

SERMON
NOTEBOOK

SERMON NOTEBOOK

*Take care then how you hear,
for to the one who has, more will
be given, and from the one who
has not, even what he thinks that
he has will be taken away.*

LUKE 8:18



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SYDNEY • YOUNGSTOWN

Sermon Notebook

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Matthias Media (St Matthias Press Ltd ACN 067 558 365)

Email: info@matthiasmedia.com.au

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com.au

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

Matthias Media (USA)

Email: sales@matthiasmedia.com

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

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INTRODUCTION

WONDER IF YOU'RE LIKE ME.

I go to a church where the Bible is faithfully taught every week. Each Sunday I get a printed handout that includes the sermon outline and space for me to take notes. Most weeks I scrawl a few notes as I listen. Then I dutifully take that piece of paper home, whereupon it winds up in a messy pile of other bits of paper on our kitchen bench. You know as well as I do the nature of these kitchen-bench piles: layers are added at an astonishing rate. My sermon notes are very quickly out of sight and, I have to confess, out of mind.

But even if I do—in a frenzy of domestic archaeology—unearth them again, the nature of my notes doesn't really assist any useful review. They are generally just a few haphazard points that I thought on the fly might be worth jotting down. They rarely give me much of a sense of the sermon as a whole, nor of my response to it.

I'm hoping this notebook will change all that—for you *and* for me.

The first goal is to have a central place to record our sermon notes—a place that won't be so easily lost—and the second is to summarize and reflect in a more systematic way on what we've heard.

Just as importantly, this notebook will encourage you to pause and look back every six weeks or so and reflect on what God has been teaching you over time. I'd encourage you to meet with someone else at your church who is also using this notebook and share your answers and pray together when these six-week reviews come up.

One final thing. You'll see that in the 'Sermon notes' section we suggest you write down a key Bible verse that strikes you as significant—either for you personally or for understanding the passage, and then in the 'My six-week review' we suggest you pick one of those Bible verses and commit it to memory. To help you do that, we've

included details of a method for Bible memorization in the appendix.

It is my hope and prayer that the new routine this notebook encourages us to adopt will help us feed more eagerly, deeply and satisfyingly from the spiritual food that is presented to us each week from God's word.

Ian Carmichael
Matthias Media

SERMON NOTES

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING double-page sections is for recording your notes from that week's sermon, along with other things you want to remember from church. Every six weeks there is a review section where we encourage you to take half an hour or so to reflect on and pray about what you heard over that period.

SERMON NOTES

Date: _____ Passage: _____

Preacher: _____

Topic/sermon title: _____

Notes:

I never knew:

I was reminded:

I still want to know:

Something I should change:

A biblical truth I could share:

with (names):

A key verse:

My prayer response (repentance/thanks/praise):

MY SIX-WEEK REVIEW

These pages give you a chance to reflect on what God has been teaching you recently. You may want to find someone from your church with whom you could share and compare your answers for mutual encouragement and prayer.

Quickly look back over your notes from the last six weeks.

Refreshing

Have you missed church much? Pray for a growing love for your church and for a solid habit of “meeting together” (Heb 10:25).

How are you going with the things you realized had to change?
What has improved? What still needs work?

Are there questions you still have? Who can you ask for help with finding answers?

Read through the key verses you noted. Which one would be good to commit to memory? (See the appendix.)

Summarizing

What has God been teaching you through the sermons you've heard?

What have you learned about God?

What have you learned about yourself?

Are there any key themes that stood out to you?

Have you been able to share any of these truths with others? How did it go?

Flowing out of what God has been teaching you

What are you thankful for? (Give thanks now.)

What can you pray for? (Pray now.)

What concrete action should you take now? (Write down what you are committing to.)