

*RBCPC*  
*2011 Study Series*



*New Testament\**

*Week #1*  
*Study Guide*

**Matthew & Mark**

Posting date: April 6, 2011

[www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/](http://www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/)

**\*Note:** In an effort to stay connected to the sermon schedule, we are “putting our bookmarks” wherever we are in the Old Testament, and moving directly to the New Testament. The beginning of this New Testament study will coincide with Holy Week 2011. We will continue reading through the entire New Testament, then return to the Old Testament in July 2011.

## **Overview**

The books of Matthew and Mark are the first two gospels, relating the “good news” of the arrival of Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. The 4 Gospels cover the same subject, however, they are written by different authors, with different perspectives, for different audiences. The Gospel of Matthew is written primarily to Jews to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament. Mark is written primarily to the church in Rome. Mark is an action-packed story, focusing on what Jesus did, demonstrating Jesus’ authority.

## **Scripture Study – Key Passages**

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

### ***Matthew 1***

1. What was the value of recording the genealogy of Jesus?
2. Why is this important to the Jews?
3. What does the word “Immanuel” (God with us) mean to you?

### ***Matthew 5:1- The Sermon on the Mount***

1. What is so radical about the beatitudes?
2. What makes Jesus’ teachings different from the teaching of the Pharisees?
3. How might this difference be confusing to the listener? Is it confusing to you?
4. What makes the teachings of Jesus so attractive? In other words, why would someone *want* to follow his instructions?

### ***Mark 10:35-45***

1. What kind of behavior does Jesus expect from his disciples?
2. How does this passage invert the traditional definition of leadership?
3. How does Jesus demonstrate his authority here?
4. What does this passage say to you about how you should treat others?

### ***Mark 12:28-34***

1. What does it mean to love God with all your *heart? Your soul? Your mind?*
2. Why does Jesus say the man was not far from the kingdom of God?
3. Where is the kingdom of God?
4. What is so different about Jesus’ perspective on the Greatest Commandment? How might it upset the Pharisees’ teaching of the Ten Commandments?

## Key Themes

1. Jesus is God “with us.”
2. Jesus is the Messiah, fulfilling the Jewish scriptures.
3. Jesus teaches and models servant leadership, and expects the same from his followers.

Although written almost 2,000 years ago, how are each of these themes relevant today?

## Reflection

Think about the impact of the appearance of God as fully human to a Jewish person in Biblical times. Try to imagine yourself listening to Jesus tell one of his parables ... do you think you would have been convinced of his divinity? Would you have been able to love Jesus, and accept Jesus' love for you?

## Prayer

In Matthew, Jesus gives specific instructions for “how to pray.”

Read **Matthew 6:5-13**. Pray through the Lord's Prayer. Insert the names of your family members, or friends, wherever the word “us” is. Then insert your own name.

Pray for the eyes to see Jesus at work in your life, and in the lives of your loved ones.

## Homework

Read **Mark 3:13-15**, in preparation for the sermon on April 16/17, “*Are You With Me?*” Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

## Notes & Reflections:

