

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

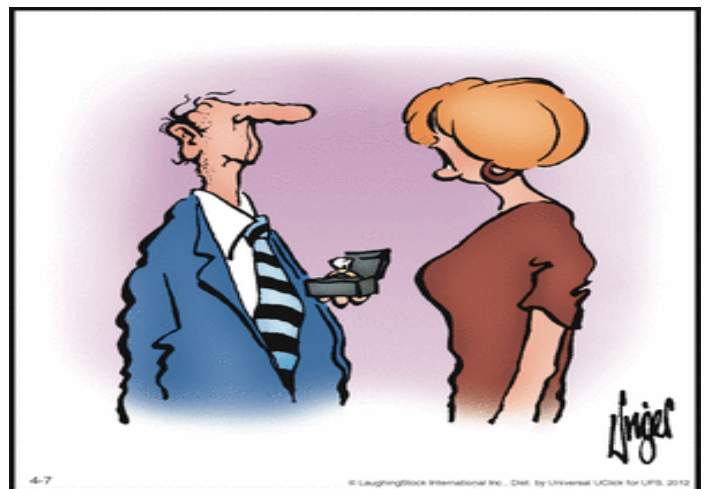
- 1) 05 March 2017.....Matthew 14-16..... Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March..... Matthew 17-18..... Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March..... Matthew 19-20..... What is Required?
- 4) 26 March..... Matthew 21a..... More Than a Prophet?
- 5) 02 April..... Matthew 21b..... What Happens If I Reject Jesus?
- 6) 09 April..... Matthew 22-23..... Offered to All?
- 7) 16 April..... Matthew 28a..... Where is Jesus?
- 8) 23 April..... Matthew 24-25..... What About the Future?
- 9) 30 April..... Matthew 26a..... How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May..... Matthew 26b..... Do I Have the Strength?
- 11) 14 May..... Matthew 26c..... Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May..... Matthew 27..... Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May..... Matthew 28b..... What Do We Do Now?

INTRODUCTION

- We pick back up in Matthew and we soon see Christ healing everyone in 3 distinct crowds (14:14-21; 14:35-36; 15:30-38)
- But first, how serious should we take marriage? **Is it worth losing our heads over?** Should we look at Christian marriages differently than non-Christian marriages? Which ones are valid before God?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 14:1-12 cf Mark 6:17-18 & Luke 3:19-20	<p>Should We Lose our Head Over Marriages? John the Baptist (JTB) did, and it was between two non-Jewish unbelievers. Why would John the Baptist be pre-occupied with a marriage between two unbelievers? Oh, by the way, JTB also railed on Herod for all of his other atrocities Luke 3:19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle to Live or Die by: Always ask yourself, "Is this battle worth fighting and dying for?" • Herod's lineage was Arabian. His father was an Idumaeon (or Edomite, from the lineage of Esau, Jacob's brother, who were cousins of the Jews), but his ancestors converted to Judaism. Herod was raised as a Jew. (src: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_the_Great) • v4. Notice JTB said it was "not lawful" for Herod to have his brother's wife, Herodias. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle to Know. The transcending moral laws of God are applicable to Jews and non-Jews, believers and non-believers throughout all generations ♦ Note: Herodias was a niece of both Herod Antipas and Herod II (Philip). She left her uncle Philip for Antipas (her other uncle) ♦ If Herod Antipas, Herodias, and her 1st husband, Philip, were all unsaved and non-Jews, why does it matter who's married to whom? Did JTB lose his head for nothing? ♦ Would it be biblical for Herodias to go back to her original husband, Philip? According to Deut 24:4, it would be an abomination and it would somehow pollute the land. ♦ See 1Thes 4:3-6 regarding defrauding a brother "in this matter" by taking his wife (also of Lev 18:16: 20:21) ♦ How would you fix this problem of incest (uncle & niece) and the taking of a brother's wife? • Did John the Baptist lose his head for nothing, or is marriage so vital to a culture it warrants such attention from a notable religious figure to a government leader to live biblically?
What Makes a Valid Marriage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle to Know. Heterosexual marriages are valid in the eyes of God whether it is between 2 believers, or 2 non-believers, or between 1 believer and 1 non-believer • Jesus even acknowledged the 5 marriages of the woman at the well (a non-believer) as being valid – BUT He did not acknowledge her live-in boyfriend situation as valid, legal, or appropriate – and He did not try to fix it..... John 4:16-18 • Even polygamous relationships were acknowledged by God (e.g., King David). God even acknowledged polygamous marriages amongst unbelievers (e.g., Abimelech, Gen 20:17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Solomon had 700 wives & 300 concubines 1 King 11:3 • Note 1. Polygamy (One man having more than one wife) was acknowledged by God BUT never explicitly approved by God. Polygamy was never classified as an abomination as homosexuality was, so God worked with it as with divorce.

Passage	Comments
Do Mosaic Laws Apply Today?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 2. Polyandry – Never in Scripture do you find one woman having multiple husbands at one time. This would create a "who's your daddy" situation, which was a no-no with the Israelites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember: God wanted to preserve the lineage of Israel, so they had to know who their daddy was • The Mosaic Law says... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...Commit adultery (& other sexual sins) & die Lev 20:10 ♦ ...Do not take thy brother's wife Lev 18:16 ♦ ...Do not marry thy niece (by implication) Lev 18:13 • Many Mosaic laws were very Jewish-centric and do not cleanly apply to Gentiles in our Age of Grace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For example, Deut 24:4 states it is an abomination for a Jewish divorced woman who remarried to go back to her 1st husband. Again, this creates a "who's your daddy" syndrome, and it somehow curses the land. • ALSO – Adultery destroys the Family (a God-created institution), but adulterers are no longer stoned (at least in America), & God is able to use many in this Age of Grace in spite of being divorced & remarried
More on Sexual Deviance Leviticus 18 & 20	<p>Incest, Homosexuality, Bestiality are Outlawed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leviticus 18 & 20 are very specific with whom a man could not marry or have sex with – and, I would add, these are universal & timeless laws. A man should not have as a wife or as a sexual partner the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Near kinsmen, including a brother's wife ♦ Mother or step-mother; sister or half-sister ♦ Daughter-in-law or grand-daughter ♦ His wife's daughter (i.e., step-daughter), or wife's grand-daughters (valid 2nd marriage) ♦ His wife's sister (Jacob would now be in trouble) ♦ His neighbor's wife (adultery forbidden) ♦ His aunt or aunt-in-law; sister-in-law (by extrapolation, uncles and nieces also should not marry) ♦ Nor any male (homosexuality forbidden) ♦ Nor any animal (bestiality forbidden) • These sexual sins plus idolatry and child sacrifices prompted God to utterly wipe out the Amorites, Canaanites, Sodom & Gomorrah, and Noah's contemporaries Lev 18:27-28 • JTB saw the seriousness of Herod's situation → another possible God-invoked national annihilation could be coming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why? People eventually do as their leaders do.
What Can We Do Today?	<p>How Do We Fix Invalid or Unlawful Incestuous or Homosexual Marriages TODAY? Principles to Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We can only help those who want to be helped ♦ 1Corinthians 7:11 → Separate and remain single ♦ Be prepared to be crucified for challenging such sin ♦ Is this even a hill to die on? JTB thought it was.



"OK, I'll marry you, but only until I find someone better."

Passage	Comments
Matthew 14:13-21	<p>Jesus Heals Their Sick – ALL OF THEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many got healed? Out of a crowd of 5,000 men, possibly thousands. This is the 6th incident recorded in Matthew of Jesus healing everyone of everything – and the only miracle recorded in all 4 Gospels Consider the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' had a reputation for healing everyone He was in a "deserted place" with no amenities, but multitudes followed Him on foot, not for a free meal or for a free sermon – but for a healing Each man probably represented a family having a sick loved one in tow, who was desperate for a healing Jesus not only fed 5,000 families miraculously but possibly healed more than 5,000 instantaneously. Why else would 5,000 families make an arduous trek on foot to find Jesus in a secluded and desert place unless there was a desperation for His healing touch So, why does Matthew, as well as Mark, Luke, and John focus on the teaching aspect of feeding the multitudes over healing thousands within the multitudes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember – Jesus' primary mission was not on healings, which only provide temporary relief, but on preaching and teaching which delivers eternal benefits. Consider this. Only acceptance of sound doctrine brings eternal salvation, rewards, and true freedom 1Tim 4:16
Matthew 15:30-38	<p>Jesus Heals Their Sick – ALL OF THEM – AGAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While feeding 4,000+ Jesus again healed ALL their infirmed, including "lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others..." How many were healed? Again, possibly 4,000+ Would it include instantaneous healings for broken bones, spina bifida, amputations, Down Syndrome, terminal illness, and sick pets? Why wouldn't it? Jesus was able to raise the dead after 4 days in the grave, so no other ailment would be any harder. Remember – Countless other wonders too numerous to mention were performed by Christ.....John 21:25
Lame vs Crippled "cholos" vs "kulos"	<p>What is the difference between lame and crippled?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lame in Greek is "cholos," while crippled is "kulos" The words are synonymous with subtle differences, but when used together Jesus seems to be invoking a play on words for emphasis – cholos & kulos Lame (cholos) seems to convey someone with a bum or broken leg while crippled (kulos) seems to convey someone missing a limb.
A broken leg vs a missing leg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another Greek word used for "crippled" is "anaperos," which conveys "injured or bereft of some body member." Luke 14:13 states, "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled <anaperos>, the lame <cholos>, the blind" In essence, Jesus healed amputees instantaneously No wonder "multitudes" followed Him to "desert places"
14:22-33	<p>Jesus Walks on Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This passage is an hour long lesson by itself Why would Jesus spend hours sending the crowds away? Consider this: He made time to minister to as many as He could, possibly healing others He may have missed earlier.
14:34-36	<p>ALL Who Touched His Cloak Got Healed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many looked at Jesus simply as a miracle-vending machine. All they needed to do was to approach Him or even touch His cloak to receive a personalized healing that was complete and instantaneous – and Jesus complied.....WHY? Consider this. Jesus worked the works of God who sent Him for that purpose so that no one would have an excuse for going to Hell (Mat 11:21-22; John 9:4)
15:1-9	<p>Man's Traditions Kill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What traditions do we hold to that could be holding us back? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we ever say, "We have always done it this way"?
15:10-20	<p>Man's Problem is with His Heart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv 13-14. Leave "blind leaders," who will be uprooted, alone Principle to live by. Avoid self-deluded, spiritually blind people for they are fools who will rend you Prov 9:7

Passage	Comments
15:21-28	<p>Great Faith Prompts Jesus to Heal Remotely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Jesus rude to the Canaanite woman by giving her the silent treatment? Does God ever give us the silent treatment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. The Lord's silent treatment is His way to prompt us to show our true faith by diligently seeking Him
16:1-5	<p>Pharisees and Sadducees Ask for a Heavenly Sign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even the religious leaders witnessed many healings by Christ What sign or wonder would convince them of Jesus being God if they didn't believe in 1,000's of instantaneous healings, many resurrections, and miraculous feeding of 1,000's? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer: There is no miracle, sign, or wonder that will convince anyone who doesn't want to believe .. Luke 16:31
16:6-12	<p>Teaching on Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v6. Pharisical leaven equated to legalistic teachings which blossoms into more untruths and devastates more lives v8. "Ye of little faith..." – Why would the Disciples so soon forget the mighty works of Jesus? Why do we forget God's past blessings in our lives? Are we too earthly focused? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would it take for us to be called "People of GREAT Faith"? Should we pray more, read the bible & obey more?
16:13-23	<p>Peter Goes from Hero to Zero – Man of God to Satan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v17. God revealed the knowledge of Christ to Peter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does God still reveal unlearned knowledge to others? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider 1Cor 2:10-16, where God somehow reveals spiritual truths to those who have His Spirit Also consider 1Cor 2:7, where Paul spoke the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery (unrevealed) v23. What made Jesus call Peter, "Satan"? And what made Peter lose his ability to receive God's revealed truths? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: Everyone – Catholic, Protestant, Mormons, and others believe they, alone, have God's wisdom and revealed truths. How do we tell who's right, who's wrong?
A Word About God's Timeless and Perfect Wisdom	<p>Simple Definition of God's Wisdom: The ability to know everything past, present, and future, and how to best use that knowledge for the good of His creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God even used His wisdom to create everything.....Jer 10:12 The wisdom we receive from God, through His Spirit, about His Word (His Son) is to be used for good → To save the lost, comfort the hurting, reconcile the wayward Our godly-endowed wisdom comes as a result of cheerful devotion to His Son, His word, prayer, and obedience Fortunately, God does not wait till we are perfect before He showers us with His grace, wisdom, and truth.
16:24-28	<p>Cost of Discipleship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v24. To be sincere believers we need to do 3 things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Deny ourselves; Take up His Cross; Follow Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we do this, and what are the results? Does it mean we need to live an ascetic lifestyle? What are the limits or boundaries, if any?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS. First, God-ordained heterosexual marriages are worth saving, fighting for, and even dying for; Next, though Jesus is no longer working supernatural healings and wonders these days, we still must do our part by God's wisdom to take the Gospel to the lost, comfort the hurting, and reconcile the wayward.

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 17-18. We read about and learn applications from the Lord's Transfiguration; the healing of a demon-possessed child; paying our fair share of taxes; who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven; Jesus' true mission on earth – to save the lost; church discipline; and the power of prayer and forgiveness

