

Today's session will be different than others. I've titled it "It's All *Greek* to Me."

My previous readings of these two passages had been routine:

"Jesus' Arrest" was primarily about Judas' kiss of betrayal.

"Before the Sanhedrin" was little more than a mock trial in my recollection.

There will be little or no commentary on your part. Instead, I'll introduce you to key *Greek* words Matthew uses to emphasize two unique passages. I found the Greek definitions in this daily devotional — "Sparkling Gems from the Greek" by Rick Renner.

- I'll start by putting the passages into historic perspective.
- Then I'll detail key *verbs* and *nouns* Matthew uses.
- Lastly, I'll give you a few realistic application considerations.

### **Here's the Historical Perspective**

A Jewish tax collector named Levi left his work to follow Jesus — immediately, his life changed. He was given the *Greek* name Matthew, meaning "gift of Jehovah."

Written in *Greek*, Matthew's gospel was directed at *Greek*-speaking Jews. It was concerned with OT fulfillment. It uses Jewish terminology (such as *kingdom of heaven*). However, Matthew doesn't restrict his gospel to Jews but writes it for everyone.

Matthew's purpose was to prove that "Jesus was the Messiah," by showing how Jesus' life and ministry fulfilled OT Scriptures: Today's passages highlight OT fulfillment!

Throughout our study of Matthew, we've seen many elements of Jesus being the Messiah:

- Jesus' baptism
- His temptation by Satan
- His Sermon on the Mount and its beatitudes
- A large collection of performed miracles
- His parables of the kingdom

But the scribes and Pharisees rejected everything Jesus had said and done.

Matthew writes of the challenging times Jesus had, especially in Jesus' last week of ministry. A few examples include:

- Jesus cursing the fig tree, symbolizing his coming judgment of nonbelievers
- His cleansing of the temple
- His teaching in the temple when he spoke in parables, inflaming the Sadducees and Pharisees
- His getting in their faces with his seven woes to the teachers of the Law
- The anointing of his feet
- The Lord's last supper
- And last week's prayer times at Gethsemane

Today's two passages don't come *close* to describing Christ's *painful* beatings and crucifixion. However, there's a lot more in those verses when you read them as Matthew wrote them — in *Greek*.