John & Jesus: passing the torch
Monday: Introduction

There are many ways to measure time, some more accurate and precise than others. But the way you measure time shows something about how you live your life—fast paced or slow; casual or formal; structured or spontaneous; precise or loose. Of course, part of the difference is based on what technology has provided you with. You have ways of measuring time today that people in ancient times knew nothing about.

Write the following words above the correct picture to show what ‘time’ they measure: day, hour, month, seasons, seconds, year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🕒</td>
<td>🌹</td>
<td>⏰</td>
<td>🌙</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>🌍</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number the measurements above from least (largest measurement) to most detailed (smallest measurement).

There are also many events in life that occur at special times in life. Sometimes, they are casual, everyday events, but other times mark moving from one stage of life to another.

Write the following words above the correct picture to show what ‘event’ they show: birth, Christmas, death, graduation, marriage, wake up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>📸</td>
<td>🎓</td>
<td>🎨</td>
<td>🎄</td>
<td>🎬</td>
<td>🖼</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preview

The next two events mark the end of one stage and the beginning of another. First, the imprisonment of John the Baptist ends the ‘Introduction’ section of the gospels (the eternal origin of Jesus, his incarnation, and childhood; the supernatural conception and birth of John the Baptist—the one sent to prepare the way for the Lord). Now, Jesus is ready to preach good news.

Bible Reading: Gen 41

Meditation Verse: Eccl 3:1

Write the meditation verse on a 3X5 card.

STUDY Through the Bible Jesus: passing the torch (13.21)
**Tuesday: Out with the old ...**

The next event chronologically in the gospels is a turning point in the life of Jesus—John the Baptist’s imprisonment. This event marks the close of John’s ministry (“prepare ye the way of the Lord”) and the official beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Apparently, God wanted Jesus to remain in the shadows until John had accomplished his work. Now the time had come.

Use Matt 14:3-5, Mark 6:17-20, and Luke 3:19-20 to fill in the blanks below showing the historical context of this event.

- **Captor:**
- **Position:**
- **Instigator:**
- **Relationship to Herod:**
- **Herod’s condemnation:**
- **Herod’s reason for leniency:**
- **Multitude’s opinion of John:**
- **Herod’s opinion of John:**

Use the references to fill in the blanks showing who else finished their work for God.

John 17:4

Acts 20:24

2Tim 4:7

2Pet 1:12-15

Use the references below to fill in the blanks showing who was put in ‘prison’ but was delivered because their work was not finished.

Jer 39:14-17

Acts 12:5-10

Acts 16:36-40

Dan 6:19-23

Gen 41:14

Heb 13:23

What work does God have for you to finish?


**Bible Reading: ???**

**Meditation Verse: 2Tim 4:7**

Write the meditation verse on a 3 X 5 card.

Review the previous meditation verses.
**Wednesday: ... in with the new.**

Key phrases in Matt 4:12-17, Mark 1:14-15 and Luke 4:14 show a *cause and effect* relationship between the *imprisonment of John* and the beginning of Jesus’ work.

- **Matt 4:12**
- **Matt 4:17**
- **Mark 1:15**

### Historical context

Use Matt 4:12-17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:14 and John 4:43-45 to fill in the blanks below showing the *historical context* for the official beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

- **Event:**
- **Old residence:**
- **New residence:** (city), (country), (nearest landmark), and (tribes)

### Social context

John 4:44-45 says Jesus knew a prophet has no ______ in his own country. But because they had seen all the things he did at ______ at the feast, they ______ him. Luke 4:14 adds that he actually was ______ throughout all the region. So, on the one hand he had *no honor* but on the other hand he was *famous*. This kind of duality today is usually reserved for famous people who have bad reputations (not good ones, like Jesus).

Write the following words above the correct picture to show people who often have *bad reputations* but are *famous*: actors, athletes, musicians, politicians, rich.

### Bible Reading: Col 2

### Meditation Verse: Matt 4:17

**Write the meditation verse** on a 3 X 5 card.

**Review the previous meditation verses.**
Thursday: Spiritual context

Today, you will study the spiritual context of Jesus’ actions.

Why?

It’s important to understand why God does things or they won’t make sense and may even seem wrong. So, Matt 4:14-15 God gives you a peak into why Jesus moved from Nazareth to Galilee.

1 Prophecy: fulfilled

First, it’s important to understand the role of prophecy in God’s plan (vs. 14). It is one of the most (if not the most) important proofs for the existence of God.

Write the following references in the blanks below to indicate how prophecy shows the character of God: Isa 41:12-23, 46:9-11, 48:3-5, 6-8.

- unique (__________) 49
- omnipotent (_____ ) 50
- omniscient (______ ) 51

2 Places: Zabulon, Nephtalim, Galilee

Second, it’s important to understand the role of places in God’s plan (vs. 15): “The land of __________ 52 and the land of __________ 53 by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, __________ 54 of the Gentiles”. Even though God chooses specific places as special (holy), he still works everywhere.

Fill in the blanks on the right using the given references to show specific places that were the beginning or end of where God works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
<th>Specific</th>
<th>General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen 2:8</td>
<td></td>
<td>earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deut 1:6-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 1:1-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>uttermost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deut 4:19</td>
<td>earth</td>
<td>_______ 58 (universe)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 People: Jews & Gentiles

Third, it’s important to understand the role of people in God’s plan (vs. 15b-16): “The people which sat in _________ 64 saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of _________ 65 light is sprung up.” God saw their need and had a plan to save them from the very beginning. God works through specific people but is concerned about everyone.

Fill in the blanks on the right using the given references to show specific people that were only the first of many whom God wanted to reach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
<th>Specific</th>
<th>General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen 1:26-28</td>
<td></td>
<td>replenish the earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen 9:1</td>
<td></td>
<td>replenish the earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen 18:18</td>
<td></td>
<td>bless all nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rom 9:24</td>
<td>Gentiles</td>
<td>Gentiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 13:43-49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jews &amp; Gentiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The other important factor in this section is how Jesus finished his work. It’s not enough just to do something, it must be done God’s way, in God’s time, for God’s glory. So Luke 4:14 states, “And Jesus returned in the power of the _________ 66 into Galilee”. Most people don’t realize that the ‘good things’ they do may not be God’s work. According to Matt 7:22 it’s possible to ____________, ____________, and ____________, 67 and still not be doing God’s work.

There are actually several false sources of ‘power’ whereby people are motivated to try and serve God. They may look, feel and seem good but in reality they are not in the power of the Spirit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conscience</th>
<th>Mind</th>
<th>Spirit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>True power</strong></td>
<td><strong>Submission: obedience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Charity: edification</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilt: confession</td>
<td>1. ________ 68</td>
<td>4. ________ 71 self: sacrifice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ________ 69</td>
<td></td>
<td>6. ________ -filled: 72 bear 5. ________ 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ________ 70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… and of a good __________, 74</td>
<td>… and of __________ 75 unfeigned:</td>
<td>1Tim 1:5 … charity out of a pure __________, 76 …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>…</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| False power | | |
| Protect self: avoid revenge → 7. ________ 77 | 8. ________ 78 self: gain the world | Satisfy self: vain glory |
| 9. __________: be careful Hell-fire & damnation | 10. __________: be good Power of positive thinking | 11. __________: be happy Health & wealth |
| Col 2:23 __________ 80 | (false) __________ 81 |

Fill in the blanks (above) showing the contrasts of the true and false sources of power.

- **Conscience:** True power comes from guilt over sins that leads to confession. It produces (2Cor 7:9-11) godly 1. ________ 82 which leads to 2. ________ 83 and 3. ________. 84

But false power comes from fear—seeking to protect yourself and avoid revenge for what you have done wrong which results in 7. ________. 85 People who are mis-motivated by fear tend to be 9. legalists (‘be careful’) who preach hell-fire and damnation.

- **Mind:** True power comes from submission to God that leads to obedience. It produces (Matt 16:24-26) 4. ________ 86 self sacrificially. But false power comes from will worship (Col 2:23)—trying to 8. ________ 87 yourself and gain the world. People who are mis-motivated by strong wills tend to be 10. optimists (‘be good’) who preach the power of positive thinking.
• **Spirit:** True power comes from charity for God’s people that leads to edification. It produces (Gal 5:13-25) 5. ________ 88 from a 6. ________-filled 89 life. But false power comes from emotions—trying to satisfy yourself (“an occasion to the flesh”) and seeking vain glory. People who are mis-motivated by fear tend to be 11. charismatics (*‘be happy’*) who preach the health and wealth gospel.

Fill in the blanks for 1Tim 1:5 (above) showing the three true sources of power.

Fill in the blanks for Col 2:23 (above) showing the three false sources of power.

Fill in the blanks for Col 2:8, 16-22 (below) showing the sources of power: emotions, legalism, Spirit, will.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Verses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>16. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17. Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>18. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>19. And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>20. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances. 21. (Touch not; taste not; handle not;) Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bible Reading:** Gal 5:13-25

**Meditation Verse:** 1Tim 1:5

- Write the meditation verse on a 3 X 5 card.
- Review the previous meditation verses.
Dispensational context

One of the divisions (contrasts) in the Bible is between two similar yet different kingdoms: the *Kingdom of heaven* (Matt 4:17) and the *Kingdom of God* (Mark 4:15). But even though they have many things in common (like a watermelon and the human body are both over 90% water), if you examine them carefully you will see some crucial differences. The first kingdom is specifically mentioned only in Matthew (since it applies directly to the Jews) while the second kingdom is detailed throughout the N.T..

Contrast

The main *difference* is that the kingdom of heaven is *physical* (Matt 8:11—*come from the east and the west*) which is set up on *earth* (Dan 2:44) in the Millennium but the kingdom of God is a *spiritual* kingdom (*1Cor 15:50—can’t be inherited by *________; Rom 14:17—doesn’t consist of *________*) which exists *________* believers (Luke 17:20-21).

Use the given references to fill in the blanks below showing the *contrasts* between the *Kingdom of Heaven* and the *Kingdom of God*.

- The kingdom of heaven is ruled by 1. *________* and the twelve apostles (Matt 19:28, 12:10, 16:19, Rev 5:10) but the kingdom of God is ruled by 2. *G____________*).
- The kingdom of heaven is 3. *________* (Matt 25:34-40) based on *personal righteousness* (Matt 4:1-10, 18:1-4) but you must be 4. *________* (Col 1:13) into the kingdom of God by a new 5. *________* (John 3:3-5).
- The children of the kingdom of heaven can be *cast out* (Matt 8:11-12, 24:45-51, 25:14-30) but those in the kingdom of God may lose their *reward/right to rule* (Luke 19:12-27).
- The kingdom of heaven is the subject of O.T. *prophecy* (2Sam 7:12-16, Isa 9:6-7, Dan 2:44) but the kingdom of God comes through N.T. *revelation* (Eph 3:1-7).
- The kingdom of heaven is based on the 6. *________* covenant (Gen 12:2-3) but the kingdom of God is based on the 7. *________* covenant (Heb 8:6, 9:15).
- The kingdom of heaven is mixed with 8. *________* (Matt 13:30, 38) but the kingdom of God has only *wheat* (John 12:24).
- The kingdom of heaven is ruled by the *Son of* 9. *________* (Matt 16:28) but the kingdom of God is ruled by the *Son of* 10. *________* (John 20:31, 1Jn 3:8, 5:12-13).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom of heaven</th>
<th>Kingdom of God</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical: <em>earthly</em></td>
<td>Spiritual: <em>internal</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>________</em> reigns as king (Isa 9:6)</td>
<td>2. <em>________</em> reigns as LORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>________</em>: <em>personal righteousness</em></td>
<td>4. <em>________</em>: *new 5. <em>________</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDY Through the Bible

*Jesus: passing the torch (13.21)*
Can be cast out
O.T. prophecy
N.T. revelation
Lose their reward/right to rule
6. __________ 113 covenant
7. ______ 114 covenant (testament)
Mixed with 8. __________ 115
Has only wheat
Son of 9. ______ 116
Son of 10. ______ 117

**Chronology**

Many people think the chaos and suffering in the world proves God has lost control. But just the opposite is actually true. Since government is one of the three earthly institutions ordained by God (plus family and church), he definitely controls who is allowed to rule (Dan 2:20-21, Isa 45:1-3, Jer 27:5). That’s why the powers that rule are called God’s ________ 118 (Rom 13:1-6). A thorough study of the Bible will reveal who they are at different times in history.

Use the given references to fill in the blanks below showing the **chronology** of the two kingdoms.

7. Gen 12  8. Exod 4  9. 1Sam 10  10. 1Sam 8:7-9  11. Dan 5:18, 2Chr 36:23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>KOH</th>
<th>KOG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eternal Past</strong></td>
<td>Creation (Gen 1:1)</td>
<td>Lucifer: 1. ________ 119</td>
<td>Lucifer: holy mountain (Ezek 28:14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall of 2. 120</td>
<td><em>garden of God</em> (Ezek 28:15-19)</td>
<td>(Isa 14:12-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4004 BC</td>
<td>Restoration (Heb 2:6-7)</td>
<td>3. ________ 121 after our image</td>
<td>4. ________ 122 in our likeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4001 BC</td>
<td>Fall of 5. 123</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2348 BC</td>
<td>Flood (Gen 7)</td>
<td>6. ________ 124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921 BC</td>
<td>7. ________ 125 called</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1491 BC</td>
<td>8. ________ 126 called</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1095 BC</td>
<td>9. ________ 127 crowned</td>
<td>10. ________ 128 of Israel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>606 BC</td>
<td>captivity (2Chr 36)</td>
<td>11. ________ 129 kings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 BC</td>
<td>Birth of Christ</td>
<td>at hand (Mt 4:17)</td>
<td>at hand (Mark 1:14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**10 Jesus: passing the torch (13.21) STUDY Through the Bible**
| AD 30 | Rejected by 13. ______ 131 | (John 19:12-15) |
| AD 2063 | Rapture (1Th 4:13-18) |
| 7 years | Tribulation | False 15. __________ 133 | No spiritual kingdom |
| AD 2070 | Return (Rev 19:11-16) | Jesus through 16. ______ 134 | Jesus through the Church (2Tim 2:12) |
| 1000 yrs | Millennium (Rev 20:2) | judged: Jesus’ 18. ______ 136 | judged by: 19. ______ 137 |
| Eternity Future | New heaven and earth (Rev 21, 22) | 20. ______ 138 populate the universe | Sons of God 21. ______ 139 |


**Meditation Verse:** Matt 4:17

Review this previous *meditation verses.*
Sunday: “To be, or not to be?”

This is neither the first nor the last important event in the life of Jesus. In the next 3½ years he will face many challenges where he needs to make some tough choices.

Write the following references in the 2nd column to show events that are turning points in Jesus’ life: John 12:12-15, Mark 15:29-32, Matt 16:16-21, 26:36-46.

Write the following words in the 3rd column to show the ‘options’ for each event: cup, himself, King, others, suffer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Thou are the Christ”</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>‘save his life’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>141 killed, raised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>triumphal entry</td>
<td>142</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garden of Gethsemane</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crucifixion</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>save 147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Just like there are many important times and events in your physical life there are also many important times and events in your spiritual life. They are the points in your life when you face a major decision about who or what you will be. Some of these decisions are totally out of your control but others are fully determined by you.

Write the following references in the 2nd column to show events that are turning points in your spiritual journey: 1Cor 3:12-15, 1Th 4:13-18, 2Cor 6:2, Matt 28:19-20, Rom 7:9, 12:1-2.

Write the following words in the 3rd column to show the ‘options’ for each event: alive; conformed; heaven; hell; sleep; transformed; wood, hay, stubble.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“age of accountability”</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>child (not guilty = alive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>adult (guilty = died)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salvation</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>152 (Ps 139:8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baptism</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>obey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disobey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sacrifice</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>:155 to world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>:156 new mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian’s work</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>gold, silver, precious stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heaven</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>160 (rapture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>161 (resurrection)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice the importance of choices in this poem by Robert Frost.

STUDY Through the Bible Jesus: passing the torch (13.21)
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  

This is exactly the teaching found in Matt 7:13-14: “Enter ye in at the ________  
gate: for _______  
is the gate, and ________  
is the way, that leadeth to ____________,  
and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which  
leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” [a gate is for entering; the way/path is for the  
journey after you enter] Which road will you take?
when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison

From that time

The time is fulfilled

when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison

Nazareth

Capernaum

Galilee

upon the sea coast

Zabulon and Nephthalim

honor

Jerusalem

received

famous

musicians

athletes

rich

politicians

actors

Isa 41:12-23, 46:9-11

Isa 48:3-5

Isa 48:6-8

Zabulon

Nephthalim

Galilee

Eden
Sinai
Jerusalem
Heaven
man (Adam)
Noah
Abraham
Jews
Paul
darkness
death
Spirit
prophesy, cast out devils, many wonderful works
sorrow
repentance
salvation
denying
Spirit
fruit
conscience
faith
heart
death
save
neglecting of the body
will worship
humility
sorrow
repentance
salvation
death
denying
save
fruit
Spirit
will
legalism
emotions
Spirit
legalism
flesh and blood
meat and drink
within
Jesus
God
Inherited
Translated
birth
Abrahamic
new
tares
man
God
Jesus
God
Inherited
Translated
birth
Abrahamic