



## “I Am” PT. I | Matthew | Mark Allen | 03.08.26

### “I Am King” Matthew’s Gospel

#### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

#### Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** Have you ever missed an important event because of time change or confusion about timing? How did that make you feel?

#### Sermon Overview

This message begins a 4-week series exploring the four Gospels through the lens of "I Am" statements. Matthew presents Jesus as **King**, Mark will present Him as **Servant**, Luke as **Man**, and John as **God**. Matthew's Gospel uniquely structures Jesus's identity as King through triads (groups of three) throughout the entire book.

#### Key Scripture References

- **Zechariah 9:9** - "Behold your King"
- **Isaiah 42:1** - "Behold my Servant"
- **Judges 13:10** - "Behold the Man"
- **Isaiah 35:4** - "Behold your God"
- **Revelation 4:6-8** - Four living creatures (Lion, Ox, Man, Eagle)
- **Matthew 1:1** - Jesus's genealogy
- **Matthew 27:37** - "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews"

## Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus is uniquely qualified to be King** - His genealogy, the world's recognition, and God's declaration all confirm His kingship.
  2. **The King passed every test** - Jesus overcame temptation in body, soul, and spirit, proving He is worthy to rule.
  3. **We need the King in all three areas** - Our bodies need discipline, our souls need surrender, but our spirits need resurrection that only Jesus can provide.
  4. **The King established His kingdom laws** - The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) shows us how to live under His authority.
  5. **The King promises His presence** - "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).
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## Discussion Questions:

### Understanding Jesus as King

1. **The Four Gospels:** Why do you think God inspired four different Gospel writers to tell Jesus's story from different perspectives? How does this strengthen your faith?
2. **Genealogy Matters:** Matthew begins with Jesus's genealogy divided into three sets of 14 generations (Abraham to David, David to Babylon, Babylon to Christ). What does this mathematical precision tell us about God's sovereignty over history?
3. **Triple Declaration:** Jesus is declared King three ways in Matthew 1-3:
  - By genealogy (Jewish declaration)
  - By wise men (world's declaration)
  - By God the Father at baptism (heaven's declaration)
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Why was it important for Jesus to be recognized as King from all three perspectives?

### The Temptations and Our Struggles

4. **Body, Soul, Spirit:** Jesus was tempted in three areas - body (bread), soul (throw yourself down), and spirit (worship). Which of these three areas do you find most challenging in your own life? Why?

5. **Disciplining the Flesh:** Paul said, "I discipline my body and make it my slave" (1 Corinthians 9:27). What does disciplining your body look like practically in today's world?
6. **Soul Issues:** Pastor Mark described soul issues as struggles with will, ego, and self. Peter wanted to speak when he should have listened at the Transfiguration. When do you find yourself "talking when you should be listening" to God?

## Spiritual Authority

7. **Spiritual Deadness:** Pastor Mark explained that we're born spiritually dead because of Adam's sin. How does understanding this help you appreciate what Jesus has done for you?
  8. **The King's Authority:** Jesus declared, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). How does knowing Jesus has ALL authority change the way you approach your problems?
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to focus on this week:

#### BODY:

- Identify one physical habit that needs discipline
- Fast from something (food, media, etc.) and replace that time with prayer
- Ask: "What physical desires am I allowing to control me instead of surrendering to the King?"

#### SOUL:

- Practice listening prayer - spend 10 minutes in silence asking God what He wants to say to you
- Identify an area where your will conflicts with God's will and surrender it
- Ask: "Where am I trying to be my own king instead of submitting to THE King?"

## SPIRIT:

- If you've never accepted Jesus as King, talk to someone this week about how to do that
- Spend time thanking Jesus for giving you spiritual life
- Ask: "Am I living in the power of the resurrected King, or am I still acting spiritually dead?"

## Group Action Steps

1. **Accountability Partners:** Pair up and share which area (body, soul, or spirit) you're focusing on this week. Commit to checking in with each other.
2. **Scripture Memorization:** Memorize Matthew 28:18-20 as a group over the next four weeks.
3. **Journal Prompts:**
  - How have I been treating Jesus in my life - as King, advisor, or someone I ignore?
  - What would change in my life if I truly submitted to Jesus as King in every area?

## Closing Reflection

Read together Matthew 28:18-20:

*"Jesus came up 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, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"*

**Final Question:** What is one specific way you will acknowledge Jesus as King this week??

## Looking Ahead

**Next Week:** Mark's Gospel - "I Am Servant"

**Preparation:** Read the Gospel of Mark and notice how Jesus is constantly serving others. Come ready to discuss what it means that the King became a Servant.