

The Gospel According to
Matthew

Re-discovering Jesus in 2023
and beyond





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Re-discovering Jesus in 2023

In 2022, we spent the year exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Through series that covered both Old and New Testament, we reflected on the what, why and how of following Jesus, as well as spending time early in the year reflecting on Jesus himself.

As we begin 2023, we feel God is calling us to go deeper and to spend the coming 18 months, working our way through Matthew's Good News re-discovering the story of the life, teaching and identity of Jesus.

It's a gospel that presents Jesus in such a rich, multi-faceted way as:

- the Messiah of Israel: the king who will rule and save the world
- the Teacher greater even than Moses
- the Son of Man giving his life for us all

Through a combination of Sunday teaching, Life Groups and additional video studies, we're committed to work through every word that Matthew wrote about Jesus, revealing old and new truths as we go. Basically, if it's in the book of Matthew, we'll give you the chance to explore it.

Our prayer is that this will not only increase our understanding of who Jesus is, but will lead us to a fresh, deeper encounter with the Saviour; helping us to know him more intimately, love him more intensely, and follow him more closely.

If we're prepared to give this our all, we believe it can be transformational for both the church family and the community of which we're part.

The Gospel According to **Matthew**

Series Outline 2023 (1 of 2)



Series 1

Introducing Jesus, the Messiah - Matthew 1:1 – 4:25

1 January – 25 February

For Matthew, writing this account of Jesus' life for a primarily Jewish audience meant not only telling people who Jesus was, but rooting his identity in the bigger story of God's love for his people over hundreds of years.

In these first few chapters, we're left in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the Messiah, sent by God to save His people.



Series 2

The Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5:1 – 7:29

26 February – 13 May

Jesus was first and foremost Saviour, but also teacher. He came to introduce an upside-down, counter-cultural kingdom that went so much deeper than simply a set of rules to follow. These are words to be applied to our everyday lives, not just heard, yet their real power is in the fact they come not from a mere teacher, but from a Saviour who died; not from a dead prophet, but from a living Lord.



Series 3

A message of peace and healing - Matthew 8:1 – 11:30

14 May – 1 July

The beauty of the Jesus accounts is that we receive so much more than teaching. Jesus not only spoke the Good News of peace and healing, he brought it through actions that we can both see and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, live out.



Series 4

Reactions to Jesus - Matthew 12:1-50

2 July – 5 August

Not surprisingly, the claims, teachings and actions of Jesus provoked a reaction from all those he came into contact with, and especially those whose beliefs and actions he challenged. As we explore their reactions, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own response.

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Series Outline 2023 (2 of 2)



Series 5

Summer Sundays: noticing how he lived

6 August – 2 September

It's so easy as we travel through the accounts of Jesus' life and all the key events, to miss the everyday. In this short summer series, we get to reflect on the day-to-day actions that defined who Jesus was; we get to reflect on how he lived and how that might challenge our day-to-day.



Series 6

Telling Stories - Matthew 13:1 – 14:12

3 September – 30 September

Everyone loves a good story, and Jesus was the ultimate storyteller, speaking to people in a way that they understood, but that always had a deeper meaning. During September we'll look at some of these well-known stories and explore what God wants to say to us through them today.



Series 7

Good News - Matthew 14:13 – 15:39

1 October – 28 October

We're so accustomed to the word 'gospel', meaning good news, yet our familiarity with these events mean we often forget just how impactful this news ought to be. The message Jesus brought was good news then and is good news today. As we journey through these two chapters, we'll discover that we might be more like the First Century Jewish people than we'd ever realised.



Series 8

Journey to Jerusalem - Matthew 16:1 – 20:33

29 October – 2 December

Jesus' life was always a journey to the cross and the closer this moment gets, the more both his words and actions begin to point towards it. We explore key events and vital teaching that remind us that there was always something greater that Jesus came to do.



Advent series

3 December – 31 December

Preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas with a focus on the theme of The Coming King (Matthew 21:1-11)

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Series Outline 2024



Series 9

Are you ready? - Matthew 21:28 – 25:46

14 January – 17 February

In recent years, the subject of judgement has often been diminished, or even ignored, in favour of the more palatable theme of grace. Yet, Matthew devotes a significant proportion of his account to Jesus' teaching on this very subject. In response, we'll take some time to explore exactly what Jesus said, and what it might mean for the lives we lead today.



Series 10

For God so loved... - Matthew 26:1 – 28:20

18 February – 20 April

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the climax of every Gospel account. Matthew is no exception as we revisit the events that led to Jesus' crucifixion, the sacrificial love shown for us, and the wonder of the resurrection.



Series 11

Loose ends – encounters in Luke and John

21 April – 25 May

There are some events and encounters outlined in Matthew which only give us part of the story. To help us tie up these loose ends, as well as to reflect on 'what happened next' we'll spend a short time in Luke, John and Acts.



Wrapping up

26 May – 15 June

Over the last 18 months, we've covered every aspect of Matthew's Good News account of Jesus. Over these final 3 weeks, we'll pull it all together and reflect on what it means for us today to know Jesus as:

- *the Messiah of Israel: the king who will rule and save the world*
- *the Teacher greater even than Moses*
- *the Son of Man giving his life for us all*