

Continued notes from Rev Ian Macnair on the Gospel of Matthew

STRUCTURE

Matthew's background as a tax administrator comes through in his ordered presentation of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The material is structured around five great blocks of teaching, chapters. 5–7; 10; 13; 18; and 24–25. Each concludes with, 'When Jesus had finished saying these things,' or similar words (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1).

This five-fold structure may tie in with his presentation of the gospel as a new Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) and Jesus as a new and greater Moses.

OUTLINE (one possibility among others)

1. Introduction to Jesus' Ministry (1:1–4:17)

- A. Jesus' Birth Narrative (1:1–2:23)
- B. Other Introductory Events in Jesus' Ministry (3:1–4:17)

2. The Major Phase of Jesus' Public Ministry (4:18–16:20)

- A. Introduction to the Galilean Ministry (4:18–25)
- B. Jesus' Authoritative Teaching: The Sermon on the Mount (5:1–7:29)
- C. Jesus' Authoritative Miracle-Working Ministry (8:1–9:34)
- D. Missionary Discourse (9:35–10:42)
- E. Increasing Hostility toward Jesus (11:1–12:50)
- F. Parables of the Kingdom (13:1–52)
- G. Progressive Polarisation (13:53–16:20)

3. The Road to the Cross and the Resurrection (16:21–28:20)

- A. Preparation for the Passion (16:21–17:27)
- B. Sermon on Humility and Forgiveness (18:1–35)
- C. Journeying to the Temple (19:1–22:46)

D. Woes and Warnings (23:1–25:46)

E. Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection (26:1–28:20)

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus
- Immanuel – God with us
- Jesus as a new and greater Moses
- The Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 to 7)
- Two kinds of 'righteousness', the righteousness of the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law: harsh, judgmental, hypocritical; and the righteousness taught and displayed by Jesus: loving, forgiving, sacrificial, genuine
- For an interesting exploration of 'righteousness' see the different reactions of Joseph, 'a righteous man', in 1:18–25, first responding with the first kind of righteousness but persuaded to follow a new, different and better kind
- Jewish interests
- Universal outlook
- Something to ponder: although Matthew's background was in finance and book keeping Jesus did not make him the treasurer of the Disciple Group

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(with help from NIV Study Bible, NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible, NKJV Study Bible)