

Forming Disciples and Disciple-Shapers As the Jesus People

Structure of Matthew

In the Beginning (1:1-3.17)

- A. Generations—Jewish with a twist
- B. Two Birth Narratives—with a twist
- C. A forerunner
- D. Emmanuel (“God is with you”) is baptized and commissioned

Formation in the desert and Outline of Ministry (4.1-25)

- A. School of the Spirit
 - a. Stress and doubt
 - b. Scripture
 - c. Success
- B. Jesus’ practices of ministry (4.23)

Kingdom Living: Formative Elements for Disciples (5.1-7.29)

- A. Blessings that frame the community
- B. Salt and Light: Metaphors that define the community’s purpose
- C. Right living (in continuity with the old people of God) articulated with six examples
- D. Worship practices reframed—giving, prayer, and fasting
- E. Live simply—where your treasure is. . . .
- F. Strive for the kingdom
- G. Don’t judge
- H. Be smart
- I. Pray well
- J. Four sets of twos—as parting wisdom
 - a. Gates
 - b. Trees
 - c. Speakers
 - d. Houses
- K. Jesus is the authority

Narratives of the Kingdom (8.1-9.34)

- A. Announcing the Kingdom—For All
 - a. Leper
 - b. Outsider
 - c. Woman
 - d. Disciples of little faith
 - e. Supernatural
- B. Kingdom Therapy—Jesus brings freedom
 - a. From sin
 - b. From separation
 - c. From scruples about practices

- d. From sickness and death
- e. For—to see and to hear! (Will we see? Will we hear?)

Sources for Ministry (9.35-10.4)

- A. The passion of Jesus
- B. The practice of prayer
- C. The acknowledgement of gifts
- D. The life of community

The Practice of Discipleship (10.5-11.1)

- A. Mission formed
- B. Risk taking
- C. Simplicity
- D. Embrace of suffering
- E. The disciple's life looks like the Master

New Forms of Ministry (11.2-12.50)

- A. Not like John's ministry
- B. Not like the Pharisee's ministry (Controversies 12.1-45)
- C. It is a ministry that is characterized by a communal mission pursuing God's kingdom (12.46ff)

Do You Understand?: False Disciples and True Disciples (13.1-53) ("Have you understood all this?") (13.51)

Lack of Understanding: Stories to Illustrate (13.54-16.12)

- A. Home town (13.54)
- B. Governmental powers (14.1)
- C. Disciples (14.13)
- D. Peter (14.28)
- E. However—strangers get it! (14.34)
- F. Religious leaders (15.1-20)
- G. However—a foreign woman gets it! (15.21)
- H. Disciples (15.32)
- I. More religious leaders (16.1-12)

Power and Authority (16.13-17.23)

- A. The Confession: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- B. The confession is tested
- C. The Transfiguration: Real power lies here
- D. Elijah and the authority of suffering
- E. Power through Prayer

Ministers and Pastoral Care (17.24-18.35)

- A. Redirected freedom
- B. Redirected ambition

- C. Care for the least
- D. Seek out the least
- E. Confronting sin
- F. Practice of forgiveness

Marriage and Singleness: Domestic Life (19.1-15)

- A. Marriage
- B. Single Life
- C. Children

Leadership and Character (19.16-20.28)

- A. Wealth (19.16-30)
- B. Pride (20.1-16)
- C. Passion Orientation (20.17-19)
- D. Ambition (20.20-28)

Practices of Leadership (Jesus at Work) (20.29-21.28)

- A. Mercy (20.29-34)
- B. Humility (21.1-11)
- C. Zeal for God's heart (21.12-17)
- D. Faithful prayer (21.18-22)
- E. Holding authority lightly (21.23-27)

Parables on disciple faithfulness (21.28-22.14)

- A. Two kinds of sons
- B. Two kinds of farmers
- C. Two kinds of wedding guests

The Big Questions (22.15-46)

- A. Politics
- B. Resurrection and the Supernatural
- C. Scripture

Negative Views of Leadership (23.1-24.51)

- A. On Titles
- B. Hypocrisy
- C. Persecution, or non-eschatological Characteristics of the Church
- D. Coming Son of Man
- E. Nearness of the Son of Man
- F. Maltreatment of Fellow Disciples as a Characteristic of False Discipleship

Watching as a leadership practice (24.45-25.46)

- A. Watching and faithfulness (24.45-51)
- B. Watching and diligence (25.1-13)
- C. Faithful Use of Gifts (25.14-30)
- D. Doing God's will and neighboring love as true discipleship (25.31-46)

Table, Prayer, and Death: The Way of the One True Guide (26.1-27.66)

- A. The narrative of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion
- B. Note the falling away of every party and group.
 - a. The disciples
 - b. The Sanhedrin
 - c. Peter
 - d. Judas
 - e. Pilate
 - f. Jewish people
 - g. Roman soldiers
 - h. Everyone
- C. Only one remains—“Truly this man was the Son of God.”

Resurrection that leads to Mission (28.1-20)

- A. Resurrection narrative
- B. False leaders
- C. True leaders who respond to the mission
- D. “I am with you”

Preaching the Gospel of Matthew: Some Suggestions

1. Develop a series of sermon that reflects what I am seeking to do in these lectures. That series would seek to answer the question: What do disciples of Jesus Christ look like?
2. Develop a series of sermons on the Beatitudes.
3. Develop a series of sermons out of Jesus formative teachings—the Sermon on the Mount.
4. Develop a series of sermons on the Lord’s prayer.
5. Develop a series of sermons on a small section of Matthew’s gospel where Matthew is exploring a particular theme, e.g., nature of the kingdom (8), misunderstandings of the kingdom (14-15), reordered ambitions (17.24-18.35), or temptation (4.1-11).

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