist** and tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

Repenting means acknowledging and confessing sin, feeling regret and pain for having committed it, and committing not to do it again. In the life of Jesus, we see that repentance was a recurring theme. The message of repentance is an invitation to return to God and his plan for our lives.

The kingdom of heaven is where **God** reigns supreme and has absolute power. It is the place where those people who have accepted **Jesus as their Savior** will receive their eternal reward. It is a kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

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> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”
> *— Matthew 4:19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Evangelism, following, Jesus

Interpretation:
The context of this verse is crucial to understanding its meaning. **Jesus** is walking on the Sea of ?? Galilee when he sees **Peter and Andrew** casting their nets into the sea. He says to them, **“Follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.”** In this simple yet profound statement, Jesus is inviting these two men to become His disciples and join Him in His mission to spread the message of the Kingdom of God.

The theme of discipleship is central to this verse. Jesus is calling His followers to leave behind their old lives and commit themselves to following Him. By using the *metaphor* of fishing, Jesus draws on Peter and Andrew’s familiar activity to convey the idea of ??gathering people into the Kingdom of God. Fishing requires *patience, skill, and persistence*, and Jesus indicates that these qualities will be needed in the task of sharing the good news with others.

The symbolism of fishing in this verse is rich and carries many layers of meaning. In the *Old Testament*, the imagery of fish and fishing is often used to symbolize the gathering and salvation of God's people. For example, in the book of Jeremiah, God promises to send fishermen to gather His people from all corners of the earth. By using this metaphor, Jesus signals His intention to gather people from all walks of life into His kingdom, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Furthermore, the concept of **"fishers of people"** suggests a transformation in the lives of the disciples. Just as they will learn new skills and embrace a new calling as fishers of men, they will also undergo a spiritual transformation as they follow Jesus. Their lives will be devoted to the task of bringing others into a relationship with God, and this will require a deep commitment and willingness to embrace a new way of life.

The phrase **"follow me"** in this verse is also significant. Not only is Jesus calling Peter and Andrew to physically follow Him, but He is also calling them to follow His teachings and example. This call to discipleship is a call to a life of learning, obedience, and service. It is an invitation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and to embody His values ??and mission in the world.

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> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
>
> *— Matthew 4:23*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Evangelism, healing, Jesus, Kingdom, learning, sickness

Interpretation:
One of the most notable aspects *of Jesus'* ministry on earth was His ability to teach and heal. *Matthew 4:23* details how He went around Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. But not only that, as the second part of the verse shows, Jesus also dedicated himself to healing and relieving the ailments of the people.

Jesus' teaching

One of the things that makes Jesus' teaching unique is that it went beyond what was considered traditional in Judaism. He often challenged the cultural beliefs and expectations of his day, offering a fresh and revolutionary perspective. He emphasized the importance of love, humility, compassion, and forgiveness.

Jesus' teachings had a profoundly transformative impact on the lives of those who heard Him. His words offered practical wisdom for living and overcoming the challenges of everyday life. Even today, we can find guidance and wisdom in His teachings for living our values.

The healing of Jesus

Jesus was also dedicated to healing and relieving the suffering of those who were sick and needed His help. He healed physical ailments, but He also healed broken hearts and eased emotional pain. This compassion for human suffering allowed Him to give hope to the hopeless and miserable.

In *Matthew 9:35*, we see a description similar to *Matthew 4:23*, which gives us a more complete picture of Jesus' healing mission. The text says, *"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."* Clearly, healing was an integral part of Jesus' ministry.

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> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
>
> *— Matthew 4:4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: bread, food, listening, Word of God

Interpretation:
Matthew 4:4 is Jesus' response to the temptations presented to Him by the devil in the wilderness. The devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread to satisfy his appetite, but Jesus wisely quotes a scripture that reminds him that **life is not just about satisfying our physical needs**. In His response, Jesus teaches us that we need more than just food for our bodies; we need food for our spirits.

After fasting forty days and forty nights, Jesus became hungry. (The number forty is often used in the context of a trial or test in Scripture.) This natural desire provided *the tempter* with an advantage that he used with success on many people. He invited Jesus to use His miraculous power to turn the stones of the desert into loaves of bread.

There is no doubt in the opening words, **“if you are the Son of God.”** They actually mean **“since you are the Son of God.”** The devil is referring to the words the Father spoke to Jesus at His baptism: **“This is my Son, whom I love.”**

To gratify natural desire with divine power in response to Satan’s prompting *is outright disobedience to God*. We are similarly tempted to live for the gratification of natural desires, to choose the way of our convenience instead of seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness. The devil says to us, **“You must live, must you not?”**

The central teaching of this verse is that we need spiritual food to survive, just as we need physical food. This verse does not make an equal comparison between the Word of God and bread, but rather, the Word of God is a higher and more essential need than bread. Therefore, when we feed on the Holy Scriptures, we feed our spirits according to God’s divine purpose.

The primary way to feed our spirits is through a life of Bible reading and study. It is the Word of God that nourishes us, guides us, and transforms us as we advance in our faith. The Psalms tell us that *“The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7)*. When we read and study the Bible, we open ourselves to the wisdom and truth that only God can give.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
>
> *— Matthew 5:10*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Kingdom, persecution, righteousness

Interpretation:

Matthew 5:10 tells us that those who are persecuted for doing what is right and pleasing in the sight of God will find their home in the Kingdom of Heaven. But what exactly does *“persecuted for the sake of justice”* mean? It can be interpreted as facing difficulties to do what is right, refusing to do what is wrong, or resisting temptation. It can also refer to resisting injustice and oppression, standing up for others, helping those in need, and speaking out against corruption and exploitation.

This verse can be a great comfort and motivation for those who are persecuted for doing what is right and trying to live a righteous life. Making difficult moral decisions can be very difficult, and it is not always easy to cope with the negative consequences that may follow, such as discrimination and isolation. However, this verse assures us that God is on our side and that our sacrifice is not in vain.

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> Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
>
> *— Matthew 5:11*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, evil, gossip, lying, persecution

Interpretation:
One of the most famous passages from the Sermon on the Mount is *Matthew 5:11*, where *Jesus* gives the famous Beatitudes. In this verse, we find one of these “beatitudes,” although it is not usually as popular or remembered as the others. At first glance, this statement may seem a little strange. How can it be a blessing to be persecuted or reviled?

Persecuted for Jesus’ sake

The key to this verse is the phrase *“for my sake.”* Jesus is not talking about any kind of persecution or abuse; He is talking specifically about the persecution that comes as a result of following Him. That is, if we are persecuted or reviled for *our faith in Jesus*, then we can consider ourselves *“blessed.”* This may seem confusing or even scary, but there is a reason Jesus encourages us to view this situation as a blessing.

The value of persecution

Jesus tells us that we will be blessed when we are persecuted and reviled for His sake, but why is that a good thing? The reality is that persecution, although painful and difficult, has tremendous value in our lives as followers of Jesus.

When we are persecuted for our faith, it causes us to depend on God even more deeply and trust Him. It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our loyalty to Jesus, even in difficult circumstances.

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> You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
> — *Matthew 5:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: addiction, Evangelism, obedience, sin

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:13 is a well-known Bible verse in which Jesus compares his disciples (all Christians) to salt. You may have wondered what this comparison means and how we can apply it to our daily lives.

Salt as a Seasoning

Salt has been used as a seasoning for centuries. A pinch of salt can completely change the taste of a dish. In the same way, we as Christians have the opportunity to impact the world and change our society for the better.

It’s not about doing big things to make a big difference, but about small actions that can impact those around us. We can be kind and compassionate, respectful and fair, treating everyone with dignity and love.

Salt as a Preservative

In addition to being a seasoning, salt is also known for its ability to preserve food and prevent it from spoiling. Likewise, as Christians, we have a responsibility to preserve the values ??and principles we have been taught (from corruption, from the decay of society).

This means fighting corruption and injustice, standing up for the disadvantaged, and fighting for justice and equality in our society. We must strive to share Christian truth and values ??with those around us to create a more just and equal world.

Salt Losing Its Smell

The verse also talks about salt losing its flavor and being useless if this happens. Likewise, if we as Christians lose our faith and commitment to God and his teachings, we will be useless to society and to the Kingdom of God.

Furthermore, if we as Christians display a bad attitude, we can alienate people from God and His love. We must maintain faith and be concerned about our actions and attitudes so that we can be a light in our surroundings.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
> *— Matthew 5:14*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Evangelism, life, Light, righteousness

Interpretation:
This verse *Matthew 5:14* reminds us that as *followers of Christ*, we are called to be a light in the world. However, it is important to understand what these words mean and how we can apply them to our daily lives.

Being a *“light of the world”* means being a person who reflects *the light of Christ*. If we think of light as something that illuminates the way, we can see that the idea of ??being a *“light of the world”* is a call to be a guide for those around us. When we are a light in a dark world, we can help others find their *way to Christ*.

So how can we be light in our daily lives? We can start by showing love and compassion to those around us. Let’s be kind to others, even to those who have hurt us. Just as a city on a hill is visible to all, so too should we be visible and always demonstrate our faith.

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> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
>
> — *Matthew 5:15-16*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Evangelism, goodness, Light, worship

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:15-16 is part of the famous Sermon on the Mount, which *Jesus* preached to His disciples and followers on a hill by the Sea of ??Galilee. In this sermon, Jesus teaches about right living and relationships with God and others.

In the religious context of that time, light was very important, especially in Judaism. Light was a symbol of God's presence and guidance. Thus, the image of light became a powerful metaphor for illustrating God's work in the world and the mission of Jesus' disciples.

What does "your light" mean?

In these verses, Jesus talks about "your light." Jesus is talking about the light that shines within each of us, the light that comes from God and allows us to see truth and love. This light can be compared to the wisdom, knowledge, and grace that God gives us when we follow His teachings.

Why should we shine before others?

Jesus tells us to shine before others so that they can see our good works. Why is this important? First, our good deeds are a tangible way to show our love for others. By doing good to others, we help make the world a better place.

Moreover, the light that shines within us comes from God, and when we share this light with others, we also glorify *our Father in Heaven*. By doing good deeds, we show that we follow the teachings of Jesus and love our neighbors as ourselves.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
>
> *— Matthew 5:17*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Jesus, law, prophecy

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:17 is crucial to understanding the relationship between *Jesus' teaching and the Law and Prophets of the Old Testament*. Jesus made it very clear that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. So what does this mean, and how should we apply it to our Christian lives?

The Law and the Prophets

First, it is important to understand what is meant by "the Law and the Prophets." The Law refers to the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah. The Prophets, on the other hand, refers to the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible, which include Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, among others. These two elements make up the bulk of the Old Testament and are essential to understanding the relationship between the Jewish people and their God.

The Law and the Prophets were also central to Jesus' teaching and earthly ministry. By quoting the Law and the Prophets, Jesus was citing the foundations of the Jewish faith and demonstrating His divine authority by explaining their true meaning.

Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets

When Jesus declared that "I came not to abolish but to fulfill," He meant that He was fulfilling the original purpose and intent of the Law and the Prophets. In other words, He was fulfilling the promises and prophecies that were given in the Old Testament.

Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, including His virgin birth, His public ministry, His death, and His resurrection. But beyond these prophetic fulfillments, Jesus also fulfilled the Law by teaching its true meaning and how we should apply it to our lives.

Applying the verse to our lives

So how can we apply *Matthew 5:17* to our Christian lives? First, we must recognize that the Law and the Prophets remain central to our faith and must be studied and understood in their original context and meaning.

In addition, we must strive to fulfill the Law by following the example of Jesus and imitating His love and compassion for others. This means not only following the laws of the Bible, but also loving and serving our brothers and sisters *in Christ* and everyone around us.

It is also important not to fall into the trap of thinking that we can fulfill the Law on our own. Only through God's grace and the help *of the Holy Spirit* can we truly keep the commandments of the Law and fulfill its purpose in our lives.

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> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.
> — *Matthew 5:18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, law, reliability, Word of God, world

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew is one of the synoptic gospels that describes the life and teachings *of Jesus*. In chapter 5 of this gospel, we find the famous Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus gives the Beatitudes and teaches on various topics. Verse 18 of this chapter is key because it speaks of the importance *of the Law* for Christians.

Context of the verse

To better understand the meaning of *Matthew 5:18*, it is important to look at the context. In this same chapter, Jesus says that He did not come to destroy the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. He also teaches that whoever breaks one of the least of the commandments and teaches others to do the same will be counted least in the kingdom of heaven.

Meaning of the verse

Jesus is saying that the Law is sacred and must be kept in its entirety. To understand this, we must remember that the Law refers to the commandments that *God gave to Moses in the Old Testament*. These commandments include prohibitions against such actions as murder, theft, and adultery, as well as the duty to honor parents and worship only God.

Jesus means that every letter of the Law is important and that none of them can be ignored or eliminated. In fact, the word "yot" refers to the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, while "tittle" means the tip of one of the letters. In other words, every letter and every detail of the Law is fundamental to its fulfillment.

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> Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
>
> — *Matthew 5:19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, Kingdom, law, learning, obedience

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:19 contains a valuable lesson for each of us. This verse concludes *Jesus'* remarks on the relationship between the Law and His teaching. In other words, Jesus establishes that love must be the foundation of our lives and that we must keep God's commandments and teach them to others in order to be truly good in God's eyes.

What does it mean to be "the least in the kingdom of heaven"?

In this passage, Jesus defends the lesser and less significant commandments with the same zeal as the great ones. He says that no one should break any commandment, no matter how small, and that we should teach others to live by them. Jesus is not saying that the lesser commandments are less important, but that all of God's commandments must be kept equally.

Why is it important to keep God's commandments?

God's commandments are the way to our salvation. God loves us and wants the best for us, and He always gives us commandments to guide us on the right path in life. If we keep God's commandments, we will have a fuller and happier life. Furthermore, Jesus teaches us that we should teach others God's commandments, which means that by doing this, we will also help others have a fuller and happier life.

What does it mean to be "called great in the kingdom of heaven"?

Jesus tells us that if we keep God's commandments and teach them to others, we will be considered "great in the kingdom of heaven." This means that by obeying God and sharing His teachings with others, we will be rewarded in the kingdom of heaven. We must work to be an example of love and obedience to God to those around us.

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> You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
> — *Matthew 5:27-28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: desires, heart, marriage, sexuality, sin

Interpretation:
The commandment *"Thou shalt not commit adultery"* is one of the Ten Commandments of God. This commandment is found in *Exodus 20:14* and is one of the oldest commandments in Christianity. *Jesus Christ* also mentions it during His Sermon on the Mount, as noted in *Matthew 5:27-28*. God's law regarding adultery is clear: *it is a grave sin that undermines the integrity of the family and society as a whole*.

Jesus teaches that it is not enough to abstain from physical adultery, but that we must also guard our hearts and minds from lust. Lust is a strong, selfish desire for sexual pleasure, and it can be especially dangerous if allowed to take root in our thoughts and emotions.

Definition of adultery

Adultery is defined as sexual unfaithfulness between a married person and someone other than their spouse. Infidelity is not limited to physical sexual intercourse, but also includes lust and sexual desire outside of marriage. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains that sexual desire and lust are just as sinful as the sexual act itself.

Why does God forbid adultery?

God forbids adultery because it is a sin that involves betrayal and lying. Adultery destroys the emotional and physical connection between a husband and wife, thereby destroying the relationship. It also undermines the unity and integrity of the family and society as a whole. Adultery can lead to separation, divorce, conflict, and domestic violence.

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> If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
>
> — *Matthew 5:29*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: body, desires, hell, sin

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:29 is part of the Sermon on the Mount, one *of Jesus'* most important discourses in the Gospels. In this passage, Jesus emphasizes the importance of turning away from things that can cause us to sin, even if it means sacrificing parts of our body.

The phrase *"if your right eye causes you to stumble"* refers to anything that can tempt us to sin, and is a metaphor suggesting that just as a faulty eye can cause us to stumble, evil thoughts can cause us to fall into sin.

The idea of *??"removing"* a body part that causes us to stumble is a radical call that calls us to do whatever it takes to avoid sin. Jesus' purpose is to make clear the seriousness of sin and the importance of turning away from anything that distances us from God.

Resolving doubts and worries

Given the stark message of the verse, it’s natural for doubts and worries to arise. Is Jesus really asking us to gouge out our eyes or cut off our hands? Isn't this a bit of an exaggeration?

In fact, Jesus wants to convey a message of caution and care. Some interpretations suggest that this is a figurative way of speaking, indicating the need to remove from our lives that which distances us from God, even if it means some sacrifice. Therefore, we must pay attention to the temptations around us and do everything possible not to succumb to them.

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> Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
> — *Matthew 5:3*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, heaven, humility, Kingdom

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Matthew 5:3* talks about the blessing that comes to those who are humble and aware of their need for God. The phrase *“poor in spirit”* does not necessarily refer to material lack, but rather to an attitude of humility before God. This is fundamental for anyone who wants to experience salvation and eternal life.

What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?

The beauty of this verse is that it does not refer to an economic status, but to a state of mind. The concept of “poor in spirit” refers to those who recognize their need for God and depend on Him for everything. This attitude of humility is fundamental to our relationship with God and to living a full and satisfying life.

What does “the kingdom of heaven” mean?

In this verse, *Jesus* speaks of the “kingdom of heaven,” which refers to the presence and rule of God. Being “poor in spirit” means that we recognize our need for God and that we are totally dependent on Him for our salvation and our lives. In this way, we receive the blessing of God’s presence in our lives and lives under His rule.

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> But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.
>
> *— Matthew 5:34-35*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: heaven, reliability, speaking, world

Interpretation:
Taking an oath is a common practice in many cultures and has been used throughout history to make solemn declarations or to guarantee the truth of a statement. However, in *Matthew 5:34-35*, *Jesus* teaches us that we should not swear at all. It is important to understand what Jesus meant by this teaching and how we can apply it to our daily lives.

Why does Jesus forbid us to oath?

Jesus forbids us from swearing because swearing is a way to manipulate the truth. When we swear, we are trying to make our word more reliable than it actually is.

If our word is not enough to make a statement, then there is a problem with our integrity. Jesus' teaching is that we are to be people of our word, and that our word should be enough to make a statement.

Applying Jesus' teachings to our daily lives

Applying Jesus' teachings to our daily lives can be challenging, especially in a society where integrity is often questioned. For example, in the business world, contracts and oaths are often used to lend credibility to a statement or to ensure that commitments are fulfilled. However, as Christians, we must trust in the integrity of our word and our relationship with God.

This does not mean that we should refuse to sign contracts or enter into legal agreements in situations where it is necessary, but Jesus teaches us that we must be people of our word, and that our word should be enough. If we say we will do something, we must do it, no matter how difficult or expensive it may be.

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> All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.
>
> *— Matthew 5:37*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: evil, reliability, speaking

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:37 gives us a great lesson about the importance of being honest in our words and actions. In this commandment, *Jesus* teaches us that our words must be sincere and that we must keep our promises without excuses or delays. In other words, we must be people of our word so that we do not fall into bad behavior.

In a world where image and appearance are often valued more than substance, it is important to think about how our actions and words can shape our lives and the lives of others. We are often inclined to say what we think the other person wants to hear or promise to do something we do not actually intend to do. This not only deceives others, but also ourselves and can lead to a loss of respect and trust.

In this sense, it is important to remember that one word spoken incorrectly can cause great damage. For example, imagine promising someone that you will help them with an important project, but ultimately failing to do so. Failure to keep your promise may result in the loss of important time and resources, which may have negative consequences for his professional and personal life. On the other hand, if you were honest and did not promise something you do not intend to keep, the other party may seek other support, someone who is genuinely interested and willing to help.

Thus, the verse in *Matthew 5:37* encourages us to think about honesty and sincerity in our interpersonal relationships. It also reminds us that our words can be powerful, both for good and for evil. Therefore, it is important that we are careful about what we say and that we are consistent in our actions, promises, and commitments.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
> — *Matthew 5:4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, Comforter, sadness

Interpretation:
This verse is part of the Sermon on the Mount, which *Jesus* delivered to His disciples on Mount Sinai after He chose the twelve apostles. The Sermon on the Mount is considered one of Jesus' most important teachings because it laid the foundation for Christian ethics and morals. In this sermon, Jesus explains what qualities true followers should have and how they should live.

What does this verse mean?

Jesus was talking about those who weep, and He was not necessarily talking about the weeping that comes from a sad situation in life. Jesus was talking about the weeping that comes when someone realizes how sinful their life is, how much harm they have done to others, or how far they are from fulfilling God's will.

The blessing here is that those who mourn and weep over their sin will be comforted. The comfort that the text is talking about is not a simple *"feeling better"* feeling, but a true, effective release from the burden of sin and repentance. Jesus promises that they will be comforted, which means that God will not leave them alone in their pain and sorrow.

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> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
> — *Matthew 5:44*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: love, persecution, Prayer

Interpretation:

One of the most challenging aspects of the Christian life is loving others, especially those who make life difficult for us, harm us, or even hate us. *Matthew 5:44* calls us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who persecute us rather than hate them or take revenge.

At first glance, this may seem difficult for many of us, as our emotions often get in the way. But if we think about the meaning of this teaching, we can find ways to apply it in our daily lives and grow as Christians.

Love our enemies

For many of us, the idea of ??loving our enemies is very difficult to do. However, this is exactly what *Jesus* asks us to do. To love our enemies, we need to have a completely different point of view than our own and let go of any prejudices we may have.

When we love our enemies, we treat them with love and mercy, seeking their welfare and expecting nothing in return. In this way, we not only create a positive environment for ourselves and for them, but we also set an example for others.

Bless those who curse us

When someone curses us, we naturally feel bad, and our instinctive reaction is to respond in kind. But *Matthew 5:44* tells us that we are to bless those who curse us.

This means that we are to respond to hatred and mistreatment peacefully and kindly, even if they do not deserve it. By doing this, we not only open ourselves to new opportunities and experiences, but we also demonstrate humility, compassion, and Christian values.

Do good to those who hate us

More often than not, when someone hates us, our natural inclination is to respond with hatred. But that’s not what *Jesus* asks of us. *Matthew 5:44* tells us to do good to those who hate us. By doing so, we show compassion and love even to those who don’t deserve it. Moreover, we strengthen our faith in God and draw closer to Him.

Pray for those who insult and persecute us

Prayer is a powerful tool that can be used to change the lives of those who insult and persecute us. By praying for them, we show love, compassion, and genuine concern for their well-being, as well as set a sincere example as Christians. Moreover, praying for our enemies also strengthens us emotionally and helps us overcome our own hurts.

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> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
> — *Matthew 5:48*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, Holiness

Interpretation:
The concept of perfection in the Bible can be difficult to understand because human perfection is impossible. The word *“perfect”* in *Matthew 5:48* comes from the Greek term *“teleios,”* which can also be translated as *“maturity”* or *“completeness.”* In this context, the idea of ??perfection has to do with spiritual growth and conformity to the will of God.

How can we be perfect?

While we can never achieve absolute perfection, *Matthew 5:48* encourages us to seek and strive for it. This means that we should continually strive to improve, both in our behavior and in our relationship with God. *The apostle Paul* speaks of this process in *Philippians 3:12-14*, where he compares the Christian life to a race that requires effort and perseverance.

Why pursuing perfection is important

Pursuing perfection in our Christian lives is important because it brings us closer to the image of Christ and allows us to be a light to others. As we strive to be more like Christ, we reflect His love and grace to others. Furthermore, striving for perfection in our relationship with God helps us grow spiritually and draw closer to Him.

How can we apply Matthew 5:48 to our daily lives?

There are several practical ways to apply *Matthew 5:48* to our daily lives. One is to seek God’s will in everything we do and to strive to imitate *Christ* in our actions and relationships.

We can also work on our spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, and Christian community. Finally, we can remember that perfection is not achieved overnight, but is an ongoing process that requires patience and consistent effort.

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> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
>
> *— Matthew 5:6*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, food, receiving, righteousness

Interpretation:
Justice is an important theme in the Bible, referring to the virtue of doing right and justly toward others. *Matthew 5:6* shows us that those who desire righteousness will be blessed by God and will be satisfied. But how can we best understand the meaning of this passage of Scripture?

Hunger and Thirst for Justice

The first part of the verse talks about a hunger and thirst for righteousness. This implies a deep need and desire for justice in all areas of life. A person who hungers and thirsts for justice strives to do what is right not only for themselves but also for others. This can be a difficult task, since conflicts and misunderstandings often arise in human relationships.

The Promise of Satisfaction

The second part of the verse tells us about the promise of satisfaction. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are promised satisfaction. This means that God will reward them for their pursuit of justice and give them the satisfaction they seek.

This promise is important because sometimes it may seem that those who strive to do what is right are ignored or mistreated. But the Bible assures us that God recognizes and rewards the pursuit of justice.

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> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
> — *Matthew 5:8*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, heart, honesty

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of verses that show us how to live a full and satisfying life by following God's commands. One of the most powerful verses in this regard is *Matthew 5:8*.

Meaning of the verse

This verse is a call for inner purity, a pure heart free from sin. The term *"blessed"* means *"happy"* and refers to those who keep their hearts pure and undefiled by their daily actions and thoughts.

"Seeing God" means having a close and deep relationship with Him, being aware of His presence in our lives and His love for us. To achieve this, we must keep our hearts pure and free from all impurities.

Benefits of a pure heart

Those who keep a pure and undefiled heart benefit in many ways. On the one hand, they enjoy the inner peace that comes from knowing that they are following God's commandments and doing His will.

In addition, they can experience God's presence in their lives more closely and deeply, which gives them comfort, wisdom, and strength to face the challenges that come their way.

How to achieve a pure heart

To achieve a pure heart, it is necessary to engage in daily actions that bring us closer to God and keep us from sinning. Some of these actions include:

- *Prayer and Meditation*: Daily prayer is an effective way to stay connected to God and ask Him to fill our hearts with His love and grace. Meditation also helps us focus our minds on God and distance ourselves from negative and sinful thoughts.
- *Bible Reading*: Daily Bible reading is essential to understanding God's will and how we should conduct ourselves at all times.
- *Confession and Repentance*: No one is perfect, and we all make mistakes and sin. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge our mistakes and ask God for forgiveness in order to keep our hearts pure and free from guilt.

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> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
> — *Matthew 5:9*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: blessing, children, peace

Interpretation:
In this famous verse from Matthew 5, Jesus speaks of the blessing of being a peacemaker. Being a peacemaker means having the ability to resolve conflicts and bring peace to those who disagree. Those who have this ability and practice it will be called children of God.

Being a peacemaker is more than just avoiding arguments and quarrels. It is being a person who can defuse a tense situation and help the parties involved come to a peaceful agreement. Rather than seeking violent solutions or imposing force, a peacemaker seeks peaceful solutions that respect all parties involved.

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> Give us today our daily bread.
> — *Matthew 6:11*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: bread, dependence, Prayer

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:11 is part of the famous Sermon on the Mount, one of the most important discourses *of Jesus Christ* in the Gospels. In this verse, *Jesus* teaches His disciples to pray and asks them to ask God for their daily bread. This verse is significant because it teaches us about divine providence and the importance of trusting God for our basic needs.

The meaning of “our daily bread”

Bread was a staple in the Eastern Mediterranean diet during Jesus’ time. In the prayer that Jesus teaches His disciples, bread is a symbol of daily sustenance.

When Jesus says “our daily bread,” He is talking about all the basic necessities that we need for daily survival. He is teaching us to trust God for our basic needs and to understand that He is the provider of everything we need.

Trust in divine providence

Matthew 6:11 teaches us to trust in divine providence. God provides us with everything we need to survive in this world. It’s easy to be tempted to worry about our daily needs, but Jesus reminds us to put our trust in God and ask Him to provide for us. He assures us that God will give us what we need.

The importance of prayer

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. By teaching us to ask God for our “daily bread,” Jesus shows us that we should pray for our daily needs. We should talk to God in prayer and ask Him to give us everything we need. Prayer also helps us trust God and remember that He is the One who provides for us.

Thoughts on gratitude

When we pray for our “daily bread,” we should do so remembering how grateful we are for what God has given us. Gratitude is an important part of the spiritual life. We should remember that everything we have is a gift from God and thank Him for all that He has given us. Through prayer we can express our gratitude and ask God to bless us with what we need.

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> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
> — *Matthew 6:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: debt, Forgiveness, Prayer

Interpretation:

Matthew 6:12 is a verse found in the context of the prayer known as *the Lord's Prayer*, a prayer that *Jesus* taught His disciples in response to a request from one of them to teach them how to pray. In this verse, Jesus encourages us to ask God to forgive our debts, just as we forgive those who owe us something.

The word *"debts"* here does not refer to a financial loan, but to shortcomings or sins. When we sin, we become indebted to God and need His forgiveness to restore our relationship with Him. The idea of ?? asking for forgiveness of debts is present throughout Scripture, from the Old Testament to the New.

It is important to note that in this verse, the request for forgiveness is conditioned on the forgiveness we give to others. That is, if we want to receive God's forgiveness, we must demonstrate that we are willing to forgive those who have wronged us. This is a very important lesson that many of us often forget.

The idea of ??mutual forgiveness is a central theme in Jesus' teaching. In *Matthew 18:21-22, Peter* asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother who had hurt him, and Jesus answered not just seven times, but seventy-seven times. That is, we should always be willing to forgive others.

Mutual forgiveness is an important theme in our personal relationships, whether in our family, at work, or with friends. We often find it difficult to forgive those who have hurt us. We feel hurt and resentful, and our natural reaction is to want to take revenge or punish. However, in doing so, we ourselves become debtors to God, because we are unwilling to forgive others.

Ask for forgiveness and forgive others is not an easy task, but it is necessary for our emotional and spiritual health. Lack of forgiveness can lead to feelings of bitterness, resentment, and stress, while forgiveness can free us from these emotional burdens and open us up to a full and meaningful life.

Asking God to forgive our debts, we acknowledge our sinful nature and show humility before Him. But we also demonstrate our willingness to forgive others, which demonstrates love and compassion.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
>
> — *Matthew 6:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: addiction, desires, evil, Prayer, protection, temptation

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:13 is the last phrase of the prayer known as *the Lord's Prayer*. It is one of the most popular verses in the Bible and is used as a powerful prayer tool. This verse focuses on asking God to free us from evil and not allow us to fall into temptation.

In this passage, the word *"temptation"* can be understood as a test or challenge that can change our loyalty and obedience to God. This verse reminds us that as humans, we are subject to falling and succumbing to the temptations of the world, but we can seek divine power to free us from evil.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
> — *Matthew 6:14*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Forgiveness, grace, mercy, sin

Interpretation:
Christianity is all about forgiveness, but often, even though we know we should forgive, we struggle to put this command into practice. *Matthew 6:14* talks about the importance of forgiveness and how it can impact our spiritual lives and our relationships with others.

What does it mean to forgive?

Before we delve into this verse, it is important to understand what forgiveness means in the biblical context. Forgiveness involves releasing the wrongdoer from the punishment and debt that resulted from their actions. It does not mean forgetting what happened, but rather giving up the right to revenge or retribution.

Forgiveness and the escalation of evil

It often happens in everyday life that when someone hurts us, our first reaction is to want revenge. However, this response only leads to an escalation of evil. Forgiveness, on the other hand, is an act of

love and mercy that stops this escalation and the cycle of evil.

Forgiveness and our hearts

Matthew 6:14 tells us that if we forgive others, God will forgive us. This passage shows us that forgiveness not only affects our relationships with others, but it also has a profound effect on our spiritual lives. When we forgive others, we release the burden of resentment and bitterness from our hearts.

Why is it hard to forgive?

Even though we know it is right to forgive, we often find it difficult to do so. We hold on to our feelings of anger, sadness, and pain, and forgiving can seem like a sign of weakness. However, forgiveness is an act of courage because it requires making a decision to let go of the pain and choose the freedom that forgiveness offers.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
>
> — *Matthew 6:15*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, Forgiveness, sin

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Matthew, written by *the Apostle Matthew*, recounts the speeches and teachings *of Jesus*. In this verse, Jesus talks about forgiveness and directly relates it to our relationship with God.

Meaning

This verse teaches us that forgiveness is fundamental to our relationship with God. If we fail to forgive others, God will not forgive us for our sins. This may be difficult to accept or understand, but it is important to remember that forgiveness is a fundamental attitude to living at peace with others and with God.

Reflection

Forgiveness is a virtue, and it is an attitude that allows us to free ourselves from the burden of resentment, bitterness, and anger. When we fail to forgive someone, we become attached to that person or situation and distance ourselves from the peace and tranquility we so desperately need in our lives.

In the specific case of this verse, it is important to remember that God calls us to be kind and loving people, and that forgiveness is a fundamental part of that kindness and love. By forgiving others, we improve our relationship with God because we are following His example and His will.

Appendix

As human beings, we have all felt hurt or have hurt others at some point in our lives. In this sense, forgiveness is an exercise that we must practice every day with everyone we interact with in our lives.

To be able to forgive someone, it is important to learn to listen and put ourselves in the other person's shoes, trying to understand their motives and feelings. From there, we can seek solutions or simply let go of the hurt and forgive.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
> — *Matthew 6:16*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: fasting, humility, reward

Interpretation:
We find many examples of fasting in the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, fasting was a common practice during times of distress to gain salvation from God or protection from enemies. In the New Testament, *Jesus* fasted for forty days in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry.

In *Matthew 6:16*, *Jesus* teaches that we should avoid excessive displays of boasting while fasting. Jesus encourages His followers to fast in a way that is for the glory of God, not for human approval.

Hypocrisy in fasting

Jesus warns His followers not to act like hypocrites when they fast. Hypocrites fast to gain the approval of others, but their true intention is to seek personal glory, not divine approval. In fact, hypocrites fast for the sole purpose of showing off their fasting by changing their faces and presenting a facade of sadness and suffering.

Humility in fasting

In his teaching on fasting, Jesus emphasizes the importance of maintaining humility while doing it. Fasting is an essential spiritual practice, but the most important thing is to do it sincerely, without exaggeration or seeking attention from others. Instead of presenting yourself to others with a sad and worn out face, true fasting should be an expression of humility and submission to God.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
> — *Matthew 6:17-18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: fasting, Father, reward

Interpretation:
Fasting is an important practice in Christianity, used to show devotion, repentance, and humility before God. However, *Jesus* warned His followers in *Matthew 6:17-18* that they should not display their fasting publicly or seek the admiration of others. Instead, fasting is an opportunity to connect with God in secret.

Why is it important to fast in secret?

Fasting in secret allows the true intention behind the practice to remain pure, uninfluenced by the opinions or attention of others. Rather than seeking praise or sympathy, fasting in secret allows the practice to become a personal experience between the individual and God.

Furthermore, fasting in secret can also protect people from the temptation of pride and vanity. When people seek recognition for their sacrifices, they risk falling into the trap of ego and ultimately becoming distracted from the true purpose of fasting.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
>
> *— Matthew 6:19-20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: greed, heaven, materialism

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:19-20 tells us not to store up wealth on earth because it is temporary. When we look at these verses more closely, it becomes clear that *Jesus* is not against material possessions, but rather is calling us not to focus all of our energy and attention on them. We must consider that these earthly things are fleeting and will not last forever, meaning that if we make them the center of our lives, we will experience disappointment and loss.

Wealth of the earth

Accumulating wealth from the earth is a practice that many consider necessary to live comfortably in the modern world. However, compulsively acquiring material goods can lead to a life of stress and anxiety, as it requires constant work to maintain such a lifestyle. Moreover, these assets can disappear in the blink of an eye, whether due to a natural disaster or theft.

Treasures in heaven

Unlike earthly riches, these verses call us to store up treasures in heaven. What are these treasures and how can we obtain them? Instead of focusing on material things, we should focus on loving God and others, practicing humility and generosity, and living according to biblical principles. In this way, we will be investing in our eternal future rather than accumulating possessions that will perish.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
> — *Matthew 6:2*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: giving, humility, reward

Interpretation:
Almsgiving is one way Christians can share what they have with those who need it most. In this verse, *Jesus* gives us an important warning about how we should give: not in a showy way to gain recognition from others.

If we look closely, we can find some important reflections and teachings about the meaning of almsgiving and how we can apply it in our lives.

The intentions behind almsgiving

It is natural to want recognition for our efforts, and it is easy to be tempted to do everything we can to let others know what we have done. But Jesus encourages us to think deeply about our intentions when we give. If it is simply to gain admiration from others, then we are not giving truly charitably. Almsgiving should be an act of genuine love and generosity, without the expectation of anything in return.

Hypocrisy and the trumpet blowing

Jesus uses a powerful image in this verse, comparing hypocrites to those who blow a trumpet before giving alms. Those who do this do so to attract attention to themselves and gain recognition for their “act of charity,” but in reality, this type of almsgiving is selfish and does not help anyone.

In contrast, Jesus encourages us to give in secret, without expecting anything in return. In this way, our almsgiving can be truly generous and compassionate.

Our reward

Finally, Jesus tells us that those who flaunt their almsgiving have already received their reward. That is, we cannot expect the recognition and gratitude of others as our only reward.

Instead, we must trust that God knows what we do in secret and that He will reward us accordingly. This means that the true reward for our almsgiving is not the admiration of others, but the satisfaction of having helped someone in need and God's reward.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
> — *Matthew 6:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: desires, heart, materialism, money

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:21 is a verse that reminds us of the importance of our earthly treasures and how they impact our spiritual lives. In this verse, *Jesus* warns us that our heart will follow our treasures, meaning that our devotion, energy, and time will be directed toward what we consider most valuable in life. But what are our treasures? How can we identify them and make sure our lives are aligned with what God wants for us?

First, it is important to understand that our treasures can be anything we consider valuable, whether material or non-material. This includes our possessions, our careers, our relationships, and our personal dreams and desires. Jesus is not telling us to give up everything we consider valuable, but rather to make sure that our first priority is Him and His Kingdom, and that everything else has its proper place in our lives.

For many of us, identifying our treasures can be a difficult process. How do we know what we consider most valuable in life? One way to know this is to observe our daily habits and how we use our time and energy. Do we spend most of our days working on our careers? Or do we devote time to developing our faith and serving others? Are we focused on accumulating material wealth or are we seeking to build meaningful relationships with family and friends?

Once we recognize our treasures, it is important to ask ourselves if they are in alignment with the values ??and principles God teaches us in *His Word*. Are we pursuing fame and fortune at any cost,

even if it means hurting others or betraying our principles? Or are we seeking to follow God's will in our decisions and actions, even if it means giving up our personal desires?

The truth is that while we cannot avoid treasures in this life, we can ensure that they are aligned with God and His Kingdom. In fact, our position regarding our treasures reflects to whom we are loyal. We must be responsible with what we have and consider it a priority in life because in the end all material things will remain on earth, but what truly surpasses *is our inheritance in Christ*.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
> *— Matthew 6:24*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: debt, greed, materialism, money, serving

Interpretation:
In today's society, we are constantly being driven by the need to achieve wealth and success in life. The intense competition for money and material possessions often causes us to forget the fundamental truth that this Bible verse from *Matthew 6:24* offers.

The meaning of the verse

The teaching of this verse is clear: we can only serve one master, material or spiritual. Serving wealth distances us from God, and this leads us to make decisions that harm our values ??and distance us from true happiness.

The Bible teaches us that God is the source of all goodness and that serving Him is the path to happiness, peace, and harmony in our lives. While money and material possessions may bring us temporary happiness and pleasure, they cannot satisfy our spiritual or emotional needs.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
> — *Matthew 6:25*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: beauty, contentment, food, life, thoughts, worrying

Interpretation:
In this Bible verse, we can find a fundamental teaching for life: *“Do not worry about your life.”* However, in modern life, worry has become a constant companion of our daily lives. We worry about problems at work, the economy, health, personal relationships, and much more.

Worry, although natural for humans, can become an obstacle to happiness and self-fulfillment. Worrying too much about things can cause states of anxiety, depression, and other emotional disorders. Moreover, worry is an attitude that makes us lose the ability to enjoy the present moment and appreciate what is truly important in life.

In this verse, Jesus encourages us to not worry about our daily lives and shows that God cares about our needs. Worrying does not solve anything, but trusting in God gives us the peace and security we need. In the Bible, we find many examples of people who trusted God and saw their faith rewarded.

The Bible text also reminds us that **“life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.”** Often we become obsessed with material things and forget that life is more than just being in a good economic position or having material goods. Life is a precious gift that we should take care of and appreciate in all its dimensions.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable

> than they?
> — *Matthew 6:26*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, harvest, trust, valuable, work

Interpretation:
Humans are surrounded by the beauty of nature, and we can learn many lessons from it. In *Matthew 6:26*, *Jesus* encourages us to look at the birds of the air as an example of God's love and care for His creation. Birds do not care about their food or daily life, but God feeds and cares for each one of them. This is a reminder that God also cares for us and provides for our needs.

Are you not much more valuable than they?

Jesus' words remind us how precious we are to God. He created us in His own image and loves us more than we can imagine. If God cares about the birds of the air, how much more will He care about us, who were created in His own image?

Thoughts on trusting God

We often worry about things in life like work, finances, family, and the future. We think that we should worry about everything being okay. But Jesus encourages us to trust God as the birds trust Him. This is not easy, because our human nature makes us anxious.

However, by reflecting on God's care for the birds of the air, we can learn to trust Him more. We can learn to rest in His love and power, knowing that He is in control and will take care of us.

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> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
> — *Matthew 6:3-4*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: Father, giving, reward

Interpretation:
The Bible passage *Matthew 6:3-4* touches on an important topic in the Christian life: almsgiving. Almsgiving refers to the act of giving something to someone in need, whether it be money, food, clothing, or other things. In these verses, *Jesus* teaches that we should give alms without seeking recognition or applause.

Don’t do It out of vanity

Vanity and the desire for recognition are common temptations for us as humans, especially when we do something good. We love it when others see what we do and recognize us for it. However, when it comes to almsgiving, Jesus teaches us that we should not seek the glory of others.

This doesn’t mean that we can’t talk about our charitable acts or share our experiences to motivate others to do the same. Instead, we should do so with a humble heart, recognizing that our actions are a call to charity, not a way to gain glory or recognition.

The importance of anonymity

One of the most important lessons from *Matthew 6:3-4* is the importance of anonymity in our acts of charity. When we give alms, we should do so discreetly, without drawing anyone's attention.

That is, we should avoid showing that we are giving, how we are giving it, or to whom we are giving it. Keeping our giving anonymous helps us avoid seeking validation from others and reminds us that our actions are a form of service.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
> — *Matthew 6:33*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: food, Kingdom, righteousness

Interpretation:

Matthew 6:33 occurs in the context *of Jesus'* sermon to the people on the mountain. In this passage, Jesus discusses various teachings about living righteously and godly before God.

In verse 33, Jesus emphasizes the importance of pursuing *God's kingdom and His righteousness* above all else, assuring us that God will provide for us if we follow His commands.

Interpretation of the verse

This verse is a key statement about the importance of keeping God at the center of our lives. Jesus teaches us that our first priority should be pursuing God's kingdom and His righteousness.

Pursuing God's kingdom means pursuing God's presence and power in our lives. Pursuing God's righteousness means living a life that reflects God's values and principles.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
> — *Matthew 6:34*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: dependence, life, worrying

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:34 is part of the Sermon on the Mount, where *Jesus* addresses various topics such as prayer, fasting, and money. In this chapter, Jesus emphasizes the importance of focusing on what is truly important and not worrying about things that are beyond our control.

Jesus talks about tomorrow and how each day brings its own worries, which means that we should stop worrying about the future and focus on the present. The historical context of this verse is important because at that time, people had many worries and fears such as lack of food, work, and illness.

Reflection of the verse

This verse is a call to stop worrying about the future and focus on the present. Constantly worrying about what might happen in the future can become a burden in our lives and prevent us from enjoying

the present. Instead of worrying about tomorrow, we should think about what we can do today to improve our situation.

The present is a gift, and we should make the most of it. Instead of worrying about everything that could go wrong, we should focus on the positive things we can do today. If we live life to the fullest and do our best, we won't have to worry about tomorrow.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
> — *Matthew 6:6*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, Prayer, reward

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:6 is a very interesting verse that speaks to us about privacy in prayer and encourages us to consider how we should approach God in a close and personal way. In this verse, *Jesus* teaches us that when we pray, we should do so in the privacy of our own rooms, with the door closed and speaking to our *Heavenly Father* in secret.

Why is privacy important in prayer?

Privacy in prayer is important because it allows us to have a more genuine and direct communication with God. When we pray publicly, our minds and hearts can be distracted by what is going on around us and what others are thinking about us. However, when we pray in secret, we can focus our attention on God and express our feelings, needs, and gratitude without worrying about being judged or interrupted.

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> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
> — *Matthew 6:7*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Prayer, speaking, thoughts

Interpretation:
In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus teaches his disciples how they should pray. In this particular verse, he instructs them not to use vain repetitions in their prayers, as the pagans do. What does Jesus mean by vain repetitions? Why is it important to avoid them?

What is verbosity in prayer?

Verbosity in prayer refers to the practice of repeating the same words over and over again without a specific purpose. This practice is not exclusive to any particular religion, as it has been done at some point by many people of different faiths.

Jesus points out that this type of prayer is similar to the “talking” of the pagans, who think that by repeating their words too often, they will be heard or listened to.

Why is it important to avoid verbosity?

It is important to avoid vain repetitions in prayer, as this practice defeats the true purpose of prayer. Prayer is communication with God, a way of expressing to Him our desires, needs, gratitude, and worship. If we simply repeat the same words over and over again without a purpose, we are not really communicating with God.

This shows a wrong attitude towards God, as if He were a divine being who can be manipulated by our words. Prayer is not a magic formula for getting what you want, but a way to draw closer to God and be transformed by His grace.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’
> — *Matthew 6:9-10*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, heaven, humility, Kingdom, Prayer, world

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:9-10 is part *of Jesus'* teaching on prayer, specifically how to pray effectively and meaningfully. In this verse, Jesus gives His disciples a model prayer commonly known as the *"Our Father."*

Our Father in heaven

The prayer begins with the words "Our Father in heaven," which means that the God the disciples are calling upon and worshiping is *the Heavenly Father* of all believers. By calling God "Father," Jesus is teaching them that God is personal and cares for each of them individually.

Hallowed be your name

"Hallowed be your name" is the next line of the prayer. In other words, believers are to hallow or honor God's name by acknowledging His holiness and placing Him in a place of reverence.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

This passage is a reminder that we must seek first *the kingdom of God and His will*. When we pray for the kingdom of God to come and for His will to be done on earth, we commit our lives to Him and trust that He knows what is best for us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not judge, or you too will be judged.
> — *Matthew 7:1*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: judgment, law

Interpretation:
This Bible verse is a clear call to be tolerant and understanding toward others. The call to *“not judge”* refers to how we should treat others, emphasizing the idea that we should not judge people without knowing their circumstances or life story.

In other words, the message is clear: if we do not want to be judged, we too must remain open and understanding toward others, always avoiding hasty judgments that could hurt or upset others.

Application to everyday life

Applying this verse to everyday life is relatively easy because it is an attitude that can be adopted at any time and regardless of circumstances.

First of all, we must remember that each person has their own life story, and we have no right to judge them without knowing it. Therefore, before making any comments, it is important to listen to others and understand their point of view. It is helpful to put yourself in the other person’s shoes and think: *have I done something similar that I would now judge?*

Likewise, it is important to remember that our actions and comments can have serious consequences on the lives of others, so it is important to think twice before judging others.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
> — *Matthew 7:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: law, neighbor, prophecy, relationships

Interpretation:
In Matthew 7, *Jesus* gives His disciples a series of instructions, including how they should treat others and how they will be treated in return. In verse 12, Jesus introduces what is known as the Golden Rule.

What is the Golden Rule?

The Golden Rule is an ethical principle found in many cultures, although it is perhaps best known as a teaching of Judeo-Christian philosophy. In its simplest form, the Golden Rule states that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. This includes a high degree of empathy and understanding for others, as well as a personal commitment to kindness and fairness in our lives.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
> — *Matthew 7:13-14*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Eternal life, Salvation

Interpretation:
Matthew 7:13-14 are famous Bible verses that have caused controversy and prompted many people to think about their meaning. In these verses, *Jesus* tells us to enter through narrow gates, because wide gates and a wide path lead to destruction, and many enter through them.

What does the narrow gate mean?

The narrow gate that Jesus speaks of symbolizes the narrow way that leads to eternal life. This way is not easy because it requires effort and sacrifice. It is a way that requires us to turn away from sin and turn to God. This way makes us better not only in our relationship with God, but also in our relationships with other people.

On the other hand, the wide gate and the broad way symbolize an easy and comfortable life. This way does not require anything from us; it is a way without restrictions, allowing us to do whatever we want without worrying about the consequences. This path may seem attractive, but in reality it leads us to destruction.

Why do so few find this path?

The narrow path can be difficult to find and follow because it goes against the nature of the world. Moreover, it requires perseverance, discipline, and deep *faith in Jesus Christ*. At the same time, the broad and easy path is tempting and more attractive to those who seek comfort and instant gratification.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
> *— Matthew 7:15*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: clothing, prophecy, Second coming

Interpretation:
Matthew 7:15 warns us about false prophets. These are people who pose as true religious leaders, but are really only seeking their own gain. Therefore, it is important to protect ourselves from them.

How to recognize false prophets?

One way to recognize false prophets is to analyze their actions and words. Sometimes these people may seem very religious, but their real actions do not match their words. For example, they may be more concerned with money and power than helping those in need.

Why is it important to be vigilant against false prophets?

It is important to be vigilant against false prophets because they can deceive us and negatively affect our spiritual lives. If we blindly trust these people, we can be deceived and stray from the truth.

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> Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
> — *Matthew 7:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Father, heaven, Kingdom, obedience, Salvation

Interpretation:
Matthew 7:21 is an incredibly important verse for Christians to understand in order to enter *the Kingdom of Heaven*. In this verse, *Jesus* tells His disciples that not everyone who calls Him “Lord, Lord” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who do the will *of the Father in Heaven* can enter.

What does it mean to “do the will of My Father”?

Matthew 7:21 is a simple verse, but it is often misunderstood. Many people think that they can earn God’s favor by doing good deeds or following certain religious rules and rituals. However, that is not what Jesus is saying here.

“Doing the will of My Father” ultimately means being in a loving and obedient relationship with God. In other words, when we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, everything we do is actually doing His will. Jesus confirmed this elsewhere when He was asked which commandment was the most important:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31).

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

Instead of focusing on actions that will earn our favor with God, we should focus on our relationship with Him. We should strive to love Him with all our being and submit to His will. And we should do this not only in religious matters, but in every aspect of our lives.

Moreover, this verse reminds us of the importance of the authenticity of our faith. It is not enough to just call ourselves Christians or say *"Lord, Lord"* if we do not do the will of God in our daily lives. We must be genuine in our faith, living it, and that is really important.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
> — *Matthew 7:24*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: listening, mind, wisdom, Word of God

Interpretation:
This verse is part of the famous Sermon on the Mount, which *Jesus* delivered to the crowds that followed him. In it, Jesus taught about various aspects of the Christian life, such as prayer, fasting, caring for material things, and loving one's neighbor.

In *chapter 7, the Lord* speaks of the need to be wise and prudent in our lives and not to be deceived by false prophets. Then, in *verses 24–27*, Jesus illustrates this teaching with a parable about building two houses, one on rock and one on sand.

The parable

In the parable, Jesus compares two builders, one wise and one foolish. They both wanted to build a house, but the wise man built his house on rock, while the foolish man built his house on sand. When the rain came, the floods came, and the winds came, the wise man's house stood firm, but the foolish man's house collapsed.

Jesus concludes the parable by saying that those who put His words into practice are like the wise man who was able to withstand the storms of life.

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> Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?
> — *Matthew 7:3*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: judgment, sin

Interpretation:
One of the most important messages the Bible can teach us is found in *Matthew 7:3*, which calls us to think about how we criticize others. Although we tend to be judgmental of others, this verse calls us to stop and ask ourselves why we do it and what role we play in that criticism.

The meaning of the speck of sawdust and the plank

The mote and the beam metaphor suggests that it is much easier to see the faults of others than it is to see our own, as if we were looking into an upside-down mirror. If we think about this metaphor carefully, we will realize that the mote in our brother's eye can symbolize his minor faults and unresolved issues, while the beam in our own eye can symbolize the more serious faults and imperfections that we ourselves have but do not want to see.

Self-knowledge and self-esteem

It is therefore important to learn to understand ourselves, identify our strengths and weaknesses, and then reflect on how we can improve as individuals. Self-esteem is a simple yet effective tool for identifying our own shortcomings and working on them, rather than dwelling on the mistakes of others.

Don't judge others

This verse also reminds us not to judge others, either for their mistakes or for their actions. Instead, we should help them find the right path by offering our support whenever they need it. It is important to remember that everyone is different, and what works for one may not necessarily work for another.

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> Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
> — *Matthew 7:7*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: promises, receiving, reward, seeking

Interpretation:

Prayer is a powerful and effective tool that allows us to connect with God and ask Him for help or guidance in our lives. *Matthew 7:7* reminds us to ask and seek in prayer so that we can receive what we need and find what we are looking for. It also invites us to knock and God will open the door for us.

Ask and it will be given to you

This first call to prayer calls us to ask God for what we need. As humans, we have needs and desires that sometimes we cannot meet on our own. Prayer is a way to ask for help and trust in the power and goodness of God to give us what we need. However, we must be careful not to ask for things that are selfish or harmful to ourselves or others.

Seek and you will find

Prayer seeking is a call to seek God's will in our lives. Often we have questions or confusion about circumstances or decisions we need to make. Prayer is a way of seeking wisdom and divine direction in our lives. By searching in prayer, we can find the answer we need.

Knock and the door will be opened to you

When we knock on God’s door in prayer, He always answers us and opens the door for us. But sometimes we need to be patient and wait for the answer. It is also important that we be willing to receive the answer God gives us, even if it is not what we expected or wanted. We must be open to God’s will and trust that His answer is for our highest good.

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> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”
> — *Matthew 9:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Forgiveness, healing, health

Interpretation:
When *Jesus* said, *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick,”* He was speaking to the Pharisees who questioned His presence among the sinners and the poor. With this statement, Jesus

was affirming that His mission was not to bring salvation to those who thought they did not need help, but to those who recognized their need.

Why do we need Jesus?

The metaphor of the doctor and the sick is powerful because we all recognize our need for a physician. When we feel sick or in pain, we seek help and care. We do not expect to heal ourselves or to remain ignorant of the situation. Likewise, we cannot expect our soul or spirit to heal itself, and that is where Jesus comes in.

We are imperfect and sinful. There are areas in our lives where we suffer. We struggle with worries and fears, and sometimes we do not know how to respond to the difficulties that befall us. Jesus is the spiritual physician who comes to heal our wounds. He offers us forgiveness of sins and an intimate relationship with God.

Who are the "healthy" in this metaphor?

To better understand what *Jesus* means in this verse, it is important to understand who the *"healthy"* people are in this metaphor. In this context, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees, who were considered *"holy"* by the Jews. They were very careful to observe the religious law and were very strict in their worship of God.

However, Jesus accuses them of hypocrisy and misunderstanding the essence of God's will. He is saying that it is not necessarily the most vigilant guardians of the law who know the truth about God. He is saying that those who think they are "holy" and do not need help are actually suffering more than those who understand their dependence on God and their need for healing.

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> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
>
> *— Matthew 9:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: mercy, repentance, righteousness, sacrifice

Interpretation:

In this verse, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees (the church leaders of that time) after healing a paralytic. The Pharisees criticized Jesus for associating with sinners and tax collectors, to which Jesus responded with the phrase, **“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”**

The Pharisees believe that righteousness consists in offering the sacrifices established by the law, but they forget the words of God, spoken through the mouth of the prophet Hosea: **“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings” (Hos. 6:6)**. The Lord means that sacrifices and all formal piety without love for others, without deeds of mercy, are worthless in the eyes of God.

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" or, in other words, the Lord came so that sinners would repent and correct themselves. He came to call to repentance not those who consider themselves righteous and imagine that they have nothing to repent of, but those who humbly recognize themselves as sinners and ask God for mercy.

True, the Lord came to save everyone, including the imaginary righteous, but until they abandon the dream of their righteousness and recognize themselves as sinners, their calling will be fruitless, and salvation is impossible for them.

To summarize, it is necessary to understand and accept that all people are sinners! We must apply mercy in our lives, always thinking about helping our neighbors, and not justifying ourselves by observing all religious laws. Mercy is a call to action, to be attentive to the needs of others and to act when necessary to help those in need, thus we reflect the love that God gave us.

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