**Matthew: “Jesus Our King”**

**I. Chp. 1:1-4:16 The coming King**

**II. Chp. 4:17-16:20 The King about His kingdom**

**III. Chp. 16:21-28:20 The King rejected and resurrected**

**Intro.**

About 50 years after Jesus’ ascended a man named Matthew picked up his pin and started writing about a man who forever changed his life and the life of the world. What qualified this fellow Matthew to write such a biography? Well according to chapter 10:3 Matthew was part of the oldest profession known to man, that’s right he was a “***Tax Collector***”! They were hated by everyone especially because they worked for the Roman’s on a commission basis as they were required to collect a certain amount for the Roman’s and whatever they were able to raise beyond that they were allowed to keep. This man’s only friends beyond his family were folks that were as corrupt and hated as he was. Luke 5:27 tells us that one day Jesus was out and He saw Matthew sitting in his tax office (also called Levi) and instead of turning away or saying something insulting Jesus just said two words that changed his life, those two words were “***Follow Me***!” And Matthew did the unexpected; he dropped his pin and followed Jesus. We are told that Matthew not only left his profession he opened his heart to Jesus, then he opened his home to the only friends he had (tax collectors and prostitutes) so that they could find out that their debt had been paid.

Dear ones, did you realize that Jesus loves all people? But as I read my Bible I can’t help but seeing that He always seems to go after those who are hated by others. Don’t believe me well listen to Jesus tell you Himself in Luke 19:10 where He says that “*the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”

Matthew as a tax collector took meticulous records accounting for every penny, it had been his livelihood and now 50 years later he takes down every cama and period that the Holy Spirit directed him to do so. The interesting thing about Matthew is that although he was not allowed to participate in the Jewish religion he was very familiar with the Old Testament as he quotes it or alludes to it 129 times. Matthew is the only gospel writer that uses the phrases:

1. “*that it might be fulfilled*” (9 times)
2. “*that which was spoken*” (14 times)
3. That coupled with the fact that he is the only gospel writer that uses the phrase “*the kingdom of heaven*” (32 times)

All of this gives us a good idea what Matthew saw in Jesus. You see on the day that Jesus said to Matthew “***Follow Me***!” Matthew realized something that he had been blind towards and that was that the man who stood before him and said those two words was fulfillment of what the entire Old Testament. Matthew discovered at that very moment what he would hear Jesus say himself In John 5:39 where we read Jesus saying to the religious leaders “You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!” You see those 39 books had been speaking about the Messiah and Matthew and the majority of the Jews didn’t realize it!

Now you can see why Matthew took up his pin to write as he wants His people the Jews to behold their King just like he had. Though these 28 chapters are a part of what is called the “synoptic gospel” (a word that means to view together) along with Mark and Luke and they share many of the same stories each of the four gospel accounts are written for different audiences:

* **Matthew was written for the Jews**
* **Mark was written for the Romans**
* **Luke was written for the Greeks**
* **John was written for the whole world**

The simple outline of Matthew is divided by a phrase “***from that time on***” that Matthew repeats twice once in 4:17 then again in 16:21:

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**I. Chp. 1:1-4:16 The coming King**

The first section takes us from His royal genealogy 1:1-17 through his proving His royalty at his temptation.

**1:1-17**: Matthew did his homework and sets out to prove that Jesus was no imposter to the throne by came by way of prophetical promises to two men, as He was “the Son of David, the Son of Abraham”. Jesus earthly father Joseph was of the royal line of David and as such He gets his legal right to the throne as an heir through Joseph but He also gets His genealogical right to the throne through His mother Mary. And in this section we also see that though He had a legal and biological right to the throne there were some questionable ancestors in there as well.

**1:18-2:12**: Next Matthew gives us the account of His birth and how the events that seemed so arbitrary were all arranged by the Holy Spirit. Oh how God is in the details that seem so random and unimportant to us.

**2:13-23**: In this section Matthew shows how people were even at His birth polarized about Jesus. There has never been a person in all of human history that people are more opinionated about that Jesus. Though the “Dobbie Brothers” made popular the modern hymn “Jesus is just alright” most folks are either on one end of the spectrum or the other. The tragedy is that people were killed because of the very possibility that they might be the promised child who would grow up to do just that.

**3:1-4:16**: Matthew skips forward over 25 years of Jesus’ life and brings us the announcement of the King and his coronation albeit not the way most of us would expect a King to be placed upon the throne but this Jesus is no ordinary King. The first two chapters anchored Jesus into human history and ancestry placing Him in the midst of time and space. Ah but these last two chapters reveal His heavenly connection and credentials. In fact we are told in 3:17 the heavens open up and declare that “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*.” And so the Royal line is more royal than any human could have ever imagined as He is the creator of the heavens and the earth, a True King of Kings! In the 4th chapter we are given the opportunity to watch His testing for the office by the power of darkness at His most vulnerable state. Satan was permitted to take his best shot at man’s representative and is tested and tempted in every way in the worst of circumstances as we are yet without failure.

* Jesus first test was on the level of what the body demands which at its basic level is “*self-preservation*”. And Jesus said that man’s greatest need is no in self preservation but rather in fellowship with the Father.
* Jesus 2nd test was on the level of the soul and “*self-expression*” this always involves our egos to show what we can do as Jesus was taken up to the top of the temple and tempted to show His importance. But Jesus showed that a person expresses themselves not by of their self-importance but rather in their obedience to the will of the Father.
* Finally in Jesus 3rd testing was a testing of the human spirit and at its core we are designed to worship, we are always looking for something to worship. And Jesus was offered a short cut if He just worshiped satan to which Jesus declared that the only one worthy of worship is the Father.

Next week we will take up part two of this study **Chp. 4:17-16:20 The King about His kingdom** and the conclusion **Chp. 16:21-28:20 The King rejected and resurrected.**