

Walking Through the Word

Jesus, Paul and the Church (Week 20)

Story: **Calling, Healing, and Teaching** [E: Fisherman Leave Their Nets, Jesus Calls Matthew (387-390); Jesus Heals a Withered Hand, The Twelve, The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Heals a Leper, A Roman Captain Shows Great Faith, Four Men Tear Up a Roof (392-400); John the Baptist in Prison (403); Peter's Great Confession, The Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus Heals an Epileptic Boy, Who Is the Greatest, Peter Learns About Forgiveness (421-428); Little Children Are Brought to Jesus, The Rich Young Ruler (437-438); James and John Want to Be Honored, Blind Bartimeus (455-457); Jesus Teaches in the Temple, The Parable of the Two Sons, The Parable of the Wicked Farmers, The Parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus' Enemies Come with Questions (463-468); The Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus Tells About the End of the World (470-472)]

Location: **Matthew 4-12, 16-25**

Bios & definitions

Author: The author of this book is believed to be Matthew, one of the twelve apostles. Matthew, son of Alphaeus, is also known as "Levi" in Mark and Luke. He was a despised tax collector who left his work to follow Jesus. His name means "gift of the LORD".

Audience: Though there is no direct evidence, it is believed that Matthew was written in the Syrian Antioch area. Based on the assumption that Matthew used much of Mark's text in his gospel, it is believed that Matthew was written sometime between 60 - 65 A.D.. For the following reasons it is well accepted that Matthew was written to the Jews: it was written in both Hebrew and Greek, it focuses on the fulfillment of the Old Testament (quoting from it 62 times, which is more than any of the other gospel writers), he does not explain Jewish customs, unlike the other gospel writers he uses the term "kingdom of heaven instead of "kingdom of God" thus revealing the Jewish reverential reluctance to use the name of God. Matthew also includes Jesus' descent from Abraham and emphasizes Jesus' role as "Son of David". The book of Matthew also records more of Jesus' words than any of the other gospels

Points to Remember: Matthew is a more comprehensive gospel than Mark and is not in chronological order. The main purpose of Matthew's gospel is to prove that Jesus is the Messiah that fulfilled the OT scriptures. The material in Matthew is arranged in a very interesting and purposeful order. In the gospel are 3 different parts: the prologue, the body, and the epilogue. The prologue includes the genealogy of Jesus, and the epilogue contains the Passion and Resurrection. The body is divided into 5 discourses with a narrative section leading up to them. Each section ends with "When Jesus had finished saying these things..." The first discourse is the Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29). The second is the Commissioning of the Apostles (10:1-42). The third discourse includes the Parables of the Kingdom (13:1-52). The fourth deals with Relationships in the Kingdom (18:1-35) and the last is the Olivet Discourse which is Jesus' last key teaching with the disciples (24:1-25:46). Interestingly, this adds up to 7 parts total and there are 5 discourses just as there are 5 "books of the law".

Andrew: a fisherman by trade; was the first apostle called by Jesus; immediately left his boat and followed Jesus

Simon: also known as Peter; the brother of Andrew; was with Andrew when Jesus called them to leave their boats and follow him; like Andrew, he left immediately at Jesus' invitation

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James and John: the sons of Zebedee; partners of Simon and Andrew; they also left their ship immediately to follow Jesus

Capernaum: the city that Peter lived in; became the base of operations for the extended ministry of Jesus in Galilee

Matthew: tax collector called by Jesus to be an apostle; believed to have written the gospel of Matthew; after choosing to follow Jesus he held a great banquet at his home for his friends, many who were also tax collectors

tax collectors: worked for the Roman government collecting taxes; hated and despised because they often levied more tax than needed and kept the excess for themselves; regarded as outcasts; they could not serve as witnesses or as judges and were expelled from the synagogue

“sinners”: present at Matthew’s dinner with Jesus; notoriously evil people as well as those who refused to follow the Mosaic law as interpreted by the teachers of the law

Pharisees: a strict group of religious Jews who advocated minute obedience to the Jewish law and traditions; highly respected in the community but hated Jesus

Apostle: means one who is sent out

The Sermon on the Mount: given after Jesus chose his twelve apostles in order to teach them how they should live, pray, treat their enemies and friends, and how God loves and cares for them; closes with the story of the wise and foolish builders

leprosy and lepers: leprosy was a very painful disease that afflicted the skin; anyone who had it was called a leper and were forbidden to be in the city or around anyone who didn’t have it; no one would ever touch them for fear of contracting it

Caesarea Philippi: a city north of the Sea of Galilee near the slopes of Mount Hermon on what is today the Golan Heights; the place where Peter made his confession of Christ

The Mount of Transfiguration: the place that Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured to his glorified state; was probably Mount Hermon

The rich young man: a man who had kept all the commandments but “seemed to lack something”. Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his riches to the poor. He could not because he loved his riches more than he loved God.

Bartimaeus: a blind beggar man that sat outside the city of Jericho. As Jesus passed by he called out to him. As his friends tried to quiet him, he cried out louder. Because of his faith he was healed by Jesus who was on his way to Jerusalem for the Passover.