

Good News The Gospel is a Verbo



Evangelism In Matthew #8

The “Gospel” In Matthew: A Summary

- Our **purpose**:
 - Understand what the gospel **IS**
 - Understand what the gospel **DOES**
- **Mt 1.1-4.11**
 - Prepares us for the **ministry** of Jesus
 - The birth narrative: **1.1-25**
 - Jesus’ genealogy: **1.1-17**
 - Jesus’ birth: **1.18-25**



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- **Mt 1.1-4.11**
 - Prepares us for the **ministry** of Jesus
 - Magi in Jerusalem/Bethlehem: **2.1-12**
 - To Egypt **2.13-15** • Death in Bethlehem **2.16-18** • To Nazareth: **2.19-23**
 - John’s ministry: **3.1-13** • Jesus’ baptism **3.14-17**
 - Jesus’ temptation: **4.1-11**
 - The ministry in **Galilee**: 4.12-18.35
 - Prophecy: “Galilee of the **Gentiles**” • **4.15**
 - **Repent**: For the kingdom of heaven is at hand • **4.17**



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- **A reminder:**

- We sum up the gospel as the death, burial & resurrection of Christ • **1 Cor 15.1-4**
- We refer to faith, repentance & baptism as “obeying” the gospel • **Acts 2, Rom 6**
- **Both** are **legitimate** summaries of the gospel’s **content** & its **changes** in us
- But, if the gospel was proclaimed to Abraham— **and it was** — then the gospel must be understood in a more **comprehensive** way • **Gal 3.6-9, 16-18**
- That “more comprehensive way” drives our study of Matthew-Acts in this series



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- Note these **three key elements** in 4.23 • Jesus was ...
 - **teaching**
 - **preaching**
 - **healing**
- Note also that these **three actions** by Jesus **attracted attention**:
 - “His fame went throughout all Syria ...”
 - “they brought to Him all sick people ...” • “and He healed them”
 - “Great multitudes followed Him ...
 - From Galilee • Decapolis • Jerusalem • Judea • beyond the Jordan



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- Our individual “fame” will **never** spread as did Jesus’ fame ...
 - But **our impact** will spread **if** we — **following Jesus** — **do what Jesus did.**
 - We, too, like Jesus, must **teach** • **preach** • **heal**
- Those elements **defined** Jesus’ ministry ...
 - We see that in this text **4.23**
 - We see it again in **9.35-38**



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- **Mt 9.35-38:** “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”



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- And, we see it in the initial ministry of the **apostles**:
 - **Mt 10. 5-8**: “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, **preach**, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ **Heal** the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- As important as Jesus’ threefold ministry of teaching, preaching and healing was, there’s **another dimension** that we must not overlook:
 - “But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.** Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
 - **cf Mk 1.32-39, 6.6, 34, 56 • Mt 11.1,5,14.14 • 15.32 • 18.27 • 20.34 (Mk 1.41) • Lk 4.43-44, 7.13, 21 • Acts 2.22, 10.38**



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Mt 4.23-25: The “gospel” begins to spread

- **Jesus gave first**
 - “The first act of the Messiah is **not** the imposition of his commandments but **the giving of himself.**” [Turner, BECNT, p 139; citing Davies & Allison in ICC]
- **Do we “give first?”**
 - If we are a "pattern"/principle oriented people — and hopefully we are — do we as part of "our" patterns and principles focus more on **teaching obedience** to the pattern than we do on **giving of ourselves?**
 - "Give first" must be **more** than a slogan. It must **define** us in **every aspect** of life, **especially** as we spread the good news of the kingdom.



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- **Why?** Because that adage, "People **don't care how much you know** until they **know how much you care**," must be an intrinsic and visible part of our lives.
- It was clearly seen in the life and ministry of Jesus. [Side thought: His life and ministry were one and the same.]
- Does **my care** for the souls of others come through loud and clear in the context of my **teaching, preaching and healing as I emulate the life of Jesus?**
- And no, I **can not** heal like Jesus, but **surely I can demonstrate concern** for their physical well-being as part of imitating/following Jesus.



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- I pray that, as I urge others to follow Jesus, **that they first see in me my own willingness to do so**. That they **see me, following Jesus, giving first** of all that I am and all that I do.
- When they see that in me they will see, **at least**, a rough reflection of Jesus.
- And that's so much better than seeing a clear reflection of me ... **without Jesus**.

- Am I, **like Jesus**, driven by physical and spiritual **compassion** for all souls.

