



SERMON: 40 Days of Discipleship – *“Discipleship 401: When Jesus Blows Our Minds!”*

Watch [this week's sermon](#)

Read [Matthew 17:1-9](#) – “The Transfiguration”

- When you picture this moment, what do you think it felt like for the disciples to suddenly see Jesus this way? What part of this story grabs your attention or curiosity the most? Where do you see yourself in this moment?
- Pastor Mike said the transfiguration is less about Jesus changing and more about the disciples finally seeing clearly. Where have you experienced a shift in how you see Jesus? What helped you see him more clearly? What might be keeping you from seeing him clearly right now?
- Peter wants to stay on the mountain and hold onto the moment. When have you wanted to stay in a “mountaintop” season instead of going back into everyday life? What makes it hard to carry those moments into your normal routine? How do those experiences fade if you don't act on them?
- The sermon challenged us not to minimize Jesus. Where do you think you tend to shrink Jesus down to something more comfortable or manageable? What would it look like to let Jesus be bigger in your decisions and perspective? What is one step you could take this week to respond to him more fully?

Read [Matthew 16:21-23](#) – “Jesus Predicts His Death”

- Peter pushes back on Jesus because it doesn't match his expectations. When have you struggled with something God was doing because it didn't make sense to you? What emotions usually come up in those moments? How do you typically respond?
- Pastor Mike talked about how we often try to fit Jesus into our worldview. Where do you see that happening in culture or in your own thinking? Why is it so tempting to shape Jesus around our preferences? What are the risks of doing that?
- Jesus says Peter is thinking from a human perspective instead of God's perspective. What are some common ways we default to a human perspective in difficult situations? What might a God-centered perspective look like instead? How can we begin to shift toward that?
- Where might Jesus be leading you right now in a direction you wouldn't naturally choose? What is making it hard to trust him in that area? What would it look like to follow him anyway, even if it feels uncomfortable?

Read [Philippians 2:9-11](#) – “Have the Attitude of Christ”

- This passage describes Jesus being lifted to the highest place. How does that shape your understanding of who Jesus is? What stands out to you most about this picture of him? How is this different from how people often view Jesus today?

- Pastor Mike emphasized that Jesus is not just a good teacher but Lord over everything. What is the difference between believing in Jesus and actually submitting to him? Where do you see that tension in your own life? Why is submission difficult?
- The idea that every knee will bow can feel like a future reality. How does that truth speak into your life right now? What would it look like to live as if Jesus is truly Lord today? How might that change your priorities or decisions?
- What is one area of your life where it's hardest to fully surrender to Jesus? What fears or hesitations are tied to that area? What is one practical step you could take this week to trust him more there?

Read [Matthew 28:16-20](#) – “The Great Commission”

- Pastor Mike described discipleship as growing deeper over time. Where do you feel like you are right now in your journey with Jesus? What has helped you grow the most so far? What has slowed or challenged your growth?
- The Great Commission connects seeing Jesus clearly with being sent out. Why do you think those two things go together? How does understanding who Jesus is shape how we live? What makes it hard to live that out consistently?
- Jesus promises to be with us always, both on mountaintops and in valleys. When do you find it easiest to trust that he's with you? When is it hardest to believe that? What tends to influence your awareness of his presence?
- Who is someone in your life that God might be inviting you to invest in spiritually? What would it look like to take one intentional step toward them this week? What could you actually do in the next few days to follow through?

APPLICATION: Pick one to put into practice this week.

- 1. Identify where you may be minimizing Jesus:** Take 5–10 minutes this week to reflect or journal on this question: “Where am I treating Jesus as smaller than he really is?” Then choose one specific way to respond by either trusting him, obeying something he's calling you to, or spending intentional time with him daily this week.
- 2. Surrender a place where you are resisting Jesus' lead:** Name one situation right now where your instinct is to push back like Peter did or go your own way. Pray specifically about that situation each day this week and take one concrete step of obedience that aligns with Jesus' way instead of your own.
- 3. Take one step of discipleship with someone else:** Ask God to bring one person to mind who you can encourage or walk alongside spiritually. Reach out to them this week in a simple but intentional way such as inviting them to church, sharing something you're learning, or asking how you can pray for them.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & QUESTIONS

View this week's [Daily Bible Readings](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23	24	25	26	27
Matthew 21:1-22	Matthew 21:23-46	Matthew 22:1-46	Matthew 23:1-39	Matthew 24:1-51

Monday, March 23: Matthew 21:1-22

1. Jesus enters Jerusalem like a king, receives public praise, then goes straight to the temple and drives out what is corrupt before cursing a fruitless fig tree. When you hold those scenes together, what do they reveal about the kind of king Jesus is and what he does when he comes near, and where might he be confronting empty appearances or fruitlessness?
2. The crowds shout "Hosanna," the children keep praising him in the temple, and Jesus speaks about prayerful faith that can move mountains, yet all of this happens in the shadow of rising opposition. How does that combination of worship, bold faith, and conflict challenge the way you think about following Jesus, and what is one "mountain" or obstacle where this passage invites you to trust God more deeply right now?

Tuesday, March 24: Matthew 21:23-46

1. In this section the religious leaders repeatedly refuse to answer honestly, whether about John's authority, their own obedience, or the meaning of the parables Jesus tells, even though they know he is speaking about them. How does that picture of people who are close to spiritual things yet resistant to truth challenge the ways you might protect yourself from Jesus' authority when it threatens your control, reputation, or comfort?
2. Jesus moves from the parable of two sons, to wicked tenants, to the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone, exposing leaders who say the right things but do not respond to God with real repentance and fruit. When you hold those images together, what do they suggest about the difference between appearing religious and actually living under Jesus' authority, and where might he be inviting you to bear more visible fruit of obedience right now?

Wednesday, March 25: Matthew 22:1-46

1. In this chapter Jesus tells a parable about invited guests who refuse the king's banquet, then answers question after question from people trying to trap him about taxes, resurrection, and the greatest commandment. How does that combination of rejected invitation and hostile questioning challenge the way people can stay near Jesus yet still resist him, and where do you notice that same tension between openness and resistance in your own heart?
2. Jesus says the whole Law hangs on loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind and loving your neighbor as yourself, then ends by asking how the Messiah can be both David's son and David's Lord, leaving his

opponents speechless. When you hold those two moments together, what do they reveal about the kind of total allegiance Jesus deserves, and what might it look like for that allegiance to reshape one relationship or priority in your life right now?

Thursday, March 26: Matthew 23:1-39

1. Jesus describes leaders who love titles, honor, and public recognition, who clean the outside while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness, and who build tombs for the prophets while resisting God's voice in the present. As you sit with that sweeping critique, where do you see the temptation to look spiritually impressive while avoiding deeper obedience, either in yourself or in church culture around you?
2. After all the sharp warnings, Jesus ends by grieving over Jerusalem like a mother longing to gather her children under her wings, but they were unwilling. How does that mix of fierce truth telling and deep sorrow shape the way you see Jesus' heart, and what might it look like to respond to his invitation rather than staying resistant in an area where he has been trying to gather or lead you?

Friday, March 27: Matthew 24:1-51

1. In this chapter Jesus moves from the grandeur of the temple, which the disciples admire, to warnings about deception, suffering, delay, and sudden judgment, showing how quickly visible strength can give way to instability. How does that shift challenge the things you are tempted to treat as secure or permanent, and where might Jesus be calling you to a deeper kind of readiness that is not built on outward stability?
2. Again and again Jesus tells his followers not to be alarmed, not to be deceived, and to stay watchful, ending with the contrast between a faithful servant who is found doing his work and a servant who begins living as if the master will never return. When you think about your own life, what does spiritual watchfulness actually look like in ordinary days, and where do you sense a need to become more faithful, awake, and steady in this season?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Daily devotions](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [Pastor Mike Drop!](#)
 - ["Gospel" – Word with Webb podcast](#)
- Videos:
 - [BibleProject: Matthew 14-28](#) (7:10)
 - [BibleProject: Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (4:50)
 - [BibleProject: The Gospel](#) (5:38)
- Articles:
 - ["What are the Gospels?" by Tim Mackie \(BibleProject\)](#)