

The Strategy of the Savior

Chapter 4

Audio lesson: New Testament 4



Objective: To introduce the book of Matthew and understand Jesus' strategy for His ministry.



Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

—Matthew 9:35-38

In all four gospels, Jesus is pictured as a Man with a strategy for accomplishing His mission. This is especially true in the Gospel of Matthew. Each time we read in Matthew that Jesus saw the multitude and was moved with compassion for them, we have a picture of His compassion for the whole world and His strategy for reaching the world with His message of salvation. When Jesus looked on those multitudes with compassion, He always did something strategic.

Much of Jesus' strategy involved training and teaching His disciples to meet the needs of the world. The multitudes who came to Jesus represent the world with all its problems, and Jesus frequently placed His followers strategically between Himself and the people to show them how to receive God's supernatural provision and to give it out to those who need it. God's provision for the multitude is passed from Jesus to the multitudes through the hands of the disciples, and that is still His plan today. The risen, living Christ chooses to use His disciples to pass the truth of His Good News to those who are in need of salvation.



1. True or false? Serious students of the Bible should study only the Bible and avoid any other commentaries and study tools.
2. True or false? Jesus knew exactly what His mission was and He had a strategy to accomplish His mission.
3. True or false? Jesus was so serious that He did not want to show His emotions and He never wept over the problems of people.
4. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount is the first long teaching given by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What was the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount?
 - a. To show how His disciples can become part of God's solution to people's problems
 - b. To teach us how we can earn our salvation
 - c. To show that the Old Testament is no longer important
 - d. To explain why He came
6. What did Jesus do at the end of the Sermon on the Mount?
 - a. He told everyone to go home.
 - b. He organized an uprising.
 - c. He challenged His listeners to make a commitment.
 - d. He told everyone to go teach what they had just heard.

7. When did the miracle of multiplying bread take place?
 - a. As soon as Jesus spoke the word
 - b. As the disciples had faith to give the bread out with their own hands
 - c. When God's voice thundered from heaven
 - d. Even before Jesus prayed

8. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in the Great Commission?
 - a. To build a bigger temple in Jerusalem
 - b. To secretly convert members for the church
 - c. To enforce God's law in the world
 - d. To go into all the world and make disciples

9. What did Jesus promise in the Great Commission?
 - a. Everyone who hears the Gospel will believe it.
 - b. Each of the disciples will be martyred.
 - c. Many religions will lead people to heaven.
 - d. He will always be with His followers.

10. Which of the following were a part of Jesus' strategy in the gospel of Matthew? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. He correctly analyzed the needs of the world.
 - b. He organized His followers.
 - c. He deputized His followers.
 - d. He supervised His followers.
 - e. He has been agonizing on behalf of His church for 2,000 years.



If you had heard Jesus preach the Sermon on the Mount, do you think you would have wanted to follow Him in spite of how difficult it seemed? Why or why not? In what ways can you be part of His solution for people's needs today?



Thank God that He has a solution for all the world's problems and needs and that He wants us to become part of His solution. Ask God to be your strength and give you wisdom and love, which you will need to minister through you.



Going Deeper

1. Are you committed to Bible study? What tools do you have for your Bible study? What more should you have or have access to? _____

2. How is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, in addition to being the record of a great miracle, a parable of the missionary vision of Jesus Christ? _____

3. What was the strategy of Jesus when He taught the Sermon on the Mount? _____

4. What was the objective of Jesus when He gave that teaching on the mountaintop? _____

5. What was the difference between a disciple and an apostle? _____

6. Based on a careful study of the teachings of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels, what were the values of Jesus and how do they differ from the value systems of most of us? _____

7. How does His Parable of the Sower focus the challenges we face when we study or attempt to demonstrate His teachings to others? _____
