

Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of St. Matthew - Week 3

Narrative (what Matthew describes Jesus doing) & Discourse (what Jesus does and teaches)

1. Narrative: Ministry of John and Jesus (chaps. 3–4)
1. Discourse: Sermon on the Mount (chaps. 5–7)
2. Narrative: Miracle Stories of Jesus (chaps. 8–9)
2. Discourse: Missionary Sermon for the Apostles (c.10)
3. Narrative: Jesus Confronts an Evil Generation (c.11–12)

Jesus' Healings – chapters 8 & 9 This section of Matthew's Gospel, which narrates Christ's healing the sick, casting out demons, forgiving sins, eating with sinners, and raising the dead. CCSS Mt

Purposes for the Healings (cp. 8-9)

- 1) For those healed
- 2) Message about the Kingdom
- 3) Who the Kingdom is for
- 4) Fulfill OT Prophecy

Matthew 8:1-2 ...a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." Leper shows: humility, reverence, faith and meekness.

Matthew 8:3-4 And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to the people."

Leviticus 14:2 – all the laws regarding the cleansing of a leper.

Matthew 9:9 ...and he (Jesus) said to him, "Follow me." And he (Matthew) rose and followed him.

Disciple: A follower who emulates the example set by a master... It was not merely a matter of listening to the teachings and learning wisdom: it was a commitment to a new way of life modeled by Jesus. The disciple must "take up his cross" and follow Jesus (see Matthew 16:24).

Emulate - verb transitive, a: to strive to equal or excel b: IMITATE 2: to equal or approach equality with. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

Apostle The Greek title apostolos comes from the verb apostellō, "send," implying that an apostle is one who is sent. Strict sense and a general sense...

the Twelve were a symbolic unit that typified the restoration of Israel around the Messiah.

The raising of the daughter of Jairus Matthew 9:18-26 parallels: Mark 5:21; Luke 8:40

...for the girl is not dead but sleeping." (v 24)

John 11:11 "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep."

Luke 7:11 - Son of the widow from Nain

Sleep - a biblical metaphor for death

Genesis 47:28–30; Deut 31:16; 2 Samuel 7:12; Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

Daniel 12:2. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Eternal Life in the Old Testament: Rare, Subtle, Develops over time

The OT hints at the “what”, NOT the who, where, when, why, how

John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

Teaching and Healing

Matt 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. Teaching (ch 5-7) Healing (ch 8-9)

A repeat of 4:23 know as an “inclusio” - indicates the beginning and end of a literary unit

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

The Senses of Scripture - CCC 115 to 119

CCC 116 The literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words

CCC 117 The spiritual sense (three types).

1. The allegorical sense. How it relates to Jesus
2. The moral sense. How we are to live
3. The anagogical sense: relates to the future

Matthew 9:11–13 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘**I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.**’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Greek: eleos, Hebrew: hesed = loyal steadfast, covenant love

Hosea 6:6-7 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

Hosea’s purpose was to pronounce the divine judgment against Israel for its sin, comparing Israel’s apostasy vividly to the adultery of a faithless wife. (The LORD told Hosea to marry a prostitute.)

Hosea 2:18–20. And I will make for you a covenant on that day ... And I will espouse you forever; I will espouse you in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will espouse you in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

And he called to him his twelve Disciples Matt 10:1

By selecting twelve apostles as leaders in his kingdom movement, Jesus makes it known that his kingdom is the new Israel. The number twelve also brings to mind the twelve tribal leaders who assisted Moses in leading Israel (Numbers 1:1–16).

Jesus is the new Moses. - Chapter 10 is the calling and teaching of the 12

Matthew 11:3-6 Are you he who is to come? And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”

Isaiah - The Gospel of the Old Testament

Isaiah 29:18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.

Isaiah 35:5–6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

Isaiah 61 contains more

One Greater than Jonah, Solomon, and the Temple

I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. Matt 12:6

...something greater than Jonah is here.

Matt 12:41

...something greater than Solomon is here.

Matt 12:42

Solomon receives a gift of Wisdom, Jesus IS God's wisdom

Matt 12:46-50 "Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brethren! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother."

dōulē, a female slave (vol. or invol.), handmaid (Also servant)

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

The Greek expression denotes more than mere passive acceptance, indicating that she wishes or desires to fulfill God's will in her life.

Covenant and the Blessed Virgin Mary

We entered into the new Covenant at Baptism.

The Blessed Virgin Mary entered into the Covenant at the Immaculate Conception.

Sin is the absence of good...

Original sin brings concupiscence...

Concupiscence - dim the intellect, weaken the will

What is Evil (Sin) ?

From St. Augustine "The problem of evil" (logical argument known as premise/conclusion)

1) Everything God creates is good, evil is not good, therefore: God did not create evil

2) God has created everything, God did not create evil, therefore: evil is not a thing

So what is evil (sin)? For St. Augustine evil is the absence of a good, a good which should be there. The philosophy term is a "privation". Example Matthew 21:18, Matt 25:31