

The Gospel

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Week 8: The gospel flips the script

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

- What makes you feel like a year has been a good year?
- Share one thing that tends to make you feel “successful” or “secure.”
- When have you realized that something you thought you *needed* wasn’t actually what you needed?

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus’ ministry moves toward Jerusalem, the tension rises. His teaching and actions become more radical and more costly. In these chapters, Jesus flips the world’s values upside down—what we think we need for life and fulfillment isn’t what we truly need.

From the rich young ruler’s question, “*What do I still lack?*”, to Jesus’ humble entrance into Jerusalem, we see that life in God’s kingdom is a series of divine reversals: wealth doesn’t make you rich, humility is strength, holiness welcomes outsiders, and childlike faith triumphs over sophistication.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Matthew 19:16–30 and Matthew 21:1–17

Discuss: What stands out to you from these stories? How does Jesus challenge people’s assumptions about success or faith?

Reversal 1 – Wealth Doesn’t Make You Rich. The rich young ruler wants eternal life but can’t release control. What do his questions reveal about where he places his trust?

Reversal 2 – The King of Glory Arrives in Humility. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey—the King who comes to serve. How does His humility redefine power?

Reversal 3 – True Worship Welcomes the Nations. Jesus clears the temple to restore space for outsiders to encounter God. How might our worship sometimes block others from seeing Him?

APPLICATION

- What might Jesus be asking you to *lay down* so you can follow Him more freely?
- Where is He calling you to embrace humility instead of control?
- How can you help your group or church become a place that clears the way for others to encounter Christ?
- Where do you need to recover a childlike trust and joy in your faith?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the ways He flips our values upside down.
- Ask for grace to depend fully on Jesus rather than yourself.
- Pray for humility, holiness, and a faith that welcomes others and delights in Him.