

SLOW RELIGION: GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, 2022 CLASS PLAN

Class Times

- Tuesday 4-5 PM (Church of the Ascension/Seattle)
- Wednesday 4-5 PM (Church of our Saviour, St. Stephens Church)

Schedule

(Tues/Weds)	Classes
9/20, 21	Introduction
9/27, 28	Chapters 1-2 Genealogy, Birth, Gentiles
10/4, 5	Chapters 3-4, JohnBap, Baptism, Temptations, Ministry
10/11, 12	Chapter 5, First Discourse, Sermon on the Mount, The Beatitudes
10/18, 19	Chapter 5, First Discourse (cont.) Jesus and the Torah
10/25, 26	Chapter 6, First Discourse (cont.) The Lord's Prayer, Wealth, and God
11/1, 2	Break
11/8, 9	Chapter 7, First Discourse (cont.) Golden Rule, Apocalyptic Warnings
11/15, 16	Chapter 8, Healing and Faith, Discipleship and Hardship
11/22, 23	Chapter 9, Discipleship, Healing and Faith
11/29, 30	Thanksgiving Break
12/6, 7	Chapter 10, The Mission Sermon/Discourse
12/13,14	Chapter 11, Christology, Eschatology, Prophecy, Jesus as the new Moses
12/15-1/9	Christmas Break

Weekly Handouts

Coming soon.

OUTLINE

Introduction to Matthew

- 1) Basic Information
 - a) Gospel as genre – Matthew’s contribution
 - b) Authorship, Date, Location, Unity, Sources
- 2) Context
 - a) Jewish Apocalyptic Eschatology
 - b) Pre- and Post-Resurrection Views and Experiences
- 3) Unique Contributions
 - a) Teaching (5 Discourses)
 - b) Nativity/Proto-Incarnation
 - c) Ecclesia/Church
 - d) Proto-Trinitarian
 - e) Mission
- 4) Themes and Issues
 - a) Jesus’ Identity
 - i) Theology
 - ii) Christology
 - iii) Abraham, Moses, and David
 - iv) Titles and Names (frequency in Matthew)
 - (1) Son of Man (29)
 - (2) David, Son of David (16)
 - (3) Messiah (17)
 - (4) Son of God (7)
 - (5) Moses (7)
 - (6) Abraham (6)
 - (7) King of the Jews (4)
 - (8) Jesus of Nazareth, of Galilee (3)
 - b) Jewish/Anti-Semitism
 - c) Discipleship
 - d) Purpose of Gospel: Jews and Gentiles
- 5) Relevance today

Chapters 1-2 Genealogy, Birth, Gentiles

- 1) Introduction (1:1) -- Jesus the Messiah,[b] the son of David, the son of Abraham
- 2) Genealogy (1:2-17)
- 3) Birth of Jesus (1:18-25)
 - a) Divine incarnation – Role of the Holy Spirit and Angels
 - b) “Name him Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.”
- 1) The Visit of the Wise Men (2:1-12)
 - a) Mission to Gentiles
 - b) Kingship
- 2) The Escape to Egypt (2:13-15)
 - a) Jewish authorities hostility
 - b) Role of angels
 - c) Moses typology
- 3) The Massacre of the Infants (2:16-23)

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Chapters 3-4, JohnBap, Baptism, Temptations, Ministry

- 1) The Proclamation of John the Baptist (3:1-12)
 - a) Role of JohnBap
 - b) JohnBap as a prophet
 - c) Relationship with Jesus
- 2) The Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)
 - a) Difference with Mark
 - b) Christology
- 3) The Temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)
 - a) Jesus as a role model
 - b) Rejecting false models of Messiah
- 4) Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee (4:12-17)
 - a) Theological themes:
 - i) Fulfilment of Scripture (4:14-16);
 - ii) The salvation of the Gentiles (4:15); and
 - iii) The announcement of the kingdom of God (4:17)
 - b) What is the Good News?
- 5) Jesus Calls the First Disciples (4:18-25)
 - a) The Call
 - b) Discipleship

Chapter 5, First Discourse, Sermon on the Mount, The Beatitudes

- 1) Jesus as a Teacher
 - a) Importance to Matthew of what and how Jesus taught
 - b) Is Jesus “liberal” or “conservative”?
- 2) The Beatitudes (5:1-12)
 - a) Jesus’ priority values
 - b) Kingdom of Heaven
 - c) Eschatological blessings, promises and consolations
 - d) OT Foundations Isaiah 6:1-2, 7
 - e) Present and future ethics

Chapter 5, First Discourse (cont.) Jesus and the Torah

- 3) Salt and Light (5:13-16)
 - a) Jesus and the church
 - b) Torah and the Temple
- 4) The Law and the Prophets (5:17-20)
 - a) Jesus does not overturn Moses or
 - b) Set believers free from Torah.
- 5) “You have heard it said... but I say to you...”
 - a) Jesus modifying or correcting what God said through Moses
 - i) Concerning Anger (5:21-26) -- Shifting attention from the outward act to the inward state
 - ii) Concerning Adultery (5:27-30) -- Prohibition of lust and its equation with adultery
 - iii) Concerning Divorce (5:31-32)
 - (1) If lust is like adultery, so too is divorce.
 - (2) Matthean exception “unchastity”
 - iv) Concerning Oaths (5:33-37)
 - b) Concerning Retaliation (5:38-42)
 - i) Evil should be requited with good.
 - ii) There is no room for vengeance on a personal level (Rom 12:19).

- c) Love for Enemies (5:43-48)
 - i) The most important and difficult command
 - ii) Imitating God
 - iii) "Perfection"

Chapter 6, First Discourse (cont.), The Lord's Prayer, Wealth, and God

- 1) Righteousness in almsgiving, prayer and fasting
 - a) Concerning Almsgiving (6:1-4)
 - b) Concerning Prayer (6:5-8)
 - c) Concerning Fasting (6:16-18)
- 2) The Lord's Prayer (6:9-15)
 - a) Eschatology
 - b) Theology
 - c) Moses Typology
- 3) Four teachings on earthly treasure (6:19-34)
 - a) Wealth and God
 - i) Concerning Treasures (6:19-21)
 - ii) The Sound Eye (6:22-23)
 - iii) Serving Two Masters (6:24)
 - (1) You cannot serve God and wealth.
 - (2) The command is to serve God and not worry about how you will be provided for.
 - b) Do Not Worry (6:25-34)
 - i) Kingdom (Gk basilica) of God
 - ii) Perhaps rule, reign or empire.

Chapter 7, First Discourse (cont.) Golden Rule, Apocalyptic Warnings

- 1) How to treat others
 - a) Judging Others (7:1-5)
 - b) Profaning the Holy (7:6)
 - c) Ask, Search, Knock (7:7-11)
- 2) The Golden Rule (7:12) -- Quintessence of the law and the prophets
- 3) Apocalyptic warnings
 - a) The Narrow Gate (7:13-14)
 - b) A Tree and Its Fruit (7:15-20)
 - c) Concerning Self-Deception (7:21-23)
 - d) Hearers and Doers (7:24-28)

Chapter 8, Healing and Faith, Discipleship and Hardship

- 1) 8:1-9:38 are nine miracles consisting of healings, calming a storm, exorcism, interspersed with dialogues, mostly pertaining to discipleship.
- 2) Healing stories/Faith
 - a) Jesus Cleanses a Leper (8:1-4)
 - b) Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant (8:5-13)
 - c) Jesus Heals Many at Peter's House (8:14-17)
- 3) Discipleship and Hardships
 - a) Would-Be Followers of Jesus (8:18-22)
 - i) "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."
 - ii) 21 "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."
 - b) Church Metaphor

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- i) Jesus Stills the Storm (8:23-27) “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”
- 4) Authority -- Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs (8:28-34)

Chapter 9 Discipleship, Healing and Faith

- 1) Jesus Heals a Paralytic (9:1-8) -- Forgiveness of sins and blasphemy
- 2) The Call of Matthew (9:9-13) -- Righteousness
- 3) The Question about Fasting (9:14-17)-- The old and the new
- 4) Healing and Faith
 - a) A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed (9:18-26)
 - b) Jesus Heals Two Blind Men (9:27-31)
 - c) Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute (9:32-34)
- 5) The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few (9:35-38)
 - a) Eschatology
 - b) Discipleship

Chapter 10 The Mission Sermon/Discourse

- 1) Discipleship
 - a) The Twelve Apostles (10:1-4)
 - b) The Mission of the Twelve (10:5-15)
 - i) "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town,
 - ii) but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (10:5-6)
- 2) Imitation of Christ -- Coming Persecutions (10:16-25)
- 3) Discipleship
 - a) Whom to Fear (10:26-33)
 - b) Not Peace, but a Sword (10:34-39)
 - c) Rewards (10:40-42)

Chapter 11 Christology, Eschatology, Prophecy, Jesus as the new Moses

- 1) Christology and OT prophecy
 - a) JohnBap
 - i) Messengers from John the Baptist (11:1-6)
 - ii) Jesus Praises John the Baptist (11:7-19)
- 2) Eschatology and Rejection -- Woes to Unrepentant Cities (11:20-24)
- 3) Jesus as the new Moses of the new covenant. Jesus Thanks His Father (11:25-30)
 - a) 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
 - b) 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

APPENDIX: UNIQUE AND ADAPTED STORIES AND PASSAGES IN MATTHEW

- 1) The nativity story (1:1-2:23)
- 2) Jesus in the Wilderness (4:1-11)
- 3) The Beatitudes (5:1-11)
 - a) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (5:9)
- 4) The Lord's Prayer (6:9-13)
- 5) "You cannot serve God and wealth." (6:24)
- 6) "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." (7:1)
- 7) "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you." (7:12)
- 8) "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (8:22)
- 9) "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (8:27)
- 10) "For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." (9:13)
- 11) "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." (9:37)
- 12) "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword." (10:34)
- 13) "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (11:28-30)
- 14) "Prophets are not without honor except in their own hometown and in their own house." (13:57)
- 15) "Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." (15:10-11)
- 16) "And I tell you, you are Peter,[d] and on this rock[e] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (16:18)
- 17) Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven[i] times. (18:21-22)
- 18) "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven." (19:23)
- 19) "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (20:16)
- 20) "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (22:21)
- 21) 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (22:37-40)
- 22) "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (23:37)
- 23) Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it[d] he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the[e] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (26:26-28)
- 24) "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."[d] (28:19-20)

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- New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
- Walsh, Robyn Faith, *The Origins of Early Christian Literature*, Cambridge University Press, 2021
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- Wright, Tom, *Matthew for Everyone Part 1-2*, 2002

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS

Walsh, Robyn Faith, *'The Origins of Early Christian Literature'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2GFDG50s90>

Bible Project: Overview: Matthew 1-13, Matthew 14-28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Dv4-n6OYGI>

Matthew's Jesus Came Only For The Jews? Dr. Dale C. Allison Jr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLIMRjC6oo0>

Yale Bible Study: Gospel of St. Matthew (Series of 8 Videos)

Harold W. Attridge in discussion with Michal Beth Dinkler.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPQBt1pZ2B7EedLS2SDyAABTjJo7JMYji>

<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/the-gospel-of-matthew/lessons/ancestry-and-birth-video/>

Yale Courses: Gospel of St. Matthew

New Testament History and Literature with Dale B. Martin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZG4in_i9z4