

The Bible 20/20 Week 35: “The King is Here” (9-6-20)

Reading this week: Matthew chapters 13-28

Introduction: NT Wright - “The gospel of Matthew was the early church’s favorite book. It was the most quoted, most copied, most read, and most preached Christian book of the early centuries.”

Wright goes on to describe Matthew 13:52 as the signature of this book . . .

Matthew 13:52 (ESV)

And (Jesus) said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Note: This is what this book is - a linking of things that are old, with the new covenant of Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient promises!

Linking the Old Testament with Jesus the King (source: Warren Wiersbe):

- There are a total of 129 quotations, references, or allusions to the OT
- Matthew refers to 25 of the 39 OT books
- The word “fulfilled” is used at least 12 times

The opening lines of the book make it clear . . .

Matthew 1:1 (ESV) - “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Let’s take a look at the big picture themes of the Gospel of Matthew . . .

1) The Announcement of the King and His Kingdom

Matthew 1:20-23 (ESV)

(20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

- **Matthew 2** - The arrival of the Wisemen searching for the “King of the Jews” and worshipping Jesus
- **Mathew 3** - John the Baptist declaring the kingdom is near, and the imminent arrival of the Messiah

Then Jesus opens his ministry with the primary message he carried: **The arrival of the Kingdom of God!**

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The Gospel closes with one of the most well known and important passages in the NT . . .

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2) Life in the Kingdom (What it's like & How to participate)

The Gospel of Matthew is not only a declaration of Good News (What has been done for us), but an invitation to living in this new reality!

a) What His Kingdom is like (and therefore what is available to us)

- In Jesus' words

Example: Matthew chapter 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount)

Conclusion of the sermon on the mount . . .

Matthew 7:28-29 (ESV)

(28) And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, (29) for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

- In Jesus' actions

Example: Matthew 8:1-17 (Jesus' care for people - bringing hope & healing)

We see: A Leper cleansed, Centurion's servant healed, the sick healed, & demons cast out

- In Jesus' sacrifice

The climax (the final 3 chapters): laying out his trial, execution, death, and resurrection!

His Kingdom is unexpected - hidden, upside down, the king serves instead of being served

b) How to live in His Kingdom

There is much instruction in Matthew's Gospel on how to be a follower of Jesus . . .

Example: Matthew 13 - Parables about the kingdom (other examples: Chapters 18-20, 22, 25)

Matthew 13:34-35 (ESV)

(34) All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. (35) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

Note: To understand this life, you have to **seek it**, and you have to **seek Him!**

Matthew gives us what we need to see and know the King of Kings, so we can follow Him as our King!

3) Warning against False Kingdoms

Examples: **Matthew 23** - Woes to the scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 19:16-30 - Rich young ruler

Matthew 16:24-28 - Take up your cross / deny yourself / and follow Jesus

Matthew 15:1-9 - Teaching as doctrine the commands of men (wash your hands before eating)

Matthew 13:1-23 - The Parable of the Sower (reveals ways that we miss his kingdom)

These warnings help reveal our modern day idols!

Our Own Kingdom (I'm the king, pursuing my agenda often through money, power, affluence, and ease)

Outside kingdoms (other cultural influences looking for our allegiance to their ideology & power)

Application for Today: Leaven

Matthew 13:33 (ESV)

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

What permeates your life?

Leaven and False Gospels . . .

1) Broken Ideologies & Philosophies of present day cultural leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, & Herod)

Matthew 16:5-12 (Jesus warns of the leaven of the Pharisees & Sadducees)

Mark 8:15 (Mark's gospel adds Herod to this list as well)

Luke & Paul warn followers of Jesus (using the same analogy of leaven) about our own broken approaches!

2) Broken approaches to our Christian Faith

- A. **Hypocrisy** - *Pharisees - not just their teaching warned against here, but their fake-ness (Luke 12:1-3)
- B. **Compromise** - Sexual immorality, but also greed, drunken partying, swindlers, etc. (1 Cor. 5:6-13)
- C. **Legalism** - external legalistic requirements apart from simple faith! (Galatians 5:1-9)

Conclusion: Who influences your thought life? What is getting worked into you? Is it the Kingdom of Jesus?

Let's Pray!

Discussion Questions:

- What are the primary themes of Matthew? Why is so much time spent in Matthew connecting Jesus with the OT stories and promises? How is that important to us today?
- What does it mean to participate in Jesus' kingdom? How can we learn to follow him and allow him to be our king? What does Matthew 13:34-35 tell us about learning and growing in God's kingdom?
- Why are we warned about false kingdoms? What are some examples of modern day idols (false kingdoms) that we face today? Is there a particular idol that has been a struggle in your life?
- How is God's kingdom like leaven? How can we allow His kingdom to permeate our lives? Is there something that needs to change in your life to help his kingdom grow in you?