

BIBLEX

Session 2: Kingdom

Scripture questions:

Matthew 2:1-23

What repeated pattern or phrase does Matthew use to talk about the early life of Christ? What is he trying to emphasize?

Matthew 5:17-48

This portion of Christ's teaching is called The Sermon on the Mount. Does Jesus view the Old Testament and the Law positively or negatively?

How does Christ raise the bar for our faith in these teachings?

Matthew 8:1-17

Matthew 8:23-34

Matthew 9:1-8

What commonalities do you see among these miracles and healings?

How do people respond to the works of Christ? Do they react in a way that makes sense?

Matthew 13:24-53

Based on these descriptions, how would you describe the Kingdom of God?

Who is part of the Kingdom of God?

Matthew 27:11-14

Matthew 27:27-44

How do people in these passages repeatedly refer to Christ? Do they recognize Jesus for who He is?

The book of Matthew relies on words and ideas of the Old Testament more than any other New Testament book. It serves as a natural bridge from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Why does Matthew rely on the Old Testament so much?

- Validates Christ's identity. Is the foundation of who Christ is and what He teaches.
- Confirms the early church.
- Shows Christ and Christianity as a continuation of God's past activity.

Matthew emphasizes in his book that Christ is King, by repeatedly referring to the terms "king" or "kingdom."

In Christ's genealogy at the beginning of Matthew, the order of birth specifically points out that Christ is a descendant of King David. We also see in Matthew that wise and powerful Magi bring gifts to Christ at His birth, and when Christ is being crucified, different people repeatedly call Him "King." All of these examples emphasize that Christ is King.

Matthew also wants us to understand the idea of the **Kingdom of God**. Although not everyone is a member of the Kingdom of God, all are subject to Christ's lordship. Members of the Kingdom of God will be the people Christ calls them to be, simply because He is King.

Matthew also emphasizes **Christ, the rejected King**. Although Christ's miracles demonstrated who He was, and Jesus' teachings made clear who He was, we all crucified Christ, who should have been worshipped. We fool ourselves if we think we would have done anything different if we were

there. Though Christ can rightfully judge us, Matthew says He invites us in if we recognize that He is King.

Application Questions:

What does it mean to recognize Christ as King in your life? What one thing can you change in your life to demonstrate His authority?

Go back to The Sermon on the Mount in chapter 5. Which of Christ's teachings and commands are easy, and which are difficult for you? How will you transform your life to fulfill the expectations of Christ?

How do you empower appreciation and thankfulness in your life, in light of Christ's forgiveness?

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