

Read Mark 12:38-40

What is gleaned from this Gospel text in relation to Matthew 23:13-15?

Compare and contrast verse 13 with Matthew 5:3.

Compare and contrast verse 15 with Matthew 5:5.

According to this text how have the religious leaders failed the people under their spiritual guidance?

What is needed and necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

It is not possible for mankind to obtain eternal life on their own works, merit and efforts. Jesus makes that truth clear in Matthew 19:16-26. But God, who is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4-5), has demonstrated His love for us in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:8). Entrance into the kingdom of heaven is only found in Jesus Christ (John 14:6). “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

APPLICATION

With whom will you share the key to entering the kingdom of heaven? When will you do it?

MEMORY VERSE

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” ² Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// March 17, 2024 //

Sermon Series:
King Jesus

Ethan Johnson
Century Baptist Church

The Key to the Kingdom

Matthew 23:13-15

1. The Defense (vs. 14)

2. The Door (vs. 13)

3. The Disciple (vs. 15)

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Sermon-Based Community Life Group Study

// March 17, 2024 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a community life group, Bible study, or missional community. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is a tool to facilitate that interaction.

The purpose of this guide is for all groups, studies, and communities to dive into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. This study guide can be used individually, however, the greatest benefit of growth in Scripture and faith comes when people are interacting together around Biblical truth and how God is at work in their lives.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

Tell about a time you had to call someone out regarding their words or behavior.

Introduction to Matthew

Matthew, someone has said, followed Jesus—and took his pen with him. As a tax collector, he was used to writing and to gathering information together in a clear and ordered way. When Jesus called him to live the life of a disciple, Matthew (called Levi in other places) was destined to use his gifts to give us an ordered and carefully written account of who Jesus was and what he came to do. As a disciple himself, Matthew focuses on three things: the King whom disciples follow, the lifestyle his disciples follow, and the way in which people become disciples. The identification of Jesus as a king draws us back into the Old Testament, to themes and predictions which find their fulfillment in his life and work.

(Campbell, I. D. (2008). Opening up Matthew (p. 14). Leominster: Day One Publications.)

Read Matthew 23:13-15

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Who is being spoken to in this text?

Who is speaking?

How are they being addressed?

What does this address reveal about who they are and how they go about their responsibilities?

What force or impact is communicated by the use of “Woe”?

How were the scribes and Pharisees shutting “the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces”?

How energetic are the religious leaders to make one proselyte?

What is a proselyte?

What does Jesus mean by his words, “you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves”?

What is the attitude of Jesus in these first two woes? Explain.

What confidence do we have that the copies of the Bible we have are the Scriptures God intended for His creation?