

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH

Week 6 – Transformed!

March 1, 2022

We are understanding God's plan for the world as we read the book of Matthew. Jesus' message revolves around His plan for the world which looks forward to the Messianic Kingdom/the Millennial Kingdom/the Kingdom of God. The Millennial (1,000 years) Kingdom will be characterized by the fullest display of righteousness and universal peace and prosperity. Jesus will rule over all the earth and every nation will acknowledge Him. (II Sam. 7:16; Psa. 2; Isa. 9:6; Luke 1:31-33; II Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4....) The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Hab. 2:14). Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:1-8) and there will be no demonic activity (Zech. 13:2).

### I AM FORGIVEN AND I CAN WALK! I WAS TRANSFORMED!

Matt. 9:1 - *So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.* Jesus returned to Capernaum (Matt. 4:13 – Jesus dwelt in Capernaum).

The gospel of Mark (Mark 2:1-4) tells us that Jesus was in the house and immediately many gathered...so much so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door! Jesus preached the word to them. Enter the Pharisees and teachers of the law from “every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem” (Lk. 5:17). The Jewish religious leadership showed up to investigate Jesus' claims as Messiah! Jesus' divine appointment with the paralytic demonstrated to the crowds including the religious leadership that Jesus is the Messiah – that HE IS GOD!!

Luke 5:18-19 - *Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. <sup>19</sup> And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.*

A paralytic man is brought to Jesus by his friends. Rabbinical theology taught that all physical infirmity was a sign of divine displeasure and came as punishment from God for specific sin. Since God was the One displeased with sin, and the One Who, according to the religious leadership, had punished this paralytic because of sin, only God could forgive sin. Jesus, thus, proclaimed that He is God!

Matt. 9:2 - *Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.’*

Jesus saw the paralytic's friends' faith. They had the faith to bring their friend to Jesus. Their faith was active and caused them to take apart tiles on the roof and lower their friend down before Jesus. But Jesus then told the paralytic his sins were forgiven??

Firstly, we cannot believe that the text is suggesting that the paralytic can be saved apart from personal faith in Jesus (John 3:16; Acts 4:12....) Could “their faith”

include the men and they paralytic friend? Secondly, we know that Jesus, God the Son, is omniscient. He is ALL-KNOWING! He knows the heart of this paralyzed man. And, Jesus addressed the paralytic man's greater problem...sin!

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Some have asked how God can forgive sin prior to Jesus' death on the cross? When Jesus said, *Your sins are forgiven...* even before He shed His blood on the cross, Jesus was not speaking empty words. Jesus had the power to forgive sin just as He had the power to heal paralysis. He is God.

CONSIDER: in the OT, sins were forgiven on the basis of Jesus' death on the cross. The animal sacrifices were a foreshadowing. During the life of Jesus, sins were forgiven on the basis of His future death on the cross. The benefits of that sacrifice were granted to those who had faith in the promise of the Messiah.

Hebrews 11:13, 16-17 - *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

King David prayed for forgiveness (Psa. 51:2) and received it (Psa. 32:1). Isaiah received forgiveness when he saw God high and lifted up on His throne – in a vision, it appears (Isa. 6:7).

Matt. 9:3 - *...at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!* The scribes were thinking this accusation. The investigation by the Jewish religious leadership was involved in the stage of observation. During the stage of interrogation, yet to occur, questions would be asked and objections would be raised.

Matt. 9:4 - *But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? Jesus is omniscient. Jesus is all-knowing! Jesus immediately revealed that He knew the controversy brewing within their minds and hearts.*

Matt. 9:5 - *For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? Getting up and walking necessitated a demonstration. In order that all those gathering might know that He indeed had the power to forgive sins (which Jesus already proclaimed), Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." <sup>7</sup> And he arose and departed to his house. Jesus used the physical healing of the paralytic man to CONFIRM His authority to forgive sins. The man's paralysis was*

instantly healed, proving that Jesus did have the power of God both to heal and to forgive sin.

Matt. 9:8 - *Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.*

### I AM MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR...TRANSFORMED BY JESUS

Matt. 9:9a - *As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office.* Matthew, whose Hebrew name was Levi (Mark 2:14) was a tax collector who gathered taxes in Judea. Tax collectors were regarded as collaborators with the Romans against their fellow Jews. The tax collector paid the Romans what he promised, and kept the remainder. Therefore, there was a lot of incentive for tax collectors to over-charge and cheat any way they could. It was pure profit for them. These taxes to a foreign

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empire caused the Jewish people to think that God had forsaken His people and land...in spite of the promises to Israel from God including the Messianic hope!

According to Rabbinism there was no hope Jewish tax collectors. Matthew was excluded from all religious fellowship. He was regarded as an outcast from society. He was excommunicated from the synagogue. AND, in the eyes of the community his disgrace extended to his family. Matthew was considered unclean and unfit to fellowship in Jewish society. Yet, Jesus commanded him, "Follow Me."

Matt. 9:9b - *And He said to him, "Follow Me."* Jesus loved and called Matthew. Matthew responded to Jesus' invitation by leaving his tax collecting business and following Jesus...and eventually writing this gospel account which is the first book in the NT...the earliest book written in the NT.

Matt. 9:9c - *So he (Matthew) arose and followed Him.*

Matt. 9:10 - *Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.* It appears that this was a gathering of Matthew's friends and former business associates. These are those whom Jesus desired to reach as well. And, this celebration would seem to have Jesus as the guest of honor. These folks were celebrating His presence with them. Can we imagine our feasting with Jesus in the kingdom?

Matt. 9:11 - *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to the disciples, 'Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'* Because Jesus is the friend of sinners. Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Matt. 9:12 - *When Jesus heard that, He said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'* The Pharisees apparently thought they were not sick. The Pharisees failed to see any need in their lives. Those who see no need for Jesus benefit nothing from Jesus and lose everything...they will be separated from God for all eternity.

Matt. 9:13 - *But go and learn what this means:* this phrase was commonly used as a rebuke for those who did not know something they should have known! *'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'* Jesus quoted from Hosea. Hosea 5:6 - *With their flocks and herds (their sacrifices) they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them.* They had abandoned mercy because they gave up the knowledge of God and truth. Hosea 4:1, 6 - *There was no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land... My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge,*

*For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.'* Jesus called the Pharisees self-righteous. Those who acknowledge their sin and ask for forgiveness are changed/transformed.

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Rom. 10:1-2 – the Apostle Paul, in writing to the Gentile church in Rome, said, *Brethren (brethren in the Lord), my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.* Not according to the knowledge of God. The Pharisees focused on the outward ceremonial aspects of the law and not on God's intent in giving the law which was to display His holiness and man's sinfulness.

Psa. 51:17 - *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.*

Isa. 66:2 - *But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

I AM THE BRIDEGROOM WHO WILL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW!

Matt. 9:14 - *Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, 'Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?'* There were disciples who continued to follow John the Baptizer. Why did they question Jesus about fasting? John had called the Jewish men to repent in connection with his baptism. We find in the Hebrew Scriptures that fasting coupled with prayer appeared to be a sign of that repentance (I Kings 21:27; Lam. 2:10; Jonah 3:5). The Pharisees were in full agreement with this practice – fasting and prayer. The Pharisees fasted often twice a week (Luke 18:12). They often fasted with the motivation of impressing themselves and others with their spirituality (Matt. 6:16-18).

Matt. 9:15 - *And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.'* Jesus spoke of the wedding feast which was a time of rejoicing. Jesus is the bridegroom. John mentioned that he is the friend of the bridegroom (John 3:29). Jesus' disciples cannot mourn while He is with them. But when He is gone, then it will be the time for His disciples to fast.

Jesus spoke about being invited to the marriage feast (Matt. 8:11 - many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.) - in the future on earth in the kingdom! There will be a wedding feast in the Millennial Kingdom – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The Church (Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus) betrothed to Jesus our Bridegroom will be presented to Him at the rapture (John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:13-18).

Rev. 19:7-9 - The Marriage of the Lamb will take place while we are in heaven with Him during the time of the tribulation on earth. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place at the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. Some are suggesting that the supper will last through the 1,000-year period (Isa. 25:6).

Matt. 9:16-17 - *No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. <sup>17</sup> Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.'*

Jesus seems to be teaching that applying the standards of the Pharisees to what Jesus has come to accomplish (regeneration; new birth) was like adding new cloth to an old garment or putting new wine into old wineskins.

A patch of unsized or material not shrunken, when the whole garment was washed, would shrink and tear away the material to which it was sewed. Let that resonate,

In Jesus' day, people used animal skins for storing liquids. Wine is a fermented drink...it expands. An old wineskin would already be stretched to its limit, the new wine would tear the seams.

New wine needed to be preserved in new wineskins. As the wine expanded, the new skins would stretch to accommodate it.

Jesus did not come to add to the law. Jesus did not come to patch up the law. He came to fulfill the law by instituting the New Covenant which was promised to Israel in Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31-34) and in Ezekiel (Eze. 36:24-27).

The law still stands in that it is perfect, and we are not. God is holy and we are not. The law needed to be fulfilled. And so, the Messiah came to fulfill every part of the law. The material was not to be torn away! And, He will present us as blameless (Jude vv. 24-25)

*Matt. 5:17-18 - Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

Jesus did not come to renew the law. Though the law was perfect, it revealed how imperfect each individual was.

If you make the New Covenant (already promised) a renewed covenant, why did Jesus die?

Did Messiah die for our sins? Is the Messiah God? If you're speaking of a renewed covenant and not a NEW covenant, then Jesus is reforming the Mosaic law.

Jesus came to TRANSFORM our lives!

### QUESTIONS

Are you understanding God's plan for the world? How?

We mentioned John 3:16 and Acts 4:12 in reference to supporting the truth that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus alone. What other verses support this truth?

Which account in this handout in Matthew 9 impacted you most? Why?

How would the Jewish people know about the Bridegroom?

How did Jesus fulfill the law?

To whom are you going to share part of Matthew 9:1-17?

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 6 with the Biblical references.

Reread Matthew 9:16-17 and then read Matthew 9:18-26. Is there a connection? Make observations in preparation for Week 7

Pray about with whom you might share Week 6's lesson.

Read Week 7 when you receive it.