

## Getting back into the Gospel according to Matthew

### “Disciples of Jesus...”

1. While waiting to begin please read the following 4 verses and summarise Jesus’ teaching on being a disciple. From each verse complete this sentence with one word: “Disciples of Jesus...”



4:17 =



11:28 =



16:24 =



28:19 =

2. Given this, what should you/we be praying:
- For yourself
  - For the church
  - For non-believers

### Message and Purpose

**\*\* Matthew longs to make his readers growing disciples of Jesus, who is the promised Servant Christ, that they may enjoy life in His kingdom together forever.\*\***

- God’s Son Jesus is the “**Servant Christ**”.  
**Christ** or Messiah (1:1, 16:16).... And the **Servant** (12:17-21 cf. 3:16-17, & Isa. 42:1-4).
- As King Jesus, God’s own Son, comes near, so does God’s **kingdom** (4:17)  
= God’s unopposed, sovereign, saving rule in the world.  
= experienced in the church, e.g. 16:18-19
- To be a **disciple** is summed up in 4 commands of Christ
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 4:17b
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 11:28
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 16:24
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 28:19a
- Only Jesus can make discipleship possible: **he must serve us before we can serve him**: ‘he will save his people from their sins’ (1:21 cf. 9:18, 20:28, 26:28)
- So, *Matthew* is a book **for the not-yet-Christian... AND for the Christian** learning to obey all Jesus’ commands and teaching others to do the same (28:19-20a)

## The story so far... and where we're going next

### chapters 1-10: The Introduction to Jesus' Servant-Christ Ministry

#### **1:1-2:23 The Background to Jesus' Ministry as Christ**

- 1:1-17 God's long promised Christ is born to restore the kingdom
- 1:18-2:23 Responses to Christ Jesus, 'Immanuel', who is born as Saviour into a sinful, hostile world in fulfilment of Scripture

#### **3:1-4:22 The Beginning of Jesus' Servant-Christ Ministry**

- 3:1-17 John the Baptist prepares the way
- 4:1-22 God's true Son Jesus, tempted by the devil but obedient to God, preaches: "Repent, for the kingdom [is] near" (4:17)

#### **4:23-10:42 Jesus the Servant-Christ: he proclaims the kingdom in his words, and authenticates His identity by his deeds**

- 4:23-7:29...**words** about how to live for the kingdom
- 8:1-9:38 ...**and deeds** authenticating Jesus as King, and showing what kingdom life will be like"
- 10:1-42 **The mission of the King**

### chapters 11-28: The Fulfilment of Jesus' Servant-Christ Mission...

#### **11:1-16:20 ...in Galilee: Jesus' identity and opposition**

- 11:1-12:50 "Come to Jesus" (11:28) *who is God's chosen Servant*, amidst confusion and growing opposition
- 13:1-52 Parables: the kingdom will prevail despite opposition
- 13:53-16:20 Jesus rebukes doubt & encourages faith

Jan-Easter =  
13:53-19:15

#### **16:21-20:34 ...on the road: Jesus' mission**

- 16:21-17:20 "Follow Jesus" (16:24): "lose" your life now to "gain" it in the future
- 17:22-18:35 This cross-shaped life is lived out in a family-like community
- 19:1-20:16 This cross-shaped life is a worthwhile struggle
- 20:17-34 Jesus' Servant-work *really* is vital, follow him

April-July =  
19:16-25:46

#### **21:1-25:46 ...in Jerusalem: Jesus' authority**

- 21:1-23:39 the religious establishment is "put on trial"
- 24:1-25:46 Keep watch, don't be led astray, the Son of Man *will* come back

#### **26:1-28:20: Jesus fulfils his Servant-Christ mission through his death and resurrection**

- 26:1-56 Jesus is handed over
- 26:57-27:54 Jesus is crucified
- 27:55-28:20 Jesus is raised
- 28:16-20: so "go and make disciples" of Christ (28:19)

**This term in Matthew's Gospel: big things to LEARN and to PRAY =**

**Saving faith  
Costly discipleship  
A family-like community**