



The Gospel of Matthew Explained

The Gospel of Matthew is one of the four canonical gospels of the New Testament. It is believed to have been written by Matthew, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. This gospel is primarily intended for a Jewish audience, presenting Jesus as the Messiah promised in the Hebrew Scriptures.

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Main Topics of the Gospel



Jesus as the Messiah

Matthew emphasizes how Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament, demonstrating that He is the Messiah long awaited by Israel.



The Kingdom of Heaven

Central theme presented through parables that describe the nature and principles of the kingdom of God.



Law and Justice

Matthew shows that Jesus came to fulfill the Law of Moses, not to abolish it, and that true righteousness goes beyond external observance.



The Church

Matthew is the only gospel that explicitly mentions the word "church" (ekklesia), indicating the importance of the community of believers.



The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is one of the most important sections of the Gospel, where Jesus sets forth the fundamental principles of the Kingdom of Heaven. It includes the Beatitudes, the teaching on salt and light, and the interpretation of the Law.

This section represents the core of Jesus' ethical and spiritual teachings, establishing a new standard of justice that goes beyond the external observance of the law.



Eight Beatitudes

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The Beatitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven..."

Matthew 5:3-12

The Beatitudes describe the characteristics of citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, who will experience true happiness and blessing through total dependence on God and a life of humility, justice, and mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

"You, then, pray like this: Our Father who art in heaven..."

Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, providing a model of prayer that includes:

- The worship of God
- The search for His will
- The request for our daily needs
- Forgiveness and protection



Parables of the Kingdom

In Matthew 13, Jesus uses parables to teach about the Kingdom of Heaven, making his teachings accessible and memorable to everyone.



The Sower

It illustrates how the Word of God is received in different ways by people, depending on the condition of their hearts.



The Mustard Seed

It shows how the Kingdom starts small but grows into something large and influential.



The Yeast

It teaches how the Kingdom silently transforms the entire society from within.



The Parable of the Sower

"Behold, the sower went out to sow..."

Matthew 13:3-9



Path

Seeds that fall along the path and are devoured by birds. They represent those who hear the Word but don't understand it.



Pedregales

Seeds in rocky soil that sprout quickly but dry up. They represent those who receive the Word with joy but without roots.



Thorns

Seeds among thorns that choke them. It represents those who let worries and riches suffocate the Word.



Good Earth

Seeds planted in good soil bear abundant fruit. It represents those who hear, understand, and bear fruit.



The Great Commission

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

Matthew 28:18-20

This passage is Jesus' final command to his followers, instructing them to spread the gospel throughout the world, making disciples and teaching them to obey his commandments.

Elements of the Great Commission

Authority of Christ

"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."

The mission is based on the universal authority of Christ as the risen Lord.

Making Disciples

"Go and make disciples of all nations..."

The main objective is not only to convert, but to form committed followers of Jesus.

Baptism and Teaching

"...baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things..."

Discipleship includes both initiation (baptism) and ongoing training in obedience.

Continuous Presence

"...I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The promise of Christ's constant presence accompanies the command.

Conclusion: The Relevance of Matthew Today

The Gospel of Matthew remains deeply relevant for believers today:

- It presents Jesus to us as the fulfillment of God's promises.
- It teaches us the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven
- It challenges us to a justice that goes beyond the external
- Calls us to be part of the community of faith
- He commissions us to share the gospel with all nations

