



Sample: Philosophy - Matthew Gospel

Matthew's Gospel

Read the first 12 chapters of Matthew's Gospel.
Give two word titles for each of the sections identified below and summarize the main events/ideas of each section. The first section is done as an example.

Summary

1:1-4:23	<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Preparation</u>	The genealogy of Jesus, with His ancestry recorded, His birth, acceptance by Joseph as his son described. The visit of the Magi and Herod's attempt to kill Jesus causing the escape to Egypt, then coming back to Nazareth. John the Baptists appears and prepares the way to Jesus. Jesus is baptized by John. Jesus starts his ministry.
5:1-7:29	Faith	Prayer	Jesus teaches the main moral principles of faith. He proclaims loyalty to God's Law, lays down the major rules of human living, reveals the meaning of true values that are in Heaven, and teaches people how to pray.
8:1-10:4	Miracles	Disciples	Description of ten miracles performed by Jesus including healing of many people and bringing back to life a dead girl. Jesus calling on his disciples to teach people and sending His twelve disciples to drive out evil, heal, teach people and preach.
10:5-11:1	Discipleship	Persecution	Jesus gives His disciples the authority to heal and explains the principles of their teaching people faith. Setting a priority of teaching the lost sheep of Israel; postulating self-sacrifice required of the disciples, and warnings about



persecutions they will be exposed to and encouraging them.

11:2-12:50 Witnessing Messiah

John imprisonment and his sending his own disciples to ask Jesus if He is the Messiah or the forerunner. Jesus opposes the Pharisees' tenets by revealing the true meaning of faith.

13:1-13:52 Parables Teaching

Parables teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven; Jesus addresses a lot of people on the Sea of Tiberias shore. Parables as clear and instructive stories revealing to people, through everyday life examples, the basic meaning of faith and relations of people with God.

13:53-17:27 Prophet Disbelief

Jesus came back to Nazareth; people doubted His Word. John the Baptists was beheaded. New miracles by Jesus – feeding the five thousand people and walking on water. Arguments with Pharisees and Sadducees on the true meaning of faith. Peter Simon recognizes Christ and Christ predicts his death as a man. The event of Transfiguration.

18:1-18:35 Heaven Innocence

The future positions of the disciples and people in the Heaven discussed. Innocence similar to children's as the way leading to the Kingdom of God. Warnings against temptations and the message of love and forgiveness as true virtues in the parable on the unmerciful servant.

19:1-23:39 Salvation Suffering

Parables teaching the goodness as faith in God and showing the way to salvation. Christ telling his disciples about His future sufferings. Jesus enters Jerusalem. God's mercy, love and forgiveness for all who believe in Him and repent. Salvation by accepting God. The fate of Jerusalem.



24:1-25:46	Predictions	Judgment	Jesus predicts the events in this world and the signs of His Second Coming the time of which cannot be known to anyone. The importance of being prepared to it. Judgment of the Nations by Christ. The divine reward and punishment for sins.
26:1-28:20	Finality	Resurrection	Last days of Christ in this world. Judas' betrayal, Christ arrested, Judas' death, the trial, Christ's suffering, crucifixion, physical death, the burial and guard at he tomb, Resurrection, appearing before women, entrusting disciples with the great commission.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

1.) The Parable of the Sower (13:3-9).

The different outcomes for the seeds that happened to fall on different patches of the land, with only those that were in good soil producing abundant crop means that only those people who will hear the word of God and accept it will be rewarded with salvation in the World of God.

2.) The Parable of the Weeds (13:24-30)

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3.) The Parable of the Mustard Seed (13:31-32)

The weeds in the field that are many symbolize the evil that lives in this world. Christ sows good seeds in the world. However, on the Day of Judgment, which is symbolically described as harvest time, all sins and sinners will be all collected and destroyed.

4.) The Parable of the Yeast (13:33)

The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to yeast because it also starts from small groups of people believing in Him, like yeast is only a small part of the dough. However, Christ's teaching will spread across the world assisted by the efforts of his disciples who, despite their small number, will accomplish their mission with God's assistance.

5.) The Parable of the Treasure (13:44)

The hidden treasure is the symbol of the concealed World of God that is not easily revealed to everyone. Only those who have their hearts open to God; they find peace on the earth and salvation in the future. They sacrifice the pleasures of this world with joy (selling the field is a symbol), aware of the greatest joy of unity with God.

6.) The Parable of the Pearl (13:45,46)

The true treasure is not in worldly pleasures and wealth, it is only in the man's unity with God. Therefore, a man should sacrifice any pleasures for the Kingdom of God, which is the only genuine treasure, like a pearl hidden in the shell. The one who finds has all the greatest needs is satisfied in the unity with God that exceeds anything else.

7.) The Parable of the Net (13:47-50)



Sorting out the fish caught by the net is the symbol of God's separating the righteous from sinners. After the hour of separation, there will be no chances of redeeming the sins. Those who had no faith in God will be punished, similarly to bad fish having been thrown away. .

Choose one of the six antithesis in 5:21-48 (murder: 21-26; adultery: 27-30; divorce: 31-32; oaths: 33-37; retaliation: 38-42; or enemies: 43-48). Read what one commentator says about the antithesis and summarize what the author suggests for understanding and applying Jesus' teaching.

MATTHEW 6:1-18

1.) Compare 6:1 with 5:16. Why does Jesus say "let people see what you are doing" in 5:16 and "hide what you are doing" in 6:1?

"Let people see what you are doing" means that disciples should teach people the truth about God while "hide what you are doing" warns disciples against demonstrating their goodness, which should come from their faith and heart and seek no recognition, being without vanity.

2.) What does Jesus teach about prayer life?

Jesus teaches that praying is an important part of one's life in unity with God that should be based on genuine faith in the Lord, instead of adhering to the formal laws that are believed by Pharisees. Praying should include honoring God and asking Him for mercy and help.

3.) Given the disciples were likely devout Jews who prayed regularly, why would Jesus need to teach them about prayer? (What do you think is new in his teaching?)

Jesus' teaching is deeply humane and, therefore, transcends the formal laws. He thinks of the good in man and trusts good people. Therefore, He offers the interpretations of the prayers supported by what He teaches in parables as the entire worldview and actions integrated with God.



MATTHEW 6:19-34

Contrasts and **comparisons** are key themes in 6:19-34. Study the passage and list the contrasts and comparisons you find. You may not find twelve, but you should find **at least six**.

1. (Example) birds, which are fed without sowing or reaping	humans, valued more by God than birds
2. Treasures on earth that can be destroyed by vermin and moths	Treasures in Heaven, impossible to be destroyed or stolen
3. The good eye that are is the lamp of the body and can se well	The bad eyes unable to see the true things
4. Serving money, irreconcilable with serving God.	Serving God, not caring about money.
5. Lilies grow in the field that never labor or spin, clothed by God.	If lilies are clothed splendidly, God will always clothe those who believe in Him.
6. Lilies are clothed beautifully.	The man-made clothes of King Solomon cannot exceed the beauty of God's clothing.
7. Pagans run after earthly things.	God provides the things the believers need.