

Sunday School Live Lesson

February 9, 2025

Heeding Wholly

Matthew 11:7-15, 20-24

1

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Question for Us Today

February 9, 2025

2

How are you doing in terms of heeding (obeying) God's Holy Word?

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

February 9, 2025

3

To learn more about John the Baptist.

To understand the messages of Jesus in today's Bible passage.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

February 9, 2025

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Matthew, John the Baptist

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

February 9, 2025

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Points of Information – Matthew

Matthew's original name was Levi. Although Matthew refers to himself by this name (which most of us know him by), the Gospels according to Mark and Luke refer to him by his original name: Levi. The name "Matthew" means "Gift of Jehovah."

Matthew became one of the original Twelve Disciples when he was called by Christ Jesus. Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27-28.

Points of Information – Matthew

Before being called to discipleship by Jesus, Matthew's occupation was as a tax collector. This line of work was dreaded by people. These servants of the Roman Empire collected taxes for the despised and oppressive government. And, with the government's permission, they were allowed to collect extra monies above the tax amounts for themselves.

Points of Information – Matthew

Right after he was called to follow Jesus, Matthew invited Our Lord and Savior to his home for a feast along with a number of his (Matthew's) friends and associates (including other tax collectors). Jesus accepted the invitation and went to Matthew's home, facing criticism from Pharisees, scribes and others. Matthew 9:9-11; Mark 2:14-16; Luke 5:27-30.

Points of Information – John the Baptist

John the Baptist (or the Baptizer) was the son of Zaharias and Elisabeth.

John the Baptist is not to be confused with the Disciple John, who wrote one of the four Gospels and also the Book of Revelation.

Points of Information – John the Baptist

As had been foretold (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1), John the Baptist was the Forerunner: One who came before and proclaimed the imminent arrival of the Messiah. Jesus affirmed this. Matthew 11:13; Luke 7:27.

Jesus directed John the Baptist to baptize Him, which he did do. Matthew 3:13-15.

Points of Information – John the Baptist

Many thought that John the Baptist was one of the great prophets or perhaps even the Messiah Himself. Luke 3:15; John 1:19-20; Acts 13:25.

Recognizing the presence of the Savior, Christ Jesus, John the Baptist proclaimed: “Behold the Lamb of God. Who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.

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Lesson Context

The seventh Chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount, given to us by Christ Jesus.

Our Lord and Savior gives a firm warning regarding false prophets.

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Lesson Context

The eighth Chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew features examples of the healing ministry of Jesus.

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Lesson Context

In the ninth Chapter of this Gospel, Jesus called Matthew (Levi) from his tax collector's table to be a Disciple.

This Chapter has the Verse which so many of us are familiar with: **“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”**

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Lesson Context

In the tenth Chapter of this Gospel, Matthew gives us the names of the Twelve Disciples, whom Jesus instructs and sends out for ministry.

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Lesson Context

The eleventh Chapter of this Gospel begins with Jesus teaching and preaching in the towns of Galilee.

Today's lesson text begins with a message from Our Lord and Savior, as He talked about John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:7 (NIV)

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: **“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?”**

Matthew 11:8

If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in king's places.

Matthew 11:9

Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Matthew 11:10

This is the one about whom it is written:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Matthew 11:11

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.

Matthew 11:13

**For all the Prophets and the Law
prophesied until John.**

Matthew 11:14

And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who has come.

Matthew 11:15

Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 11:20

Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of His miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.

Matthew 11:21

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Matthew 11:22

But I tell you, it will be more bearable
for Tyre and Sidon on the day of
judgment than for you.

Matthew 11:23

And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.

Matthew 11:24

But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

Remember this:

We are not just to read and study God's Holy Word.

We are to obey it.

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Next Sunday School Live Lesson

February 16, 2025

Living Lastly

Matthew 19:16-30

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Instructor: Michael McCants