

Commands & Stories 2026

(Ekklesia = the called-out ones, believers, disciples)

Week of	Command (Matthew context)	Story
Jan 4	Matthew 4:19 follow Me (4:12-25)	Rich ruler and discipleship Matthew 19:16-30
Jan 11	Matthew 5:12 rejoice and be glad (5:1-12)	Paul and Silas in prison Acts 16:14-31
Jan 18	Matthew 5:16 your light must shine (5:13-16)	Ekklesia's favor and light shining Acts 2:41-47
Jan 25	Matthew 5:17 do not think, presume (5:17-20)	Jesus heals the leper and sends to priests Matthew 8:1-4
Feb 1	Matthew 5:24 leave offering, go, be reconciled (5:21-26)	Brother disciplined 1 Corinthians 5; and restored 2 Corinthians 2:1-11
Feb 8	Matthew 5:25 make friends and come to good terms with accuser (5:21-26)	Jacob and Esau Genesis 32:3-21
Feb 15	Matthew 5:29, 30 tear out, cut off, and throw away (5:27-30)	David does not deal with the root of his sin, 2 Samuel 11:1-5
Feb 22	Matthew 5: 36, 37 make no oath (5:33-37)	Jephthah's foolish oath Judges 11:29-40
Mar 1	Matthew 5:39 turn the other cheek (5:38-42)	David and Saul 1 Samuel 18:10-16; 1 Samuel 20 & 24 (chapters)
Mar 8	Matthew 5:44 love your enemy and pray for persecutors (5:43-48)	Crucifixion Luke 23:26-49; we were God's enemies Rom. 5:6-11
Mar 15	Matthew 6:1 take care not to practice righteousness to be noticed (6:1-24)	Joseph quietly buries Jesus Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56
Mar 22	Matthew 6:2 do not sound a trumpet (when giving to poor) (6:2-4)	Ekklesia giving without fanfare Acts 4:32-5:11
Mar 29	Matthew 6:5 don't pray like the hypocrite (6:5-15)	Pharisee and tax collector Luke 18:9-17
Apr 5 <i>Easter</i>	Matthew 6:6 pray privately (6:5-15)	Jesus praying alone Matthew 14:13-36
Apr 12	Matthew 6:7, 8 don't pray repetitiously (6:5-15)	Baal priests vs Elijah 1 Kings 18:17-46
Apr 19	Matthew 6:9 pray in this way (6:5-15)	Focus on one verse of Jesus' prayer per day Matthew 6:9-13
Apr 26	Matthew 6:16, 17 do not look gloomy, but wash when you fast (6:16-18)	God's fast Isaiah 58:1-12
May 3	Matthew 6:19, 20 do not store up, store up (6:19-24)	Parables about treasure Matthew 13:44-46
May 10	Matthew 6:25,31 do not worry (6:25-34)	God feeds and provides for Elijah 1 Kings 17:1-16
May 17	Matthew 6:26, 28 observe the birds and lilies (6:25-34)	God provides daily Exodus 15:22-16:19
May 24	Matthew 6:33 seek first His kingdom and righteousness (6:25-34)	Early ekklesia's priorities Acts 2:41-47
May 31	Matthew 6:34 do not worry about tomorrow (6:25-34)	From famine to feast 2 Kings 7
June 7	Matthew 7:1 do not judge (7:1-6)	Life of liberty 1 Corinthians 8
June 14	Matthew 7:4, 5 behold and take out your own log (7:1-6)	David confronted and repents 2 Samuel 12:1-25
June 21	Matthew 7:6 do not give to dogs and pigs (7:1-6)	People turn against Paul and Barnabus Acts 14:8-20
June 28	Matthew 7:7 ask, seek, knock (7:7-11)	Ekklesia prays Acts 12:1-19
July 5	Matthew 7:12 treat others (golden rule) (7:1-12)	Seven chosen to serve food to ekklesia Acts 6:1-7
July 12	Matthew 7:13 enter the narrow gate (7:13-14 & 24-29)	People confess and leaving old ways Acts 19:11-20
July 19	Matthew 7:15 beware of false prophets (7:15-29)	False teachers Acts 15:1-6, 23-27
July 26	Matthew 9:9 follow Me (Jesus) (9:9-17)	Disciples follow Jesus Matthew 9:9-17

Commands & Stories 2026

Aug 2	Matthew 9:38 beseech (plead with) the Lord (9:18-38)	Ekklesia prays Acts 4:23-31
Aug 9	Matthew 10:16 behold I (Jesus) send you (10:16-42)	Philip sent Acts 8:4-40
Aug 16	Matthew 10:16 become shrewd (wary) and innocent (10:16-42)	Paul's shrewdness Acts 23:1-11
Aug 23	Matthew 10:17 be on guard against people (10:16-42)	Plot to kill Paul Acts 23:12-24
Aug 30	Matthew 10:19 do not worry about speaking (10:16-42)	Stephen's defense Acts 6:8 thru 7:60
Sept 6	Matthew 10:23 flee when persecuted (10:16-42)	Paul rescued Acts 9:10-31
Sept 13	Matthew 10:26, 28, 31 do not fear people (10:16-42)	Peter and John arrested Acts 4:1-22
Sept 20	Matthew 10:27 speak what Jesus speaks (10:16-42)	God speaks to Moses Exodus 4
Sept 27	Matthew 10:34 don't think Jesus brings peace (10:16-42)	Pharaoh resists Exodus 5
Oct 4	Matthew 12:49 behold My (Jesus') family (12:46-50)	Jesus' family interrupts Matthew 12:46-50
Oct 11	Matthew 13:3, 9, 18 behold, hear the parable of the sower (13:1-23)	The parable of the sower Matthew 13:18-23
Oct 18	Matthew 13:43 hear the parable of the tares (weeds) (13:24-30; 36-43)	The parable of the tares (weeds) and wheat Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Oct 25	Matthew 14:27 take courage, do not fear (14:22-33)	Jesus' teaching Matthew 14:22-33
Nov 1	Matthew 16:6, 11 watch out, beware of Pharisees' leaven (16:1-12)	Message to Smyrna ekklesia Revelation 2:8-11
Nov 8	Matthew 16:24 deny self, take up cross, follow Me (Jesus) (16:21-28)	Message to Philadelphia ekklesia Revelation 3:7-13
Nov 15	Matthew 17:5 listen to Him (Jesus) (17:1-13)	The Father speaking Matthew 17:1-13
Nov 22	Matthew 18:8, 9 cut off, tear out, throw away (18:1-11)	Message to Sardis ekklesia Revelation 3:1-6
Nov 29	Matthew 18:10 see that you do not look down on (18:1-11)	Judgement Matthew 25:31-46
Dec 6	Matthew 18:15, 16 go, reprove, take, tell (18:15-20)	Jesus' teaching on discipline in the ekklesia Matthew 18:15-20
Dec 13	Matthew 19:6 let no one separate	Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce Matthew 19:3-12
Dec 20	Matthew 19:14 do not hinder, forbid children (19:13-15)	Jesus' blessing children Matthew 19:13-15
Dec 27	Matthew 23:8, 9, 10 do not be called, do not call (23:1-12)	Jesus' teaching Matthew 23:1-12

When meditating on the commands and stories, keep these questions in mind:

- What do I learn about God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit?
- What do I learn about man/ people?
- What troubles or bothers me? What does the Holy Spirit reveal to me in light of this?
- How does the command connect to the story?
- What is God saying to me (or what should I obey) & what am I going to do about it?
- Do I have any fears, doubts, or resistance in keeping this command?
- What does this command reveal about the condition of my heart – what do I really believe and what do I really want?