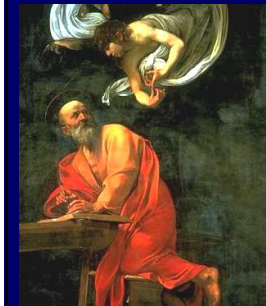


# An Introduction to the Four Gospels



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## The Gospel of Matthew

A Training Manual  
for Disciples of Jesus

### Why write another Gospel?

Additional information about Jesus

Mark: 16 chapters

Matthew: 28 chapters

Besides Q, Material Unique to Matthew includes:

*Genealogy; Birth, Magi; Egypt*

*Parables: Weeds, Treasure, Pearl, Net, Unforgiving  
Servant, Laborers, Bridesmaids*

...

### Why write another Gospel?

A new situation requires a living word

### Why write another Gospel?

What about all our Jewish brothers and sisters  
who don't believe in  
Jesus as the Messiah?

What about all those Gentiles who do believe  
in Jesus as the Messiah?

### Why write another Gospel?

How do we Jews who keep the Law  
make sense of a salvation which we  
experience in Christ?

## Why write another Gospel?

How do we live together as a community of believers in Jesus the Messiah?

What does it mean to be members in the Church?

## The Gospel of Matthew



A Training Manual  
for Disciples of  
Jesus

### A Training Manual for Disciples of Jesus

The Gospel of Matthew is a training manual for disciples of Jesus who want to understand and be prepared for:

Christian life within the believing community  
and

Christian mission outside the community.

## Who was Matthew?



• Attributed to the  
disciple Matthew (9.9)

## Who was Matthew?

### MATTHEW 9.9

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called **Matthew** sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

### MARK 2.14

As [Jesus] was walking along, he saw **Levi son of Alphaeus** sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

## Who was Matthew?

### MATTHEW 10.2-4

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and **Matthew the tax collector**; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

### MARK 3.16-19.

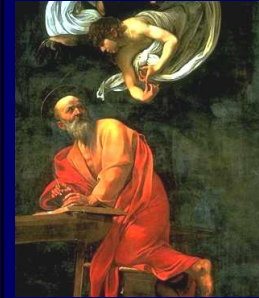
So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and **Matthew**, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

## Who was Matthew?



- According to tradition...
- Ascetic vegetarian; died a natural death (Clement of Alexandria)
- 12 years in Jerusalem after resurrection > went to non-Hebrews (Apollonius)
- Composed in Hebrew and was translated (Papias/Eusebius)
- None of these are certain or even likely

## Who was Matthew?



- Attributed to the disciple Matthew (9.9)
- Probably composed around 80-90 CE
  - In Antioch of Syria (?)
    - An urban setting
  - Outside of Palestine
  - Large Roman city



## Who was Matthew?



- Attributed to the disciple Matthew (9.9)
- Probably composed around 80-90 CE
- In Antioch of Syria (?)
  - By a Christian Jew (Jewish Christian?)

## Who was Matthew?

Matthew's Community and Its Relationship to Judaism

### OPPOSED

- "Their" synagogue: 4.23; 9.35; 10.17; 13.54; 23.34
- Anti-"Rabbi": 23.8; 26.25,49
- Critique of Jewish leaders: ch. 23...
- Sanctions on internal dissent: 18.15-17
- Emphasis on legitimacy and messianic authority of Jesus

### SHARED

- Prominent role of "scribes" and the wise
- Emphasis on righteousness
- Proselytizing in manner similar to Pharisees
- Organizational structure
- Importance and authority of Scripture and its exegesis

Woe to you hypocrites, blind guides, blind fools, whitewashed tombs, snakes, brood of vipers,

## Who was Matthew?

### Questions that Pharisaic Judaism Faced post-70CE

- Without state or Temple, what is the identity of the people of God?
  - >> Obedience to Torah or **Faithfulness to the Messiah**
- What is Torah?
  - >> Centrality of written Torah as interpreted by Hillel or **Centrality of Torah as interpreted by Jesus**
- What is the relation of Jew and Gentile?
  - >> Isolation from and rejection of Gentile ways or **Reconciliation of Jew/Gentile within the community**
- What should one think of the Messiah and eschatology?
  - >> Messiah had not come, dampen apocalyptic enthusiasm or **Messiah had come, eschatological readiness**

These questions by Davies/Allison cited in *The Gospel of Matthew in Current Study* pg

## Who was Matthew?



- Attributed to the disciple Matthew (9.9)
- Probably composed around 80-90 CE
- In Antioch of Syria (?)
- By a Christian Jew (Jewish Christian?)
- Used Gospel of Mark as one of his sources

## Outlines of the Gospel of Matthew



### The Gospel of Matthew

- 1.1-4.25: Jesus: Background, Birth and Prelude to Ministry**  
Genealogy, Birth, Visit of the wise men, Escape to and return from Egypt, John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus
- 5.1-7.29: Discourse on Righteousness - Sermon on the Mount**
- 8.1-9.38: Jesus' Authority Expressed in Acts of Power**  
Healings, Discipleship, Miracles
- 10.1-42: Discourse on Mission**
- 11.1-23.39: Jesus' Identity and Mission**  
Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus and Beelzebul, True Family of Jesus
- 13.1-58: Discourse on the Kingdom - Parables**  
Feeding the 4000, Jesus and the Pharisees and Sadducees, Peter's declaration about Jesus, Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Transfiguration, Jesus again foretells his death and resurrection
- 18.1-35: Discourse on Life in the New Community**  
Divorce, Children, Rich young man, Parable of laborers in the vineyard, Jesus foretells his death and resurrection for a third time, Entry into Jerusalem, Cleansing the Temple, Parable of the wedding banquet, Denouncing the scribes and Pharisees
- 24.1-25.46: Discourse on the End of the Age**
- 26.1-27.66: The Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus**  
Anointing at Bethany, Passover / Last Supper, Gethsemane, Trial before High Priest, At the hands of Pilate, Crucifixion and death of Jesus
- 28.1-20: Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus**

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### The Gospel of Matthew

- 1-2: Preamble**  
Jesus, Temptation of Jesus
- 3-7: Benjamin Bacon**
- 5.1-7.29: Discourse on Righteousness - Sermon on the Mount**
- 8.1-9.38: Jesus' Authority Expressed in Acts of Power**  
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- ① 1.1-4.16: The Presentation of Jesus**  
Genealogy, Birth, Visit of the wise men, Escape to and return from Egypt, John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus
- ② 4.17-11.1: Ministry of Jesus to Israel**  
Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus and Beelzebul, True Family of Jesus
- 11.2-16.20: Israel's Repudiation of Jesus**  
**13.1-58: Discourse on the Kingdom - Parables**  
Feeding the 4000, Jesus and the Pharisees and Sadducees
- ③ 16.21-28.20: Journey of Jesus to Jerusalem Suffering, Death, and Resurrection**  
Peter's declaration about Jesus, Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Transfiguration, Jesus again foretells his death and resurrection
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## The Gospel of Matthew

MGVH

**1.23: A Great Hope**  
Emmanuel

**13.52: A Great Calling**  
Scribes Trained for the Kingdom

**18.20: A Great Promise**  
Where two or three are gathered...

**28.19-21: A Great Commission**  
Go, therefore,...

## The Gospel of Matthew

**Some things to keep in mind while reading Matthew**

- What titles are used of Jesus? How is Jesus portrayed?
  - Jesus is: Messiah, Son of Abraham, Son of David, Son of God, Son of Humanity, King of Israel
  - Jesus is fulfillment / culmination of Scripture's promises
- What picture of the disciples are we given?
  - Better than the 'duh-sicles' in Mark but still (sympathetically) characterized as ones of "little faith"
- What picture of the "church/ἐκκλησία" (in the Gospels, only Mt uses the word) emerges from Matthew?
  - It's a mixed community of mature Xns, little faith ones, and wolves in sheep's clothing / bad fish / weeds

## The Gospel of Matthew

**Some things to keep in mind while reading Matthew**

- What do you make of the harsh portrayal of the Pharisees and scribes?
  - Reflects the synagogue / church dispute
  - 'Matthew' as an example of the Christian scribe who brings forth treasures new and old
- What is the relationship between Law and righteousness?
  - Jesus is the true teacher and interpreter of the Law who has come to fulfill it (and Law is not to be 'loosened'!)
  - Law summarized: Love God, love neighbor (& enemy)
  - Key is performing, not simply confessing
  - (BTW, there is no νόμος Law in Mark. There is no 'Pauline' grace/χάρις in Mt/Mk/Lk.)

## The Gospel of Matthew

**Some things to keep in mind while reading Matthew**

- What about the Gentiles?
  - Not part of Jesus' original ministry to "lost sheep of Israel"; are part of the mission in eschatological fulfillment
- What about the end?
  - It's coming. Be awake and prepared!
  - It will be marked by judgment / separation
  - In the meantime, do what the Law demands (love God/others)



## The Gospel of Matthew

## The Gospel of Matthew

**Matthew 1:1**

An account of the genealogy of Jesus  
the Messiah,  
the son of David,  
the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup> and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. <sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

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How does Mary fit in with the other women?

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

א ב ג ד ה ו  
6 5 4 3 2 1

דוד = David

What is the value of his name? How many letters?

## Matthew 1:23

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'"

When does this happen?

## Discipleship in Matthew



## Discipleship in Matthew

### To be a follower of Jesus

4.19f: Jesus said to [Simon Peter and Andrew], "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.... He called [James and John]. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

8.19-23: Follow but first bury my father...

9.9: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

19.16ff: The problem of possessions...





## Discipleship in Matthew

### To be a student of Jesus and continue his mission

5.1ff: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and **taught** them, ...

10.1ff: Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. (10.5, 16: I am sending... > 11.1 > ??)  
(Chapter 10 **Discourse**: commissioning, instructing, warning, rewards)

28.19f: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything that I have commanded you.



## Discipleship in Matthew

Matthew 11.25-30

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said,

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have **hidden these things from the wise (σοφων)** and the **intelligent (συνετων)** and have **revealed them to infants**; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your good pleasure.



## Discipleship in Matthew

Matthew 11.25-27

<sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

## Discipleship in Matthew

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

## Discipleship in Matthew

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

<sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## Discipleship in Matthew

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## Discipleship in Matthew



Matthew 13.52

<sup>52</sup>And [Jesus] said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

## Matthew 13.52



DISCIPLE

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## Matthew 13.52



<sup>52</sup>And [Jesus] said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure **what is new and what is old.**"

## Matthew 16.24-26

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

<sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?



## A Disciple in Matthew



Is depicted as:

- Follower of Jesus
- Student of Jesus
- Scribe of God's Dominion
- Apostle of Jesus' mission

Includes aspects of:

- Infant and Master
- Wisdom (?) and Revelation
- Rest and Work
- Old and New
- Death and Life

## What is our vision of God's dominion experienced in Xn community?

- The lowest (children) are the greatest
- The 'weakest' links are the only links
- Based not on just desserts but on God's grace where all are equal
- The last will be first and the first will be last
- A community of grateful 'servants'
- A community centered around the praise of God and Christ

So is everything wonderful in this community?

## The New Community

**... is a flawed community**

13.24-30: Weeds in the wheat

13.47-50: Net full of good/bad fish

7.15-23: Wolves in sheep clothing

**... but it is also a forgiven community.**

## The New Community

18.15-19: If another member of the **church** sins against you...

18.21-22: Peter said, "Lord, if another member of the **church** sins against me, how often should I forgive?...

... *parable of the unforgiving slave*

## The New Community

18.15-19: If another member of the **church** sins against you...

18.20

18.21-22: Peter said, "Lord, if another member of the **church** sins against me, how often should I forgive?...

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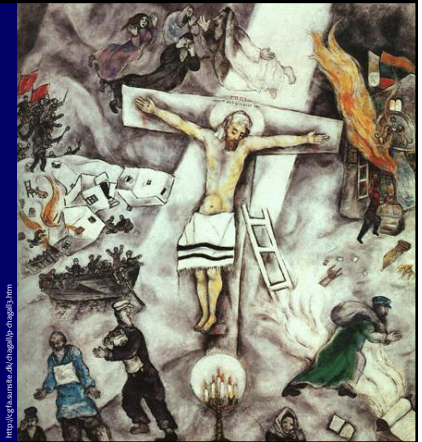
## The Church in Matthew

- Is instituted by Jesus and founded on his authority
  - 16.18: ... And on this rock I will build my church...
- Definitive characteristic of the church is the presence of Jesus
  - 18.20: For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
- Portrayed as “the family of God”
  - 6.9: Our Father...
  - 5.23f.; 18.15ff; 21ff: Reconciling with one’s brothers/sisters
- Is typified by limited “faith” and by “understanding” that is given by Jesus
  - “ones of little faith” (not a condemning term in Mt)
  - 11.25: revealed to infants

Powell, §5.8

## The Death of Jesus

How does this picture illustrate a Matthean understanding of the crucifixion of Jesus?



## The Resurrection of Jesus



- Soldiers guard tomb
- Mary M. & “other Mary” go to see tomb
- Earthquake
- Angel rolls stone away
- Angel sends women
- Women “left the tomb quickly with fear...
- ...and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples”
- Women meet Jesus
- False report that Jesus’ body stolen

## The Great Commission

### Matthew 28.16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

## The Great Commission

### Matthew 28.16-20

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

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### Matthew 28.16-20

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Matthew 28.16-20

PRONOUNCEMENT

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Matthew 28.16-20

PROGRAM

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PROMISE

