



Faith into the Future

**Jesus as the
Servant of God in
the Gospel of
Matthew**

Session 2

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Where Do You Begin when writing a Gospel?

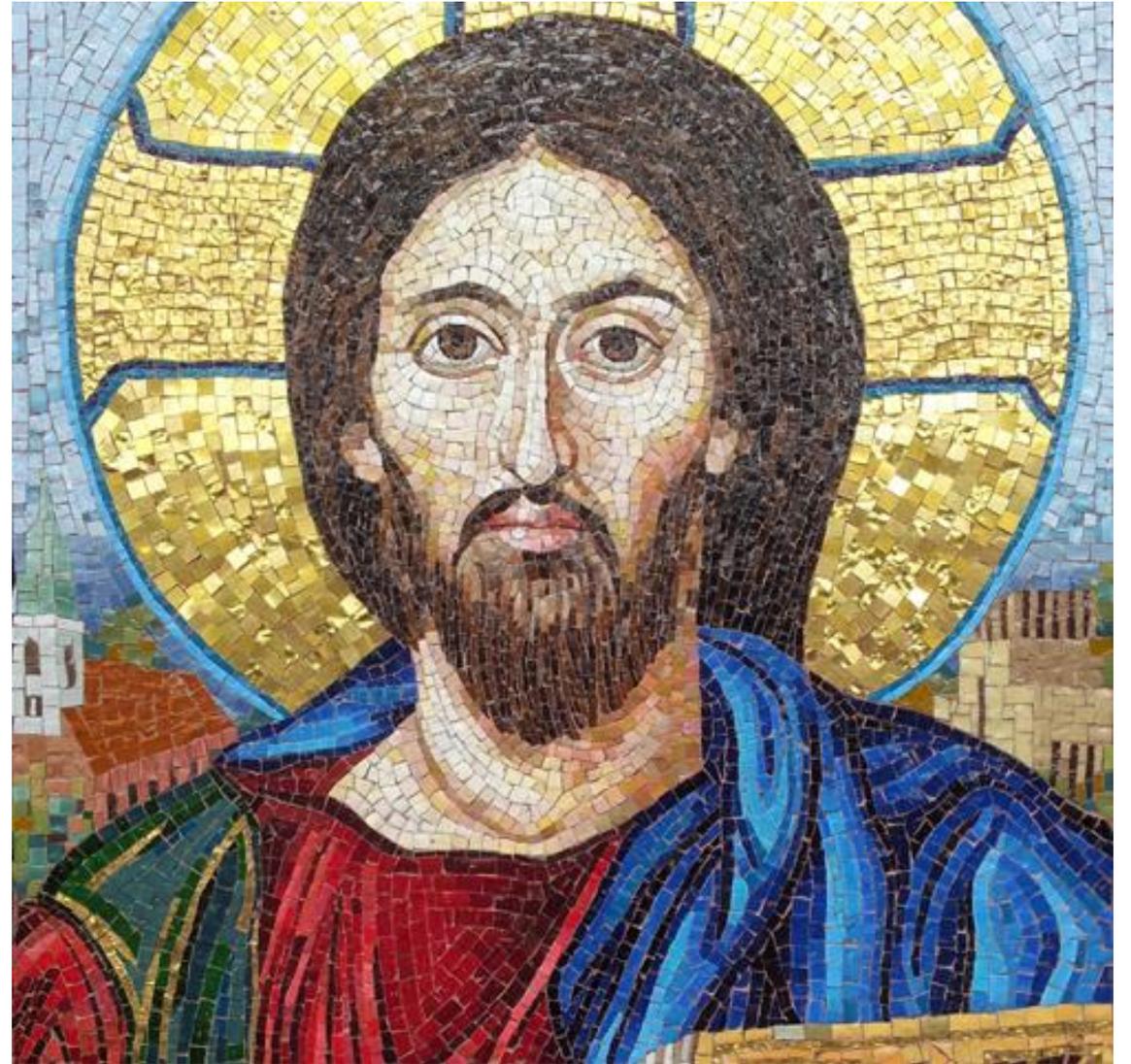
- Individual stories and sayings circulated as separate units and were then combined in various ways (at first orally and then in written form) in the formation of gospel tradition - like stringing beads!
- Narrative traditions e.g. the passion and death
- Miracle stories,
- Conflict stories,
- Sayings,
- Parables

Mark was the first to form a single story - Matthew followed, making use of Mark and "Q" and M! He is an author in his own right arranging his material in the way that best suits his purpose.



Matthew Re-presents Mark

- Jesus is:
- The Messiah
(16x - 5 in infancy narrative, 4 in passion narrative)
- The Son of God
(Baptism 3:17, Transfiguration 17:5, Trial 26:63)
- The Son of David
(Genealogy 1:1, 1:17)
- The Servant of God
(8:17, 12:18, 20:28)





How Matthew Tells his Story

- **Infancy 1:1-2:23**

Narrative: preparation for ministry: 3:1-4:25

- 1. Discourse: Sermon on the Mount 5:1-7:29**

Narrative: Signs of the Kingdom 8:1-9:38

- 2. Discourse on Mission 10:1-11:1**

Narrative: A Divided Response 11:2-12:50

- 3. Discourse: Parables of the Kingdom 13:1-13:53**

Narrative: Preparation for the Church 13:54- 17:23

- 4. Discourse: The Community 18:1-19:2**

Narrative: Preparation for the Passion 19:3-24:2

- 5. Discourse: The Last Judgment 24:3-25:46**

- **Death and Resurrection 26:1-28:20**

Vocabulary Characteristic of Matthew re: God and Jewish Tradition

At the heart of Jesus' ministry and teaching lie three key concepts:

- Fulfilment of Scripture (14x)
- God as Father (over 50x)
- The Kingdom of Heaven (54x)



Vocabulary Characteristic of Matthew re: Jesus, his identity, ministry and teaching

- He is “approached” (53x)
- He is worshipped (11x)
- He heals (15x)
- He shows compassion (5x)
- The will of the Father (6x)
- He teaches (11x)
- Hypocrite (13x)



What this means to Matthew's audience

- A community of Jewish Christians at odds with their parent religion is being urged to trust that what has happened in Jesus is indeed the fulfilment of their hopes.
- Their entire tradition is being re-read in the light of Jesus' life death and resurrection.
- In the person of Jesus God has shown himself with them as the compassionate, faithful healer, calling them to live the challenge of the good news of God's reign – "A life they never dared hope for".
- Emmanuel – God with us (1:23 , 28:20)

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29



What might this mean to a 2020 audience?

- We bring to our reading of the Gospels certain “mental models” that have much to do a doctrinal approach to religion which leads to the requirement that certain dogmas be believed (i.e. receive our intellectual assent).
- Matthew is telling the story of Jesus from a very different perspective
- He challenges us to think again about our ideas of God and salvation. Matthew’s focus on Jesus is an invitation to a faith relationship which leads to transformation – a new of understanding what it means to be human.
- Reading Matthew challenges us to understand the idea of discipleship as being beyond adherence to commandments. It has to do with understanding that in Jesus God is with us and that as disciples our calling is to embrace the way of the Kingdom as shown by Jesus in word and deed.

