

Matthew

Silence. Just silence like you can't imagine. As if that crowd had uncovered a secret treasure that they could keep forever if they just listened hard enough. The birds were quiet, the wind died down. This was the longest lesson we had heard Jesus teach, and he was only half way through.

When you fast, don't be like the hypocrites with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces, that they may appear to fast. Truly I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that you don't appear to fast to men, but to your Father who is in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret shall reward you openly.

Don't lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupts, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is clean your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters! For either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will be devoted to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Paul

Therefore, I say to you, "Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, nor how to clothe yourself. Is not life more than meat, and the body than clothes. Behold the birds of the air, for they don't sow or reap, nor gather into barns; yet, your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you much better than they?"

Which of you by thinking can add one inch to his height? And why think about clothes? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they don't work or weave, and yet I say to you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. So, if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and gone tomorrow, shall he not clothe you better, you of little faith?

Therefore, don't ask, "What will we eat?" Or, "What will we drink or how will we dress?" For the Gentiles pursue these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will think of itself. Sufficient for the day is its own problems.

Matthew

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgement you judge, you will be judged, and with what measure you use, it will be measured to you again. And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how will you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," while a beam is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take out the beam from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Paul

Don't give that which is holy to the dogs, nor throw your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and rip you apart.

Matthew

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone that asks, receives; and he that seeks, finds; and to him that knocks, it will be opened.

Paul

Or what man of you, whom if his son asks for bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks a fish, will he give a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore, all things whatever you want others to do to you, do you to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew

Enter in at the straight gate. For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many will go in there. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few will find it.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are vicious wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do people gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Every good tree makes good fruit; but a bad tree makes forth bad fruit. A good tree cannot make bad fruit, neither can a bad tree make good fruit. Every tree that doesn't make good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. By their fruits you will know them.

Paul

Not everyone that says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name done many works?" And then I will say to them, "I never knew you! depart from me, you evil doers!"

Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, is like a wise man, who built his house upon a rock. The rain came down, and the flood came, and winds blew, and beat on that house. It did not fall, for it was founded on a rock. Everyone that hears these sayings of mine, and doesn't do them, is like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand. The rain came down and the floods came, and winds blew. And great was its fall.

Matthew

When Jesus finished saying all these things, the crowd continued to sit in a stunned silence. Jesus taught as someone with authority, not like a religious expert that proved his wisdom by quoting another expert that was quoting another expert.

Slowly, the world started coming back to life. People started stirring, a few children began to cry, and I remember hearing sea birds fighting over a rotten fish. I looked at Jesus, and he gave me a nod. "Matthew, he said, "You are given the gift of memory. Write down all I say." And then he winked, "And you will be blessed."

From that day on, I understood that my main role with the apostles was not to keep track of the money, Judas could do that. It was not to be bold, Peter could do that. It was not to have compassion and love, John could do that. My role was to remember the words of Jesus and write them down. And I was blessed for doing it. You know my writings as the *Gospel of Matthew*.