

Teachings of Jesus

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Jesus' Teaching in the Gospel of Matthew (Part I)

First, some teach about Jesus

1:1-17

The genealogy of Jesus is traced through Abraham and David in the first chapter of Matthew (vv. 1-17). Genealogies were very important to first-century Jews; it proved that one was an Israelite, and belonged to a particular tribe. Jesus' genealogy showed that He was qualified to rule on the throne of David (see 2 Samuel 7:12, 16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32).

1:18-25

The circumstances surrounding His birth are important because they were prophesied through Isaiah as quoted here (Isaiah 7:14). This connects Jesus directly to what Jews believed about the coming Messiah.

2:16-18

Here Jesus' early history is connected to another Messianic prophecy from Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:15)

3:1-12

The first person in Matthew to speak of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not Jesus, but rather his cousin John the Baptist, who -- not coincidentally -- baptized Him. Particularly in speaking to the church leaders of the day, John proclaims the Kingdom not so much as Gospel, but rather as fulfillment of the law, that divine judgment was about to begin!

3:13-17

The requirement that Jesus *become our righteousness* is confirmed by his baptism by John.

4:1-11

In His responses to Satan during the temptation in the wilderness, Jesus teaches us many things, but first and foremost is that God's word, as delivered to the Jews in the Law and the Prophets, was utterly and completely sufficient to withstand the schemes of the Devil.

4:17

Jesus began His ministry by taking up the message which John the Baptist had been preaching, that the Kingdom of Heaven was imminent, and repentance is a principle component of the coming of the Kingdom.

4:23-25

There the word "gospel" is first connected to Jesus' preaching of the Kingdom of Heaven. To reinforce the "good news" meaning of that word, he performs healing miracles. There is no decoupling miracles from the Gospel; they are always tightly bound, with the miracles being a confirmation – and a really effective advertisement! – of the message.

5:1-14

In these first verses from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about who His followers are. "You are the light of the world; let your light shine before men in such a way that they see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven." As lights in the world, believers are to shine for Christ and exhibit His teachings.

5:17-20

Now Jesus turns to Who He is., and what He was on Earth to do, to perfectly keep the Law of Moses and in doing so fulfill it. He is emphatic that nothing He preaches nullifies that law, and that even the Pharisees and scribes (experts in God's law) were not righteous enough to do what He would do. The only righteousness that God will accept is "perfection". Yikes!

We know from reading "the rest of the story" that it is that very perfection, or complete righteousness, that He just just imputes to, be becomes, for those who believe in Him (see Romans 3: 21-22 and 2 Corinthians 5:21).

You have heard it said....

This next section from the Sermon on the Mount covers a number of immediately familiar -- and difficult -- aspects of perfect righteousness. Jesus here not only recites Old Testament law, but amplifies it to the point of its true purpose, namely to make us aware of our sin, and just how far short we truly fall from the Glory of God.

5:21-26, Anger and Reconciliation

5:27-30, Lust

5:31-32, Divorce

5:33-37, Oaths and Honesty

5:38-42, Punishment and Retaliation

5:43-48, Treatment of your Enemies

6:1-4, Generosity to the Needy, Pride and Piety

6:5-15, Prayer

6:16-18, Fasting

6:19-24, Understanding True Wealth

6:25-34, Relax! (Anxiety)

7:1-6, Judging Others

7:7-11, God's Generosity to His Children

7:12-14, the Golden Rule

7:15-20, Bearing Fruit

7:21-27, Living Faith vs. mere Intellectual Ascent

7:28, The Authority of Jesus' Teaching