**The Book of Matthew**

**Sermon II Preparing for Ministry**

Theme of Matthew: Jesus the [Jewish] Messiah is the culmination of salvation history and brings salvation from sin to all people.

Theme verse Matthew 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them.

Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets. Jesus does this in a wide variety of ways.

a. In that he, unlike any other human before him, literally fulfilled all the requirements of the Law of Moses.

b. In that through his actions he satisfied the penalty for all of us who did not fully obey the Law of Moses.

c. In that his life fulfilled all the Messianic expectations in the OT.

d. Jesus completes/rounds out/explains more fully what was only implied by the Law of Moses. Ex: not just avoiding adultery—not even lusting.

Last week: looked at prophecies in Matthew and what they tell us about Jesus.

**Matt 1:22-23 Jesus is God-with-us**

**Matt 2:15 Jesus a Savior who calls us out of Egypt**

**Matt 2:23 Jesus the Branch/Nazarene a priestly King**

**Matt 12:15-21 Jesus a gentle and humble servant**

**Matt 21:4-5 Jesus a humble but victorious king**

Matthew 1:1-17 Matthew starts with genealogy. Jews use genealogy to tell a story.

Why? To show that Jesus is the Messiah who fulfills all that written in the Law and the Prophets—the connection with the Old Testament

The Old Testament (and the whole Bible for that matter) is a story about God sending a savior

Matthew 1:1 Jesus the “son of David.” This genealogy is intended to show the royal lineage of Jesus.

The Son of David (and therefore king)

The Son of Abraham (ie. Isaac whose life was offered: and therefore savior)

Matthew connects with the Old Testament and identifies Jesus as King and Savior.

Luke gives Jesus’ genealogy through Joseph

Matthew gives Jesus’ genealogy through Mary Matt 1:16

Its “irregularities” point out that Jesus will not only be a savior for the Jews.

v. 3 whose mother was Tamar probably a Canaanite.

v. 5 Rahab a prostitute and a Gentile.

v. 5 Ruth a widowed Moabite

v. 6 whose mother Bathsheba was probably a Hittite,

All four births were of suspect origin to lowly outsiders.

And of course, the birth of Jesus was considered by some to be ill repute as well.

**Matthew 2:1-23 God calls Jesus “out of Egypt”**

Matthew already said Jesus is son of David and of Abraham. Now he will show him to be son of Moses.

This entire section is designed to show Jesus as the true king of Israel (as opposed to Herod), as the son of Moses and as a Messiah/King for all nations.

It also points out that Jesus is king, not just of the Jews, but of the Gentiles.

v. 2 Gentiles: Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

v. 11 Gentiles are the first to acknowledge Jesus as King, and to worship him.

These actions fulfill foreshadows in Isaiah 60:1-6 (gold and frankincense).

“Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn”

“Your sons come from afar… You will look and be radiant, your heart will throb with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.”

These actions remind us of the Queen of Sheba who brought similar gifts to Solomon (1 Kings 10:2) Again, we see a Gentile honoring a Jewish king.

Q: If you are a Gentile, is Jesus your king?

**2:13-19 Jesus and Moses**

This section contains prophetic references to Moses.

Like Jesus,

1. A jealous king wanted to kill him as a baby (v. 13), and killed many Jewish boys in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent being overthrown by a Jewish king.

2. Both came out of Egypt (v. 15)

“Out of Egypt I called my Son.” Hosea 11:1 In order to redeem spiritual Israel.

3. Both returned home when the jealous king died. (v. 19)

Jesus is the second Moses.

**Matt 3:1-4:16 Preparation for Jesus’ ministry**

**3:1-12 John “the Baptist.” Prepares for Jesus’ ministry.**

Focuses on prophecy-fulfillment, of course. JTB is the Elijah who is to come.

Prophetic material in this section:

Matthew 3:3 quotes Isaiah 40:3

A voice calling in the wilderness,

Prepare the way for the Lord. Prepare for Jesus’ ministry. How?

We will see.

But before that, he also adds parallels between JTB and Elijah such as

Matt 3:4 clothes of camel’s hair and a leather belt (2 Kings 1:8)

3:4 His food and solitary life

Later (Matthew 11:7-15) Jesus quotes Malachi 3:1 “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way before you.”

Still later (Mathew 17:12-13) Jesus says that JTB is the Elijah who is to come (Malachi 4:5)

But… What is the message of John that will prepare the way for Jesus?

Matthew 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

The message of John is repentance and preparing for the Kingdom of God.

BTW, this is also the message of Jesus in Matthew 4:17.

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand (near). The messianic age is upon us. The true king—the one prophesied so many times—is immanent.

Q: What is the kingdom of God to you?

The Kingdom of God is a life submitted to God’s will. Is Jesus truly your king?

Who lives in this kingdom? Those who have truly repented.

Q: Have you truly repented? Have you changed you mind? Have you turned your back on your rebellion and come into a loyal obedience to God?

Why now? Because the kingdom of God is coming! This is the Day of the Lord! We need to flee from God’s wrath into safety in God’s kingdom. (v. 7)

**3:13-17 Baptism of Jesus (skip)**

**4:1-11 Jesus tested in the desert. Jesus prepared for his ministry. How? Tested**

Tested is better than tempted here. Is Jesus ready for his ministry? Will he pass the test?

Again, Matthew’s account is full in allusions to the Old Testament—especially Deuteronomy 6-8.

Deut 8:2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commands.

v. 1 “Led by the Spirit…” God turns around Satan’s trying to tempt us into a test which can prepare us for greater levels of ministry.

In this case, whereas Israel, under Moses, failed miserably, Jesus was triumphant. He passed the test with an A+. Again we see the theme here that Jesus is the true Israel who was called out of Egypt and tested in the desert.

Allusions to Moses

 v. 2 forty days of fasting/preparation (Moses 40 years in the desert)

 v. 8 shown the “whole world” from a mountain (like Moses at Mt. Nebo Deut 34:1-4)

v. 2 After forty days of fasting, Jesus was hungry. No kidding!

The temptation/trial were to:

1. v. 4 Temptation to rely on human-produced, physical things rather than on God. Will Jesus pass the test?

Jesus’ response: To quote Scripture. Specifically Deuteronomy 8:3

Q: Who or what do you rely on when the rubber hits the road? Stuff or God?

2. v. 7 Temptation to put God to the test. To do what is foolish and not wise and hope that God will save you from your foolishness. If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down…

Note: Satan even quotes scripture out of context!

Jesus’ response: To quote another scripture. Deuteronomy 6:16

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah.”

 Rely on God to get you out of messes of your own creation (as did Israel at Massah in Deut 6:16 Exodus 17:7 *massah* = testing, where they asked, “Is God among us or not.”). They had no water and were about to stone Moses

We should not say to God, If you will do such and such, then I will do…

If you will heal my sick daughter, then I will…

Why? Because faith is belief in things not seen… (Heb 11:1)

No putting out fleeces like Gideon did. If God does not want me to date this non-Christian he will give me a sign.

I am waiting for a sign from God about my working on Sundays.

Do not rely on God to show you a sign about something that advice or scripture can answer for you.

v. 10 Worship things other than God. To give non-exclusive loyalty to God. (Deut

6:13 “Fear the Lord your God, serve him only, and take your oaths in his name.” In the context of Deut 6:10-13 the temptation is that, when God blesses us, we rely on those things rather than on the one who gave them to us. Job, achievements, good looks, etc.

Q: How are you doing in these areas?

Summary: Preparing for Ministry

**Repent for the kingdom of God is here**

**Learn to rely on God, not on things of this world.**

**Do not test God. Just do what is right.**

**Above all, make sure that you worship God alone.**