

The Gospel According to Matthew

Week 1

Matthew says to his audience,

- * “This is the fulfillment of ‘OUR’ story!”
- * Jesus is the Messiah, in the line of David, the one we’ve been waiting for!
- * Jesus is a “new Moses” with authority to teach
- * Note how Jesus’ story parallels Moses’ story

Chapters 1-3

- * Set the stage by attaching Jesus to the story of the Old Testament, ie Abraham, David, Jesus
- * Speak to fulfilling the Old Testament Prophetic Promises, ie where and how he was born, virgin birth, etc.
- * Points to Jesus as Immanuel, God with us, this man is more than a mere human

Chapters 4-5

- * Jesus announces God’s Kingdom

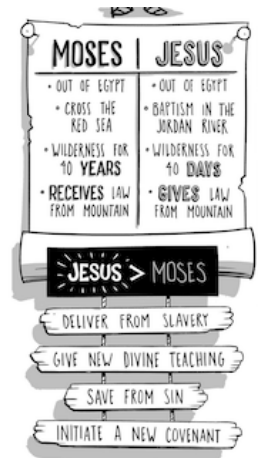
Week 2

Chapters 6-7

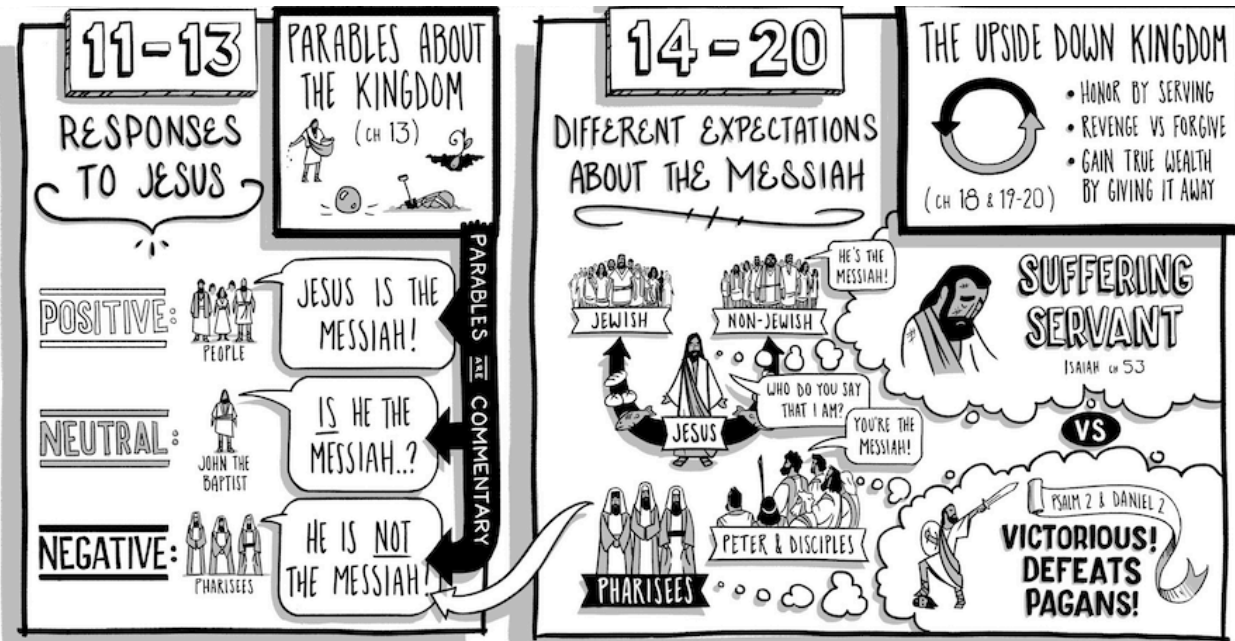
- * First major teaching is the Sermon on the Mount, which points us to what it looks like to follow Jesus and transform hearts

Chapters 8-10

- * Bringing the Kingdom into reality in the day-to-day lives of the people
- * 9 stories about bringing the power of the Kingdom through broken, hurting, sick, or endangered people
 - * Note that there are 3 groupings of 3 stories, each separated by Jesus teaching that you fully experience grace only when you follow Jesus and become his disciple
- * THEN... Jesus extends his reach by sending out the 12 disciples who are going to go what Jesus has been doing!
- * This leads to the next big block of teaching
 - * How to announce the Kingdom of God and what to expect when you do
 - * Many of the regular people among the Israelites accept Jesus’ teaching, but the religious leaders do not because they stand to lose a lot of power and control if they repent and follow Jesus
 - * Jesus teaches his disciples that they will be rejected and persecuted for sharing the Gospel



Week 3



This week we'll begin at chapter 11 and go through several chapters. Chapters 11-13 are the "Responses to Jesus" after Jesus has taught extensively (remember the Sermon on the Mount from previous chapters) and explained to his closest followers what it means to enact a life of discipleship.

These chapters lead us to a transition point in Chapters 14-20.

Important Plot Points

1. Jesus heals sick people
2. Twice provides food for crowds in the desert, one crowd is Jewish the other is not
3. People believe Jesus is the Messiah, the religious leaders do not. They hatch a plan to kill Jesus.
4. Jesus withdraws and begins teaching his disciples (chapter 16) Peter's testimony Peter's claim about who Jesus is seems couched in the idea that Jesus will be a military ruler or accomplish this new kingdom by overthrowing those in power. Jesus works to debunk that idea and explain that the expectations followers need to have are based in a new understanding of who and what the Messiah are.
5. The following series of stories teaches that you gain honor by SERVING others. You gain true wealth by GIVING AWAY what you have to help the poor.

Chapters 21-25

6. Jesus re-enters Jerusalem and starts his visit by turning over the tables of the money-changers. He is asserting his "royal authority" but in the process, brings the daily sacrifices to a halt.

7. Jesus asserts that the religious leaders have compromised the integrity of the temple. They try to shame him in public debate and fail, so they set out to have him killed.
8. Jesus weeps over the rejection of God by the people.
9. Jesus tells his followers what will happen. He will be killed. But he will be vindicated after his death by his resurrection, and he will return to establish His kingdom. Jesus tells his followers that the religious leader's revolt will be their own undoing because their actions lead a revolt against Rome which leads to their defeat and to the destruction of the temple.
10. Jesus teaches his disciples and tells them to stay on task, embrace peace and care for each other.
11. Jesus shares the passover meal with his followers and tells them what's going to happen.
12. Jesus is led before the Jewish leaders who reject him as Messiah. He is sent to the Roman governor (who seems to believe him) but is ultimately convicted and sentenced to death by crucifixion. (Note: this type of execution was used to strike fear in others!)

Chapters 29-29

At the Cross...

1. Note how Matthew returns to a HEAVY use of Torah language. He is pointing out that Jesus' death is not a FAILURE, rather it is the surprising fulfillment of all the ancient prophets words.
2. Jesus is laid to rest in the tomb
3. There comes the surprising twist!
4. Disciples find an empty tomb and people start seeing Jesus in different places
5. Jesus now claims that he is the TRUE KING and sends his disciples out to spread the word
6. Echo to Immanuel, 'I will be with you'