

GOD’S AMAZING STORY: TRAVELING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT
Gospel of Matthew: The King Has Come (Part Two)
Matthew 21:1-9

Matthew 21:1-9~ ¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’ ” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

I. Introduction

The Gospel is about Kingdom of God. The Good News is that God has brought His Kingdom to us and that all of us can enter into this Kingdom of His. Moreover, the Gospel of Matthew is about a King of this Kingdom who has come. The King is none other than Jesus. And we:

- can enter this Kingdom through this King
- and be subjects under the rule of this King (and those who love God will say, “Amen.”)

The main purpose of the King coming to us is to do one main thing.

1. The King comes to save us from our SINS.

That one main thing is to save us from our sins. The angel, speaking to Joseph who is the adopted father of this King Jesus, reveals the intention of the King.

Matthew 1:21~ ²¹ [the angel speaking to Joseph saying,] She [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The theme of the Gospel of Matthew is summarized in Matthew 21 and verses 1 to 9. Jesus, standing on the Mount of Olive, mounts on a donkey. He descends from the Mount of Olives on this donkey and enters into the west gate of the city of Jerusalem ... the city of King David to take his rightful place on the throne.

Matthew tells us that:

Matthew 21:4-5~ ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’ ”

This is a Humble King who has come. He is on a donkey and not on a war horse. And He comes to offer something. Notice what the crowd understands the meaning of this Coming King descending on a donkey. Matthew picks up the story in verse 8 and 9 of chapter 21.

Matthew 21:8-9~ ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

“*Hosi ana*,” shouts the crowd. *Hosi ana* is a Hebrew word. It is a pleading word. It means, “save us, please, Oh Son of David. Save us.”

2. The King comes to bring SALVATION.

But what the Jewish crowd fails to understand is what kind of salvation this King Jesus is bringing. Jesus, the King, the Son of David, comes to save His people from their sins. However, they want the King to save them from the Gentile government that oppresses them. They are looking for a physical salvation, but the King comes offering a spiritual salvation. Jesus comes to save people from their sins so that they may be right with the Father.

3. The King comes to offer RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The result of saving people from their sins is the impartation of righteousness ... that is, we have been made right with God, and now, we can live right with God. And I say, “Hallelujah.” And all those who love desire to please this King Jesus will say, “Hallelujah.”

Let us not be too hard on the Jewish crowd, here, because some of us, if not many, comes to the King seeking physical salvation instead of spiritual. And like the Jewish crowd, when they do not get the physical salvation that they want, they reject this King, calling Him a false Messiah.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Let us take a broad brush and paint through the Gospel of Matthew. Let’s open our Bible to the Gospel of Matthew

II. Overview of Matthew’s Gospel

Usually, there are three steps, or processes, a person must go through before he becomes a king.

- First, the child must be of noble birth. He must have royalty within his blood line.
- Then, he is to be presented to his subjects where he is acknowledged by them.
- And finally, he is anointed as king.

The author of Matthew introduces this child in the same- like fashion.

In Chapter 1:

We have the credential of the King (1:1-17). He must be the Son of David and from the royal line of the kings. In Luke 3:23-38, we note that Jesus is a direct blood descendant of King David from the blood line of Mary. But in Matthew, we note that Jesus is from the royal line of King David by adoption through Joseph.

Matthew 1:1~¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

It is crucial that Jesus is both the son of David and the son of Abraham because of the covenant that God has made to Abraham and David.

First, God made a blood covenant¹ with Abraham that his physical descendant would possess the land forever. God would send a Seed from Abraham who would bless the whole world.

And second, God also “gave a covenant to David, promising that David’s house, his kingdom,² and his throne would be established forever.”³ In other words, the King must come from the “royal line” of David through the lineage of Abraham. And Jesus does that.

Then in 1:18-25, we have the announcement of the birth of the King with the story of Joseph.

In Chapter 2:

In chapter 2, we have the acknowledgement and adoration of the King. Wisemen from the east travels across the Middle East landscape to adore and honor the King.

Matthew 2:2~² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

In Chapter 3:

In chapter 3, we have the anointing of the King by John the Baptist to start His ministry. Now, in the Old Testament, kings were anointed with oil. Jesus, however, is anointed with water. Why? Jesus tells us in verse 15 that it is for righteousness sake. You see, His Kingdom is a Kingdom of Righteousness.

Matthew 3:15~¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

More about “Righteousness” when we get to chapter 5 to 7.

¹ For more information on the covenant that God made with Abraham, refer to Genesis 12:2-3,7; 13:14-17; 15:9-21; and 17:6-8.

² 2 Samuel 7:16 and again in Psalm 89:1-4

³ J. Dwight Pentecost, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ*. (Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 33-34.

In Chapter 4:

Starting in chapter 4, Jesus begins his work of kingship after he has been anointed as king. To establish his reign, Jesus must first defeat his enemy.

In the Old Testament period, each time a new king sits on the throne, he would first enforce his judgment on his enemies. He would secure his kingdom by executing or defeating his enemies.

For example, when David became king over Israel, he executed the Ammonites and the Jebusites, the enemies of the nation of Israel. And to secure his throne, David also executed individuals who were against the throne.

Likewise, when Solomon became king, he executed a family member and others who opposed his claim to the throne of the king.

Now, Jesus will establish his kingdom by executing judgment on his enemy ... enters Satan.

Matthew 4:1~¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Since Jesus comes to bring a spiritual salvation, that is forgiveness of sins and impartation of righteousness, he faces the quintessential enemy of our soul, Satan himself. After three great temptations by the enemy, the duel is over and the enemy is defeated. The heavenly angels "hasten to bring food for the body, and comfort for the mind of the champion King."⁴

In Chapters 5-7:

Once King Jesus establishes his reign by defeating his enemy, he continues to establish his reign by the pronouncement of his principles in chapters 5 to 7. Chapters 5 to 7 are one of the most important chapters in the entire New Testament. It is known as the Sermon on the Mount. It is the Law of the King. IT IS THE LAW OF THE KING.

You and I would do well if we would devote our time in studying these chapters in depth. You and I would do well if we memorize chapters 5 to 7. In other words, if you and I only read and study and apply the Sermon on the Mount, we would be one of the spiritual giants in God's book of record. Right here in these pages is the heart of the King's message. Right here in these chapters is the Kingdom of God. Once again, the Sermon on the Mount is the Law of the King.

⁴ C. H. Spurgeon, *The Gospel of the Kingdom: A Popular Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew*. (London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1893), 17.

What is the Law of the King? What is the Sermon on the Mount about? Well, it is about the Kingdom. Look at the following verses.

Matthew 5:3~³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Remember last week that we said the “Kingdom of Heaven” is synonymous with the “Kingdom of God”. The Kingdom of Heaven is not about going to heaven sometime in the future. It is about entering the Kingdom of God here on earth now ... in the present.

Matthew 5:10~¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And of course, the theme of the Sermon is found in Matthew 6:33.

Matthew 6:33~³³ But seek first the kingdom of God ...

The Kingdom of God can be summarized in one word ... RIGHTEOUSNESS. Look at verse 33 again.

Matthew 6:33~³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The Sermon on the Mount is about righteousness. The Law of the King is about righteousness. If you and I want to be righteous, this is how we are to live ... we are to live the Sermon on the Mount. Did you pick that up during your reading? Righteousness is scattered throughout the Sermon.

Matthew 5:6~⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

The Kingdom of God is available to those who desire with intensity to be righteous.

Matthew 5:10~¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

That desire to be righteous and the living out of that righteousness will bring us trouble. If you and I want to avoid trouble and persecution, the Kingdom is not for you or me.

Matthew 5:20~²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:1~¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:33~³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Let me give you a simple biblical definition of “**RIGHTEOUSNESS**”. We will do well if we have a strong grasp of the biblical meaning of righteousness.

1. First, Righteousness means “to be Right with God.”

Righteousness is NOT “good works” as we define “good works”. Now this is important. Just because we do good works, they do NOT make us righteous. I am not saying the Kingdom of God is not about good works. What I am saying is that the Kingdom of God is about righteousness and flowing out of this right relation with God comes good works.

Notice what Jesus says again in Matthew 5:20.

Matthew 5:20~ ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The scribes and Pharisees’ righteousness is out here ... external. Their righteousness is not in their heart ... internal. They have good works, but those good works do not produce righteousness.

The Kingdom of God is NOT about good works. It is about Righteousness. It is about being right with God and from a right relationship with God flows good works.

I was listening to a podcast of an evangelist trying to share the gospel with a Muslim. The evangelist kept focusing on sins and how none of us can live a “good life” ... i.e. do good works (he is of the Calvinist persuasion). The Muslim kept insisting that his religion and the evangelist’s religion is the same ... they both teach that one ought to do good works. The evangelist tried to persuade the Muslim man that he could not be righteous because he could not live a life of good works. The Muslim man said that he does do good work although not completely like everyone, including the evangelist. The conversation went nowhere. The problem was that they both think that being righteous is defined by doing good works. But being righteous is not about doing good works. It is about being right with God. And no one can be right with God by doing any good works.

While you and I (and even that Muslim man) may be able to do some good works, none of that earns us righteousness.

What is righteousness? How does one get right with God? That is our second point.

2. Second, Righteousness is Jesus.

Look with me at Matthew 5:10-11.

Matthew 5:10-11~

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and
persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely
on my [Jesus] account.”

Being persecuted for righteousness is being persecuted for Jesus. In other words, Jesus is righteousness. We are righteousness if we are Jesus. We have righteousness if we have Jesus.

In Chapters 8-10:

In the next few chapters, Jesus demonstrates his authority as the King in His Kingdom. He heals the sick and casts out demons.

Matthew 8:16~¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

Matthew 9:35~³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Please note that the reason Jesus heals the sick and casts out demon is to demonstrate and authenticates his authority in the Kingdom. There are some people who thinks that Jesus comes, not only to forgive us of our sins, but also to heal us of our sicknesses. Don’t get me wrong, Jesus can heal us and does heal us of our sicknesses and infirmities. That that healing is not the promise of the Kingdom. The promise of the Kingdom is the forgiveness of sins. And Jesus heals people from sicknesses is so that they can see he has authority to forgive sins.

This is summarized in Matthew 9.

Matthew 9:1-2~¹And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ² And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

Matthew 9:3~³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.”

Matthew 9:4-6~⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’ ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

In Chapters 11-15:

Even after offering righteousness and demonstrating his authority, his people rejects him. This is seen in chapters 11 to 15. We see it as early as chapter 9.

Matthew 9:34~ ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

And we see it again in chapter 12.

Matthew 12:24~ ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

And since his people rejects him as King. He rejects them as his people. The King now invites others outside the nation of Israel to be his people ... to be his subjects. A true nation will be formed. That true nation is called the Church.

The Apostle Peter puts it this way.

1 Peter 2:9-10~ ⁹ But you [the Church, Gentile Believers] are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

III. Conclusion

Do you want to be a part of this “holy nation”? Do you want to be the “chosen race”? We can only be a part of this by embracing the King ... by following Jesus. But only those who love righteousness ... that is love Jesus ... can come.

IV. The Blessing

Presider: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you.

Congregation: And also to you.

V. Forgiven Life Living

When I was in college, a sister in Christ who was my bible study mentor taught me that reading the bible passage one time is just enough to get the gist of it, reading it twice makes you pay attention to it, and reading it three times helps you to start thinking about it. She made everyone in our bible study read the chapters three times underlined in different colors, and it was amazing how much more I picked up from the passage each additional time I read it (and how much I had glossed over when I read it previously).

While the reading this week is on Matthew 11-18, I hope you will have the chance to go back to Matthew 1-10 to read it one or 2 more times as time allows!

Matthew Chapter 2:

The wisemen travel far to seek the King and when they find the star to lead them to Jesus, they "rejoiced exceedingly with great joy". When they finally see baby Jesus, they "fell down and worshipped him".

Do we have the same attitude as we seek Jesus in our daily lives? _____

Matthew Chapter 3:

Read 3:9-10. Many religions believe that their faith is passed down from generation to generation. As long as you are a descendant, you are assured in your salvation.

Based on v. 10, what does this show you about the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus? _____

Matthew Chapter 4:

Read 4:10-11 again. What do you learn from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness as He faces Satan? _____

How does this help you to face your temptations knowing that Jesus has defeated the enemy?

Matthew Chapter 5:

Take a look at the Beatitudes below at the end of the studies.

Can you print it out and commit to memorizing some of them with your family or friends this week? _____

Matthew Chapter 6:

How much have you worried this week? _____

In the midst of your greatest worries, do you believe that God will provide what you need? _____

Do you feel that you are right with God and have a right relationship with God? _____

What are some ways you can address areas that are not right with God? _____

Matthew Chapter 7:

Read 7:13-23. The road as a Christian may be filled with obstacles, challenges and hardship. Are you ready to take on this path? _____

Read 7:24-27. Have you tried to do things using your own wisdom only to find that you are going nowhere no matter how hard you worked on because it was not God's plan or not God's way? What did you learn from it? _____

Matthew Chapter 8:

Read 8:21-22, as well as 4:18-22. What are your thoughts on reading this passage? _____

Would you be able to stop whatever you were doing to follow God Your King in whichever way He may be leading You? _____

Matthew Chapter 9:

As Pastor Long mentioned in his sermon, Jesus heals people from sicknesses so that they can see that He has authority to forgive sins. Read the various events that occur in this chapter ... the healing of the paralytic, the tax collector, the ruler's daughter, the 2 blind men, and the demon oppressed man. What were the crowds' reaction to each of the healing events that occurred? _____

Matthew Chapter 10:

Read 10:16, 19-20. How does this verse help prepare you to "share your love to the world"? _

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.	Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.	Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.