

Matthew 1-7 Review

Jesus began His ministry in Galilee. Several things made the area of Galilee unique:

- Fishing
- Trade
- Specific look
- Specific dialect
- Hotbed of Unrest

Jesus is establishing that He is the Son of God throughout the region of Galilee. In review of Matthew 1-7, we will see that Jesus is the Son of God and there is no one else like Him.

Genealogy (1:21 & 23) – Jesus is the rightful King of Israel. The promised Heir of David.

- The Jewish people and gentile believers have been waiting since the Garden of Eden for the Messiah (Genesis 3:15). We will examine two observations from the genealogy of Jesus.
 - Jesus is in the line of David. This gave Jesus the right to claim the throne. Jesus was the promised, rightful king of Israel. Though many were blind to Jesus being the promised king, one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.
 - Jesus' family tree is filled with the lowly, the outcast, the weak, the strong, the faithful, the faithless and the insignificant. This reminds us that God is able to accomplish His plan through anyone, despite their gifts or abilities. Therefore, being used by God for His glory is not dependent upon your goodness or power but upon God's goodness and power.

Joseph and Mary Following God (1:23, 2:6, 15, 23) – Jesus is God with us.

- Isaiah (1:23)
 - Immanuel...God with us. Words cannot begin to describe the majesty of the fact that God Himself stepped off His throne to walk among us, died for us, resurrected for us and redeemed us. "God with us" is one of the greatest statements of human history.
- Wise Men (2:6)
 - The Wise Men desired to worship the promised King. They traveled from the East to bring gifts and worship. They were determined to get to Jesus. They found themselves in the remote, forgotten town of Bethlehem. Providentially, Bethlehem means "house of bread". Jesus came as our great Shepherd to give us the "bread of life" (John 6:26-27).
- The Flight to Egypt (2:15)
 - Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah, "out of Egypt I called my Son". Only God Himself could have fulfilled all the prophesy about the Messiah. And this prophesy specifically points to Jesus being the Son of God.
- Nazareth (2:23)
 - The city of Nazareth is very interesting. (1) Jesus growing up in Nazareth fulfilled prophesy, Matt. 2:23. (2) People thought very little of Nazareth, John 1:46. (3) Nazareth has a view of the valley of Megiddo. The valley of Megiddo is where Jesus will return and defeat the anti-Christ and the armies of the nations, Revelation 16:16.

John the Baptist (3:3, 11-12) – Jesus is the Messiah. The promised One.

- John was called by God for a specific mission (3:3). But we must remember, just as specific John's call was, so is our call. Therefore, no one else can fulfill the calling that God has placed upon your life. Just like no one else could have ever fulfilled John's call.
- John faithfully proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah (3:11-12). John knew that the people needed Jesus. They didn't need the latest trends, money, fame or a better life here...they needed Jesus.

Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17) – Jesus is the Son of God.

- The important imagery in the Baptism of Jesus is the trinity. The trinity is a mystery that had confused even the greatest of theologians. Whether we fully understand it or not, it does not change the fact that God is three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We see this on display in the baptism here in Matthew 3. We have the Father declaring Jesus is His Son and we see the Holy Spirit resting upon Jesus. We see the Godhead on full display...all together...one in purpose. It is also important to notice that Jesus was in "indwelt" with the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't need to be "indwelt" with the Holy Spirit like us, because the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are already in perfect harmony.
- Here is some extra evidence of the trinity in Scripture. Even the first name God chose for Himself in the book of Genesis points to the trinity. The word for God, in Hebrew, in Genesis 1:1 is "Elohim". El is the single Hebrew word for god and the "ohim" is a plural ending. The Hebrew language had singles, doubles, triples and more. The word "Elohim" is a triple plural noun.

Temptation of Jesus (4:4, 7, 10) – Jesus is the Word of God.

- Jesus always responded to temptation with the Word of God. This is significant because it reminds us that our only hope of overcoming temptation is the Word of God.

Disciples (4:17 & 19-20) – Jesus is the true rabbi, the Messiah.

- Jesus came with a simple but direct message; "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near" (4:17 – CSB). Repentance is vital to the gospel message, yet our Christian culture in America is running hard and fast from that word. It's called judgmental, unloving, uncompassionate, close-minded and the like. We must repent (turn and change).
- Upon beginning His earthly ministry, Jesus calls 12 disciples. Again, the message was simple and direct; "Follow Me and I will make you a fisher of men" (4:19 – CSB). And the disciples responded immediately to the call.

Ministry in Galilee (4:23-25) – Jesus alone heals and forgives.

- Jesus was preaching, teaching and healing throughout the region of Galilee. Large crowds began to follow Jesus. The sad reality that we will discover, as we continue through the book of Matthew, is that the people followed for the healings, not for the forgiveness. In John 6:67-69, we see Jesus ask the disciples if they are going to leave as the crowds did and we have the faithful response of Peter:

"Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'" (6:68-69 – CSB).

Sermon on the Mount – Jesus sees the heart.

- Beatitudes (5:11-12) – Counter cultural.
- Salt and Light (5:13) – Witnesses of the gospel.
- Christ Fulfills the Law (5:17) – Jesus is the promised One.
- Murder (5:21-22) – Hate is as deadly as murder.
- Adultery (5:27-28) – Lust destroys just as much as adultery.
- Divorce (5:31-32) – No fault divorce is sin.

- Truth (5:33-35) – Integrity is expected.
- Second Mile (5:38-39) – Work hard to serve others.
- Love Your Enemies (5:43-45) – Love as God has loved you.
- Give (6:1-2) – Graciousness is expected.
- Pray (6:5 & 9-13) – Prayer is about knowing God.
- Fast (6:16-18) – Fasting helps us focus on God.
- Serve God (6:19-21) – Seek the things above.
- Anxiety (6:25 & 34) – Worry will rob you of the moment.
- Judging (7:5) – Righteous judgment is necessary.
- Ask, Seek, Knock (7:7) – God wants you to know Him, just seek.
- Entering the Kingdom (7:13-14) – Few are saved, share the gospel!
- Two Foundations (7:24) – Build your life on Christ.

It is clear that Jesus isn't just another prophet or good teacher. He is "God with us". Just as Jonah walked through Nineveh declaring that the Lord would "turn Nineveh upside down", we will see throughout the book of Matthew that Jesus turned Israel "upside down".

Jesus came to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Even the name of Jesus means, the LORD saves.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How should our lives be impacted by the fact the Jesus is King?
- ❖ Jesus' genealogy wasn't an "all-star" line up, how does God using the lowly, outcast and broken encourage you?
- ❖ Why is it important to know that God is with us?
- ❖ John the Baptist was faithful to proclaim the message God gave him, how faithful are you in sharing the gospel? What can we learn from John the Baptist and his faithfulness?
- ❖ Jesus being the Son of God is vital to the gospel message, how does God sending His Son on our behalf reveal how much He loves us?
- ❖ Jesus was faithful to proclaim the Word in the midst of temptation. How faithful are you to use God's Word in the face of temptation? What are some practical steps we can take to better use God's Word on a regular basis?
- ❖ How has repentance shaped your life? Do you simply ask God to forgive you when you sin or are you truly trying to repent? Why is the difference between asking for forgiveness and repentance important to know?
- ❖ The disciples responded to Jesus' call immediately. Do you respond to God's call immediately? Why or why not?
- ❖ Where do you turn for wisdom, guidance, hope, joy or peace? Jesus alone can bring healing and forgiveness. Why do we struggle to turn to God first when we struggle in life?
- ❖ Do you seek God for what He can give you or do you seek Him because He alone has the words of life?
- ❖ Jesus addresses the heart issues in the sermon on the mount. Why do our motives and thoughts matter so much?