

The Gospels

Study Guide

LESSON
TWO

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW



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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON AND STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video lesson. If you do not have access to the video, the study guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the lesson and study guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**
 - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
 - **Schedule viewing** — In the Notes section of the study guide, the lesson has been divided into sections that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
 - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the study guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each section and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
 - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
 - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
 - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
 - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:20)

II. Background (1:50)

All ancient texts are given in historical, literary, rhetorical, archeological, religious contexts that are different from ours.

When authors write books, they assume their audience is operating in a shared culture.

A. Author (3:50)

1. Traditional view (4:49)

- Earliest centuries of the church
- Ancient manuscripts
- Title

Early claims of Matthew's authorship are strengthened by Matthew's relative obscurity.

Papias of Hierapolis, Eusebius of Caesarea, Irenaeus of Lyons, and Tertullian all attributed the first gospel to Matthew.

2. Personal History (11:23)

- Jew

- Tax Collector

B. Original Audience (17:16)

Matthew's gospel was well-suited for a Christian audience from a Jewish background.

1. Kingdom of Heaven (18:26)

2. Jewish Customs (23:00)

C. Occasion (25:41)**1. Date (26:46)**

- Earliest date: mid-to-late 60s

- Latest date: end of the first century

2. Location (28:39)

Palestine, Syria or any other area with a significant Jewish population within the Roman Empire.

3. Purpose (30:55)

To nurture faith in Jesus as their messianic King

III. Structure and Content (35:11)

A. Introduction: The Messianic King (38:01)

1. Genealogy (38:18)

Special emphasis on David the King of Israel, and on Abraham the father of the Jewish people.

2. Infancy Narrative (42:04)

Jesus the Messiah had been born.

Jesus did not have a human father; God was his father.

God sent his perfect Son to be King, so that his promises of blessing would be fulfilled.

B. The Gospel of the Kingdom (46:23)**1. The Messiah had Come (46:39)**

- John's Announcement: 3:1-12
- Jesus' Baptism: 3:13-17
- Jesus' Temptation: 4:1-11
- Jesus' Kingdom Preaching: 4:12-17

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

- Jesus Calls Disciples: 4:18-22
- Teaching and Healing: 4:23-25

2. Sermon on the Mount (53:06)

Jesus described the righteous lives of kingdom citizens.

The challenges of righteousness were far greater than the leaders of Judaism had imagined.

God is not just interested in controlling outward behavior; he wants obedience to begin in the heart.

Jesus assured his faithful followers that the kingdom already belongs to us.

C. The Spread of the Kingdom (59:07)

1. Jesus' Miracles and Reactions (59:20)

- A Leper: 8:1-4
- A Centurion's Servant: 8:5-13
- Peter's Mother-in-Law: 8:14-17
- A Storm: 8:18-27
- Two Demoniacs: 8:28-34
- A Paralytic: 9:1-8
- Tax Collectors and Sinner: 9:9-17
- A Girl and a Woman: 9:18-26
- Two Blind Men: 9:27-31
- A Demoniac: 9:32-34
- Jesus' Compassion: 9:35-38

In addition to focusing on Jesus' power, Matthew called attention to the crowds' reactions to Jesus' power.

- Opposition
- Fear
- Willful Rejection

2. Emissaries of the King (1:07:09)

- Jesus commanded his followers to pray for God to raise up evangelists and leaders.
- Jesus extended his personal kingdom ministry by empowering twelve disciples for ministry.
- Jesus commanded them to announce the presence of the kingdom.

D. Signs and Parables (1:09:38)

1. Signs and Reactions (1:09:54)

- John the Baptist: 11:2-19
- City Crowds: 11:20-30
- Healing on Sabbath: 12:1-21
- Power of Beelzebub: 12:22-37
- Sign of Jonah: 12:38-50

2. Kingdom Parables (1:13:05)

- The Sower: 13:1-23
- The Weeds: 13:24-30
- The Mustard Seed and Yeast: 13:31-43
- The Hidden Treasure and Pearl: 13:44-46
- The Net: 13:47-53

Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven was of supreme value and was to be sought at all cost.

There were many obstacles to belief, and that most people would reject the kingdom.

E. Faith and Greatness (1:17:50)**1. Resisting Faith in Jesus (1:18:10)**

- People of Nazareth: 13:54-58
- Herod and John the Baptist: 14:1-12
- Feeding Five Thousand: 14:13-21

- Walking on Water: 14:22-36
- Dispute with Pharisees: 15:1-20
- Canaanite Woman 15:21-28
- Feeding Four Thousand: 15:29-39
- Pharisees and Sadducees: 16:1-12
- Peter's Confession: 16:13-20
- Peter's Rejection: 16:21-27
- Jesus' Transfiguration: 17:1-13
- Young Demoniac: 17:14-23
- Temple Tax: 17:24-27

2. Greatness in the Kingdom Family (1:24:59)

- Humility as Children: 18:2-4
- Care for the Weak: 18:5-14
- Dealing with Sin: 18:15-20
- Forgiving Sin: 18:21-35

F. Present Opposition and Future Victory (1:27:47)**1. Intensifying Opposition (1:28:11)**

- Opposition in Judea: 19:1-20:16

Jesus challenged the Jewish leaders.

Jesus encouraged his disciples to put this confrontation into perspective.

- Going to Jerusalem: 20:17-34
- Opposition in Jerusalem: 21:12-22:46

2. Future Victory (1:33:45)

- The Seven Woes: 23:1-38

This discourse focuses on the Pharisees, their false teachings, their abuse of God's people, and their hypocrisies.

- Olivet Discourse: 24:1-25:46
 - Birth Pangs: 24:4-28
 - Fullness of the Kingdom: 24:29-31
 - Coming day of glory: 24:32-25:46

G. Culmination of Jesus' Ministry (1:38:38)

1. Conflict (1:39:27)

The kingdom that Jesus brought was different from the kingdom the Jews expected the Messiah to bring.

2. Discipleship (1:41:27)

It was difficult for Jesus' disciples to follow him

3. Victory (1:43:04)

Proof that the messianic King had conquered all the enemies of his people.

IV. Major Themes (1:46:42)**A. Old Testament Heritage (1:47:00)****1. Quotations and Allusions (1:49:47)**

Matthew quoted the Old Testament far more often than any other gospel writer.

2. Kingdom of Heaven (1:53:07)

God's kingdom blessing in Jesus was the fulfillment of ancient promises.

3. Messianic King (1:55:07)

Matthew insisted that Jesus was the expected messianic King.

4. Unbelieving Jewish Leaders (1:56:16)

Jesus rejected the teachings of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law.

5. Humility and Gentleness (2:00:54)

The mighty deliverance of God was rooted in his gentle compassion for his people.

Matthew stressed that Jesus was the humble, compassionate King.

B. People of God (2:03:36)

1. Church (2:04:24)

The Christian church is the continuation of the assembly of Israel.

The church belongs to Jesus.

2. Family of God (2:09:33)

The relationship between God and his people.

This term emphasizes the care and protection God shows for his children.

3. Calling (2:16:01)

Being called to be God's people includes hardship, danger, and suffering.

Suffering was the path to glory for Jesus, and the same is true for us.

V. Conclusion (2:20:38)

The Old Testament promises of the kingdom of heaven have been fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus the messianic King.

Review Questions

2. How can we be confident that Matthew wrote the Gospel of Matthew?

3. How do we know that Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience?

6. What was the good news that Jesus preached about the kingdom?

7. How did Jesus spread the kingdom?

10. What opposition did Jesus face in bringing the kingdom, and what did Jesus teach in regard to the fullness of the kingdom?

11. What events comprise the culmination of Jesus' ministry?

12. Why did Matthew emphasize that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament messianic prophecies and expectations?

13. Who are the people of God according to Matthew?

Application Questions

1. How does knowing that Matthew is the author impact the way we read the Gospel of Matthew?
2. What are some specific ways you can demonstrate humility in your present circumstances?
3. How can you demonstrate heartfelt obedience to Jesus in your life today?
4. How can we trust the Gospels and uphold them as reliable when they were written by human beings?
5. What benefits have you seen and experienced from your practice of regularly repenting of and confessing your sins?
6. What ministries are you currently engaged in, and how are they helping to build the kingdom of God?
7. What are some specific ways you can demonstrate love to Christians and non-Christians?
8. Why should we care that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament messianic prophecies and expectations?
9. How should it make us feel, knowing that the church belongs to Jesus?
10. What encouragement should we gain from the fact that we are part of the family of God?
11. How should we face suffering knowing that Jesus came to give us abundant life and blessing?
12. What are some hardships and sufferings you have experienced and are currently going through?
13. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?