



THINK  
**FAITH**



**THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME**

# MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: WEEK 5

The King prepares  
for his death





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Christian Education Publications  
PO Box A287, Sydney South NSW 1235 Australia

Email: [sales@cepstore.com.au](mailto:sales@cepstore.com.au)

Web: [cepstore.com.au](http://cepstore.com.au)



Web: [thinkfaith.com.au](http://thinkfaith.com.au)

## THE THINK FAITH TEAM:

**Project manager:** Dr Kaye Chalwell

**Writers:**

Kaye Chalwell

Conor Clarke

Prashanth Colombage

Michael Dicker

Ivan Harris

Kat Harris

Adam Hotson

Gerard O'Brien

Ed Sowden

Ed Springer

Jon Thorpe

**Editorial:** Loren Becroft, Natasha Percy

**Original Design:** Bethany Abbottsmith

**PowerPoints:** Louisa Drury

**Think Faith SRE at Home lessons:** Jenn Phillips, Matt Mulready

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## THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME

# Matthew's Gospel Week 5: The King prepares for his death

*So far, we've learned a lot about Jesus, God's King.*

*We saw in Week 1 how God promised to send Jesus. We saw in Week 2 that not only was Jesus powerful to heal sickness, he could also forgive sins. We saw in the last two weeks what it looks like to live as a member of God's kingdom—and that Jesus' priorities aren't those of a normal king.*

*This week, we will see more evidence that Jesus is no ordinary king.*

To understand **Day 1's** passage, you need to know that Jesus' disciples thought that he was going to go to the capital city of Jerusalem to kick out the Roman rulers and be crowned as the rightful King of the Jews.

Imagine being the disciples and hearing what Jesus has to say in this passage—he's going to Jerusalem to die, rather than rule. We'll see the disciples' reactions tomorrow. But today, we're going to explore why Christians think Jesus' death is good news.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

**Day 2's** passage follows straight on from yesterday's passage. Yesterday we saw Jesus drop a bombshell: he was about to head to the capital city of Jerusalem, not to be crowned King but to die.

Yet there is hope: Jesus explained that after three days he would rise again.

Today we'll see how Jesus' best friend, Peter, took the news. Here's a hint—not very well.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

**Day 3's** passage comes a few chapters after Jesus predicting his death. You might expect after what Jesus said that he would be arrested the moment he set foot in the city of Jerusalem. But he wasn't. Instead, he entered the city to the sound of a cheering crowd.

Today we'll explore why Jesus entered the city in such a surprising way.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

Yesterday we saw the reactions of the crowds when Jesus entered Jerusalem. In **Day 4's** passage, we'll see one small but powerful group who were opposed to Jesus. They're called the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were experts in the Jewish law—what we call the Old Testament. Yet, despite all their knowledge, they didn't respond positively to Jesus as God's chosen King.

In this passage, Jesus confronts the Pharisees with a strong warning.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

**Day 5's** passage is one that the Pharisees who rejected Jesus should have been reading more closely. It was written more than 700 years before Jesus was even born. Yet the details are amazingly like the experiences of Jesus when he was rejected, arrested and killed.

Perhaps even more amazingly, the passage explains why Jesus' death was so important.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

## **MATTHEW** 16:21 (NirV)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples what would happen to him. He told them he must go to Jerusalem. There he must suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law. He must be killed and on the third day rise to life again.

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS EXPLAINS THAT HE MUST DIE AND THEN RISE TO LIFE

 <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>'A surprise performance of Ravel's Bolero stuns shoppers'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Imagine you were at the shops like the people in the second video clip. How would you react as the orchestra started forming around you?</p> <p>Can you think of a movie or book that has a big 'plot twist', where something completely unexpected happens?</p> <p>How did you feel when you saw/read it for the first time?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>In today's passage Jesus explains to his disciples what's about to happen to him.</p> <p>What is the plot twist/unexpected moment here?</p> <p><b>Identify any good news and highlight it in green in the passage on page 4.</b></p> <p>Imagine you had been following Jesus around for three years, expecting him to take over as king. Then suddenly, he dropped the news that he was about to be killed.</p> <p>How would it make you feel?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>Christians recognise that Jesus is no ordinary king because he chose the path of suffering to save his people.</p> <p>How would your opinion of Jesus change if he chose an easier path rather than the path of suffering?</p> <p>How would your opinion of Jesus change if he didn't rise to life again?</p>	

**MATTHEW** 16:21–26 (NirV)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples what would happen to him. He told them he must go to Jerusalem. There he must suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law. He must be killed and on the third day rise to life again.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took Jesus to one side and began to scold him. ‘Never, Lord!’ he said. ‘This will never happen to you!’ <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are standing in my way. You do not have in mind the things God cares about. Instead, you only have in mind the things humans care about’. <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> Whoever wants to save their life will lose it. But whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses their soul? Or what can anyone trade for their soul?’

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS' PRIORITIES ARE GOD'S PRIORITIES

 <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 16:21–28; 17:1–13'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>When was the last time you complained about having to do schoolwork?</p> <p>Did your complaining get you out of doing the work?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>When Peter disagrees with Jesus, he receives a harsh reply.</p> <p><b>Highlight Jesus' reply to Peter in green in the passage on page 6.</b></p> <p>Jesus' reaction seems harsh. Why might he have reacted this way to Peter?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>Peter wasn't a fan of the plot twist. He had his own idea of what Jesus should do.</p> <p>What might it look like for you to say 'no' to yourself and follow Jesus instead?</p>	

**MATTHEW** 21:1–11 (NirV)

As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage. It was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away’.

<sup>4</sup> This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says:

<sup>5</sup> ‘Say to the city of Zion,  
 “See, your king comes to you.  
 He is gentle and riding on a donkey.  
 He is riding on a donkey’s colt”.’  
 (Zechariah 9:9)

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’ (Psalm 118:26) ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, ‘Who is this?’

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee’.

**BIG IDEA:** THE CROWDS RECOGNISE JESUS AS GOD'S 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>'Jesus' triumphal entry'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>What is the biggest crowd/audience you have ever been in?</p> <p>Who or what were they all gathered to see?</p> <p>What did it feel like to be in a crowd like that?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>What did you find surprising about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem?</p> <p>Instead of being arrested Jesus makes an impressive entrance riding an unimpressive donkey.</p> <p>How do the crowds respond?</p> <p><b>Highlight the description in green in the passage on page 8.</b></p> <p>What is the significance of Jesus riding on a donkey? (Hint: See verses 4–5.)</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>The crowds recognised Jesus as God's King when he did what was predicted 600 years earlier in the book of Zechariah. They responded by shouting praises to God.</p> <p>How can people today recognise that Jesus is God's King? How might they respond?</p> <p>Who do you think Jesus is? How have you responded to him?</p>	

## MATTHEW 21:42–46 (NirV)

Jesus said to them, ‘Haven’t you ever read what the Scriptures say,

“The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all.

The Lord has done it. It is wonderful in our eyes”?  
(Psalm 118:22, 23)

<sup>43</sup> ‘So here is what I tell you. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you. It will be given to people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup> Anyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces. But the stone will crush anyone it falls on.’

<sup>45</sup> The chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ stories. They knew he was talking about them.

<sup>46</sup> So they looked for a way to arrest him. But they were afraid of the crowd. The people believed that Jesus was a prophet.

**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>'Lumo—Gospel of Matthew Chapter 21:23–46'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Have you ever done the wrong thing at home or at school, and been waiting for the punishment only for your parents/ teachers to say 'I'll let you off with a warning'?</p> <p>How did that make you feel?</p> <p>Did you change your behaviour afterwards? Why/why not?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>Jesus confronts the Pharisees' knowledge head-on. He calls them fruitless because their knowledge of God's law hasn't produced obedience to God's King.</p> <p><b>Highlight Jesus' warning to the Pharisees in the passage on page 10.</b></p> <p>What impact does Jesus' warning have on the Pharisees?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>The Pharisees didn't listen to Jesus' warning. Instead, they responded by planning to have him arrested.</p> <p>How is knowledge different from action?</p> <p>Followers of Jesus act on their knowledge that Jesus is God's promised King by humbly asking for forgiveness and obediently following his teaching.</p>	

**ISAIAH** 53:4–11 (Nirv)

He suffered the things we should have suffered.

He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was punishing him.

We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer.

<sup>5</sup> But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

He was crushed because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

<sup>6</sup> All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God.

All of us have turned to our own way. And the Lord has placed on his servant the sins of all of us.

<sup>7</sup> He was treated badly and made to suffer.

But he didn't open his mouth.

He was led away like a lamb to be killed.

Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off.

In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> He was arrested and sentenced to death.

Then he was taken away.

He was punished for the sins of my people.

Who among those who were living at that time tried to stop what was happening?

<sup>9</sup> He was given a grave with those who were evil.

But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man.

He was killed even though he hadn't harmed anyone.

And he had never lied to anyone.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord says, 'It was my plan to crush him and cause him to suffer.

I made his life an offering to pay for sin.

But he will see all his children after him.

In fact, he will continue to live.

My plan will be brought about through him.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered, he will see the light of life.

And he will be satisfied.

My godly servant will make many people godly because of what he will accomplish.

He will be punished for their sins'.

**BIG IDEA:** JESUS' DEATH FOR SIN WAS PREDICTED OVER 700 YEARS BEFORE HE WAS BORN

 <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 intercessor (Isaiah 53)'</p>  <p>Or click <a href="#">here</a></p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Can you think of a time you checked the prediction on the weather app and it was wrong?</p> <p>How did it make you feel?</p> <p>What does that show you about predictions (even science-based ones made by meteorologists)?</p>	
 <p>EXPLORING</p>	<p>Look through the passage on page 12 and highlight any time you see the words he/his/him.</p> <p><b>Highlight any time you see the words we/our/ us/their.</b></p> <p>What do you notice about why <i>the servant</i> was killed?</p> <p>How does <i>the servant</i> remind you of Jesus?</p>	
 <p>FORMING</p>	<p>The Pharisees and Old Testament experts didn't see that Jesus was the servant King who died for the sins of his people.</p> <p>What makes Jesus different from any other king in history?</p> <p>Next week we're going to look at the death and resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>In the meantime, spend some time reflecting on what you've learned so far about Jesus as God's King.</p> <p>Is he the kind of King you expected? Why? Why not?</p>	