Name\_

Date

**Encountering Jesus in the New Testament**

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 6 *The Gospel of Matthew: Jesus as Teacher*

**Directions**: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

**Introduction Jesus, the New Moses, Teaches a Formula for Happiness** (pp. 274 – 276)

**1.** The Gospel of , unlike that of Mark, records many of the Jesus gave his disciples. Matthew desires to portray Jesus as the teacher worthy of obedience. Further, he depicts Jesus as the

who brings the New Law to God’s people. Jesus’ is

the most vivid between Jesus and Moses.

**2.** What are the various topics of Jesus’ five discourses?

**3.** True or False? God’s logic defies human logic, an idea that can be clearly seen in the parables which challenge the meaning of happiness.

**Section 1 Comparing the Gospels of Matthew and Mark** (pp. 278 – 284)

**4.** Explain the changes Matthew makes to Mark’s text.

**5.** The first of the Gospel of Matthew – “The book of the ” – are a direct reference to the book of because Matthew wants to tie Jesus into history. Thus, Matthew traces Jesus’ ancestry back to both David and . Son of David is a favorite in his Gospel because he was in the line of .

**6.** True or False? While only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark include genealogies of Jesus, Matthew’s genealogy presents Jesus as Israel’s promised Savior while Mark stresses that Jesus is the universal Messiah who has come for all people.

**7.** True or False? While Matthew begins by providing an infancy narrative of Jesus, Mark jumps right into Jesus’ Baptism.

**8.** True or False? Luke portrays each of the events of Jesus’ infancy as fulfilling a prophecy of Scripture.

**9.** In general, the Gospel of Matthew portrays the in a more flattering light than does . For instance, Jesus Peter for his of him as the Christ on the road to

, and makes a promise to Peter that, “you are Peter, and upon this I will build my church.”

In Matthew, Peter understands Jesus is both the Messiah and also the .

**10.** Contrast how the Gospel of Mark ends with the Gospel of Matthew.

**11.** Explain how Matthew concludes his Gospel.

**Section 2 Background on Matthew’s Gospel** (pp. 286 – 293)

**12.** True or False? Two of the reasons Matthew’s Gospel is known as the “first Gospel” is that it is listed first in the New Testament canon and it was believed to have been composed by one of the Twelve Apostles by the early Christians.

**13.** Scholars believe the Matthew was written Mark, probably during the , when Jewish Christians were driven out of the . Indeed, the Gospel reflects the between early Jewish Christian communities and the Jews who survived the against the Romans. It was likely written in

for a primarily Greek-speaking community of Christians, possibly living in , Syria.

**14.** Explain three pieces of evidence within the Gospel which suggests the Gospel of Matthew was written for early Christians with a

Jewish background.

**15.** What were two pressing questions for Matthew’s local church which likely prompted Matthew to write his Gospel.

**16.** True or False? One of Matthew’s sources was M, which refers to the Gospel of Mark.

**17.** Matthew presents Jesus as the of the Old Testament. He goes to great lengths to cite

prophecies to show how Jesus’ and preaching fulfills God’s to Israel. Indeed, there are more than passages in the Gospel of Matthew which are rooted in the Old Testament, which can be seen each time he uses the : “This happened so that what had been

might be fulfilled.”

**18.** Briefly note five other themes in the Gospel of Matthew.

**Section 3 The Subject of Jesus’ Teaching** (pp. 294 – 310)

**19.** What topics are included in the five discourses in Matthew’s Gospel?

**20.** The Sermon on the Mount is a of Jesus’ ethical which are directed to those who have already the Gospel. It summarizes the of the Gospel, a law of love, , and freedom. Jesus delivers his instructions for Christian from a mountain and speaks with

authority, an act which recalls the Old Law delivered by at Mount Sinai.

**21.** Briefly note the meaning of the two similes Jesus uses to describe his followers:

• The salt of the earth

• The light of the world

**22.** True or False? According to the New Law which Jesus teaches, mere interior conversion of the Law is not enough; external observance is necessary.

**23.** True or False? Jesus set high standards for moral behavior, making each of the six examples from the Law more inclusive.

**24.** True or False? Jesus warns that giving money to the poor and fasting should never be done in order that people may see them.

**25.** Jesus instructs his to preach the Kingdom to the in a spirit of poverty, receiving the of anyone who offers it. He warns them that is both a privilege and a . His warning likely indicates that Matthew’s local church was difficulties: questioning and by leaders, betrayals, false accusations, and .

**26.** What two reassurances do the Apostles receive from Jesus?

**27.** True or False? The parables of Jesus teach that deeds are not enough, words are required to gain God’s Kingdom.

**28.** There are two ways to interpret the parable of the . One way is to see that God’s Kingdom will

far beyond what one could expect, overcoming all . A second interpretation involves Jesus’ interpretation. Each type of (rocky, thorny, good soil) does or does not provide receptivity to the .

**29.** True or False? According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus used parable to confuse outsiders while presenting important truths about the Kingdom to his disciples to show how God works.

*For the next five questions, match the parable about the Kingdom of God to the message.*

**Parable Message**

**30.** The sower **a.** In the end, God will separate the good from the evil

**31.** The weeds among the wheat **b.** The Kingdom will succeed in spite of indifference or opposition

**32.** The mustard seed **c.** The Kingdom is growing even if the growth seems imperceptible

**33.** The yeast **d.** One should sacrifice everything to get it

**34.** The treasure in the field and the pearl of great price **e.** The Kingdom begins very modestly, but in time it will flourish

**35.** The Gospel of Matthew emphasizes the , of which is the head, the guide, and the

of those who follow. However, because his followers are very , they need constant

of how to live as worthy members of the Kingdom. , for instance, should not be obsessed with or authority. They are to help God’s Kingdom come in the midst of her members.

**36.** Briefly note seven instructions Jesus gives in Matthew which are not only for Church leaders, but for all members.

**37.** True or False? Because many early Christians believed Christ would return during their lifetimes, Matthew records Jesus’

warning that no one knows the day or hour of the Second Coming.

**38.** What is the message from the parable of the talents?

**39.** True or False? In the parable of the judgment of the nations, Jesus identifies the person in need with the members of his

Church.

**Section 4 Jesus Challenges Jewish Leaders** (pp. 312 – 316)

**40.** True or False? Few Christians during the first generation were of Jewish origin.

**41.** True or False? Some Christians have used Jesus’ harsh denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees to justify anti-Semitic attitudes.

**42.** What is a proper way to read and understand Matthew 23?

**43.** True or False? In the seven woes exclaimed by Jesus in Matthew 23, Jesus is using comforting words to call Jewish leaders to gladly announce Gods Kingdom, not as a condemnation of Jewish leaders.

**44.** What is a good way to think about first-century Judaism in the historical context of Matthew’s Gospel? What is the author’s aim?