



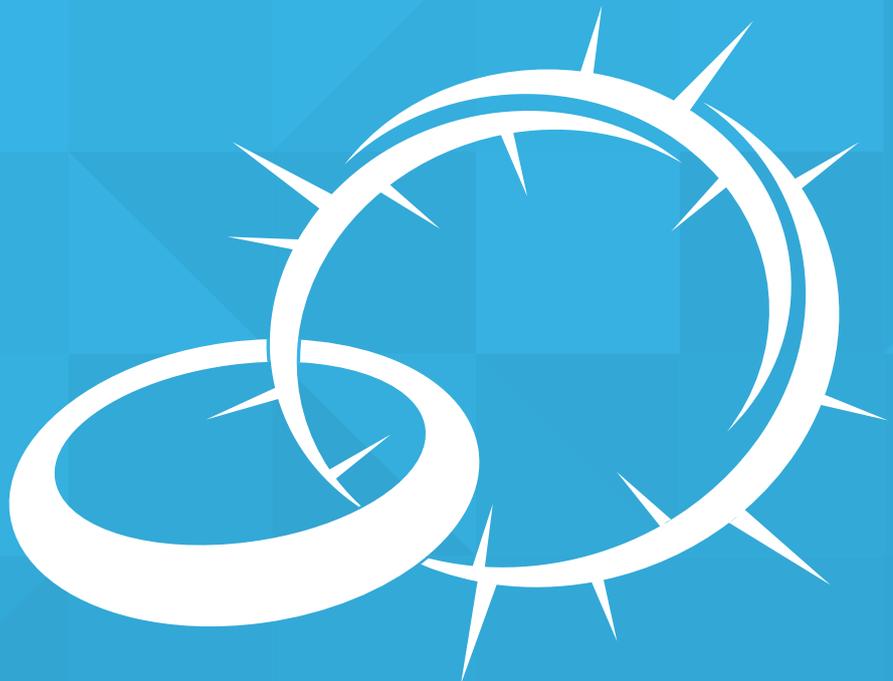
THINK  
**FAITH**



THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME

# MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: WEEK 4

The King's wisdom





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## THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME

# Matthew's Gospel Week 4: The King's wisdom

*So far, we've seen how Christians believe that Jesus is the King God promised. We've also learned about what kind of King Jesus was—one with the power to save and to forgive sins.*

*Last week, we also learned about God's kingdom by looking at the parables Jesus told. Jesus taught that God's kingdom is worth more than we can imagine, but, as we saw in the final passage last week, not everyone is willing to accept Jesus as their king.*

*This week, we're going to learn more about God's kingdom by looking at Jesus' wise teachings about what it looks like to follow him as King.*

**Day 1's** passage shows Jesus describing two ways to respond to his teaching. Spend some time considering the two responses, and think about which one appeals to you most, and why.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

**Day 2's** passage shows us something very surprising. The king of the kingdom is usually the wealthiest man in the land. Yet in the passage today we see King Jesus saying something you'd never imagine an earthly king to say: don't store up treasures on earth. Jesus isn't saying we should sell everything we have and live in a cardboard box! He's talking about our attitude to the things we have.

In this passage Jesus also talks about our eyes. Again, he's not talking about your eyesight, if you have 20:20 vision or if you wear glasses! He's talking about your focus, where you place your attention.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

In **Day 3's** passage, the kinds of oaths Jesus is talking about are when people use something powerful to back up their claim that something is true. Have you ever heard someone say 'I swear it's true' or 'Cross my heart and hope to die'? These are kinds of oaths.

Jesus gives a few reasons why we don't need to talk to one another like this. The wise King wants people to think about how they speak to one another.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

In **Day 4's** passage, Jesus challenges his listeners to think about their hearts. The people in Jesus' day were persecuted—they were Jews, living under the rule of the Romans. They had to obey Roman laws and pay taxes to the Roman government. Any Jews who protested this were arrested, jailed and sometimes killed. It is in this context that Jesus teaches about how to treat one's enemy. His teaching may surprise you!

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

In **Day 5's** passage Jesus says something that is really hard to hear: 'Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect'. What does this mean? If following Jesus' teachings 100% of the time was the only way to be in God's kingdom, no-one would have any hope. But Christians believe there is great hope. The second passage shows us that Jesus lived a perfect life and didn't sin (which is rebelling against and disobeying God). And God promises that those who trust in Jesus can be made right with God and forgiven—we're going to learn more about this in coming weeks.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

**MATTHEW** 7:24–29 (NirV)

‘So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.’

<sup>28</sup> Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching. <sup>29</sup> That’s because he taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law.

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS IS A WISE KING

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p><b>Introduction video</b></p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p><b>Additional video</b></p> <p>'The Parable of the Two Builders'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Imagine you were planning to go on a bushwalk with friends. What would a wise person do to prepare beforehand? What would a foolish person do?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>According to the passage, what is the difference between being wise and foolish?</p> <p>How did the crowd respond to Jesus' teaching?</p> <p><b>Highlight the response in green in the passage on page 4.</b></p> <p>Why do you think they responded that way?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>This week we're going to read some of Jesus' wise teaching.</p> <p>Will you be willing to listen to what Jesus has to say? Why/ Why not?</p>	

**MATTHEW** 6:19–24 (NirV)

‘Do not gather for yourselves riches on earth. Moths and rats can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. <sup>20</sup> Instead, gather for yourselves riches in heaven. There, moths and rats do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. <sup>21</sup> Your heart will be where your riches are.

<sup>22</sup> ‘The eye is like a lamp for the body. Suppose your eyes are healthy. Then your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But suppose your eyes can’t see well. Then your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light inside you is darkness, then it is very dark! <sup>24</sup> No-one can serve two masters at the same time. You will hate one of them and love the other. Or you will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can’t serve God and money at the same time.’

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS TEACHES ABOUT TREASURE THAT LASTS

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p><b>Introduction video</b></p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p><b>Additional video</b></p> <p>'Storing treasures in heaven—LUMO'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Imagine someone gave you some digital currency (like bitcoin) worth \$100.</p> <p>How certain are you that when you go to spend it, the money will still be there?</p> <p>What risks are there with other types of money? (Paper? Bank deposit?)</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>What warning does Jesus make about treasures on earth?</p> <p>How are treasures in heaven better according to Jesus?</p> <p><b>Highlight the reason in green in the passage on page 6.</b></p> <p>What does Jesus warn about loving money?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>What do you think 'treasures in heaven' are?</p> <p>Do you think they are worth waiting for? Why/Why not?</p>	

**MATTHEW** 5:33–37 (NirV)

‘Again, you have heard what was said to your people long ago. They were told, “Do not break the promises you make to the Lord. Keep your promises to the Lord that you have made”.<sup>34</sup> But here is what I tell you. Do not make any promises like that at all. Do not make them in the name of heaven. That is God’s throne.<sup>35</sup> Do not make them in the name of the earth. That is the stool for God’s feet. Do not make them in the name of Jerusalem. That is the city of the Great King.<sup>36</sup> And do not make a promise in your own name. You can’t make even one hair of your head white or black.<sup>37</sup> All you need to say is simply “Yes” or “No”. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS TO HAVE INTEGRITY

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p><b>Introduction video</b></p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p><b>Additional video</b></p> <p>'Lumo–Gospel of Matthew Chapter 5:33–48'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Is there someone in your life whom you have trouble believing when they promise you something?</p> <p>Would their offer to 'swear' on their life make any difference to you believing them? Why/ Why not?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>According to this passage, what is wrong with making oaths?</p> <p>What alternative does Jesus suggest?</p> <p><b>Highlight the alternative in green in the passage on page 8.</b></p> <p>Why do you think Jesus cares about his followers being people of integrity?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>In what situations are you tempted to lie or blur the truth?</p> <p>What difference would it make in your life if your word was trustworthy to all who heard it?</p> <p>What difference would it make to your friendships if you knew you could always trust your friends to be speaking the truth?</p>	

**MATTHEW** 5:43–47 (NirV)

‘You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbour. (Leviticus 19:18) Hate your enemy”.

<sup>44</sup> But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>45</sup> Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. <sup>47</sup> If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that.’

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS TO HAVE RADICAL LOVE

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p><b>Introduction video</b></p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the video.</p>	<p><b>Additional video</b></p> <p>'Agape: "love"'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Think of the people in your life who love you.</p> <p>What do they do to show that love to you?</p> <p>How would you feel if they treated a stranger the same way?</p> <p>How would you feel if they treated an enemy the same way?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>How does God treat people?</p> <p><b>Highlight the description in green in the passage on page 10.</b></p> <p>According to Jesus, what's one way his followers can show love to people who hate (or persecute) them?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>Think of someone who is difficult to show love to.</p> <p>What would it look like for you to show them the sort of kindness Jesus describes in this passage?</p>	

## **MATTHEW 5:48** (NirV)

So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** (NirV)

Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS TO HAVE RADICAL LOVE

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p><b>Introduction video</b></p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p><b>Additional video</b></p> <p>'God's story: Sermon on the Mount'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Look back over this week's studies. Which teaching is the hardest for you to follow? Why?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>Do you think it's possible to be perfect just like God is?</p> <p>Why/Why not?</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:12 talks about Jesus. How does this verse give hope to Christians?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>We have learned this week about King Jesus' wisdom, but also about how Christians believe that he lives the perfect life that we can't.</p> <p>After this week's studies, do you think Jesus is the kind of King you'd like to learn more about, or less? Why?</p>	