

NEW THRU 30 SECTION OVERVIEW

Matthew • Acts

1. Share with the group some things that you have learned about the life of Jesus after reading through the book of Matthew. What insights did Matthew offer to the life of Jesus that you had not noticed before this reading?
2. Most people's general perception of the disciples is that they had it all together. What did you learn from the book of Matthew about the lives they led and the experiences they had with Christ during their ministry? Has your perception of the disciples changed? Where do you remember relating to the disciples in the Gospels?
3. An important idea that Matthew stresses throughout the book is that God wants his people to obey him. The book of Acts also emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's Word and the transformation that occurs as a result of knowing Christ. The Bible is clear – obedience is required.

In both books there are instructions on how to treat others, serve the needy, love your enemies, guard your marriage and live your life for God.

Pastor Furtick has taught before that partial obedience is disobedience. He took this lesson from Saul's life as described in 1 Samuel 15.

Take a minute to reflect on your own life. In what area of your life are you being partially obedient?

4. How would you describe the passion and intensity of Peter, Paul and Barnabus? Compare the passion and intensity of the early church leaders to your own intensity for your faith. Tell a story about an experience you have had when you invited someone you know to church or tried to talk with them about Christ? Has there been a time when you have been hesitant to share about your faith? What held you back?

Weekly Thought

Matthew 16:13 says, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and Matthew 16:15 says, "Who do you (my disciples) say that I am?" One of the primary questions being answered by the Gospel testimonies is, "Who is Jesus". Everything points to the fact that He is Christ.

- People said that Jesus was: A healer, teacher, Lord, one with authority, the Messiah, king of the Jews, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee, Rabbi, John the Baptist, Elijah
- The disciples said that Jesus was: the Messiah, the Son of the living God, the Christ
- Jesus said that he is: the fulfillment of the law, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the living bread, the resurrection and the life

1. Which of these descriptions are the most meaningful to you?
2. Based on your reading of both Matthew and Acts, share with the group what stood out to you about who you believe Jesus to be.
3. Based on these descriptions of Jesus being the Christ and the Son of the living God how does (or doesn't) your lifestyle (behaviors, finances or thoughts) support who Christ is?