

2019-2020 Bible Study

#18

2/4/20

Matthew 10

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Outline for Matthew 10

- **Matthew 10**
- Matthew calls and empowers the 12 Disciples
 - The Twelve Disciples
 - The Mission of the Twelve
 - Coming Persecutions
- A discussion of Beelzebul
 - Whom to Fear
 - Taking Up One's Cross
 - Rewards

Matthew 10

- **Matthew 10:1-6** *“And he called to him twelve disciples and he gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity”*
 - *Jesus gave “authority” to His disciples*
 - Matthew described authority as an attribute of Jesus in **Matthew 7:29; 8:9; 9:6, 8**
 - Jesus demonstrated his authority when He freed a man from paralysis, healed a woman from a hemorrhage, raised a little girl from death, healed a blind man and cast out a demon

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- At this point, He gave this “authority” to 12 of his disciples over unclean spirits, to heal every disease and infirmity
- We know that they were His apostles (ones who were sent out) because Matthew lists them by name, led by Peter and concluded by Judas who would betray Him *

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:7-15** *“And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay...then for that town’”*
 - Jesus gave them the same power He had been demonstrating except for the power to “forgive sins”
 - That power was added to their powers at the end of the Gospel when Jesus directed them to go out to all the world and baptize all nations
 - It will be by His death and resurrection that will allow them this additional power

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- Notice also, that at this point He restricted them to going among any but the “house of Israel”
- He forbade them from going to the Gentiles or Samaritans
- Father said that this first part of the Gospel presented in Galilee was like their “deacon year” when the apostles went out and checked out these powers
- After the resurrection, He sent them to the entire world with **all** of His powers *

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:16-23** *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves;...before the Son of man comes”*
 - Jesus instructed his disciples not to worry for their safety or what they would say as He would provide for their needs
 - He further warned them that His message would be divisive even within families
 - Then suddenly, Jesus spoke to them about His coming (**Matthew 10:23**)
 - Father pointed out that this is not about His second coming!

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- This in fact was Matthew's teaching that the coming of Jesus (the son of Man) was the fulfilment of **Daniel 7:13**
- His audience may have wondered when this would happen
- Matthew was saying that it happened in the first century
- Father asked that we make a note at this point to: **Matthew 16:28** and **24:30** *

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:24-30** *“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master... But even the hairs of your head are all numbered”*
 - *Beelzebul* was the name of a Philistine god
 - The Jews believed that all pagan gods were a manifestation of Satan, including the Greco-Roman gods
 - Father said that they were correct in this understanding as all pagan religious belief was a result of demonic influence
 - He said it started with the serpent in the Garden and carried forward from there

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- St Paul, in **1st Corinthians 10**, said that the pagans worshiped demons
- They had pagan temples containing pagan statues of pagan gods who they worshipped
- Here the problem was that the Pharisees had called the master of this house *Beelzebul*
- Matthew also listed “Satan” to avoid being confused by this Philistine god, as He had done in **Matthew 9:34** *

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:31-39** *“Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows... he who loses his life for my sake will find it”*
 - Again, Matthew is declaring that there will be a division among the people who hear the message of Jesus
 - Some will accept it while others will reject it even within families
 - Father pointed out that this does not mean that Jesus was coming to bring war or violence, but that the people are going to have to make a decision even within families

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- A father may believe that Jesus was not the Messiah, while his son believes that he is
- They will have to make a choice or take a stand
- Father pointed out that these decisions are continuing to be made within families today
- Many of us have extended families that are divided between Catholicism and Protestantism (or Buddhism or something else)
- Think of the decisions that have to be made within families concerning participating in weddings *

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:40-42** *“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives him who sent me...he shall not lose his reward”*
 - This is part of that same idea
 - Jesus is telling his disciples that they are an extension of him
 - You will find this theme throughout the New Testament
 - Of most importance is that sacramentally after the resurrection they will literally become part of his body and blood
 - We become the body and blood of Jesus

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- Thus, when someone says that he is not big on the church but believes in Jesus, he is not being realistic
- It is not like saying that he can pick just the burger in a McDonald's happy meal
- Jesus is the head of the Church
- This completes Book II in Matthew's Gospel
- We will continue our study by looking at **Matthew 11 (Book III Matthew 11-13) ***

Introduction to Matthew

- Structure

Prologue: The Genealogy of Jesus and the Infancy Narrative (1-2)

Book I: John the Baptist and the Early Ministry (3-7)

Book II: Miracles and the Commissioning of the Twelve (8-10)

Book III: Controversy and the Kingdom (11-13)

Book IV: Instruction of the Disciples (14-18)

Book V: The Journey to Jerusalem (19-25)

Conclusion: Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (26-28)

Matthew 11

2/4/20

Outline for Matthew 11

- **Matthew 11**
- Jesus predicts the fulfilment of the prophecies of Malachi
- Messengers from John the Baptist
- Jesus Praised John the Baptist
- Icon of John with angelic wings
- Jesus Upbraids the Unrepentant Cities
- Jesus Thanks His Father

Matthew 11

- **Matthew 11:1** “ *And when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities*”
 - We are now returning to a narrative in accord with Matthew’s pattern
 - Jesus has finished saying things so now He will begin doing things again
 - As discussed earlier, this will happen five times
 - This section will begin with a discussion of John the Baptist *

Introduction to Matthew

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- Prologue: The Genealogy of Jesus and the Infancy Narrative (1-2)**

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- Conclusion: Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (26-28)**

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:2-3** *“Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ...we look for another”*
 - Commentators are divided on why John was making this statement
 - Either, he was wondering this himself, or (most likely) some of his remaining disciples were wanting to follow Jesus
 - Some were still in the process of being formed by John and were not ready to follow Jesus at this point

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Earlier, at the baptism of Jesus, John said to Peter, Andrew, James, and John “*go there he is the lamb of God follow him*” and they followed him
- At this point, John was sending these disciples to Jesus to ask this question in hopes that they would remain with Him
- Look at how Jesus responded to their question in the next verse:*

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:4-8** *“And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see...those who wear soft raiment are in kings’ houses”*
 - As discussed earlier, Matthew was referencing the Prophet *Isaiah* rather than say “I am the one”
 - After they left, Jesus asks those listening to him who they believe John was and why they had gone into the wilderness (by the Jordan) to hear him *

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:9-10** *“Why then do you go out?...w*
- *‘who shall prepare thy way before thee?’”*
 - What was Jesus saying here?
 - He had identified John the Baptist as the fulfillment of the prophet ***Malachi* (Malachi 3:1)**
 - The post-exilic prophets told the people that if they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem, its walls, and the temple, the glory cloud would return
 - After completing these, the people stood in the temple looking toward the *Mount of Olives* (East) and suffered a “crisis of faith”

The Prophet Malachi

Malachi 432-424 B.C. Post Ex

- The name Malachi means “my messenger”
- The only information about the prophet Malachi comes from his writings
- He discussed the conditions in Jerusalem around 525-500 B.C.
- He was preoccupied with the temple and its sacrifices
- At the time of Malachi, the people had built the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant and the glory cloud but they had not returned

Malachi

- Malachi tells the people that:
 - The Lord was not happy with their sacrifices (blemished animals)
 - They were not ready for His return as they were still wicked and therefore would be destroyed if He returned at that time
 - Before the Lord returns, *Elijah* will reappear to gather together **a remnant** from among the wicked and pagan people
 - According to Jesus, John the Baptist fulfills this promise
- Thus, the 1st century Jewish people were looking for *Elijah*, a prophet like Moses and/or the Messiah

Malachi

- **Malachi 1:1-14**
- *Esau* refers to the *Edomites* who hoped to rebuild their cities after their destruction by a tribe of Arab marauders
- But, God proclaimed that He would never allow them to rebuild
- The Jews wondered what prevented the roving band of Arabs who destroyed Edom from attacking Jerusalem?
- They understood that it was Yahweh who had protected them but wondered why the glory cloud had not returned?

Malachi (Cont)

- Malachi told them that God had not returned because **they were not ready for His return**
- They rebuilt the city, the temple, and the walls but they were **not spiritually ready** for His return
- Although the people of Judah had restored the sacrificial system in accordance with the Law of Moses, they were offering lame animals and were treating God as if He was a pagan god needing to be fed

Malachi (Cont)

- Malachi asked the people why they failed to honor God by offering Him polluted sacrifices
- **Malachi 2** reveals God's promised curse on the priesthood (should they refuse to reform and return to the covenant of Moses) *

Malachi (Cont)

- **Malachi 3:1-18**

- **God promised to send a messenger** to the people to prepare the way for His coming
- He warned them that He was on the way, and He was about to enter the temple
- Yet, if he came while they were still offering polluted sin offerings, they would be burned up like impurities in a refiner's fire
- He said he was coming in judgment because they were robbing him of His tithes
- He told them that He would not restore their blessings until they repented
- Then He promised to spare those who feared the Lord *

Malachi (Cont)

- **Malachi 4:1-5**

- The fire will be like a forest fire that leaves nothing but ashes
- The people must have wondered when this would happen
- God then told them that He would send *Elijah* before that terrible day
- As we know from Jesus, the return of *Elijah* can be seen as the arrival of *John* the Baptist
- *Elijah* also appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration

Malachi (Cont)

- We can see that God sent the prophet *Malachi* to inform the people that God was coming and that the glory cloud was going to return to the temple
- But, when He comes, the wicked will be annihilated by a massive fire leaving only the righteous (remnant)
- All of this prophesy will be fulfilled in the New Testament

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- At that point, God sent the prophet *Malachi* to them as His messenger to “prepare the way” for His return
- He told them that the Lord whom they seek will suddenly appear in the temple
- But, he asked when that happened who could withstand His presence as He would be coming like a refiner’s fire
- Further, that God would send the great prophet *Elijah* before that terrible day
- Thus, Jesus was saying that the first fulfillment was the arrival of *Malachi*, and now the second fulfillment was John the Baptist who was greater than *Malachi*

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Then, after that, *Elijah* would come at the Transfiguration
- As the angel Gabriel proclaimed, John would be in the spirit of *Elijah*
- This was the fulfillment of the prophecy of *Malachi* who was said to be preparing the way for the return of the glory cloud
- Thus, as Jesus was making a statement about John, he was also making a statement about himself
- Jesus was not just the Messiah, He was also the return of the glory cloud which will be clarified at the Transfiguration

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Father pointed out that sometimes we see icons of John the Baptist with **wings on his back**
- The Greek word for messenger is *Aggelos*, or *Malak* in Hebrew
- *Malachi* means “my messenger” (my angel)
- So this image was to imply that John the Baptist was the messenger discussed in *Malachi* *

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:11-12** *“Truly, I say to you, among those born of a woman there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he...take it by force”*
 - Father said that this was a hard saying in the Eastern churches as over half of them are named after John the Baptist
 - But, it is true by virtue of our baptism
 - John was the greatest of the old covenant, but we who are baptized into Jesus are greater than John *

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:13-19** *“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John;...Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds”*
 - Jesus had just told us twice that John is the fulfillment of the prophecy of *Malachi*
 - We have also been told that the glory cloud will come after the arrival of John
 - But, who is “this generation”
 - Matthew indicates that they are like children sitting in a marketplace playing with their playmates *

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:20-24** *“Then he began to upbraid the cities...on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you”*
 - Father pointed out that this marked the end of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee
 - We know from John’s Gospel that Jesus spent approximately three years in His public ministry
 - So, Jesus chastised the cities that rejected his ministry in Galilee
 - Today, those cities contain only ruins *

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:25-30** *“At that time Jesus declared, ...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”*
 - Father suggested that there are two possible allusions here:
 - First, we need to remember that *Rehoboam*, the son of Solomon, increased the “yoke” on the 10 tribes in the North leading to a civil war
 - Here, Jesus was attempting to restore *Galilee* of the North into the kingdom of God (Israel)
 - Second, this is also a possible allusion that a son of David was coming to restore these things

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- A concept emphasized in John and Matthew is the idea that Jesus is the new Law, the new Torah
- The Book of Sirach and other wisdom literature state that the Law is a yoke that leads you
- One puts a yoke on an oxen to go the way he should go
- It makes him walk the proper path
- So Jesus is saying that His yoke is easy so they can follow His way
- We will continue our study in **Matthew 12**