



Matthew

Big Idea:

Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT story.

Jesus is the promised King of David.

Jesus is the greater Moses.

THE STORY SO FAR

The gospel of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament and was written after what was called the 400 years of silence. So, before we get into the New Testament it is important to understand some highlights of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is the story of God working among people to bring about a promise of blessing and rescue for the entire world. The story opens with God creating and blessing the world and specifically humanity, but humans do not trust God's wisdom for ruling and choose their own way. This choice causes humanity to be exiled from the good garden they had been placed into and to toil and labor in the wilderness. God later calls a man Abraham and his wife Sarah to the same blessing that he called the first man and woman to in the garden. Ultimately that family through the generations proves to be imperfect, but God continues to restate his promise that someone is coming to perfect the blessing.

God gives the people on a mountain a law to follow through one of their greatest leaders Moses. Moses who saves the people and brings

them to the land God had been promising to the family for generations. The family becomes a nation that sometimes follows God and sometimes falls away from God and is unable to realize the promise of blessing to the entire world. To this point that promise of rescue has not been fulfilled.

After the Old Testament concludes with the book of Malachi there is a span of 400 years of silence where no prophets speak. During that time there is civil war in Judea where Pompey the Great who lead a portion of the Roman military was invited in to "settle" a dispute between the Jews. Once invited in, Rome had no intention of leaving a profitable province and important geographic location. So, in the time that the book is written about the people of Israel are under the domination of an outside force.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions: What are some expectations people have of Jesus/God?

What are some characteristics of Jesus?

The book of Matthew opens with a long genealogy of Jesus. To the people of his time this would have been like saying to them that this person is carrying on the story that God has been writing.

Read: Matthew 1:18-23

Read: Matthew 3:13-4:3 (Baptism)

Read: Matthew 4:18-20(Wilderness)

Question: What stands out to you from the picture that is being sketched of Jesus in this selection of verses?

Jesus spends 40 days in the desert before starting his ministry. Scholars have noted that in doing this he looks a lot like Moses who spent 40 years in the desert with the people, the family of Abraham who spent 400 years in slavery to Egypt. Then Jesus goes onto a mountain and gives his address to his people, he gives them his own law.

Read: Matthew 5:1-12(SOTM)

Questions: What are some of the counter intuitive notions in the opening of Jesus sermon?

How do they stand out as different from human nature?

Read: Matthew 8:23-27 (Calms storm)

Read: Matthew 12:15-21(Gods servant)

Read: Matthew 16:13-16(Peters confession)

Read: Matthew 18:21-35 (Unforgiving servant)

Question: How are people responding to Jesus in these stories?

Read: Matthew 21:9-11(Enters the city)

Read: Matthew 22:15-22(Taxes)

Read: Matthew 26:1-2 (Going to die)

With incredible clarity Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the Passover holiday that celebrates God using Moses to bring his people out of slavery. He is challenged by leaders into a trap question publicly and warns his followers that he will be killed shortly.

Read: Matthew 26:36-29(prayer in the garden)

Read: Matthew 26:63-66(Trial)

Read: Matthew 27:11 (Pilot)

The trial of Jesus was a mockery of the standing legal systems of the time, due to pressure and fear Jesus was sentenced to a capital crime by the Roman authorities.

Question: What stands out to you from these verses?

Read: Matthew 27:35-36(Crucifixion)

Read: Matthew 28:5-7(Resurrection)

The Old Testament is a continual chorus and verse of God extending grace to his people and their failures and inability to live up to his desire for their kingdom. Story after story there is hope that the people will live up to the calling of God. The Old Testament ends with this unfulfilled. Jesus in the New Testament suffers on behalf of the people and lives up to the promise God had for his people. Instead of Gods servant judging the people he is judged on their behalf. Jesus's resurrection is the vindication of his ministry and proves that anyone can be a part of his kingdom by being baptized and following him.

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus imparts his great mission to his followers.

Questions:

How should followers engage these final words of Jesus today?

What are practical steps they can take?

How do you help teach people to obey his commands?