gospels

The Good News testimony

of the kingdom

on earth in Jesus.

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The *Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course* is a journey through God's love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand God's intended meaning of the scriptures. Copyright and royalty free 2025.

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Gospels - The Kingdom of God

Welcome to the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course Sessions on understanding God's intended meaning in the Gospels.

To get the most out of these sessions, as you watch each video, follow the 00:00 [TIMECODES] in this workbook and ⏸ [PAUSE] the video to write your answers.

The books of the Bible that are categorised as gospels are:

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

What makes these books Gospel literature? ⏸ [01:35 - 01:51]

What are some of the different teaching methods Jesus used as recorded in the gospels? ⏸ [01:55 - 2:10]

Why is there more than one Gospel of Jesus? ⏸ [02:24 - 02:36]

The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God

The image of God's kingdom is an important one for understanding the message and ministry of Jesus. When Jesus walked the earth as a man, He preached, taught and demonstrated God's kingdom. Building on the Old Testament imagery where kings ruled and prophecies were spoken of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

What are the two aspects of a kingdom? ⏸ [03:54 - 04:06]

1. _____

2. _____

How is God's kingdom referred to in the book of the gospel according to Matthew? ⏸ [04:12]

_____

How is God's kingdom referred to in the other three gospels according to Mark, Luke and John? ⏸ [04:19]

_____

Read **Matthew 3:1-3**

According to those of Jewish lineage, what is their understanding of where God dwells? ⏸ [05:14]

_____

According to those of Jewish lineage, what is their understanding of heaven? ⏸ [05:17 - 05:22]

1. _____

2. _____

How has God's kingdom come down to earth? ⏸ [05:33]

_____

Let's now look at two scriptures of the same event to discover more about God's kingdom.

Read **Matthew 4 verses 12** and **17** and **Mark 1:14-15**

Are the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God the same thing? ⏸ [07:09]

_____

Why is there different terminology used (i.e. Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God)? ⏸ [07:16]

Jesus' Mission

Who is the embodiment of God's kingdom? ⏸ [07:19]

Read **Luke 4:18-21**

Why was the Spirit of the LORD upon Jesus? ⏸ [08:45]

To whom was Jesus anointed to preach? ⏸ [09:00]

What types of poverty exist in this world damaged by evil? ⏸ [09:02 - 09:10]

1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____

What is the good news of God's kingdom that Jesus reveals to the first hearers and to us today? ⏸ [09:19 - 10:48]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

When did Jesus say that God's kingdom on earth was being fulfilled, that is, the beginning of the acceptable time of the grace and favour of God? ⏸ [10:58]

_____

Who fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2? ⏸ [11:09]

_____

The kingdom of God is completely holistic.

What are some of the aspects of God's kingdom? ⏸ [11:19 - 11:32]

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

_____ and _____

When will the complete fulfilment of God's kingdom take place? ⏸ [11:46]

_____

Personal reflection

From the Gospels - The Kingdom of God, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

_____

_____

_____

What is your response/prayer?

_____

_____

_____

Heavenly Father, we thank you that your heart's desire is for all humanity to be truly free from the injustices and inequality of this world. We thank that you personally stepped down into humanity's darkness and shone your glorious light in Jesus. By your Spirit, as we journey through the Gospels, may we all receive a greater revelation of you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Gospels - Matthew

In this session we will go deeper into the Gospels and discover who the first hearers of Matthew were, and how knowing this helps us gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning. We will also discover which aspect of Jesus Matthew emphasises the most in his portrayal.

Read **Matthew 1:1** and **2 Samuel 7:16-17**

Why would Matthew have started with the genealogy of Jesus, connecting Him with the Jewish lineage of King David and Abraham? ⏸ [03:19]

Let's now continue on in Matthew to discover more about who the first hearers were most likely to be.

Read **Matthew 4:5-6a** and **Luke 4:9**

Why would Matthew have referred to Jerusalem as the holy city, rather than specifically naming it, as done in Luke? ⏸ [04:21]

What are some of the aspects of the Jewish faith the gospel of Matthew emphasises? ⏸ [04:43 - 05:11]

For some scriptures on this topic, read Matthew 6:33, Matthew 5:17-18, Matthew 15:11, Matthew 12:1-8, Matthew 21:12-16, Matthew 2:1-2 and Matthew 1:18-23.

Now let's compare another account from Matthew with Mark's account of the same event that involves ceremonial cleansing which was part of Jewish custom.

Read **Matthew 15:1-2** and **Mark 7:1-5**

Why would Matthew have not explained the traditional ceremonies of ritual cleansing, when Mark does in such detail? ⏸ [06:55]

Practical

Read **Matthew 15:1-20**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? ⏸ [10:01 - 10:30]

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

Who is speaking and **who** are they speaking to? ⏸ [10:43 - 10:57]

_____ speaking to _____

_____ responding to _____

_____ calling to _____

_____ asking _____

_____ responding to _____

Who is Jesus speaking about? ⏸ [11:16]

_____

As the Son of God, **what** does Jesus know? ⏸ [11:31]

_____

What truth does Jesus reveal? ⏸ [12:14 - 12:24]

_____

_____

In complete contrast to Jesus revealing the truth, **what** were the scribes and the Pharisees doing? ⏸ [12:24 - 12:36]

_____

_____

In revealing the truth, **what** does Jesus help us be aware of? ⏸ [12:51]

_____

What were the scribes and Pharisees attempting to do by accusing Jesus' disciples of wrongdoing? ⏸ [13:10]

_____

_____

Why did Jesus expose the deceptions of the scribes and Pharisees and reveal the truth? ⏸ [13:32]

Why was it written? ⏸ [13:40 - 13:52]

What is the summary of Matthew's portrait of Jesus? ⏸ [14:08]

Whilst the gospel of Matthew emphasises that Jesus is the Jewish king, Matthew also reveals that Jesus is the king of all people.

In his narrative of Jesus' birth, Matthew includes the homage of the wise men of the East to Jesus. They were of non-Jewish lineage, yet they came to worship the king of the Jews. They bowed down before Jesus and acknowledged His right to rule and reign.

Jesus is the link between the Old and New Testament.

Who is it believed that the gospel according to Matthew is primarily written to? ⏸ [15:04]

What is one of the most frequently used titles for Jesus throughout the book of Matthew? ⏸ [15:13]

The gospel according to Matthew reveals Jesus is the Jewish Messiah who is the king of God's kingdom. One of the most frequently used titles throughout the gospel according to Matthew that reveals Jesus as the Jewish king is the Son of David.

To gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning, we encourage you to read the whole gospel according to Matthew, keeping the first hearers in mind and what would have been important to them.

Personal reflection

From Gospels - Matthew, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in Jesus your promises to the nations that the Saviour of the world would come through the Jewish lineage have been fulfilled. Thank you that you know all things and have revealed your truth in Jesus. In His name we pray, amen.

Gospels - Mark

Who is it believed that the gospel according to Mark is primarily written to? ⏸ [01:11]

We will go through some of the passages in Mark to discover why this is a commonly held belief, and how knowing it helps us gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning. We will also discover which aspect of Jesus Mark emphasises the most in his portrayal.

Read **Mark 1:1-8**

Why does Mark use two old testament quotes which are linked with the role of John the Baptist's witness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God to begin his account? ⏸ [03:38]

Why does Mark not include the names of the prophets that he quotes? ⏸ [03:54]

What was the role of John the Baptist? ⏸ [04:05]

As part of John the Baptist's role, what did he call the people to do? ⏸ [04:14]

As part of John the Baptist's role, who did he testify of? ⏸ [04:22]

Why would including the prophecy that John the Baptist would 'prepare the way' for Jesus have been significant to the first hearers? ⏸ [04:25 - 04:54]

Let us compare the variations of the same events as recorded in Mark with how they are recorded in Matthew and Luke.

Read **Mark 13:3-8**, **Matthew 24:3-8** and **Luke 21:7-11**

What is significant about the details of the location of this event in Mark's account compared to Matthew's? ⏸ [08:22 - 8:40]

What are the differences in the wording that Jesus uses in reference to those who will come deceiving many when comparing Mark's and Luke's accounts with Matthew's? ⏸ [9:08 - 9:22]

What are the signs that Jesus says are indicative of the beginning of sorrows? ⏸ [09:43 - 10:11]

Referring to **Mark 13:3-8**:

What does Jesus say? ⏸ [10:20]

Who is Jesus speaking to? ⏸ [10:30]

When Jesus returns, **what** will happen? ⏸ [10:34 - 10:47]

What does Jesus give us that enables us to be free of the fear that can come from living in the time of sorrows? ⏸ [11:24]

What is the context of this scripture in God's whole story? ⏸ [12:03 - 12:27]

Why was it written? ⏸ [12:34 - 12:58]

What representation of God does the gospel of Mark portray? ⏸ [13:05]

One parable that is only included in Mark is about the kingdom and how no matter what the man does in the parable, the seed grows, develops and the harvest is there.

Referring to the parable in **Mark 4:26-29**:

Who gets the incredible privilege to sow the seed? ⏸ [13:25]

What does the seed represent? ⏸ [13:29]

Who provides the seed? ⏸ [13:32]

Who grows the seed? ⏸ [13:35]

Who gets all the glory? ⏸ [13:38]

What does Jesus state in **Mark 10:45**? ⏸ [13:45]

What are some of the aspects of Jesus' service to humanity that Mark portrays? ⏸ [13:50 - 14:06]

What is the summary of Mark's portrait of Jesus? ⏸ [14:16]

What are the most frequently used titles used for Jesus throughout the book of Mark? ⏸ [14:22]

Mark's portrayal of Jesus focuses on Him as the anointed Servant who came to serve humanity. Jesus preached, taught and did life with humanity. He healed, cast out demons, provided practically and ultimately sacrificed His life. All for the sake of humanity.

Jesus, the Son of God who became the Son the Man, reveals the servant heart of God.

God prepares the ground and the harvest fields for the sowing of His good seed, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning, we encourage you to read the whole gospel according to Mark, keeping the first hearers in mind and what would have been important to them.

Personal reflection

From Gospels - Mark, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you sent your son to serve us. Thank you that in Jesus we have a part of your incredible wonders and that we are your witness to the world, testifying of you. In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

Gospels - Luke

Who is it believed that the gospel according to Luke is written to? ⏸ [01:25]

Let us begin at the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Read **Luke 1:1-4**

What was Luke's reason for writing an orderly account of the Gospel of Jesus? ⏸ [02:49]

What are some of the aspects of Jesus' life on earth that Luke portrays? ⏸ [02:58 - 03:26]

What is one aspect of God the Father that is revealed in Luke's portrayal of Jesus? ⏸ [03:33]

Let's look at two scriptures of Luke's portrayal of Jesus as both the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Read **Luke 3:23** and **verse 38**

Who is the human that Luke ends Jesus' genealogy with? ⏸ [04:51]

Why does Luke's account of the genealogy of Jesus go back to the first man, Adam? ⏸ [04:54]

Who does Luke end Jesus' genealogy with? ⏸ [04:59]

Why does Luke's account of the genealogy of Jesus end with this Son of God? ⏸ [05:02]

Read **Luke 1:30-35**

Whose seed is Jesus' born of? ⏸ [06:17]

Jesus is the Son of God, fully divine, and he is the Son of Man, fully human.

Practical

Read **Luke 10:25-29**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? ⏸ [07:43 - 07:55]

What is the certain lawyer trying to do by asking the question, "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ⏸ [08:05]

What is Jesus' response? ⏸ [08:23]

What is the lawyer's response? ⏸ [08:27]

What need does Jesus reveal to the lawyer? ⏸ [08:57]

Whose love in us enables us to love God and love others? ⏸ [09:12]

What is the lawyer's motive in asking, 'who is my neighbour?' ⏸ [09:23 - 09:33]

How does Jesus respond to the lawyer's question? ⏸ [09:41]

Read **Luke 10:30-37**

Who are the characters? ⏸ [11:25 - 11:35]

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [11:41 - 12:38]

The Samaritan in the story did not judge the traveller who fell among thieves, nor did he consider his ethnicity, economic status or why he was walking along the road at that time. He simply had the compassion of God and gave the traveller honour and respect. The traveller was near death, but the Samaritan cared for him in the capacity he had. He treated him as equal to himself.

What is this parable a beautiful picture of? ⏸ [13:08]

What are some of the aspects of God's kingdom revealed in this parable? ⏸ [13:13]

What aspects of God's love does this parable reveal? ⏸ [13:18]

What does God bring to humanity? ⏸ [13:27]

What was the lawyer's response to Jesus' question, 'who do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?' ⏸ [13:44]

Why was the law given to the Ancient Israelites? ⏸ [14:29]

What is the only way to enter in and receive eternal life? ⏸ [14:51]

What is the context of this scripture (**Luke 10:25-37**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [15:03 - 15:21]

Why was it written? ⏸ [15:32 - 15:55]

What is the summary of Luke's portrait of Jesus? ⏸ [16:05]

Luke's portrayal of Jesus reveals the humanitarian aspect of God. Jesus is the perfect human, born of the uncorrupted seed of the Holy Spirit, who sacrificed His life so that we could be truly free.

Luke focuses on God's compassion and His kingdom of equality and justice.

One of the most frequently used titles for Jesus throughout the gospel according to Luke is the Son of Man, reflecting Jesus' humanity.

To gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning, we encourage you to read the whole gospel according to Luke, keeping the first hearers in mind and what would have been important to them.

Personal reflection

From Gospels - Luke, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in Jesus you have revealed your compassion and concern for each one. That in receiving Jesus, the Son of God who became the Son of Man, we may enter into your kingdom of equality and respect. Thank you in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Gospels - John

Let us begin our journey through the Gospel of Jesus, according to John.

Why was it written? Read **John 20:30-31** ⏸ [02:11]

To discover exactly what the title, Son of God means, let us go to the beginning of the gospel according to John.

Read **John 1:1-5**

Let us compare the first words of John, with the first words of the creation story from the beginning of God's love story the Bible.

Read **Genesis 1:1**

By starting the Gospel of Jesus with the same phrasing as Genesis, who is John aligning Jesus with? ⏸ [03:40]

According to the belief of those of Jewish lineage, who is the giver of light and life? ⏸ [03:57]

According to **John 1:1-5**, through whom were all things made? ⏸ [04:12]

What does the opening statement that the Word was with God show us? ⏸ [04:20]

Who is the Word? Read **John 1:14-18** ⏸ [05:17]

Who is fully divine and fully human? ⏸ [05:32]

What are some of the aspects of Jesus that John reveals in **John 1:1-5** and **14-18**? ⏸ [05:51 - 06:39]

To gain a greater understanding of what the Son of God meant to the first hearers of Jewish lineage, let us read **John 10:30-39**.

What did the first hearers of Jewish lineage understand the title, Son of God meant? ⏸ [08:10]

Earlier on in the Gospel of John, Jesus declares other truths about who He is. Let's read **John 8:48-59**.

Who are the characters? ⏸ [10:17 - 10:26]

What does Jesus state about Himself in response to the accusations of those of Jewish lineage? ⏸ [10:47]

Therefore, **who** is Jesus claiming to be? ⏸ [10:55]

Centuries earlier, **who** did God reveal Himself to be to Moses and those of Jewish lineage? Read **Exodus 3:14** ⏸ [11:35]

Back to the Gospel according to John, **why** did those of Jewish lineage demand Jesus be crucified? ⏸ [11:53]

Let us go to that moment in time. Read **John 19:6-8**. The truth is, Jesus was and is the Son of God who willingly laid down His life for all humanity.

What is given to those who receive Jesus and His right to rule and reign? ⏸ [13:01]

What are the two main aspects of Jesus that John portrays? ⏸ [13:11]

Given the extensive Jewish content and John's intent in writing the gospel, who were the first hearers most likely to be? ⏸ [13:27]

What was John's main concern in writing the Gospel of Jesus? ⏸ [13:40]

What statements does Jesus make about Himself that are only included in the Gospel according to John? ⏸ [13:53 - 14:21]

John's portrait of Jesus is God who became human. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. Before the beginning of time, He was.

Throughout the gospel according to John, one of the most frequently used titles for Jesus reflecting His divinity and relationship with God the Father is the Son of God.

Jesus is the divine light who gives eternal life to all who receive Him and accept His right to rule and reign.

In summary, each Gospel portrays a different aspect of Jesus. Matthew's portrait of the promised Jewish king (as a lion), Mark's portrait of the anointed servant (represented as an ox), Luke's portrait of the son of man (the perfect human), and John's portrait of the divine (an eagle), combine to give us a greater revelation of who God is and what He has done for us.

To gain a greater understanding of God's intended meaning we encourage you to read the whole gospel according to John, keeping the writer John's intent in mind, which was to reveal that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Personal reflection

From Gospels - John, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are the eternal God who became human. You did it all for us. May we all receive a greater revelation of the depth of your love in the sacrifice you made for us. We thank you in Jesus' name, amen.

Gospels - Four Aspects of Jesus

In this session we will go deeper in the four aspects of Jesus that are portrayed in the four gospels.

What is the main aspect of Jesus that Matthew portrays? ⏸ [01:07]

What is the main aspect of Jesus that Mark portrays? ⏸ [01:11]

What is the main aspect of Jesus that Luke portrays? ⏸ [01:15]

What is the main aspect of Jesus that John portrays? ⏸ [01:18]

These four aspects that are represented as the Lion, the Ox, the Man and the Eagle are reminiscent of two visions of heaven as recorded in God's love story, the Bible. One is the Old Testament, given to the prophet and priest Ezekiel. The other is in the New Testament, given to the Apostle John.

Let us now take a glimpse into heaven and receive a greater revelation of the significance of the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle.

Before we go to the vision of heaven of the four creatures in the Old Testament, let us first understand the context and culture at the time of writing.

When did the vision given to Ezekiel take place? ⏸ [01:57 - 02:31]

What creature did the Babylonian empire represent itself as? ⏸ [02:35]

What did this creature represent? ⏸ [02:39]

In amongst the Ancient Israelites rejection of God, what did God reveal to them about Himself through the vision given to Ezekiel? ⏸ [03:00]

Let us now take a glimpse into heaven, keeping in mind the gospel portraits of Jesus, the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle.

Read **Ezekiel 1:5-12**

What are the four faces of each of the living creatures? ⏸ [04:42]

Where do the four living creatures go? ⏸ [04:46]

In the order of the faces depicted, which is the first listed? ⏸ [04:51]

From the four gospels, who does the man represent? ⏸ [04:57]

What does the man being listed first in this vision reveal about God's character? ⏸ [05:07]

In the order of the faces depicted, which is listed second? ⏸ [05:12]

Where is the lion positioned in this vision? ⏸ [05:14]

What does the position of being on the 'right' side represent? ⏸ [05:25]

In the order of the faces depicted, which is listed third? ⏸ [05:29]

Where is the ox positioned in this vision? ⏸ [05:32]

What does the position of being on the 'left' side often represent? ⏸ [05:38]

What aspect of God in Jesus is represented by the ox? ⏸ [05:47]

In the order of the faces depicted, which is listed fourth? ⏸ [05:50]

What does the eagle do? ⏸ [05:52]

Who do the four living creatures powerfully testify of? ⏸ [06:04]

The second vision of the four creatures in God's love story, the Bible, is recorded in the New Testament. It was given through the Apostle John. Before we go to that vision, let us first understand the context and culture at the time of writing.

When did the vision given to John take place? ⏸ [06:21 - 06:39]

What creature did the Roman empire represent itself as? ⏸ [06:41]

What did this creature represent? ⏸ [06:44]

In amongst all the persecution of God's people, what did God reveal about Himself through the vision given to John? ⏸ [06:50]

To understand this further let us now go to the vision into heaven in the New Testament, given to the Apostle John.

Read **Revelation 4:6-8**

What does the order match? ⏸ [07:44]

From this scripture, what is the order the creatures are listed in? ⏸ [07:54]

1. 3.
2. 4.

Not resting day or night, what do the four creatures say? ⏸ [08:05]

Who do the four creatures testify of? ⏸ [08:05 - 08:13]

Through the depiction of the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle, we not only see into heaven, but we receive a greater revelation of Jesus and the awe and wonder of God.

Understanding the symbolism of the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle brings a greater revelation of the aspects of the Son of God who became the Son of Man.

In the visions that include the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle, God's love and desire for all people to know and experience Him is revealed. It is so beautiful and incredibly special for God to reveal the characteristics of Himself in this way, as every person and every culture can connect with them.

The four creatures also help us understand the reasons for the four different gospels, and how each of the four gospels emphasise a different aspect of Jesus. The visions that include the four creatures, and portray the aspects of Jesus, also link together both the Old and New Testament.

Personal reflection

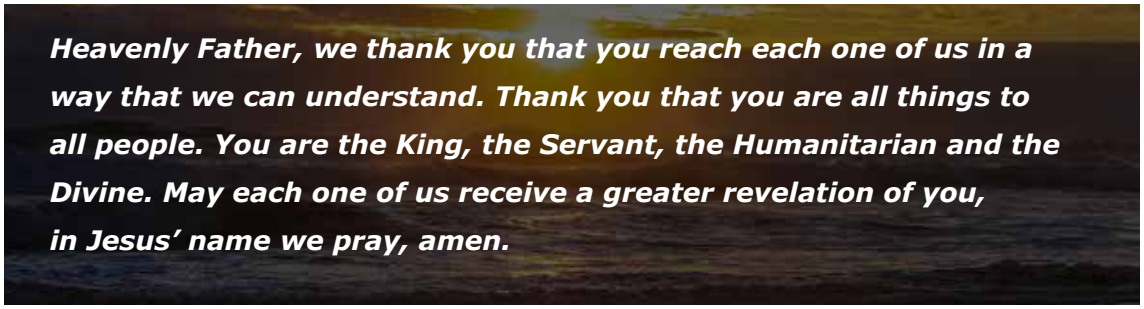
From Gospels - Four aspects of Jesus, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

_____

_____

_____



Gospels Further Study: The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God

Now that we have completed our studies on the gospels, we will take the opportunity to go deeper into understanding God's intended meaning of parables Jesus taught.

Read **Matthew 20:1-16**

Who are the characters?

verse 1: 1. _____ 2. _____

verse 3: 3. _____

verse 5: 4. _____ 5. _____

verse 6: 6. _____

verse 8: 7. _____

Who is speaking? Read **Matthew 19:28**

_____

Who are they speaking to? Read **Matthew 19:23**

Back to **Matthew 20:1-16**

Who are they speaking about? Read **verse 1**

1. _____ 2. _____

Who is the kingdom of heaven like? Read **verse 1**

How do the characters interact?

1. The landowner's interaction with the first group of labourers.

verse 2 _____

verse 10 (via the steward) _____

verse 13 _____

2. The landowner's interaction with the second group of labourers.

verse 3 _____

verse 4 _____

3. The landowner's interaction with the third and fourth group of labourers.

verse 5 _____

4. The landowner's interaction with the fifth group of labourers.

verse 6 _____

verse 7 _____

verses 13-15 _____

5. The first group of labourer's interaction with the landowner

verse 2 _____

verses 10-12 _____

_____

6. The second group of labourer's interaction with the landowner

verse 4 _____

7. The fifth group of labourer's interaction with the landowner

verse 7 _____

verse 9 _____

To discover more about the landowner's character, let us ask the following questions:

What did the landowner repeatedly do? Read **verses 1**, **3**, **5**, **6**

_____

When the landowner went out, what happened? Read **verse 3**

_____

When the landowner went out, what happened? Read **verse 6**

_____

When did the action in this parable happen?

verse 1: _____

verse 3: _____

verse 5: _____ and _____

verse 6: _____

verse 8: _____

Where did the drama in this parable take place? Read **verse 1**

What is the style of writing of the book this parable is from?

What do we learn about God and His kingdom from the landowner?

What is the context of this scripture (**Matthew 20:1-16**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 27.

Why was it written?

Given that the kingdom of heaven is like the landowner, through this parable we learn much about God and His character. For in this parable, the landowner represents God. The landowner constantly goes out searching for the one who is willing. Willing to enter into his vineyard and be part of the landowner's kingdom.

There are workers in the parable that the world has passed by, yet the landowner includes all who are willing into his kingdom. The landowner is just and therefore treats each one equally. Each one is given the same reward, regardless of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or gender.

This parable is a beautiful expression of God and His kingdom. God is constantly searching for the one who is willing. Willing to receive Jesus, receive God and His right to rule and reign and as a result, enter into their equal part in His kingdom.

God is just and therefore the invitation to enter into His kingdom is there for all. Even when the world passes us by and we have no place or purpose, God gives to each one equal status, equal purpose and an equal share of His kingdom regardless of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or gender.

To all who have received Jesus, received God, we all receive the same reward. That is, God Himself, His identity and the fullness of His kingdom.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in this parable?

Personal reflection

From this study on the parable of the landowner, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Frequently asked question

Given that salvation and entry into heaven is a gift from God of Himself to us, then why did Jesus say in a parable, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me."?

To discover God's intended meaning of this parable we will complete a practical, asking the 'who', 'how', 'where', 'when', 'what' and 'why' questions of the text.

Read **Matthew 25:31-46**

Who are the characters? Read **verses 31**, **32**, **33**, **34** and **41**

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

Who is speaking? Read **Matthew 24:4**

_____

Who are they speaking to? Read **Matthew 24:3-4**

_____

Back to **Matthew 25:31-46**

Who are they speaking about? Read **verses 31** and **32**

_____ _____

Who is the Son of Man? Read **Matthew 26:1-4**

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Back to **Matthew 25:31-46**

Who is the Lord of everyone's eternal destination? That is, who determines who inherits eternal life and who goes to eternal punishment? Read **verses 31-32**, **34** and **46**

How do the characters interact?

1. The Son of Man's (King's) interaction with the people of every ethnicity.

verse 32

2. The Son of Man's (King's) interaction with the people on His right.

verse 34

3. The Son of Man's (King's) interaction with the people on His left.

verse 41

4. The people on the right of the Son of Man (King) interaction with Him.

verse 37

5. The people on the left of the Son of Man (King) interaction with Him.

verse 44

What was the disciples' question that Jesus was responding to in telling this parable? Read **Matthew 24:3**

What will the Son of Man do when He returns to earth in all His glory? Read **verses 1-2**

Jesus explains in this parable how the Son of Man will divide the sheep from the goats.

Who are the sheep? To discover this, let us go to another gospel of Jesus. Read **John 10:14-16**

Back to **Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus explains in this parable that those blessed by the Father inherit the kingdom and Jesus' eternal life.

Who receives the right to God's kingdom, given God's children are those who inherit? Read **John 1:12**

Back to **Matthew 25:31-46**

What is the eternal destination of those who receive Jesus and His right to rule and reign (the sheep, the righteous)? Read **verse 34**

What is the eternal destination of those who reject Jesus and His right to rule and reign (the goats, the unrighteous)? Read **verse 46**

Where does the drama in this parable take place? Read **verses 1-2**

When will the events in this parable take place? Read **verse 1**

What is the style of writing of the book this parable is from?

What do we learn about God and His kingdom from this parable?

What is the context of this scripture (**Matthew 25:31-46**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 27.

Why was it written?

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in this parable?

Jesus tells this parable in response to the disciples' questions, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' Through this parable Jesus reveals much about God and His kingdom. God's care and concern for justice, true justice, which is equality for all people as evident through the basic human needs being met.

Jesus also reveals through this parable that He, the Son of Man, the King of God's kingdom, is the one who determines everyone's eternal destination.

Those from every people group who have rejected Jesus and refused to receive His right to rule and reign, have rejected their only pathway of salvation. As a result, they will go away into eternal punishment. They are referred to by Jesus as the goats and by implication, the unrighteous.

Those from every people group that have received Jesus and accepted His right to rule and reign, receive His eternal life. As a result, they are blessed by the Father in heaven and inherit His eternal life and kingdom. They are referred to by Jesus as the sheep, my brethren, the righteous.

Personal reflection

From studying this parable about what will happen will Jesus returns, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?