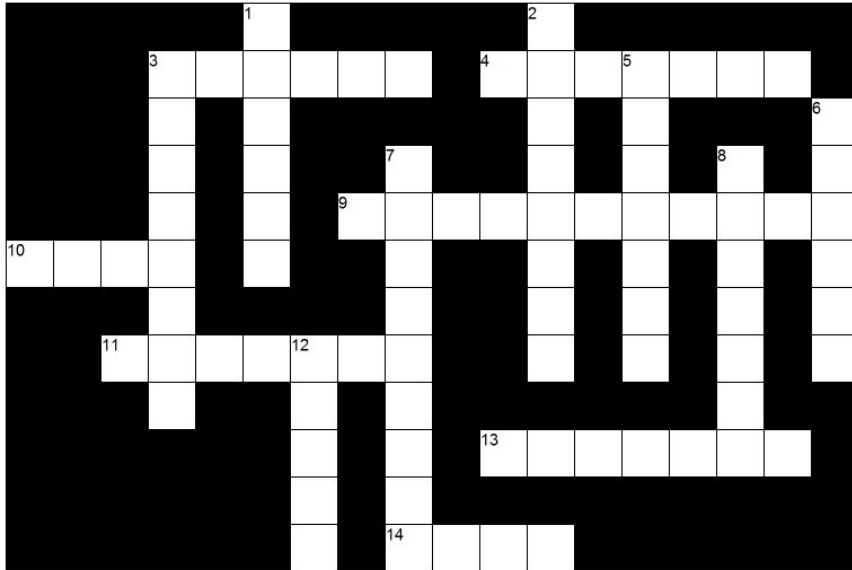


A Bible Crossword: Matthew, Part 8



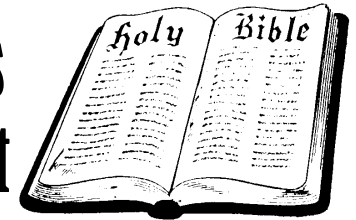
www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across: 3. Many are called but few are _____. 4. The village where Jesus lodged during His final week. 9. The only cause Jesus gave for Scriptural divorce and remarriage (KJV). 10. Only one can be called this—that one is God. 11. Jesus healed two blind men while leaving this city. 13. The mother of his sons asked that they sit at Jesus' right and left hand in the kingdom. 14. What the first will be.

Down: 1. Jesus made the triumphal entry sitting on one. 2. Jesus would be delivered to them to be crucified. 3. Of such, little ones in particular, is the kingdom of heaven. 5. Word the people shouted when Jesus made the triumphal entry. 6. Jesus gave His life as one for many. 7. How the rich young ruler felt when he went away. 8. The Pharisees asked if it was okay to get one for just any reason. 12. It's easier for one of these to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom.

-All answers can be found in Matthew, Chapters 19-21,
References from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Chapman Acres church of Christ



2137 Penhall Drive NE / Huntsville, AL 35811
256-536-5296 / www.chapmanacreschurch.com

Riding Without Pedals

Teaching a child to ride a bicycle is a perilous task. You can only keep a hand on the back of the bike and run along side for so long, and when you let go, the resulting crash is almost inevitable.

A mom blog on the internet proposed a unique solution. When the child first begins to ride, lower the seat all the way to the bottom and take the pedals off. Riding / scooting along in this manner allows the child to develop a feel for the bike and gain a sense of balance. When that sense of balance has been established, replace the pedals and raise the seat to the correct level, and the child will ride away with little to no difficulty.

Riding without pedals teaches the first principles needed to move on to riding with proficiency and expertise, but eventually, the pedals have to go back on.

You can't ride around forever with no pedals, and yet that is exactly what some Christians do.

The writer of Hebrews addressed this issue, writing, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the ora-

cles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection” (5:12-6:1).

Babes in Christ ride without pedals at first, learning the first principles of the oracles of God. Such is normal, to be expected. But once the first principles have been learned, the pedals have to go on.

In the preceding verses, the writer of Hebrews discusses the priesthood of Christ. He writes, “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek,’ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing” (5:9-11). Their lack of depth made them dull of hearing, making it hard to teach them the intended lesson.

Some Christians are like this today. Their lack of depth makes it difficult to teach them anything but first-principles lessons. They have no idea how much they are missing.

The Scriptures themselves are one of the greatest miracles God has given us (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:9-17, 97-105). To gain all we can from them, we must learn the first principles and go beyond them. We must give diligence to study (2 Timothy 2:15), so we can take off the pedals and ride.

-RAB

Stickability

When the sailing is smooth and there’s not a ripple to overcome, we can drift along with the tide . . . but as the going gets a little rough and our shoulder is needed at the wheel, or our strength is needed to man the oars, then we are some-times prone to want to abandon the ship.

There are many today who “be-lieve for awhile, but in time of temp-tation, fall away” (Luke 8:13). Like the Israelites, we have a burning tendency to forget God (Jer. 2:32). There are many who once attended classes but who do not now; who once attended Sunday nights but just seem not to get around to it now; who once were steadfast and would not miss a Lord’s day at worship, but now they miss more than they are pre-sent. This ought not so to be. It is true we may sometimes face discour-agement but remember, “A winner never quits, and quitters never win!”

Churches are never harmed so much from without as from within. When members faint and falter and grow weary in well-doing, and withdraw their support physically and fi-nan-cially, then the congregation lacks the cooperation, needed to carry on a full scale work.

Babe Ruth struck out 1,333 times! Yet, he is known as the “Home Run King.” Cy Young pitched 511 victories, yet he lost almost as many games as he won! Abraham Lincoln ran for the legislature in Illinois and was badly beaten. He failed at business. He entered politics again and was de-feated on four occasions. Yet, he became one of America’s greatest men. These men had the quality of **stickability!**

-from *Bulletin Fodder*