

Two Year Bible Trek  
Week 80  
Matthew 1-16

**Key Concepts:** The key concept in this book is that Jesus the Christ has come to fulfill the promises of God made in the Old Testament.

**Central Concepts:** The first two significant concepts we need to look at in Matthew are that the book is organized around five discourses, each ending with “And when Jesus finished these sayings” and that Matthew warns Christians about the dangers of believing without acting. According to this Gospel, true faith in Jesus Christ means acting upon that faith in meaningful ways.

**Brief Summary: Matthew 1:1-4:25** - Unlike Mark, Matthew opens his gospel with careful placement of Jesus within the salvation history of the Jewish people. We have Jesus named as both a son of David and Abraham, thus laying claim to the promises given to those men. This text is followed by a genealogy that would make the writer of Numbers proud. Next, Matthew offers us the virgin birth, the stories of the Wisemen, Herod’s slaughter of the innocents, John the Baptist and Jesus’ temptations complete with Old Testament references in which they are seen as fulfillment of OT promises. Jesus then begins his ministry by calling his first disciples (Peter, Andrew, James and John), preaching and healing.

**Matthew 5:1-7:29** - We now enter the first discourse, which is more commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount. In this new giving of the rules for living, Jesus lays out a mandate for living as part of the Kingdom of Heaven (on earth). Jesus begins by offering the Beatitudes as promises of God’s faithfulness, then takes many of the laws (do not murder, etc.) and makes them even stricter (no being angry). He warns his followers to be religious for the right and not the wrong reasons (drawing near to God rather than being admired by others). In this discourse Jesus is very critical of excessive wealth and its power. He concludes with a warning to focus on him and his teachings rather than the teachings of others.

**Matthew 8:1-9:38** - Following the first discourse we watch Jesus bringing the Kingdom of heaven to earth. Jesus demonstrates his power over illness, demons, nature and long term physical ailments. The conclusion of this section has Jesus healing the woman with the flow of blood, raising a girl from the dead, giving sight to the blind and giving speech to a mute. Each of these is in fulfillment of end-times predictions in the prophets.

**Matthew 10** - This is the second discourse in which Jesus trains and commissions his followers for their missionary work. They are to fearlessly proclaim Jesus’ message and are to be loyal to him and him alone.

**Matthew 11:1-12:50** - This portion of the Gospel begins with John the Baptist questioning Jesus’ identity, Jesus answering him and then growing opposition to Jesus and his work. Jesus contends with the Scribes and Pharisees on several fronts.

**Matthew 13:1-52** - In this, the third discourse, Jesus, using parables, teaches his disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven. These parables reveal that the Kingdom of heaven is not always received well, grows quickly, is to be valued, and that no one, other than Jesus, can tell who is really a citizen.

**Matthew 13:53-16:20** - Following the death of John the Baptist, Jesus now begins to engage in actions that demonstrate his true identity as the messiah of God for all people. He reinterprets portions of the Torah, feeds thousands, provides for Gentiles and is professed as Messiah by Peter.

1. How does Matthew portray Jesus as the new Moses?
2. What is your favorite part of the Sermon on the Mount and why?
3. What do you make of John the Baptist questioning Jesus’ identity as messiah?