



## An Introduction to the Four Gospels

Mark Vitalis Hoffman  
Assoc. Professor of Biblical Studies - LTSG  
Upper Susquehanna Synod – ELCA  
Lay Ministry Institute  
March 8, 2008



## The Gospel of Matthew

*Why write another Gospel?*

### 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.

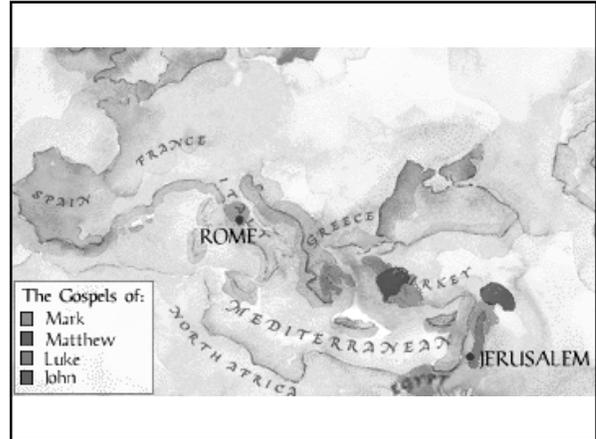
**MARK 3.16-19.**

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?



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



## 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
- Negative characterization of Gentiles (5.47; 6.7; 18.17)
- Emphasis on righteousness
- Proselytizing in manner similar to Pharisees
- Organizational structure

## 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* p9

## 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

## The Gospel of Matthew

- 1.1-4.25: Jesus: Background, Birth, 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

## The Gospel of Matthew

- 1-2: Preamble  
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  
Healings, Discipleship, Miracles  
8-10: Book 2 - Apostleship
- 10.1-42: Discourse on Mission**
- 11.1-23.39: Jesus' Identity and Mission  
Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus and John the Baptist  
11-13: Book 3- Hiding the Revelation
- 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  
14-18: Book 4- Church Administration
- 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  
19-25: Book 5- Judgment
- 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
- 26-28: Epilogue – Passion and Resurrection

## The Gospel of Matthew

- 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  
Jack Kingsbury
- 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  
**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

## The Gospel of Matthew

- 1.23: A Great Promise  
Emmanuel
- 13.52: A Great Calling  
Scribes Trained for the Kingdom
- 28.19-21: A Great Commission  
Go, therefore,...

## The Gospel of Matthew

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

- What is the purpose of the genealogy with which the gospel begins?
- What titles are used of Jesus? How is Jesus portrayed?
- What picture of the disciples are we given?
- What picture of the "church" (among the Gospels, only Matthew uses the word) emerges from Matthew?
- What do you make of the harsh portrayal of the Pharisees and scribes?
- Compare Matthew 5.17-20 with Romans 3.21-22. What is the relationship between law, grace, and righteousness?



## 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.

<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.

<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.

אָבִיגְדָהוּ

6 5 4 3 2 1

דוד = David

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

## The Gospel of Matthew

### Matthew 1:23

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

### 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

<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



<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



<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



<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 11.25-27

<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 and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <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.

### Matthew 11.25-27

<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 and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <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.

### Matthew 11.28-30

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

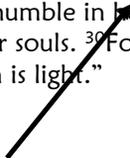
### Matthew 11.28-30

<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."

### Matthew 11.28-30

<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."

**DISCIPLE**



### 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?"

## What Is Our Calling?



- Old and New
- Rest and Work
- Death and Life

## What Is Our Vision of God's Dominion?

- 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

## The New Community

... is a flawed community

... but it is also a forgiven community.

## The New Community

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

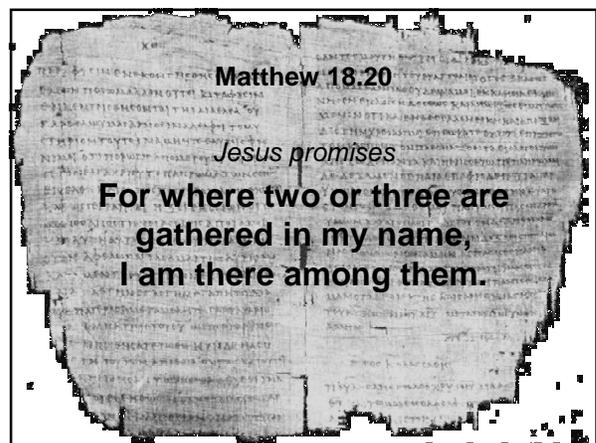
18.21-22: Peter said, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?...  
... *parable of the unforgiving slave*

## 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?...  
... *parable of the unforgiving slave*



## The Resurrection of Jesus



## 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.

## 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.

