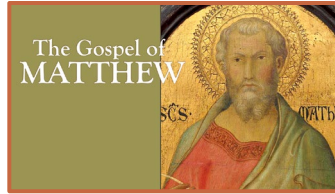


Text: _____

Date: _____

LECTIO DIVINA

A prayerful reading with mind and heart.



SILENCIO (Silence)

- Prepare for spiritual reading by finding a place where you can focus on God and his loving presence.
- With each breath, breathe in the Holy Spirit, and breathe out distractions. Inwardly shift from only reading the text to allowing the text to read you.

LECTIO (Reading) — Read your text for the first time.

- Note words or phrases that draw your attention, and allow words that are weighty with meaning to sink in and nourish your soul.
- Return to what attracts or repulses you; what is comforting or uncomfortable.
- The question behind our reading is, “What are you saying to me right now, Lord?”

MEDITATIO (Meditation) — Read your text for the second time.

- Gently repeat to yourself the word or phrase to which you have been drawn, reflecting upon the thoughts, hopes, images and feelings that come to you.
- Pay attention: What does the text elicit in you?

ORATIO (Prayer) — Read your text for the third time.

- Respond to what you have read and heard from God to this point as the Lord has addressed you through the Word.
- Pray whatever naturally flows out of your heart. Honestly express your deepest thoughts, feelings, and desires in dialogue with God.

CONTEMPLATIO (Contemplation) — Rest completely in God.

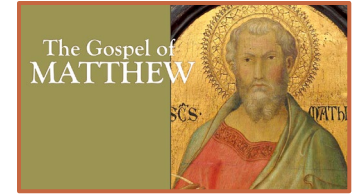
- Be receptive to whatever God wants to do in you, with you, and through you.
- With gratitude and abandonment, yield to God without expectations or demands. Enjoy the divine presence.

Text: _____

Date: _____

Inductive Study Questions

For Individuals or Group Discussion.



PRAY — *Before you read, ask God to bless you with eyes to see and ears to hear what the Lord would reveal to you (Mt. 13:16).*

READ — *Read slowly your text from Matthew. If needed, read earlier portions of the Gospel to get the context. If helpful, read your text in several translations.*

OBSERVE — *What does the text say?*

- Who is present in the scene, and where are they?
- What actions take place and by whom? Who says what to whom? How does the story or narrative advance?
- What are some key words, phrases, or concepts?

INTERPRET — *What does the text mean?*

- How would you summarize this part of the Gospel story and its message? What is familiar or reassuring? What is unexpected or challenging?
- What does Matthew want his original readers to know or do?
- What does this text say to us about our Lord?

APPLY — *What does the text mean to us?*

- How is the situation that Matthew describes like situations in our lives? What might Jesus do or say to us today?
- What does God want you to know or do in response to this message? How will you live this out tomorrow?
- What is the Lord saying to you through this text?

PRAY — *Ask God to help you respond faithfully to what you are hearing the Lord say to you and/or your group.*