

Midweek Online
03.25.20

Matthew

Welcome to the Midweek Bible Class!

1. Some of you have been a part of this since we started in September. We took a break on the March 12th class . . . then the coronavirus pandemic forced us all indoors this week . . . so we're just now beginning again on Wednesday nights at 7pm. If you are a regular at Midweek – welcome back.
2. Maybe / hopefully some of you are joining in for the first time. And to you I say welcome and I want to say you're really jumping in at the perfect time.
3. So . . . let me explain what we've done since September and why you're joining at a good time.
 - This year has been an overview of the one story the Bible tells . . . rather than a verse by verse study of a book. Because most people are exposed to the Bible in bits and pieces, here and there.
 - We started of course with the Hebrew scriptures . . . beginning at the very beginning with Genesis.
 - This week we begin the New Testament.
 - Everything in the OT leads us to Jesus; Take a look at Luke 24
4. What will you need? The only thing you'll need is a Bible. But there are some other good resources I've used.
 - Telling God's Story
 - The Story of Scripture
 - 30 Days to Understanding the Bible . . .

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT AT A GLANCE . . .

1. Two testaments . . . OT = 39 documents / varied lit. / roughly 1000 years
Period between the testaments = 400 years
The NT = 27 documents over period of several decades
2. The NT is made up of different kinds of material
 - Gospels – life of Jesus
 - History – book of Acts / expansion of the church
 - Letters – most of them from Paul
 - Revelation – Apocalyptic highly symbolic.

II. THE GOSPELS

1. A basic thing to know – SYNOPTIC: Syn = together . . . Optic = view or see. So Matthew, Mark and Luke are synoptic gospels. John stands alone in both substance and style.
2. Each gospel is distinctive in some way. The writers organize the material in slightly different ways. Perhaps guided by
The audience or the people to whom they are writing (know your audience)
The purpose for which they are writing.

EXAMPLE – Matthew 15 compared to Mark 7. Note the different audience.

3. The gospels tell us about the life of Jesus; they are historical – grounded in events that actually happened and seen by eyewitnesses. But they are not biographies the way we might think. The central concern of each gospel is the death and resurrection of Jesus.
4. The writer are not strictly historians – though they write history; they are not biographers though they give us the life of Jesus. They are proclaiming the good news of God's work in Jesus . . . they are evangelists.

III. MATTHEW

Overview:

Matthew is a Jewish writer writing specifically for his fellow Jews
He wants to persuade them that Jesus is long anticipated Messiah
The gospel is structured around five large blocks of teaching:

- 5-7 sermon on the mount
- 10
- 13
- 18-20
- 24-25

Filled with 60 citations of the OT and the repeated use of the word fulfilled; Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT scriptures.

Sermon on the Mount: A General Overview

1. Kingdom people . . . ch. 5:
2. Kingdom Conduct . . . ch. 5:21ff (a new reading of the Law)
3. Kingdom worship . . . alms, fasting, prayer . . . ch. 6
4. Conclude . . . Wise and foolish Builders . . . 7:24-29