

# The Jesus Way

April - May 2024

## Week One - Humility - The Speck and the Plank - Matt. 7:1-5 - April 7

1. What does it mean to *judge*? Is judgement right or wrong? Matt. 7:1, James 4:11, Luke 6:37, 1 Cor. 5:12; 6:2, John 7:24
2. How do people tend to respond to judgement? Consider the reciprocal nature of judgement. Matt. 7:2, Mark 4:24; 6:14,
3. What are some potential *planks* that skew our view of others? Matt. 7:3-5; 15:14; 23:24, John 9:39

## Week Two - Forgiveness - The Unforgiving Servant - Matt. 18:23-35 - April 14

1. How have you found forgiveness to be difficult? Why would we forgive? Matt. 18:23-27, Luke 7:41-43
2. What message does our practice of forgiveness convey to the community? Matt. 18:28-31, Col 3:12-17
3. Where does our motivation to forgive come from? Matt. 18:32-33, Eph. 4:32

## Week Three - Grace - The Workers in the Vineyard - Matt. 20:1-16 - April 21

1. Why do you think the Master is continually searching for those he can *hire*? What does this tell us about God's grace-filled heart for people? Matt. 20:1-7
2. In Jesus' parable, the Master hired workers for his vineyard. What does that mean for us? What is God calling us to? Matt. 9:37-38, 1 Cor. 3:6-9
3. Shouldn't the workers have been paid according to their work? Is this fair? How does this story illustrate grace? Matt. 20:8-16, Eph. 2:8-9

## Week Four - Love - The rich man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31 - April 28

1. What is the relationship between the rich man and Lazarus? (Luke 16:19-21) Did they know each other? Luke 16:24
2. Does God care for the poor and marginalized? How should we treat those in need around us? Matt. 22:39, James 1:27; 2:8, Lev. 19:18, Psalm 146:9
3. How does this story help us understand God's blessing and comfort? Luke 16:25
4. How can we learn from the warning the rich man desperately wanted sent to his brothers? Luke 16:27-31

## Week Five - Readiness - Ten Virgins - Matt. 25:1-13 - May 5

1. Who do the Bridegroom and virgins represent? Matt. 25:1, Jer. 2:2, 2 Cor 11:2-3, Eph. 5:25-33
2. What does the Bridegroom's delay tell us about Jesus' return? Matt. 25:5-6,
3. The foolish virgins missed the moment in their rush to buy oil. (Matt. 25:7-13) Is the last-minute strategy of *making things right with God* a good approach? (Titus 2:11-14) Will the faith of the community (five wise virgins) be enough to save those without a personal faith (five foolish virgins)? Why or why not? John 3:16, James 2:14

## Week Six- Stewardship - The Ten Talents - Matthew 25:14-30 - May 12

1. In Jesus' story, each servant is entrusted with a different amount. (Matt. 25:14-15) What responsibilities has Jesus entrusted His followers with? Eph. 4:11-13
2. How did the servants make use of what their Master had entrusted them with? (Matt. 25:16-18) How are you using the gifts, responsibilities, and opportunities that God has granted you? 2 Tim. 1:8-14

3. How did the Master respond to each servant upon His return? (Matt. 25:19-30) How does the fearful failing of the third servant call us to act? Does the fear of loss keep you from investing your time, talent, and resources?

**Week Seven - Hospitality - The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:29-37 - May 19**

1. Do you have a long list of people who need your help? Knowing that you can't care for everyone, who do you prioritize? Luke 10:29-33, Matt. 5:43-47; 19:19, 1 John 4:19-21
2. What did the Good Samaritan sacrifice to care for the man in need? (Luke 10:34-35) What causes you to hesitate in sharing what you have with those you meet?
3. What would motivate us to overlook our differences and care for our fellow man? Luke 10:33,36-37

**Week Eight - Testimony - Parable of the Lamp - Matt. 5:13-16 - May 26**

1. Consider the function of salt and light. How does salt affect taste and light affect sight? Matt. 5:13-15, Mark 4:21-23, Luke 8:16; 11:33-36; 14:34-35
2. What does Jesus mean by calling His followers the *Light of the World*? (Matt. 5:14) Isn't Jesus the *Light of the World*? (John 8:12; 9:5) How then can we be *Light in the World*? John 12:36, Phil. 2:15
3. Knowing that the world is in darkness, what would cause us to want to hide our light? (Matt. 5:14-16) How can we let our light shine today?