

*Encountering Christ in the Gospel of Matthew*

Feb. 10-17 - Week 7, Matthew 15-21

(Matthew 15) What does 'Honoring the Sabbath' mean for you?

(Matthew 4 & 17) What similarities and differences can you find between Jesus' baptism and the Transfiguration?

(Matthew 18:15-20) What are your thoughts about Jesus' views on how to deal with conflict?

Do we follow these in our personal lives? In the life of our church?

How would his teachings on conflict impact our lives today?

Do you see a connection between faith/belief and Jesus' ability to perform miracles?

If so, why do you think that is?

Are there any parables from Matthew that really resonate with you?

How about parables that you don't understand or have a hard time with?

(Matthew 19 on Divorce) The Lexham Bible Dictionary says "*In almost all the passages discussed so far with, divorce is initiated only by men, not by women. The implication is that women lacked the legal rights to divorce husbands. The hard line that Jesus takes against divorce can be understood as protective of women, who in the first century would have been subject to poverty and abuse without the guardianship of a man.*" How does this knowledge impact how you interpret Jesus' comments in Matthew 5 & 19?

How does this information impact the overall importance of reading Bible passages within the context of what comes before and after those passages as well as the time and place that the passages were given?