



TRINITY
ON THE HILL

This Week's Word

Matthew 15 - 21 At a Glance

In this section of Matthew we see Jesus moving from ministry in the Galilee to Jerusalem and the first days of Passion Week. Matthew's emphasis is who Jesus is: Messiah and Son of God, what kind of Messiah He is: a suffering servant, not a political conqueror, and the characteristics of people who belong in His kingdom: humble, forgiving, and fruit-bearing.

Matthew 15 – The Pharisees confront Jesus over hand-washing traditions. He replies that defilement comes from the heart, not from food or ritual. A Canaanite woman persists in faith and her daughter is healed. Jesus heals many, then feeds about 4,000.

Matthew 16 – Jewish leaders demand a sign; Jesus warns against their “leaven.” At Caesarea Philippi Peter confesses, *You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God*. Jesus begins to predict His death and resurrection. He calls disciples to take up the cross.

Matthew 17 – The Transfiguration: Jesus' face shines; Moses and Elijah appear; the Father says, “Listen to Him.” Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy the disciples could not.

Matthew 18 – Who is greatest? A child. Warnings against causing little ones to stumble. Parable of the lost sheep. Steps for restoring a sinning brother. Parable of the unforgiving servant (forgive seventy-seven times).

Matthew 19 – Jesus leaves Galilee for Judea. Teaching on marriage and divorce (God's design from the beginning; exception for sexual immorality). He blesses children. The rich young man goes away sad; Jesus says it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom, but “with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 20 – Parable of the vineyard workers: last receive the same wage as first (God's generosity, not human ranking). Third passion prediction. The mother of James and John asks for thrones; Jesus teaches that greatness is serving. He heals two blind men near Jericho.

Matthew 21 – Triumphal entry on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus cleanses the temple. He curses the fruitless fig tree. Leaders question his authority. Parables of the two sons and the wicked tenants: those who reject the Son lose the vineyard.

This Week's Reflections

What is God saying? How will I respond?