

Bible Study 2022-2023

Class # 29

5/2/23

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:17-23** *“Beware of men;...you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of Man comes”*
 - Jesus was telling His Apostles that they will not only bring this message to the Jews, but later also to the Gentiles
 - We will see this when Peter speaks to the Sanhedrin, where the spirit filled him with speech (**Acts 4:8-20***)
 - Father asked that we underline: “But he who endures to the end will be saved” (which will come up again in **Matthew 24**)
 - He also asked that we put a note here which refers to **Matthew 16:28***; and **Matthew 24:30***

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- Most likely, it did not take more than a few decades for the Apostles to go through all the towns of Israel (yet, Jesus said that He would return before this was completed)
- Father said that some people have lost their Faith over this passage, because this seems not to have happened
- What Jesus was really talking about was the destruction of the Temple (70 AD), and the coming of the Son of Man discussed in **Daniel 7:13***

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- In this passage, Matthew said that this will happen before the “Son of man comes”
- This is the language of **Daniel 7:13**, which says that Jesus will be coming to the ancient of days (not His second coming to the earth)
- Jesus was talking about an event that will happen in which He rises to the throne of His Father
- This will happen before the Apostles have gone through every town in Israel (the timeframe is leading up to 70 AD)

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:24-33** *“A disciple is not about his teacher,...before my Father who is in heaven”*
 - Jesus was warning His Apostles that if this was how the Jews were treating Him, think of how they will treat you
 - Get ready, as it will be severe!
 - Jesus was reminding His Apostles that they were supposed to take this special information, and use it to train others
 - They should boldly proclaim what He had taught them quietly
 - He was training and preparing them for what they would face, and the need for courage and boldness

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:34-39** *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth;...and he who loses his life for my sake will find it”*
 - Father said that this did not sound very nice!
 - A sword was something that cuts and divides
 - Also, to take up of the cross and follow Him was not well understood
 - Jesus was preparing them for what they would experience after his death and resurrection
 - Many will be flogged in synagogues, stand, and be judged before the king

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- If a Jewish son (in the 1st Century) came home and proclaimed faith in Jesus, he most likely would be rejected by his family
- He was preparing them for the possibility of families being torn apart over this faith
- Paul warned about this, as he knew that many in his family and extended family would be divided over the belief that Jesus was the Messiah
- Father said the message was that they were to go out and preach the gospel, and let Jesus take care of the rest

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- **Matthew 10:40-42** *“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me...He shall not lose his reward”*
 - Jesus was telling them that just like he was preaching these things and suffering the consequences, so will they have to suffer and be rejected
 - But, for those who receive you will receive Jesus, and for those who reject them will be rejected by Jesus
 - We will now turn to **Matthew 11**

Matthew 11

5/2/23

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”*
 - Father suggested that we put a Roman II here, as this begins the 2nd division of the five parts of Matthew’s Gospel
 - Each part has the same format: Jesus is doing things; then He is saying things
 - When he is finished talking, He will then do something
 - We will see this pattern as we read along

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:2-6** *“Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of Christ,...And blessed is he who takes no offense at me”*
 - Father suggested that we add a note here referencing **Isaiah 29:18;32:3 & 35:5-6***
 - At this point, John had been in prison for quite some time, and he knew that he was about to die
 - John had continued to baptize those who came to him after the Baptism of Jesus
 - There were a few disciples who were still with him, who had not left to follow Jesus

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Scholars have posited two different explanations as to why, while he was in prison, John sent his disciples to question Jesus
 - Some have suggested that John was beginning to have doubts about Jesus (even though Jesus was his cousin and the Messiah, he was not doing the things that was expected of the Messiah)
 - Other scholars have proposed that John was carefully letting his disciples know that they needed to go to Jesus
- John told them to go and check Him out, take a good look at Him, ask Him the questions they had been asking me (*“are you the one, or should we seek another?”*)

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Jesus responds to their question with: “*Go and tell John what you see*”
- Either way, we know that there were some disciples of John who had not made the leap to Jesus
- This explanation was intended to help them make this leap

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:7-9** *“And they went away,...Yes, I tell you, and more that a prophet”*
 - Jesus was speaking about John the Baptist, who was already a major figure in the story
 - Jesus was preaching in Galilee as He implied that everyone there knew who John was
 - Any pious Jew had either seen John, heard him preach, and/or been baptized by him

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Jesus then asked: *“Why then did you go out? To see a prophet?”*
- Father said that this was a rhetorical question
- The real question He was asking them was: “Why did you go out?”

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:10** *“This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee’”*
 - There are two important issues in this passage which come from **Malachi 3**
 - First, it clarifies the identity of John the Baptist
 - Even though we have talked about this in the past, Father asked that we think about the crowds in the story who were asking themselves who was this man John, and its implication for the coming of the Messiah?

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Here, Jesus clarified that John was the one who was to come to prepare the way for the coming of the “glory cloud”
- At this point, we will review a portion of the *Prophet Malachi*

Malachi

- His name means “Messenger”
- He was sent by God at the time when the Israelites were in crisis
- The exact date is hard to pin down
- He began his book with a description of the destruction of *Edom* (Arab raiders attacked Edom around 500 BC)

Malachi (Cont)

- Thus, we know that *Malachi* was writing after the destruction of Eden (500 BC), and we know that many of the Jews returned from exile (538, 525-457, 444 BC), after King Cyrus proclaimed that the Jews could return to their homeland in 538 BC
- This means that *Malachi* was writing some 40 or 50 years after the return, and after the Israelites had rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple
- But, there was a problem (crisis), as the promised “glory cloud” had not returned
- Thus, God sent *Malachi* to let them know that the “glory cloud” was on its way, but that God was finding them unprepared for its return

Malachi (Cont)

- If it came at that moment, He would have to wipe everyone of them out through a consuming fire
- We see in the New Testament where the angel said that John the Baptist came in the spirit of *Elijah*
- Malachi prophesied that the messenger who was coming was like a “new *Elijah*”

Malachi (Cont)

- Today, because we have the information from Luke's gospel, about the life of John the Baptist in the words of the Angel Gabriel, that the crowds listening to this story had not yet received (Matthew was most likely written first)

Malachi (Cont)

- Since we already have this information, we must set it aside in order to put ourselves in the mind of a Galilean Jew who had met John the Baptist
- They knew that John was a prophet or even possibly the Messiah

Malachi (Cont)

- But, in John's gospel, we hear him deny that and say that he was a voice crying in the wilderness and making straight the way of the Lord
- This was the fulfillment of **Isaiah 40**
- Mark actually ties this passage from *Malachi* into the prophesy of *Isaiah*

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Of importance here is that it tells us who John the Baptist is, and that he was the fulfillment of *Malachi*
- He was the one coming to prepare the way of the Lord (all caps in *Malachi* meaning Yahweh)
- This tells us of the incredible role of John the Baptist, who was not only any prophet, but the great and final prophet of the Old Testament
- This passage tells us something about John, and also something about Jesus

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- It tells us that John is coming as *Elijah* to prepare the way of the Lord which means that the “glory cloud” will return to the temple
- Obviously, Jesus is the Lord dwelling among His peoples as He is the “glory cloud”

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- **Matthew 11:11-15** *“Truly, I say to you,...He who has ears to hear let him hear”*
 - Although born of women means “mankind,” the next line confuses many people
 - Once again, Father pointed out that Matthew’s “Kingdom of Heaven” was all about the coming of the “Kingdom of God,” which is the church, the new covenant that Jesus just established
 - This means that the least member in the church is greater than John the Baptist

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- This will be clarified in the **Gospel of John** where it says: *“He who is in the kingdom of God is born not of women but of water and the spirit”*
- This is a very big deal in the Eastern Church as half of their churches are named after John the Baptist or the prophet St. Elias
- As important as these figures were, they both died before the death and resurrection of Jesus
- We, on the other hand, have been baptized into the body of Christ
- Thus, the apostles were of the Old Covenant and of the New Covenant

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- All of the disciples of Jesus who lived to see His resurrection were a part of the New Covenant
- Therefore, they were greater than John the Baptist
- Paul clearly tells us that we are members of the Body of Christ
- As Jesus was greater than John, as John said: *“The one coming after me, I am not worthy to untie his sandal straps”*
- Thus, we as members of the Body of Christ, are greater than John the Baptist
- As Peter says, we are: *“partakers of the divine nature”*
(2nd Peter 1:4)

Matthew 11 (Cont)

- Father suggested that this should remind us of our high calling, and what God expects of each of us
- As members of His body, we are expected to be His hands, feet, and mouth on earth until He comes again
- Then Jesus asked: “What am I going to do with this generation because I cannot make them happy”