

# Reading Through St. Matthew During Lent

- Day 1      March 5 Ash Wednesday      Matthew 1:1-25  
Ponder this: Jesus' name is "Immanuel" (God with us). How do you experience God's presence with you?
- Day 2      March 6      Matthew 2:1-12  
Ponder this: It was "foreigners" who came to see Jesus. What does this say to you about who God finds acceptable?
- Day 3      March 7      Matthew 2:13-23  
Ponder this: Joseph did not take his family back to their home in Bethlehem because his family was still being hunted so he "detoured" and took them to Nazareth instead. What has God made of the "detours" in your life?
- Day 4      March 8      Matthew 3:1-17  
Ponder this: John came to prepare the people for God's gracious action. In what ways has God prepared you for great events in your life?
- Sunday      March 9      **Celebrate the Resurrection**
- Day 5      March 10      Matthew 4:1-11  
Ponder this: What most tempts you in your daily life? In what ways are you "attended" by angels to battle those temptations? Who are these angels?
- Day 6      March 11      Matthew 4:12-25  
Ponder this: Jesus calls the first of his disciples in chapter 4 to share his work and bring light to the world. In what ways do you bring light to the corners of the world where you live, work, and play.
- Day 7      March 12      Matthew 5:1-12  
Ponder this: In the Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims us "blessed". In what ways do you feel blessed by God?
- Day 8      March 13      Matthew 5:13-16  
Ponder this: We are salt and light. Do you identify with that? In what ways are you light to others and how have others been light to you?
- Day 9      March 14      Matthew 5:17-37  
Ponder this: These verses ask us to examine the quality of our relationships with others, both inside and outside our family unit. When you examine these relationships, what do you find? Health? Brokenness? What can you do to improve these precious relationships?
- Day 10      March 15      Matthew 5:38-48  
Ponder this: In these verses, Jesus calls upon us to be peacemakers. (Remember the beatitude, "blessed are the peacemakers..."). In what way do you practice peacemaking?
- Sunday      March 16      **Celebrate the Resurrection**

- Day 11      March 17                      Matthew 6:1-15  
Ponder this: When you pray, in what ways do Jesus' words in chapters 5 through 7 influence the content of your prayers?
- Day 12      March 18                      Matthew 6:16-34  
Ponder this: Why does Jesus tell us to put all of life into God's hands? Can you enumerate some of the ways your daily life would be different if you could do what Jesus asks?
- Day 13      March 19                      Matthew 7:1-12  
Ponder this: The content of the first 5 verses of this section is Jesus encouraging us to change the way we relate to others. In what ways do you judge others that harms your relationship (or potential relationship) with them?
- Day 14      March 20                      Matthew 7:13-29  
Ponder this: Jesus speaks about **DOING** the will of God and not just relying upon being "religious" to enter the kingdom of heaven. In what ways do you **DO** the will of God?
- Day 15      March 21                      Matthew 8:1-17  
Ponder this: In the course of healing the centurion's daughter, the centurion says to Jesus, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed." In what ways does your faith mirror that of the centurion?
- Day 16      March 22                      Matthew 8:18-34  
Ponder this: Jesus stills the storm that frightens the disciples. What storms have you been through that you feel your faith has helped you overcome?
- Sunday      March 23                      **Celebrate the Resurrection**
- Day 17      March 24                      Matthew 9:1-17  
Ponder this: Jesus calling Matthew was scandalous to people. In response to their outrage, Jesus says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick". In what ways is Jesus talking about your life?
- Day 18      March 25                      Matthew 9:18-38  
Ponder this: Jesus speaks about sending laborers into the harvest. What and where are the fields in your life you are called to harvest?
- Day 19      March 26                      Matthew 10:1-42  
Ponder this: In chapter 10, Jesus talks to his followers about their ministry and God's presence in its midst to help them meet the challenges of serving Jesus. How do you experience the presence of God in the midst of the challenges in your life?
- Day 20      March 27                      Matthew 11:1-19  
Ponder this: In verses 4 & 5, Jesus says that the proof of his messiahship lies within his actions (the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them). In what ways do you experience the "healings" Jesus brings to us?

- Day 21      March 28                      Matthew 11:20-30  
Ponder this: Jesus speaks of repenting. Repenting is turning about and going in the opposite direction your life was taking. What in your life do you need to radically change (turn around) that would improve the quality of your relationships?
- Day 22      March 29                      Matthew 12:1-50  
Ponder this: This chapter contains numerous verses about judgment. What in your life do you feel is under God's judgment?
- Sunday      March 30                      **Celebrate the Resurrection**
- Day 23      March 21                      Matthew 13:1-35  
Ponder this: This chapter contains the well know parable of the seed cast into many soils. Ponder what kind of soil you are. Are you just one kind? Are you all of them?
- Day 24      April 1                      Matthew 13:36-58  
Ponder this: Jesus tells three connected parables beginning each with the words, "the kingdom of heaven is like". Ponder what he means when he talks about the great value of the kingdom. In what ways is the kingdom of great value in your life?
- Day 25      April 2                      Matthew 14:1-21  
Ponder this: As people of faith, we are called to feed God's people. When the disciples suggest sending away the people to find food, Jesus says to them, " They need not go away; you give them something to eat." What is the food you give people that satisfies their hungers?
- Day 26      April 3                      Matthew 14:22-36  
Ponder this: Peter is invited to come to Jesus by stepping out of the boat into deep water. In what ways has Jesus invited you into deep water in your life? How did you respond? What was the result of stepping out?
- Day 27      April 4                      Matthew 15:1-39  
Ponder this: In verses 10 - 20, Jesus speaks about things that defile us. What does he mean by "defile" and what, according to Jesus, is the source of things that defile us?
- Day 28      April 5                      Matthew 16:1-28  
Ponder this: Jesus says this in this chapter, " For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it". What does Jesus mean by "saving your life by losing it" and "losing your life to find it"?
- Sunday      April 6                      **Celebrate the Resurrection**
- Day 29      April 7                      Matthew 17:1-27  
Ponder this: One of the ramifications of the Transfiguration event is that the disciples grow in faith and understand Jesus in a new way. In what ways has your faith matured so that you see Jesus differently than you did 5, 10 or 20 years ago?

- Day 30      April 8                                  Matthew 18:1-20  
Ponder this: In verses 10 to 14, Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep. Do you remember times in your life when you felt "lost"? Ponder the love of God that values your "oneness", your uniqueness, so much that God is not content until you are found.
- Day 31      April 9                                      Matthew 18:21-35  
Ponder this: Forgiveness is at the heart of discipleship. Who have you NOT forgiven? Have you forgiven yourself or are there past deeds you that have a hold on you?
- Day 32      April 10                                      Matthew 19:1-15  
Ponder this: Marriage is not easy but Jesus teaches that it is worth the cost to work at holding marriages together. What could you do to be a better spouse?
- Day 33      April 11                                      Matthew 19:16-30  
Ponder this: In this section of chapter 19, Jesus teaches about the role of possessions in our lives. The key question is, what is in control here? Do you own your possessions or do your possessions own you. What is the role of your possessions in your life?
- Day 34      April 12                                      Matthew 20:1-34  
Ponder this: The parable of the laborers in the vineyard makes several points, chief among them is the consequences of continually comparing ourselves to other people. Are you aware of living your life by comparing yourself, your family, your life-style to other people? What effect does that have upon you?
- Sunday      April 13                                      **Celebrate the Resurrection      Sunday of the Passion**
- Day 35      April 14                                      Matthew 21:1-22:46 (chapter 21, verse 1 through chapter 22, verse 46)  
Ponder this: Contemplate Jesus' words in Matthew 22:34-40. In many respects, the whole of our faith and discipleship is summarized in these verses. **Please memorize verses 37-39.**
- Day 36      April 15                                      Matthew 23:1-24:51 (chapter 23, verse 1 through chapter 24, verse 51)  
Ponder this: A sense of urgency permeates these two chapters. What in your life is so important that it generates a sense of urgency? Ponder what about your life of faith and discipleship may prompt you to this same sense of urgency.
- Day 37      April 16                                      Matthew 25:1-46  
Ponder this: A central theme of Matthew 25:14-46 is the use of our gifts in doing our discipleship ministry, the ministry of Jesus. Ponder the ways in which you use your gifts for ministry.
- Day 38      April 17                                      **Maundy Thursday**                      Matthew 26:1-35
- Day 39      April 18                                      **Good Friday**                                  Matthew 26:36-75
- Day 40      April 19    Matthew 27:1-65
- Sunday      April 20                                      Celebrate the ResurrectionEaster Sunday      Matthew 28:1-20