

The Gospel According to Matthew

Image of Jesus (How does Matthew portray, or paint a picture of Jesus.)

1. **Jesus as Teacher (Rabbi):** The primary aim of Matthew is to portray Jesus as an authoritative teacher worthy of obedience.
2. **Jesus as Fulfillment of the Torah:**
 - a. **Christ means messiah** → anointed one.
 - b. **Son of God** → **God is Jesus' father**
 - c. **Servant of God, Shepherd, Son of David, Son of Man (Titles from OT)**
 - d. **With the temple gone, Jews could find their new spiritual home in Jesus.**

Themes of Matthew's Gospel

1. **Judgment:** Several parables deal directly with the second coming of Christ and the theme of last judgment. Perhaps some of Matthew's audience were getting discouraged that the Lord had not yet returned in full glory. The evangelist had to remind them to always be ready for the Lord's return. (Mt 25: 1-13, Parable of Ten Virgins)
2. **Jesus is Emmanuel:** Emmanuel means "God with us," the Messiah, who wills the salvation of the Jews and Gentiles.
3. **Discipleship:** Following Jesus is hard work. Following Jesus is more than lip service. It requires humility, rejection, and suffering.
4. **Church:** Matthew's Gospel is the only Gospel that refers to "church" (Mt 16:18 and 18:17). The Greek word is *ekklesia*. "Church" in this sense means 2 things: 1) a gathering of Christians at liturgical functions and 2) a community of believers that is both local and universal.
5. **Right Instruction:** Matthew's gospel is CATECHETICAL. It is likened to an INSTRUCTION MANUAL for new converts and faithful disciples. Matthew's gospel teaches righteousness, prayer and conversion.

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Questions YOU should be able to answer *without* looking!

1. What is the image of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel?
2. What is the difference between Jesus as a teacher and "Jesus as fulfillment of the Torah?"
3. What are the themes of Matthew's Gospel?
4. Why did the author believe Judgment was an important theme?
5. What does it mean to say that Jesus is Emmanuel?
6. What does Matthew think it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
7. What is Matthew's understanding of Church? (*ekklesia*)
8. What does it mean to say that Matthew's gospel is "catechetical?"
9. Who does Matthew believe needs instruction?
10. What 3 concepts does Matthew's gospel teach?

Outline of Matthew's Gospel

Scholars have supposed various outlines for Matthew's Gospel. A very popular outline of Matthew's Gospel suggests that Matthew organized his Gospel in 5 sections or blocks of material between an infancy narrative and a passion narrative. This division calls to mind the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Torah. It is proposed that by doing so Matthew is making a connection between Jesus and MOSES! The sections are organized into a narrative and a discourse (teaching).

INTRODUCTION: The Infancy Narrative (1 – 2:23)

Section I: The Proclamation of the Kingdom (3:1-7:29)

Narrative: Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry (3:1 – 4:22)

First Discourse: Sermon on the Mount (4:23 – 7:29)

Section II: Ministry and Mission in Galilee (8:1 –11:1)

Narrative: Ten Miracles / Authority of Jesus and Invitation to Follow Him (8:1—9:38)

Second Discourse: Mission of the Twelve (10)

Section III: Opposition from Israel

Narrative: Jesus and His Opponents/Jesus Rejected (11-12)

Third Discourse: Parables on the Kingdom (13)

Section IV: Jesus, the Kingdom and the Church

Narrative: Disciples Acknowledge Jesus (13:53—17:27)

Fourth Discourse: Community Discourse (Advice to the Church) (18:1-35)

Section V: Ministry in Judea and Jerusalem

Narrative: More About the Authority of Jesus and the Invitation to Follow Him

Fifth Discourse: Sermon About the Last Days (23:1—25:46)

CLIMAX: Passion, Death, Resurrection of Jesus (26—28)

The above arrangement of five teachings / discourses underscores Jesus as the Teacher. This outline suggests that Matthew's Gospel is a book of Christian instruction and administration.

Look in the "World of the Text" and determine why scholars have suggested that Matthew's Gospel is indeed arranged in this manner? In other words, what clues are there in the text that help us make this conclusion?