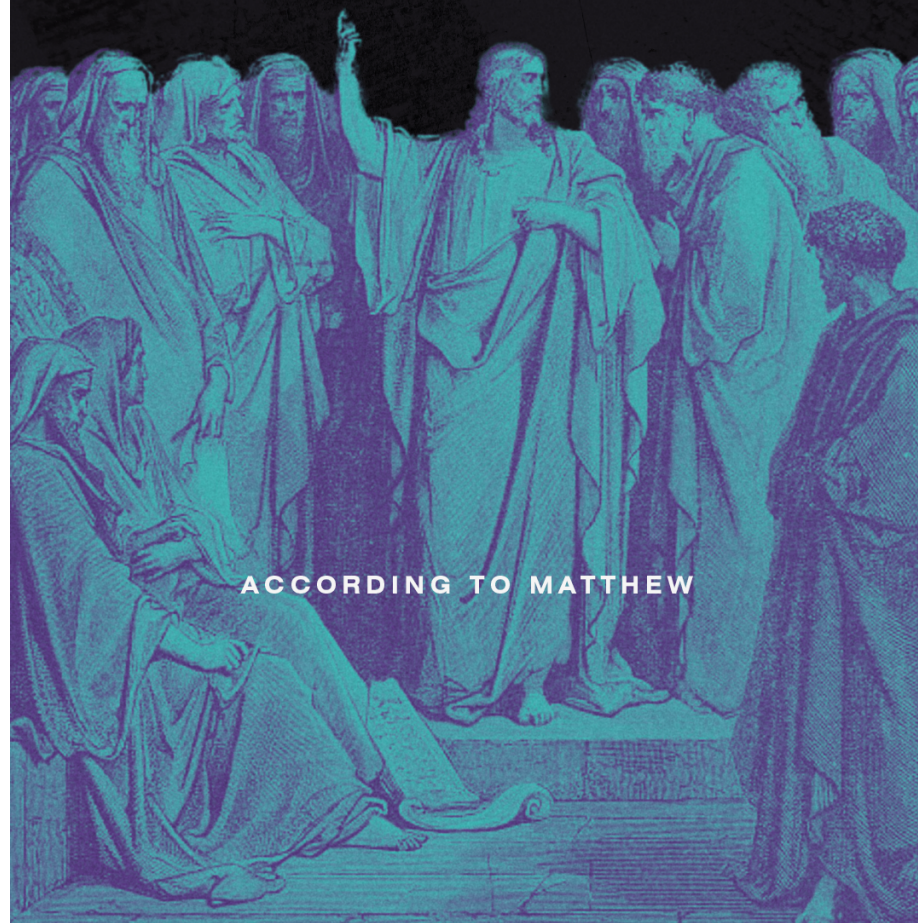


The Gospel



ACCORDING TO MATTHEW



WEEK 4
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
(PART 2)



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- When have you had to decide whether to trust someone's character before seeing the outcome?
- Can you think of a time when anxiety or worry revealed what you were really trusting in?
- Why do you think trust is such a defining trait of close relationships?

INTRODUCTION

In Matthew 5, Jesus described *who belongs* to the kingdom—the poor in spirit, the meek, the pure in heart.

In Matthew 6–7, he shows *how they live*: with a **life shaped by trust** in a faithful King.

Jesus continues his mountain teaching, revealing a new way of life where his followers find freedom from hypocrisy, anxiety, and judgmentalism by resting in the Father's care. Here's the key truth: **The trustworthiness of the King compels us to seek his kingdom and his righteousness.**

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Matthew 6:19-34

What contrast does Jesus make between earthly and heavenly treasure? What does "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" reveal about our trust?

According to Jesus, what does worry expose about our relationship with God? How does looking at the birds and lilies teach us to rest in the Father's care?

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Matthew 7:1-12

What kind of judging does Jesus forbid in 7:1-5, and how is that connected to hypocrisy?

Why does Jesus encourage us to *ask, seek, and knock* (7:7-11)?

What do these verses reveal about God's character?

How does the "Golden Rule" (7:12) summarize this kingdom way of life?

APPLICATION

- What we **treasure** shows what we **trust**. Where do you feel most tempted to store up “earthly treasures”?
- Trust turns **worry into worship**. What are your most common anxieties right now, and how can focusing on the Father’s care reframe your experience?
- **Distrust breeds judgment**. Where might you be assuming God’s role instead of trusting him to deal justly?
- **Trust overflows as love**. How could you treat someone this week the way you would want to be treated—out of confidence in your Father’s goodness?

PRAYER

- Ask God to expose where self-trust has replaced trust in him.
- Thank the Father for knowing, and providing for you.
- Pray for hearts freed from anxiety and judgment so that your group reflects the generosity, peace, and mercy of the King.

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