

A Survey of Matthew

Introduction

Intent: To take a chapter each week, establishing the major events and teaching in the life of Jesus Christ, as revealed in the first gospel.

- Such an approach precludes in depth discussions of the text
- However, it is beneficial to get an overview of Jesus' life, to give context and structure to His time on earth.
- My request: Allow me to interrupt discussion to maintain the schedule of the class. Any pressing questions or issues can be handled in private study or discussion. I will be glad to make myself available for such discussions.

About Matthew (The Man and the Book)

- The apostle Matthew is generally (and rightly) considered the legitimate author of this gospel.
- Matthew is identified as a publican (tax collector). His decision to follow Jesus is recorded in (9:9). **Note:** Matthew and Levi are the same person (cf. Mark 2:14-15).
- He is found in the list of the apostles (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13).
- Matthew's approach seems to be intended to bring a Jewish audience to the understanding that Jesus is the promised Messiah.
 - The use of Jesus' Genealogy to establish Jesus' connection to Abraham & David (1:1-17)
 - The emphasis upon Jesus' fulfillment of OT prophecy (1:22; 2:13,23; 4:12-25; 8:17; 12:16-22; 13:34-35; 21:4-5; 26:56; 27:35)
- Internal and external evidence indicates that Matthew wrote his gospel before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. (For example, Matthew 24 foretells the event, and there is nothing in the book that indicates it had occurred before the book was written). Second century Irenaeus claims that Matthew wrote the book before the death of Peter and Paul (approx. 64 A.D.) The book was written in the middle of the first century.
- Two themes to look for in the book: 1) Jesus' identification as the "*Son of Man*" (30 times) cf. Daniel 7:13-18. 2) His use of the phrase "*kingdom of heaven*" (32 times), a phrase that would resonate with Jews. (cf. Daniel 7:14; 2:44). I.e. – Matthew presents Jesus as the "*Son of Man*" who came to establish and reign over the "*kingdom of heaven*."

Our Approach

- Cover a chapter during each class.
- Provide a memory verse for each chapter.
- Provide a concise outline of each chapter.
- Identify the location or locations of each chapter.
- Identify the events contained in each chapter.
- Identify the characters mentioned in each chapter.
- Identify any miracles performed in each chapter.
- Summarize any teaching of Jesus found in each chapter.
- Note any practical lessons learned from each chapter.

A Survey of Matthew

Outline

Note: The following outline was taken from Kyle Pope's commentary on Matthew (Truth Commentary Series)

1. **Jesus' Pedigree** (Lineage of Jesus to Abraham) (1:1-17)
2. **Preparation Narratives**
 - a. Announcement and birth of Jesus (1:18-25)
 - b. Visit of the Magi (2:1-12)
 - c. The work of John the Baptist (3:1-17)
 - d. The temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)
3. **Early Ministry Narratives** (First Galilean ministry) (4:12-25)
4. **Early Public Discourse** (The Sermon on the Mount) (5:1 - 7:29)
5. **Galilean Healing Narratives**
 - a. Three healings (8:1-17)
 - b. Power over nature and demons (8:23 – 9:8)
 - c. Power over death, blindness and speech (9:18-35)
6. **Discourse to the Twelve**
 - a. Laborers for His harvest (9:36-38)
 - b. The limited commission of the twelve apostles (10:1-42)
7. **Jesus Among the People**
 - a. Jesus' teaching on John the Baptist (11:1-19)
 - b. Rebuke of unrepentant cities and Jesus' prayer (11:20-30)
 - c. Pharisees' opposition to Jesus (12:14-50)
8. **Parable Discourse and Galilean Ministry**
 - a. Jesus' teaching in parables (13:1-52)
 - b. Death of John the Baptist (14:1-12)
 - c. Feeding the five thousand (14:13-21)
 - d. Jesus walks on water (14:22-36)
9. **Discourse on Tradition and Return to Galilee**
 - a. Traditions of the elders and defilement (15:1-20)
 - b. Jesus' healing in Phoenicia (15:21-28)
 - c. Feeding of the four thousand (15:29-39)
 - d. The leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1-12)
 - e. Peter's confession of Jesus (16:13-20)
 - f. The transfiguration (17:1-13)
 - g. Greatness, sin and forgiveness (18:1-35)
10. **Final Judean Ministry**
 - a. Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce (19:1-12)
 - b. The rich young ruler (19:16-30)
 - c. Parable of the laborers in the vineyard (20:1-16)
11. **Final Jerusalem Temple Narratives**
 - a. Entry into Jerusalem (21:1-9)
 - b. Jesus' authority questioned (21:23 – 22:14)
12. **Public Discourse on Religious Leaders (23:1-39)**
13. **Private Discourse with the Disciples**
 - a. Discourse on the Mount of Olives (24:1 – 25:46)
 - b. Parables on Preparation (25:1-30)
14. **The Path to the Cross**
 - a. Preparation for Jesus' death (26:1-16)
 - b. Jesus in the Garden (26:36-56)
 - c. The Death of Jesus (26:57 – 27:66)
15. **The Son of Man Glorified**
 - a. The resurrection of Jesus (28:1-15)
 - b. The great commission of the twelve (28:16-20)

Notes

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 1

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”
which is translated, “God with us.” (1:23)*

Outline

- The Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17)
- The birth of Jesus (1:18-25)

Babylon is the capital city of Babylonia. The Babylonian empire was the first great empire in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31-45). The nation of Judah was taken into captivity after the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Locations

- Babylon (1:11) -
- Bethlehem (cf. 2:1) -

Bethlehem is a small town in Judah, about 5 miles south of Jerusalem. Prophesied to be the birthplace of the Christ. (Micah 5:2; cf. Matthew 2:3-6)

David was the second king of Israel. God promised him that the Messiah would come from his house. (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

People

- David (1:1) -
- Abraham (1:1) -
- Mary (1:18) -
- Joseph (1:18) –

Abraham was the patriarch of the Jewish nation. God promised that from him: 1) a nation would arise; 2) a land would be given; 3) The messiah would come! (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17)

Mary was a young virgin, betrothed to the man Joseph, who was chosen by God to give birth to the Messiah. “That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (1:20). (cf. Luke 1:26-38)

Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father (not biological). A just man (1:19). A man of Bethlehem (Luke 2:4). By trade a carpenter (Matthew 13:55).

Events

- Conception of Jesus (1:18-23) -
- Birth of Jesus (1:24-25) –

Mary and Joseph betrothed. Not yet married. Joseph given instructions in a dream. The conception was miraculous. Joseph was a just man. Mary was a virgin.

Luke 2:4-38 gives a much more detailed account of Jesus’ birth and early days.

Miracles

- Conception of Jesus/via the Holy Spirit (1:18-23) –

Note: Modernists dismiss Matthew 1 & Luke 2 as a deception intended to cover up Mary’s pregnancy, either by Joseph or another. Even in the institutional church, this heresy has been entertained. If so, this would completely destroy the view that Jesus is both God and man.

Teachings of Jesus (None in this chapter)

Lessons learned

- Genealogy proves the Messianic lineage of Jesus of Nazareth (1:1-17)
- Mary was a virgin (1:18)
- The conception of Jesus was miraculous (by the Holy Spirit), and establishes the validity of His claim to be both God and man (1:18-23)
- Jesus proper name was given to Mary and Joseph by an angel (1:21)
- The name “Immanuel” (prophesied, Isaiah 7:14) means that Jesus was God in the flesh (1:23)

Discussion (Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)

- Why was it important to establish Jesus’ Lineage? What other gospel records that lineage, and how can discrepancies between the two genealogies be explained?
- What is the significance of the name Jesus? (1:21,25)
- What does the term “betrothed” mean? (1:18). Why was it just for Joseph to “put her away secretly?” (1:19).
- What is the significance in the fact that the conception of Jesus was “of the Holy Spirit”? (1:20) How does it tie in with the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14?

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 2

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (2:2)

Outline

- Wise men from the east seek Jesus (2:1-12)
- Joseph takes Mary & Jesus to Egypt to avoid Herod. Children in Bethlehem murdered (2:13-18)
- Joseph takes Mary & Jesus to live in Nazareth (2:19-23)

Locations

- Bethlehem (see Chapter 1, 2:5-6, 16) & Jerusalem (2:1) -
- Egypt (2:13-15) –
- Nazareth of Galilee (2:22-23)

People

- Magi (Wise men) from the East (2:1) -
- Herod (2:3) -
- Archelaus (2:22) -

Events

- Wise Men’s visit to Jesus (2:1-12) -
- Jesus’ family flees to Egypt (2:13-15) –
- Massacre of the infants in Bethlehem (2:16-18) -
- Return to Israel. Galilee/Nazareth (2:19-23) -

Miracles

- The star in the East (2:2, 7, 9) -
- The dream of the wise men (2:12) -
- The Dreams of Joseph (2:13, 19-20, 22) –

Teachings of Jesus (None in this chapter)

Lessons learned

- Jesus was in danger as a child (entire chapter)
- Jesus is worthy of worship! (2:2; 10-11)
- Birth in Bethlehem (2:5-6), time in Egypt (2:13-15) & life in Nazareth (2:23) fulfilled prophecy
- Evil men will do whatever necessary to maintain their power! (entire chapter)

Discussion (*Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses*)

- Who were the wise men from the east, and how do you explain the star they saw? (2:1-2)
- Why was Herod troubled? Why was “all of Jerusalem” troubled? (2:3)
- How many children were estimated to have lost their lives at Herod’s hand? (2:16-18)
- What was the reputation of the city of Nazareth? (cf. John 1:45-46)

Reconciliation: Matthew 2 & Luke 2 (Re: Trip to Egypt)

A question was asked at the end of last week's class about the difference between Matthew's account of Jesus' early life, and that of Luke. Discussion followed after class. This page points out a means of reconciling the two accounts:

Matthew 2 records:

- Birth in Bethlehem (1)
- Visit of wise men in Bethlehem (2-12)
- Flight to Egypt (13-15)
- Return to Judea, and settling in Nazareth (19-23)

Luke Records:

- Birth of Jesus
- Visit to Jerusalem
- Settling in Nazareth

(Luke 2:21-24), *“And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”*²² *Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord*²³ *(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”),*²⁴ *and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”*

(Luke 2:39-40), *“So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.”*⁴⁰ *And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”*

Since we believe that the Bible is inerrant and inspired, there must be a way to reconcile the two accounts.

Such reconciliation is possible if we consider that Matthew included the sojourn in Egypt to indicate that prophecy was fulfilled, and Luke did not include it because he didn't note the prophecy.

If so:

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem
- Jesus was taken to Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord
 - *(Note: An argument is made that the wise men had not yet visited because the offering for Jesus was that offered by the poor. The gifts given by the Magi were precious and valuable. It may have been that if Joseph and Mary were in possession of these valuables, they would have offered a lamb as a sacrifice (Leviticus 12:6-8)).*
- All righteousness was fulfilled (Luke 2:39) (This is the point of Luke's record)
- Jesus returned to Bethlehem for a short time
- The Magi visited Jesus
- The family fled to Egypt
- The family returned to Nazareth

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 3

“And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (3:17)

Outline

- The preaching of John the Baptist (3:1-12)
- John the Baptist baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River (3:13-17)

Locations

- Wilderness of Judea (3:1) -
- Jerusalem/Judea (3:5) -
- Jordan River (3:5-6, 13) -

People

- John the Baptist (3:1-6, 12-15) -
- Pharisees and Sadducees (3:7-9) -

Events

- John the Baptist’s preaching and message (3:1-2) -
- Baptisms in the Jordan River (3:5-6) -
- John the Baptist’s conflict with the Jewish leaders (3:7-12) -
- John the Baptist baptizes Jesus in the Jordan (3:13-17) -

Miracles

- Fulfilled Prophecy: John the Baptist’s preaching (3:3) -
- The heavens open and God speaks at Jesus’ baptism (3:16-17) -

Teachings of Jesus (None in this chapter)

- The purpose of His baptism was to *“fulfill all righteousness”* (3:15)

Lessons learned

- John the Baptist was the forerunner who would prepare the way for Jesus (3:3)
- The Jewish leaders were ungodly, and opposed to the coming of the Messiah (3:7-8)
- Jesus’ baptism was not *“for the remission of sins”*, but to *“fulfill all righteousness”* (3:15)
- Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father are three different persons (3:16-17)

Discussion (Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)

- John the Baptist was the personification (coming) of what OT prophet? (cf. Malachi 3:1, 4:4-5; Matthew 11:7-15)
- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? The baptism of Fire? (3:11)
- What is John the Baptist saying Jesus would do in verse 12? (3:12)
- Can we suppose from John’s initial refusal to baptize Jesus, and the conversation between the two, that Jesus had no sin to be forgiven? (3:13-15; cf. 1 Peter 2:21-25)
- How do verses 16-17 establish the truth regarding the three persons that make up the one God?

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 4

“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (4:17)

Outline

- The temptation of Jesus by the devil in the Wilderness of Judea (4:1-11)
- The beginning of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee (4:12-17)
- Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Him (4:18-22)
- Jesus preaches in Galilee, and heals all kinds of sicknesses (4:23-25)

Locations

- The Wilderness of Judea (4:1) -
- Capernaum of Galilee (Regions of Zebulun & Naphtali) (4:12; 23,25) -
- Syria, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, beyond the Jordan (4:24-25) -

People

- Devil (4:1,3,5,8,11) -
- Simon called Peter and Andrew (4:18) -
- James the son of Zebedee and John (4:21) -

Events

- The temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness (4:1-11) –
- The call of four disciples to “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (4:18-22) -

Miracles

- Note: Jesus call of Simon, Andrew, James & John included a miracle (cf. Luke 5:1-11) -
- Prophecy fulfilled (4:14-16) -
- Multiple miracles of healing and casting out demons mentioned in (4:23-24) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Responses to the Devil (note: always an appeal to scripture) (4:4,7,10)
- *“Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (4:17)

Lessons learned

- Temptation can be thwarted by a knowledge of and appeal to scripture (4:1-11)
- At this point in Jesus ministry, His kingdom had not yet been established (4:17)

Discussion (*Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses*)

- What was the nature of the temptations experienced by Jesus? Does this event encompass the Hebrew writer’s words in Hebrews 4:15? (cf. 1 John 2:16).
- When was the kingdom of heaven established? (4:17; cf. Mark 9:1; Acts 2)
- Discussion the significance of Jesus words, “I will make you fishers of men” (4:19)
- Are there people today who are possessed by demons? (4:24)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 5

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven." (5:16)

Outline

- Jesus' sermon on the mount, (the entire chapter). (Note: This is the longest single discourse the Holy Spirit has preserved of Jesus' teaching. It covers chapters 5-7).

Locations

- A mount in Galilee (5:1) -

People

- His disciples (5:1) - Question: Were all 12 disciples present at this time? (cf. Luke 6:12-49). On this occasion did He speak only to His disciples? Or to the entire multitude?

Teachings of Jesus

- The beatitudes (5:1-12)
- The need to be a good influence (5:13-16)
- Jesus' purpose in coming, to fulfill the law (5:17-20)
- Teaching on anger, murder, strife (5:21-26)
- Teaching on lust, sin, temptation and a willingness to sacrifice to be holy (5:27-30)
- Marriage and Divorce (5:31-32)
- Jesus forbids oaths (5:33-37)
- Jesus calls upon His disciples to turn the other cheek (5:38-42)
- Jesus calls upon His disciples to love even their enemies (5:43-48)

Discussion

- Explain the purpose and significance of the list of beatitudes as a whole. Ask and answer any difficult concepts that are contained in them (5:1-12)
- Consider Jesus' statement that salt that no longer has favor is *"good for nothing"* (5:13)
- How can we let our lives shine before men? (5:16)
- What is a jot and a tittle? What is meant by Jesus who stated His intent to fulfill the law? When was that accomplished? (5:17-19; cf. John 19:30)
- The scribes and Pharisees were very religious, how can our righteousness exceed theirs? (5:20)
- Consider how God considers anger and strife between brethren. Are their applications to be made here in the relationships we sustain in the local church? (5:21-26)
- Jesus equates lust with adultery in (5:27-28). Does this mean that lust for another is grounds for divorce?
- Should (5:29-30) be taken literally? What does it mean?
- Give a concise explanation of Jesus teaching on Marriage and Divorce, based on (5:31-32)
- Do Jesus' words in (5:33-37) preclude a Christian swearing to tell the truth in a court of law?
- What do Jesus words in (5:33-37) teach us about the standard of honesty required of His disciples?
- Give a concise explanation of (5:38-44). Should these words be taken literally?
- How do you love your enemy? Differentiate between a love for your enemy, and a love you have for your neighbor, those who love you, your brethren? In what way is this being perfect like God? (5:43-48)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 6

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (6:33)

Outline

- Jesus’ sermon on the mount, continued (the entire chapter). (Note: This is the longest single discourse the Holy Spirit has preserved of Jesus’ teaching. It covers chapters 5-7).

Locations

- A mount in Galilee (5:1) -

People

- His disciples (5:1) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Good works are to please God, not to be seen by men (6:1-4)
- Teaching on prayer (6:5-8)
- Jesus’ model prayer for his disciples (6:9-15)
- Teaching on Fasting (6:16-18)
- Laying up treasures on earth, contrasted with laying up treasures in heaven (6:19-21)
- The lamp of the body is the eye (6:22-23)
- Jesus teaches against divided loyalty (God & mammon) (6:24)
- Jesus gives teaches against worry, and gives insight on how to avoid it (5:38-42)
- Jesus calls upon His disciples to love even their enemies (6:25-34)

Discussion

- What do the phrases *“you have no reward”*, *“they have their reward”* and *“will Himself reward you openly”* mean in relation to the motivation for good works? (6:1-4)
- Is it wrong for people to be aware of a good deed you have done? (cf. 6:3-4)
- What are vain repetitions? (6:7)
- If God already knows *“the things you have need of beforehand”*, why is it important to pray? (6:8)
- What are the constituent elements of an acceptable prayer to God? (6:9-13)
- Can we pray *“Your kingdom come”* today? (6:10)
- Since we are not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, is that a prohibition against owning possessions? Are there dangers associated with having possessions? (6:19-21)
- What does Jesus mean when he says *“The lamp of the body is the eye”*? In fact, what is the proper meaning of the entire section (6:22-23)?
- What is mammon, and how can we be guilty of serving mammon? (6:24-25)
- Do things like retirement planning and insurance equate to worrying about your life and body? (6:25)
- How does God provide for the birds and lilies? (6:26-29) For you? (6:30)
- We all worry from time to time. Is it always sinful? If not, at what point does it become sinful? (6:34)
- How do we *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”*? (6:33)
- What does *“sufficient for the day is its own trouble”* mean? (6:34)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 7

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (7:1-2)

Outline

- Jesus’ sermon on the mount, continued (the entire chapter). (Note: This is the longest single discourse the Holy Spirit has preserved of Jesus’ teaching. It covers chapters 5-7).

Locations

- A mount in Galilee (5:1) -

People

- His disciples (5:1) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Discourse on judging others without hypocrisy or sin (7:1-6)
- Teaching on the use of petitions in prayer to God (7:7-12)
- Pursue the narrow way to life (7:13-14)
- A warning against false prophets (7:15-20)
- The necessity of adherence to God’s will (7:21-23)
- A contrast between the wise man and the foolish man (7:24-29)

Discussion

- Do Jesus words in (7:1) preclude any type of judging?
- Discuss the example Jesus uses to condemn hypocrisy in judging (7:3-5).
- How do Jesus words in (7:6) tie in with the idea of judgment?
- Discuss the assurance we have of God’s answer to our prayers (7:7-11).
- How does the “golden rule” (7:12) tie in with the call to petition God in prayer?
- Seek to quantify “*many*” and “*few*” in verses (7:13-14). Can we?
- It is possible or right to judge motives when determining if one is a false prophet? (7:15) If not, how can we know a person is a false prophet? (7:16)
- Typically, a prophet is known as one who speaks from inspiration. A teacher makes no such claim. However, a false prophet obviously does not speak from inspiration. Is it fair to make a parallel between how we treat “*false prophets*”, and how we treat false teachers? (7:15-16)
- What does (7:21-23) teach regarding the basis of fellowship with God? What led to Jesus words, “*depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness*”?
- In what way do verses (7:21-23) tie in with Jesus’ illustration of the wise and foolish builders of (7:24-27)?
- What is the difference between teaching “as the scribes” and teaching “as one having authority” (7:28-29)? What is it about Jesus’ sermon in chapters 5-7 that would cause them to describe His teaching in this way?

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter Eight

“And Jesus said to him [a certain scribe, who had promised to follow Him wherever he went], ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’” (8:20)

Outline

- Jesus heals a leper following His sermon on the mount (8:1-4)
- Jesus in Capernaum (8:5-22)
- Jesus stills the winds and waves on the Sea of Galilee (8:23-27)
- Jesus casts out demons in the country of the Gergesenes (8:28-34)

Locations

- Capernaum (8:5)
- Sea of Galilee (8:23)
- Country of the Gergesenes (8:28)

People

- The centurion in Capernaum with great faith (8:8-9)
- Peter’s mother-in-law (8:14)

Events

- None. **Note:** all the “events” of this chapter center in the miracles. So, see “Miracles” below.

Miracles

- Jesus heals a leper following His sermon on the mount (8:1-4) -
- Jesus heals the servant of a centurion in Capernaum (8:5-13) -
- Jesus heals many, including the mother of Peter (8:14-17) -
- Jesus stills the winds and waves on the Sea of Galilee (8:23-27) -
- Jesus casts out demons in the country of the Gergesenes (8:28-34) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Dissertation on Faith (8:10-12, cf. 8:26) -
- Cost of Discipleship (8:18-22) –

Lessons learned

- Religious “position” (ex: Israelites) does not guarantee salvation (8:10-12) –
- Peter’s wife & mother-in-law, (8:14) (*Support, 1 Cor. 9:3-6; elder qualifications, 1 Peter 5:1*)
- Jesus will not always be well received despite His teaching and works (8:33-34)

Discussion (*Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses*)

- Why didn’t Jesus want the leper to tell others of his healing? (8:4) –
- Does demon possession continue to this day? (8:16) –
- What does “*let the dead bury their own dead*” mean? (8:22)
- What is “the time” referred to by the demons? And, if they knew about “the time” is there anything we can read into their possession or lack of possession of free will? (8:29)
- What could have motivated the people in the country of the Gergesenes to beg Jesus to depart from their region? (8:34)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 9

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” (9:37-38)

Outline

- Jesus forgives, then heals a paralyzed man in Capernaum (9:1-8)
- Jesus recruits Matthew to be one of His apostles (9:9-10)
- Jesus teaches on the proper relationship to sinners, and then on fasting (9:11-17)
- Jesus performs numerous miracles (Resurrecting the daughter of a ruler; Healing a woman’s flow of blood; giving to blind men sight; and healing a mute, demon possessed man) (9:18-34)
- Luke gives a summary statement regarding Jesus’ Galilean ministry (9:35-38)

Locations

- Capernaum *“His own city”* (9:1) -
- The province of Galilee (9:35) -

People

- Matthew (9:9) -
- Disciples of John (9:14) -
- His disciples (the twelve apostles) (9:37, cf. 10:1-4) -

Miracles

- Jesus heals a paralyzed man (9:1-8) –
- Jesus resurrects the dead daughter of a Jewish ruler (9:18-26) –
- Jesus heals a woman with an issue of blood (for 12 years) (9:20-22) –
- Jesus heals two blind men (9:27-31) –
- Jesus casts out a demon, healing a mute man (9:32-34) –
- Jesus performs many miracles in the cities and villages of Galilee (9:35) –

Teachings of Jesus

- Jesus reveals His purpose in coming to earth – to save sinners! (9:12-13) –
- Jesus preaches the gospel of the kingdom, and instructs his disciples to pray for workers (9:35-38)

Lessons learned

- The Son of Man (Jesus) had power while on earth to forgive sins (9:6) –
- Jesus expects us to labor in sharing the gospel with the lost (9:37-38) –

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Which is easier? To say, *“Your sins are forgiven you”*? or, *“Arise and walk”*? (9:5)
- What does this text mean, *“I desire mercy and not sacrifice”*? (9:13)
- Explain Jesus’ meaning in his illustration of the wineskins (9:16-17)
- What part does faith play in the miracles Jesus’ performed? (9:2,22,29)
- What is accomplished by praying to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers? (9:38)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 10

"How who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." (10:39)

Outline

- The 12 apostles of Jesus are listed by name (10:1-4)
- Jesus sent his apostles out to preach Him to the *"lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (10:5-42)

Locations

- The location of this event is not given in the context. Somewhere in the villages of Galilee

People

- 12 apostles: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot (10:1-4)

Events

- This command has been called the limited commission, because it was limited in scope to Israel (cf. 10:5-6) in contrast to a more general or "great" commission (cf. Matthew 28:16-20) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Jesus described the nature of the apostles' authority, and the proper response to a rejection of their teaching (10:5-15) –
- Jesus informed his apostles that they would be persecuted and hated for the preaching they did, and told them, *"Therefore do not fear them."* (10:16-26) –
- Rather than fearing man, it was and is proper to fear God (10:27-31) –
- Confession of Jesus leads to His confessing us before the Father. Those who deny will be denied (10:32-33) –
- Noting the inevitability of persecution and conflict, Jesus affirmed to His apostles that this was His purpose, to find those who truly are worthy (10:34-39) –
- The proper response to the preaching of the apostles was to receive them, which would bring reward (10:40-42)

Lessons learned

- God's intent and plan was to preach to the Jews first (10:5-6) –
- The preaching of the gospel will always lead to significant opposition (10:16-18) –
- Those who serve God have no reason to fear men (10:26, 28-31) –
- Confession of Christ (10:32-33), and a reception of the truth of God (10:40-42) brings reward. –

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- What does it mean to be *"wise as serpents and harmless as doves"*? (10:16)
- Why should it be necessary to *"beware of men"*? (10:17)
- How might we apply Jesus' words in (10:28) today, seeing that typically, we are not in physical danger due to our faith?
- Consider how difficult it might be to truly put Christ first in our lives (10:35-39)
- Discuss how important it is to defend those who bring the truth of God (10:40-42)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 11

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Outline

- Jesus discusses the significance of John the Baptist and his ministry (11:1-19)
- Jesus upbraids the cities of Galilee for their lack of repentance (11:20-24)
- Jesus promises rest to those who “labor and are heavy laden” (11:25-30)

Locations

- Chorazin (11:21) / Tyre and Sidon (11:21) -
- Bethsaida (11:21) -
- Capernaum (11:23) / Sodom (11:24) -

People

- John the Baptist (11:2-19) (cf. 3:1-6, 12-15)

Events

- The disciples depart after given Jesus’ charge or commission (11:1; cf. Luke 9:6; Mark 6:12-13) –
- Jesus departs to preach again in the cities of Galilee (11:1)
- Jesus answers the question John asked through his disciples (11:2-6)

Teachings of Jesus

- Jesus teaches the multitudes concerning the ministry of John the Baptist (11:7-19) –
- Jesus teaches on the consequence of a lack of repentance in the day of judgment (11:20-24) –
- Jesus teaches on His purpose to bring rest to those who are burdened and tired (11:25-30)

Lessons learned

- Jesus, as typical, defends his Messiahship by his works (miracles and preaching) (11:4-6)
- John the Baptist was more than a prophet, he was the prophesied forerunner of the Christ (11:8-10), Elijah (11:14)
- John the Baptist was a great man, but died before the establishment of the kingdom (11:11)
- The Jews first rejected John, and were in the process of rejecting Jesus as well (11:16-19)
- Consider the consequence of rejecting the obvious proofs of Jesus as the Christ (11:24)
- Rest for our souls are found in Jesus (11:28-30)

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Why did John seem to be unsure that Jesus was the Messiah? (11:3)
- Explain the meaning of Jesus in (11:12)
- What does the phrase, “*But wisdom is justified by her children*” mean? (11:19)
- What is described by Jesus in saying to His Father, “*You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight*”? (11:25-26)
- How can we “*know*” the Father? (11:27)
- In what way is Jesus yoke “*easy*”, and His burden “*light*”? (11:30)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 12

“For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” (12:50)

Outline

- The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath (12:1-8)
- Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath in the synagogue (12:9-14)
- Jesus heals all in need of healing among a multitude (12:15-21)
- Jesus casts out a demon and is falsely accused. He answers the false charges (12:22-37)
- Jesus condemns that generation for their unbelief (12:38-45)
- Jesus teaches the greater importance of spiritual relationships (12:46-50)

People

- Pharisees (12:2,14,24,38) -
- Beelzebub (12:24,26,27) -
- Queen of the South (12:42) -

Events

- Sabbath (21:1,10) -

Miracles

- Healing of the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath day (12:9-14) –
- Cast demons out of the blind and mute man (12:22) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (12:3-8) –
- Lawful to do good on the Sabbath (12:11-12) –
- Men will be condemned for blasphemy against the Son of God (12:25-37)
- Seeking a sign (only the resurrection would be given) the sign of an evil generation (12:39-45)
- The value of a spiritual relationship (12:46-50)

Lessons learned

- No matter what good might be done, some will have their face set against righteousness (in this case, the Pharisees, throughout the chapter)
- We will be condemned by God if our words are idle, and are not pure (12:37)
- The ultimate sign that Jesus is the Christ is His resurrection from the dead (12:39-40)
- Spiritual relationships are more important to God than physical relationships (12:50)

Discussion (*Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses*)

- Were the disciples guilty of wrongdoing by plucking the grain on the Sabbath? (12:2, cf. vs. 7)
- What did Jesus mean by *“the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath”*? (12:8)
- What is meant by *“the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him”*? (12:32)
- What did Jesus mean to teach and apply, using His illustration of the unclean spirit? (12:43-45)
- Was Jesus being disrespectful to His physical mother and brethren? (*Note: Jesus had brothers, so Mary was NOT a perpetual virgin*) (12:47-48)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 13

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (13:9)

Outline

- The Parable of the Sower (13:1-23)
- The Parable of the Wheat and Tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
- Other Kingdom Parables (13:31-35, 44-52)
- Jesus is rejected in His home town of Nazareth (13:53-58)

Locations

- Sea of Galilee (13:1)
- Nazareth (his own country) (13:54)

Events

- Jesus is rejected by the citizens of Nazareth (13:53-58)

Teachings of Jesus

- The Parable of the Sower (13:1-9), Explained (13:18-23) –
- The reason behind Jesus’ teaching in Parables (13:10-17) –
- The Parable of the Wheat and Tares (13:24-30), Explained (13:36-43) –
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed (13:31-32)
- The Parable of the Leaven (13:33-35)
- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (13:44)
- The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46)
- The Parable of the Dragnet (13:47-52)

Lessons learned

- Jesus’ teaching is special (and long desired by prophets and righteous men) (13:16-17)
- The possibility of apostasy (13:20-22)
- The nature and value of the kingdom (Kingdom parables)
- The condemnation of the lawless (13:40-42), and the eternal reward of the righteous (13:43)
- Familiarity can breed contempt (13:57)

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Please explain Jesus’ response to the disciples’ question *“Why do you speak to them in parables?”* (13:11-14)
- What attitude is seen in the words recorded from the inhabitants of Nazareth about Jesus? (13:54-56)
- Why did the lack of faith on the part of the inhabitants of Nazareth impact the mighty works of Jesus? (13:58)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 14

"Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'" (14:33)

Outline

- John the Baptist is beheaded (14:1-12)
- Jesus feeds a great multitude (14:13-21)
- Jesus walks across water to reach His disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee (14:22-33)
- Jesus heals many in the land of Gennesaret (14:34-26)

Locations

- Sea of Galilee (14:13, 25)
- Land of Gennesaret (14:34)

People

- Herod the Tetrarch (14:1)
- Herodias and Philip (14:3)

Events

- John the Baptist is beheaded (14:1-12) –

Miracles

- Jesus feeds a multitude (5,000+) with five loaves and two fish (14:13-21) –
- Jesus walks on water (14:22-33)
- Jesus heals those who touch the hem of His garment (14:34-36)

Lessons learned

- The remarriage of Herod and Herodias was not lawful (14:4)
- The consequences of an impulsive oath (lust?) (14:6-10)
- The compassion of Jesus (14:14-15)

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Discuss the reason why Herod's marriage to Herodias was not lawful (14:3-4), and the characteristic reaction of Herodias' to John's preaching on this issue.
- Consider the desires of the multitude in (John 6:26; cf. 6:1-13) after Jesus fed the multitude. In what way may this be paralleled to the carnal appetites of religious people today?
- Discuss the faith of Peter, demonstrated by his willingness to walk to Jesus on the water (14:29), and his lack of faith, which caused him to begin *"to sink"* (14:30)
- Discussion the compassion of Jesus as revealed in this chapter (14:14; 15-16; 36).
- Note the complete healing that was possible by Christ's divine nature. *"And as many as touched it [the hem of his garment] were made perfectly well."* Consider this contrast with the tactics of the false teachers in the Charismatic movement today.

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 15

“But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.” (15:13)

Outline

- Jesus denounced the Pharisees for their Hypocrisy (15:1-9)
- Jesus explained His actions to the multitude and His disciples (15:10-20)
- Jesus healed the daughter of a woman of Canaan (15:21-28)
- Jesus healed many, as great multitudes thronged to him (15:29-31)
- Jesus miraculously fed a multitude of 4,000 men, besides women and children (15:32-39)

Locations

- Tyre and Sidon (15:21)
- Canaan (15:22)
- Region of Magdala (15:39)

People

- Scribes and Pharisees (15:1)

Miracles

- Healed the demon possessed daughter of a woman from Canaan (15:21-28) –
- Healed many who were ill in the midst of great multitudes that thronged Him (15:29-31)
- Fed 4,000 men, plus women and children with 7 loaves and a few little fish (15:32-39)

Teachings of Jesus

- On hypocrisy and man-made traditions (15:1-9) –
- A parable on how a man is defiled (15:10-20) –

Lessons learned

- Traditions that contradict or negate God’s commands are transgressions/sins (15:3-6)
- To claim intimacy with God, but not do His will is hypocrisy! (15:7-9)
- Faith is always rewarded by God (15:28)
- The end of Jesus’ miracles was the glorification of the God of Israel (15:31)
- Again, Jesus was motivated to feed the multitude by His compassion (15:32)

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Why were the Pharisees wrong in condemning Jesus’ disciples? (cf. 7:1-2; Romans 2:1-2)
- In what way might modern denominations (and the philosophy of diversity that is behind them) violate the principle that Jesus taught in (15:7-9)
- What is the meaning behind Jesus’ words in (15:14)
- Discuss the difference between the dietary “defilements” of the Old law, and Jesus’ teaching on food/washing in His covenant (15:11,16-20)
- Correlate: Clean/unclean with Jew/Gentile, and the change in covenants.
- Why was Jesus hesitant to heal the daughter of the woman of Canaan? (15:22-27)

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter 16

“And Simon Peter answered, and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” (16:16)

Outline

- Pharisees and Sadducees ask of Jesus a sign from heaven (16:1-4)
- Jesus teaches his disciples of the dangers of the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:5-12)
- Jesus asked His disciples what they and others thought about His identity (16:13-20)
- Jesus begins to predict His eventual death and resurrection, upsetting His disciples (16:21-23)
- Jesus calls upon His disciples to practice self-denial, and to follow Him (16:24-28)

Locations

- Caesarea Philippi (16:13) –

People

- Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1,6,11,12) –
- Jonah (16:4) –
- John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, one of the prophets (16:14) –
- Simon Bar-Jonah, Peter (16:17-18) –
- Elders, chief priests, scribes (16:21) –

Events

- The good confession is first made by Peter (16:16) –

Teachings of Jesus

- Beware of the leavening influence of false doctrine (16:5-12) –
- Jesus would be establishing His church/kingdom (16:18-19) –
- Jesus teaches on the cost of discipleship (16:24-28) –

Lessons learned

- Christ would establish his church/kingdom. (16:18-19)
- Jesus must have the preeminence in our lives (16:24-26)
- The kingdom would be established in the lifetime of some of the apostles (16:28)

Discussion *(Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses)*

- Why did Jesus characterize those who sought a sign as a “wicked and adulterous generation”? (16:4)
- Explain the “*sign of the prophet Jonah*” (16:4)
- Is Jesus’ teaching re: doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees (leaven) applicable today? (16:12)
- Relate Peter’s confession to that confession we must make (16:16; cf. Romans 10:9-10)
- Why did Jesus forbid his disciples making their confession public at that time? (16:20)
- Did Jesus literally identify Peter as Satan? Or as an adversary? (16:23)
- Explain Jesus’ statement in 16:25.

Note: At this point in the class, a decision was made to begin a quarterly schedule for the Wednesday night studies. This requires the study in Matthew to be truncated, and finished in 8 weeks. Therefore, a final handout was sent out with the remaining topics. It is reproduced on the following page. When time is available, it is my intent to finish the chapter handouts to complete the set. If you are reading this, I haven't yet been able to do it. Please check back, or contact me about the material, and I will let you know when to expect the handouts. (Stan Cox, Istancox@gmail.com)

Matthew

Final handout

The decision has been made to finish the class on Matthew by the end of February. This will allow the Wednesday classes to merge, to begin a new topic of study at the beginning of the new quarter, and to allow the men to become a bit more active in the teaching program.

Because of this, we will have a study of 8 topics that are covered in the final 13 chapters of the book. We will limit our discussion of each topic to one class period.

January 9: Peter's Confession (Matthew 16:13-28)

- What is the significance of this confession?
- Why did Jesus respond so harshly to Peter in verses 21-23, 28?

January 16: Jesus' Transfiguration on the Mount (Matthew 17:1-13)

- What is the significance of the Transfiguration?
- If time, discuss Jesus and Peter paying taxes in vs. 24-27.

January 23: Jesus' teaching on Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage (Matthew 19:1-12)

- The controversy as it exists today.
- Jesus' teaching, and harmonizing Jesus with Paul in 1 Corinthians 7.

January 30: Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-17)

- Note: This brings Jesus into direct conflict with the religious leaders (23-46; chapter 23).
- If time, note Jesus' teaching on taxes, the resurrection and the greatest command (22:15-40).

February 6: The Destruction of Jerusalem/Final Day of Judgment (Matthew 24 & 25)

- What part of the text is Jesus answering the disciples about the coming Judgment on Jerusalem?
- What part of the text is Jesus talking about the final day of judgment?
- Discuss the parables and teaching regarding the final judgment in chapter 25.

February 13: The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16, 47-68)

- What part did Judas Iscariot play, and what was the result?
- Discuss Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, and facing the Sanhedrin.
- If time, look at the instituting of the Lord's Supper (26:26-30).

February 20: The Crucifixion (Matthew 27)

- What are the details?
- Why did it happen?
- In what way does it benefit mankind?

February 27: The Resurrection (Matthew 28)

- What are the details?
- Why did it happen?
- In what way does it benefit mankind?

Below is the template I am using for the chapter handouts.

A Survey of Matthew

Chapter #

“Memory Verse” (Reference)

Outline

- Text (Reference)

Locations

- Text (Reference)

People

- Text (Reference)

Events

- Text (Reference) -

Miracles

- Text (Reference) -

Teachings of Jesus

- Text (Reference) -

Lessons learned

- Text (Reference)

Discussion (*Note: These questions may be answered as the class progresses*)

- Text (Reference)