



THE MINISTRY OF JESUS, MATTHEW 4:23-25

- **John 21:24-25 MSG** 24 This is the same disciple who was eyewitness to all these things and wrote them down. And we all know that his eyewitness account is reliable and accurate. 25 There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books.

- Can you imagine the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart to write a report or book about the life of Jesus Christ as a disciple?
 - Each Gospel author is writing to a specific mindset
 - Matthew – Jews, Mark – Romans, Luke – Details, John – Filling in some of the blanks
 - This is why they are all similar but different as well

Matthew in writing from a Jewish perspective

- Matthew's interest is showing Jesus as fulfilling the promises of God pertaining to the Messiah-King
- The Jews were expecting a king and Matthew presented Jesus as the Messiah/King for all nations starting with the Jews
 - Jesus' genealogy
 - The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

Matthew in writing from a Jewish perspective

- The Coming of Wise Men
- The escape to and return from Egypt like Israel
- The announcement of the Messiah-King by John the Baptist
- The defeat of Satan in the wilderness
- The announcement of the Kingdom of God on earth

Matthew in writing from a Jewish perspective

- Today, what will the ministry of Jesus will look like?
- What will the Kingdom of God look like?
- Matthew will expand on each of these throughout the rest of his book

- **Matthew 4:23-25 NIV** 23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis (*10 cities*), Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Jesus set up his base in the most spiritual dark area of Israel

- This was the first area conquered and taken over by Gentile rule and ways
- There were pockets of conservative, sincere Jewish people completely surrounded by Greek and Roman thinking and living

Jesus set up his base in the most spiritual dark area of Israel

- Matthew **quotes Isaiah 9:1-2 NIV** 15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16 the people living in (*spiritual*) darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Jesus set up his base in the most spiritual dark area of Israel

- Much like the church today where we are surrounded by spiritual darkness as we hold fast to the light of truth in the face of Jesus Christ
- The Messiah-King is here to first declare the coming Kingdom of God, then He will ultimately secure our place in that kingdom by the giving of Himself on the cross

Jesus set up his base in the most spiritual dark area of Israel

- Matthew address three questions about the Kingdom of God
 - Who will have access to this Kingdom?
 - What will that Kingdom look like or how will it be different?
 - Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- Matthew tells us Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching, preaching, and healing
- Someone calculated that to reach this entire area Jesus would need to be in a new town every day
- Jesus began in the synagogues – this would be the **Religious people**

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- Synagogues were much like churches today
- We gather together to sit under scriptural teaching, expounding God's Word (*what does it mean*) and then how can I apply it

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- **Nehemiah 8:2-3 NIV** 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- **Nehemiah 8:7-8 NIV** 7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- The reader or teacher would read from the Law and Prophets, explain what was read, then there would be a question and answer time
- These are the Jews who should have understood who Jesus was from the Scriptures
- The synagogue was much like our church – acceptance, prayer, learning, friendship, needs met

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- The worst thing that could happen to a Jew was to be unsynagogued – what happened to Christian Jews
- They did not understand they needed a Savior too
- Being Jewish did not allow them automatic access into God's Kingdom
- We would expect the religious people to be allowed access into God's Kingdom

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- It also says Jesus, “went out preaching the good news of the kingdom”
- His preaching wasn’t confined to the synagogues, He sought out those who were sinners
- These were the **Rebellious**, those who had been influenced by ungodly ideas brought in by Gentiles
- They may have seen the Law as unachievable and made it secondary to just getting by or living

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- They lived separated from the temple and it was a severe hardship to travel for sacrifices and feasts – excluded
- They may have been discouraged by what they saw in the religious leaders
- Jesus shared the Gospel on the seashores, mountain sides, in cities and villages, rural areas, by a well, marketplaces and in Gentile areas

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- The Kingdom of God is made available to the rebellious
- This is so much like the church in America today

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- But there is one more group often overlooked – the **Rejected**
- Matthew tell us Jesus went about healing every disease and sickness among the people
- Most of the time these people became outcasts
- Many were viewed as cursed of God, driven from cities and would have nothing to do with them

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- Theirs was a life of loneliness and despair, not able to enter the temple and offer a sacrifice for their sins
- They had to beg and hope for someone who might show compassion on them
- You might hear the word marginalized today
- Jesus did not shy away from them; He came unto them

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- He still comes to those who are rejected
- He still has compassion for those who seem forgotten, for those that no one seems to care for
- You may feel like this today but let me tell you
 - Jesus loves you
 - He can and will meet your need

Who will have access to this Kingdom?

- There isn't a life so troubled that Jesus can't touch
- So, who is the Kingdom of God offered to? Everyone

What will that Kingdom of God look like or how will it be different?

- In **Ephesians 2:1-2 NIV**, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”

What will that Kingdom of God look like or how will it be different?

- The ways of this world is how sinful man thinks, responds, reacts, governs
- It is under the influence of Satan (*ruler of the kingdom of the air*)
- This is why we have hatred, selfishness, hunger and homelessness, sickness, separation, divisions, bombs, armies, unwed mothers, broken homes.....

What will that Kingdom of God look like or how will it be different?

- Alexander McLaren, “Jesus’ first miracles were His first gifts to His Kingdom’s subjects”
- What a great thought
- These miracles were a taste of His Kingdom
- You want to know what His Kingdom will be like, look at His Word and miracles multiplied a millionfold

What will that Kingdom of God look like or how will it be different?

- Jesus will set everything back as it was created to be
 - No more sickness, nor pain, nor need, nor sorrows, nor fear nor separation....
 - There will be complete and total healing physically, mentally, and spiritually
 - We will be in harmony with God the Father

What will that Kingdom of God look like or how will it be different?

- Jesus is right for whatever's wrong and this is true today in our world as well
 - He brings hope to lives out of control
 - He brings peace to our troubled minds
 - He calms to voices that stir within us

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- Jesus will have absolute, irrevocable, unending authority over the Kingdom of God
- A better question might be, “Can Jesus deliver the goods?”

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- The miracles of Jesus did three things
- They confirmed His message as divine
- Pharisee Nicodemus coming to Jesus in **John 3:1-2 NIV**
Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- The miracles of Jesus did three things
- They showed that He was the prophesied Messiah
- John the Baptist in prison, **Matthew 11:2-3 NIV 2**
When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- The miracles of Jesus did three things
- They showed that He was the prophesied Messiah
- John the Baptist in prison, **Matthew 11:2-3 NIV** 4
Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- The miracles of Jesus did three things
- They proved that the kingdom was coming, and the King was present
- They verified the authenticity of the Kingdom

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- Notice Jesus came into the strong man's home, this world, with all the sin and suffering
 - Jesus took him on in the wilderness temptations and overcame him in his own home
 - What body was Jesus unable to heal completely and totally instantly?

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- Notice Jesus came into the strong man's home, this world, with all the sin and suffering
 - What sickness was too powerful to say no to Jesus?
 - Doctors practice but Jesus heals
- What demon could tell Jesus it was not leaving?

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- Notice Jesus came into the strong man's home, this world, with all the sin and suffering
 - What dead body refused to submit to the voice of Jesus and rise up complete?
 - What tomb could seal the risen Savior and prevent Him from ruling?

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- **Revelation 19:11-16 NIV** 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Who will have the authority to rule in this Kingdom?

- **Revelation 19:11-16 NIV** 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF
LORDS.**

Can I really trust the Messiah-King Matthew tells us about?

- It's hard to grasp from the verses in Revelation that this same King of Kings and Lord of Lords was crucified on the cross
- Understand he was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords while he walked throughout Galilee

Can I really trust the Messiah-King Matthew tells us about?

- This is so outside of our ability to grasp and understand
- This is why there are some things spiritually we must accept by or through faith
- Not blackhole faith without any proof
- Faith in the life and works of Jesus Christ as laid out in God's Word by eyewitnesses and ear-witnesses

Can I really trust the Messiah-King Matthew tells us about?

- Everyone has access to the Kingdom, but it demands our choice to lay down this earthly life and allow God to fit us for His kingdom
- Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be “born again” (*spiritually*)

Can I really trust the Messiah-King Matthew tells us about?

- Song writer Chris Tomlin said it like this

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Jesus Messiah

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He Humbles Himself and carried the cross
Love so Amazing **X2**

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The Ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of All

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He Humbles Himself and carried the cross
Love so Amazing **X2**

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The Ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of All

His body the bread, his blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing, yeah

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The Ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of All

All our hope is in you **X2**

All the glory to you, God

The Light of the World

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names

Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel

The rescue for sinners

The Ransom from Heaven

Jesus Messiah Lord of All



THE MINISTRY OF JESUS, MATTHEW 4:23-25