

## **Matthew's Book so I can Read It with Understanding**

November 18, 2012

*How Do I read any of the 4 Gospels with Understanding?*

1. I must understand its flow of thought
2. I must understand its place among "the four"
3. I must be willing to read more than a few verses at a time

*Now, let's work on the 1<sup>st</sup> point: "understanding Matthew's flow of thought"*

**Matthew 1-4** – Introduction "Jesus is Messiah"

- Ch 1 – Indisputable genealogical proof and prophetic proof
- Chaps 2-4 = OT passage after OT passage

**Matthew 5-7** – Message 1 "Entrance into the Kingdom of heaven demands personal righteousness"

- Nobody just waltzes into the Kingdom by virtue of their Jewish birth or outward orthodoxy/confession to the truth of the OT

**Matthew 8-9** – *Faith Narrative*

10 miracles which show the value of "Faith in Jesus"

**Matthew 10** – Message 2 "The Apostle's Missionary Commission"

- 10:6-8 – Key verses

**Matthew 11-12** – *Rejection Narrative*

12:14, 24, 38-39

**Matthew 13** – Message 3 "7 Kingdom Parables"

- With the Rejection Narrative the natural question is "If the King is rejected, what happens to the Kingdom?"
- 13:10-13

**Matthew 14-17** – *Withdrawal Narrative*

The emphasis here is upon his disciples (14:22-23ff; 15:21, 29-32, 39; 16:13 (way north); 17:1, 22-23; 17:24)  
Also, significant prophecy: 16:21-23; 17:22-23;

**Matthew 18** – Message 4 "True Conversion"

- 18:1-6 – (v 3) only humble people enter the Kingdom
- 18:7-11 – (v 7) woe to stumbling blocks
- 18:12-14 – (v 14) the Father wishes all to be in the Kingdom
- 18:15-20 – (v 15) What happens when a brother sins?
- 18:21-35 – (v 21-22) How often should I forgive my brother?

**Matthew 19-23** – *Proofs of Conversion Narrative*

Note how this section begins and ends with Chaps 19 and 23

**Matthew 24-25** – Message 5 "The End Times"

**Matthew 26-28a** – *Passover narrative*

Matthew's presentation of Jesus' Trial, Death and Resurrection

**Matthew 28:16-20** – Conclusion "Make Disciples of All Nations"

*Six amazing lessons we learn from Matthew's Book*

1. The Old Testament Scriptures are elevated to Divine status – but they must be interpreted properly—so be careful! (1:22; 4:13-16; 5:21-47)
2. The Kingdom of God is only for "the family of Jesus" (those who love the King) and one's life will show he belongs. (12:46-50; 19:16-26).
3. Personal faith in Christ alone is key for spiritual life and blessing (Chaps 8-9 – Can you find the 8 usages of faith/believe?)
4. Jesus' life and ministry is filled with supernatural compassion (Note these early markers: 4:23-25; 8:1-3; 9:9; 9:35-36)
5. On the human side, most people reject the truth by either their words or their actions, but on the divine side, Jesus loves all and loses none of those he has chosen (11:28-30; 22:1-14)
6. Discipleship (following Jesus) will cost you everything you have in this present life (4:20; 9-9; 10:37-39; 16:24-28; 19:27-29; 28:19-20)