

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #33 – Matthew

### PRAYER:

Read Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer is still our prayer today.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT:

It was a long 400 years between Malachi and Matthew's books. Many things had happened to God's people politically and faith-wise. I'll mention some of the developments as we walk through the New Testament. To be sure, the long promised Messiah was not recognized nor received by his own people. Much of His time was in fact, spent denouncing the very Jewish leaders that should have hailed His coming.

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the synoptic gospels. In many ways, they view the life and work of Christ through similar points of view. John's gospel is much different in its approach to the portrayal of Christ. To be sure, it is the same Christ, but John's descriptions and picture language is near poetic. It may be best to view all four gospels as a whole.

For the purpose of this study, I'll divide the life of Christ into three parts and related the portion of His life to the synoptic gospel under study. Loosely, the following will be the outline:

Matthew - Genealogy – Conception, birth, childhood of Christ to the coming of John the Baptist

Mark - Jesus' baptism – miracles – teachings

Luke - Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the resurrection

John – Looking at the person of Jesus Christ as true man and God

### Notes on Matthew:

Matthew is one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus. He was known as Levi, the tax-collector. Views on the time Matthew wrote the gospel vary from the 50's through the 70's A.D. One of the reasons the evangelists did not write down the life of Christ until later was their strong belief that Christ's return was imminent. One of the traditional thoughts is that the gospels were written in the order they are now found in the Bible.

Matthew's target audience seems to have been the Jews. His purpose was that they see Jesus as their Messiah. To that end, he quotes more of the Old Testament prophecies than the other three evangelists. Matthew includes all nations in the mission of the Church.

### Questions on Matthew:

1. Chapter 1 – Because Matthew wants to reach the Jews, his genealogy begins with Abraham, the father of the Jews. How does Matthew show that Christ would be the Savior of more than just the Jews?

2. By using the genealogy, Matthew is able in a few words, to recap the history of the Old Testament. What meaning do you find in the God-given name for the Savior?
  
3. Chapter 2 – why was Herod so upset at the report of the wisemen?
  
4. Chapter 2:11 – What future significance can you see in the gifts of the wisemen?
  
5. Chapter 2:13-23 – What parallels can you see between Jesus' sojourn in Egypt and the time in the Old Testament when God's people spent 400 years in Egypt?
  
6. Luke 2:41-52 – Only Luke tells the story of the 12 year old Jesus. What can we learn of Jesus from this little episode?
  
7. It is Luke that tells us that John the Baptist is a relative of Jesus. According to Matthew 3:1-12, what was the message John would bring to the people?
  
8. John would oppose the Pharisees and Sadducees just as Jesus would later. Look at 3:9. On what false assurance were the Pharisees and Sadducees depending?

Your questions on Matthew...

Begin to read Mark