



## Matthew

### Lesson 20

*As Jesus and His disciples begin their journey to Jerusalem, they stop at several areas along the way. The first area they visited after leaving the Galilee region was in Perea beyond the Jordan around the area where much of John the Baptist's ministry took place. They spent several months traveling in that region. Jesus continued to teach the people about the Kingdom of Heaven and the uniqueness of the character and behavior of those who would be a part of it. Even in this region so far from the religious center of Jerusalem, the Pharisees found and questioned Jesus on many occasions.*

*His insistence that the traditions they followed were many times in direct opposition to God's nature and purpose of the Law of Moses continued to aggravate them. Even though the many miracles He did were beneficial to all the recipients, the religious leaders were suspicious of Jesus teachings and seeming rebellion against their traditions and laws. They were also extremely jealous of His popularity and had been looking for ways to eliminate the threat Jesus posed. This aggression would soon culminate in Jesus' arrest in Jerusalem during the coming Passover celebration.*

#### READ CHAPTER 20

1. *What statement from the end of Chapter 19 is the catalyst for the parable of the Kingdom Jesus gives in 20:1-16?*



*The third hour was about 9:00 a.m.; the sixth hour was about 12 noon; the ninth hour was about 3:00 pm in the afternoon, and the eleventh hour 5 pm.*

2. *Break down the parts of the parable in the following chart:*

<i>Who are the characters?</i>	
<i>What is the context of the parable? (see question 1)</i>	
<i>Where is this taking place?</i>	<i>When is it happening?</i>

*How does it turn out?*

*Why is there conflict?*

*What would you say is the most important part of the parable?*

*What point or points do you think Jesus is making?*

3. *According to John 7:8-9, why had Jesus been staying away from Judea and focusing His ministry in Galilee?*
  
4. *Compare Matthew 20:18-19, 16:21, Mark 8:31, and Luke 9:22. How do the details in Matthew 20:18-19 give an even more frightening picture to the disciples of what is going to soon take place?*



*Although this is at least the third time that Jesus has revealed His fate to the disciples, it is clear they haven't allowed the horrible reality of it to sink in. The detail regarding the fact that Jesus would be betrayed must have gotten their attention, but no hint is given as to who the betrayer will be. For Jesus, the full awareness of the fate He is facing would undoubtedly make this journey much more difficult from a human standpoint. But from a heavenly standpoint, the greatest act of history that will free the human race from the curse of the Garden will soon be finalized. This is the purpose for His life, and nothing could stop the chain of events that He has put into action.*

5. *Compare Matthew 20:18-19, Mark 10:33-34, Luke 18:32-33, Acts 2:23, and Acts 3:13-15. From those verses, how accurately did Jesus predict the order of His death, and who was ultimately responsible for it?*
  
6. *What might you infer that the mother of James and John (sons of Zebedee) was thinking about Christ's kingdom by what she requested of Jesus in vs. 21? What didn't she understand? See Matthew 19:28.*
  
7. *Why do you think the other disciples responded negatively to this event, and what was Jesus able to teach them again about true discipleship in response to this conflict? Matthew 20:24-28*
  
8. *Find Jericho on your map. How was Jesus able to model the principles He had taught the disciples in vs. 25-28 through what took place in vs. 29-34?*

***Prayer requests:***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

***Group time notes:***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---