

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 26 (June 28 – July 2)

(“Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly” ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.

Historical Context (Paul’s third missionary trip).

59 AD Approximate date of the writing of Matthew.

What was happening in the world as Matthew was being written?

- England has been conquered by Rome, but will revolt in 60 AD. Lions have become extinct in Western Europe; and Scandinavians are migrating towards the Black Sea.
- Nero is emperor. He tries to first his mother through a shipwreck; but when she survives, he has her murdered and unsuccessfully tries to make it look like a suicide.
- In China, the Han dynasty is ½ through its over 400 year reign (202 BC – 220 AD), and is trading with the world: even as far as the Mediterranean.
- Teotihuacan (near Mexico City, and built around springs of water) is becoming the sixth largest city in the world, and is trading in both South and North America.

Day Reading Clarification from the Greek (the original language)

Mon.	Matthew 16	(:18)	<p>Church = “Assembly.” It is a combination of two words “Out” + “Called.” In Athens Greece, the people would be called out of their homes and businesses to defend the city (like the National Guard), decide how the city was going to live (like the House of Representatives, except all could participate); and on special occasions to act as a court of law (like the trial of Socrates).</p> <p>In the second and third case, the assembly included all the free and full citizens (the New Testament church would – unlike the Greeks – included slaves). The assembly would begin with prayers and sacrifices to the gods of the city. It had to follow the existing laws (although the assembly could vote to change them), and everyone had the right to speak and vote (democratic): but only to make a proposal for discussion if there was an expert who could speak to the proposal.</p> <p>Interestingly, except for <u>very</u> rare exceptions, it was <u>not</u> used for religious assemblies. The Greeks used a separate word for that.</p>
Tues.	Matthew 17	(:24)	<p>Temple Tax = A yearly tax which was about a day’s wages. It is found in Exodus 30:11-16, where it was used to build the Tent of Meeting in the Desert (Exodus 39:24-31), Josiah collected it to restore the temple (II Chronicles 34:8-11). It was used to support the temple after it was rebuilt following the Babylonian Exile (Nehemiah 10:32-33).</p>
Wed.	Matthew 18	(:24, 28)	<p>Talent / Denarius = 1 Talent equaled about 6,000 Denarii. Therefore, in this parable, its 60 million vs 100; or 0.00016%</p>
Thurs.	Matthew 19	(:16)	<p>Deed = “Good”. While it is singular, it does not necessarily mean a one-off activity.</p>
Fri.	Matthew 20	(:20)	<p>“Asked a favor from him” = “Asking <u>something</u> from him.”</p>

Sources: www.thebiblejourney.org; www.datingthenewtestament.com; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AD_59; twochurches.org; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teotihuacan; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_century; www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/05/eue.html; [The Interlinear NIV](#); [Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vols. 1-3](#); [The Jewish New Testament Commentary](#); [New Revised Standard Version Bible](#) – © 1990, Thomas Nelson. © DFN (May be printed, but not used for profit).