

1. “The solution to this problem of New Testament scholarship seems to be that Matthew’s record of the words that Jesus spoke was the source of this record which was then either edited by Matthew himself or someone else (perhaps one of his disciples) who used the Gospel of Mark as a kind of chronological benchmark.” Matthew wrote the book, of that there is no doubt.
  
2. Look for the words: “When Jesus had finished saying these things...” They signal the end of each of the 5 sections of Matthew’s Gospel.
  
3. The other word to watch for is “fulfilled.”
  - A. Saw it 4 times in the first 2 chapters
  - B. Since Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience, he is especially concerned that they recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
  
4. The point behind all the references Matthew makes to fulfilled prophecy, though some are obscure and we would probably have missed them ourselves, is that all the history, prophecy, and even the Psalms are pointing to the coming of Christ.
  
5. Matthew began with a genealogy because the lineage of Jesus would be critically important to any Jew. He had to be a descendant of David.
  - A. Matthew and Luke’s genealogies differ - possibly one is Mary’s line and one is Joseph’s line.
  - B. Matthew’s list has 3 sections with 14 generations each; it was for memorizing.
  - C. The inclusion of the women’s names is important:
    1. Christianity breaks down the barriers between men and women with regard to importance and access to God.
    2. Gentiles and “sinners” are seen fit by God to be in His son’s ancestral list.
    3. It ends with Mary - people needed to be careful before they judged the “unusual” circumstances of Christ’s birth.
      - a. It was a “virgin” birth - a miracle.
      - b. The “real” miracle is the “incarnation.”
  
6. Mathew is the only Gospel to recount the story of the Wise Men.
  - A. The Wise Men knew what the biblical scholars of Herod’s court did not know.
  - B. The birth of Christ occurred sometime before Herod’s death in 4BC.
  - C. An unusual astronomical occurrence was recorded in Babylon around 7BC.
  - D. We do not know the names or the number of the Wise Men.
  - E. Joseph and Mary were at a house in Bethlehem by the time the Magi found them.
  
7. The massacre of the children in Bethlehem is totally in character for this Herod (Herod the Great). He did not take well to competition.

1. This is the third Synoptic Gospel that we are reading. Matthew tends to be more detailed in his coverage of the same events than Luke or Mark
2. With the ministry of John the Baptist and the voice of God at the Jordan River when Jesus was baptized, the 400-year silence of God to His people was broken.
3. Two important strands of prophecy concerning the Messiah that connected in Jesus: The One who would come to rule as the Son of God (Psalm 2), and the suffering servant of Isaiah 53.
4. John the Baptist's message: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."
  - A. The "Kingdom of Heaven" that Matthew uses is identical to the "Kingdom of God" used by other writers. Matthew is reflecting his culture's adversity to actually saying the name of God. This expression is used in 4 ways in Scripture:
    1. To express the ultimate sovereignty of God over His world
    2. To stake the claim that we as His creatures should serve the King
    3. To describe the realm in which His kingly rule is acknowledged
    4. To point to the future when his kingly rule will be on earth as it is in heaven
5. The Kingdom of Heaven is both "now" and "not yet".
6. This parallels other passages about our salvation:
  - We have been saved.
  - We are being saved.
  - We will be saved.
7. Repentance is the key to experiencing the Kingdom of God. To truly repent, we need to understand the "bad news" that we are sinners. Then we can accept the "good news" of the Gospel.
8. It was a revolutionary idea to a Jew that they would ever need to be baptized - that was for proselytes, not native-born Jewish people.
9. The rest of John's message was closely connected with the theme of coming judgment. John, however, did not understand that there would be two comings of the Messiah - the first to provide salvation; the second to bring the final judgment.
10. The Temptation experience:
  - A. It was Messianic - to test Christ and try to divert Him from the path of obedience.
  - B. It was representative - Christ passed the test where our first representative, Adam, had failed.
  - C. Christ's ability to withstand the temptation experience was clearly connected to His knowledge of and dependence on the Word of God. It is the same for us. "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11
11. Kingdom Ministry - Jesus' ministry consisted of 3 activities:
  - A. Preaching - He preached the Gospel.
  - B. Teaching - He explained His preaching and answered questions.
  - C. Healing - Physical, mental, emotional, and demonic healing

1. Matthew 5-7 is “The Sermon on the Mount.”
2. This is the end of Matthew’s first teaching block: “When Jesus had finished these sayings...” His book revolves around themes, not chronology.
3. Mountains: The Sermon on the Mount; The Mount of Temptation; The Mount of Transfiguration; The mountain where Christ said goodbye to His disciples before ascending to heaven. Perhaps Matthew is contrasting Moses’ bringing God’s Word to the people on Mt. Sinai with Jesus’ bringing God’s Word to the people on a mountain.
4. The content of the Sermon on the Mount:
  - A. Its overarching theme: Being a follower of Jesus, a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, will mean being utterly different than everyone else around you.
  - B. The Beatitudes - (‘Blessed’ simply means ‘happy’.) They are the characteristics of Jesus:
    1. Happy are the poor in spirit
    2. Happy are the ones who mourn
    3. Happy are the meek
    4. Happy are the spiritually hungry
    5. Happy are the merciful
    6. Happy are the pure in heart
    7. Happy are the peacemakers
    8. Happy are the ones persecuted because of righteousness
  - C. Happiness is not an end in itself - it is the result of godliness.
5. “You have heard it said, but I say unto you...” Pharisees kept the Law outwardly; Jesus offers inward holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. Jesus’ teaching on prayer: The “Lord’s Prayer” - the model He gave His disciples
  - A. Pray to your Father - revolutionary thought
  - B. “Hallowed be YOUR name; YOUR kingdom come, YOUR will be done on earth as it is in heaven”
  - C. Earthly needs follow submission to His will
  - D. Forgiveness/willingness to forgive others
7. Acts of kindness, prayer and fasting
  - A. Should be done privately and secretly, not for recognition
  - B. Jesus expected that all of His followers would Do acts of kindness; PRAY; FAST
8. Fasting:
  - A. Do a Bible study on fasting
  - B. Practice fasting
    1. For the sake of getting to know God better
    2. To humble yourself before Him
    3. To spend time with Him that would otherwise be spent in sating our physical appetites

1. Matthew 8 and 9 begin the second of Matthew's 6 major sections.
  - A. The first 5 sections begin with a narrative relating the things Jesus said and did and end with a significant block of teaching material on a particular subject.
  - B. The first section began with John the Baptist and the theme of the Kingdom of Heaven and ended with the Sermon on the Mount. The emphasis was on the supernatural words of Jesus.
  
2. The emphasis switches today from His supernatural words to His supernatural works. Matthew is seeking to answer the same question that was so prominent in Mark's Gospel - "Who is Jesus Christ?"
  
3. Miracles are recorded to help us answer that question.
  - A. 9 miracle accounts in the 2 chapters we read today, organized into 3 groups of 3:
    1. Group 1: Messianic Emphasis
      - a. The healing of the leper - leprosy was a symbol of sin
      - b. The healing of the centurion's servant - Messiah would extend grace to the Gentiles
      - c. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law - Matthew uses 4 Old Testament Messianic passages to make this healing a Messianic statement
      - d. Is there healing in the atonement? "...it seems clear enough that Christ died for our physical as well as our spiritual needs, it would be going further than the Scripture goes to say that healing is in the atonement in the same way that forgiveness is there." When we ask for forgiveness, the Bible tells us that God promises always to forgive. It is our right and privilege to ask for healing, but there is no ironclad guarantee that it will always happen.
    2. Group 2: The Power of Jesus is emphasized
      - a. The calming of the storm - power over nature
      - b. The healing of the 2 demon-possessed men in Gadara - power over demons
      - c. The healing of the paralytic man - power over sin
    3. Group 3: Jesus' interest in people others would have passed over
      - a. The woman who was ceremonially unclean
      - b. The dead girl who was also "unclean"
      - c. The blind and the mute who were considered "outsiders"
      - d. Anyone who has faith is "in" - He favors no one!
  
4. The autobiographical account of Matthew's conversion fittingly comes after the miracle which emphasizes Jesus power over sin. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, you Pharisees: I will have mercy and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous but the sinners."

1. Matthew 10 ends the second section of Matthew's book.

2. Jesus is teaching about discipleship:

A. The nature of the mission

B. The cost of carrying out the command of the Lord Jesus Christ

C. The context is the sending out of the 12 disciples on a preaching tour.

1. Christ gave His authority to the 12 - His divine power can be delegated.

2. The mission was to go to all the towns and cities of Israel and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven - evangelism...looking for more disciples.

3. Two basic responsibilities - preaching and healing were the focus of their activities...deliver God's Word and do God's work.

D. Question: How can we do the works of God when we do not have the supernatural power that these disciples did?

1. God will not give us that power unless we move out and do the works of the Kingdom.

2. He has promised through the Holy Spirit to endow us with all the power and authority we need to accomplish the work He has given us to do.

3. Jesus motto to His disciples - God's motto to us: "Freely you have received, freely give".

E. They were to expect opposition. So should we. (Matthew 10: 24, 25)

F. The ominous warning about not bringing peace, but a sword - what does that mean, coming from the "Prince of Peace"?

1. Being a follower of Jesus places us in diametric opposition to the world.

2. The closer we come to the end of the age, the more clearly the lines between good and evil, godliness and godlessness will be drawn, and we will have to decide "just how closely we will identify with Jesus Christ and how much we are willing to sacrifice to be extenders of His Kingdom."

G. The Gospel will be preached to the Jewish people far beyond this preaching trip - right to the time of Christ's return.

H. Jesus ends His instructions to them with this promise: "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."