

MITCHELTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Matthew 1-4
All Authority







Growth Groups

An important part of
growing as followers of Jesus
at MPC.

In our Growth Groups we grow through...

time with each other

As we share our lives, meals, hopes, struggles and encouragements.

time in God's Word

As we are, together, transformed by the eternal and overarching truth of God's Word, the Bible. And as we encourage and challenge each other to respond to its truths in obedience and perseverance.

time in prayer

As we share our concerns and our delights and our insights and shape them into prayers for each other during our time together and during the week.

Preaching Profile



Sunday Jan 29, 2023

talk 1

Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday Feb 5, 2023

talk 2

Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday Feb 12, 2023

talk 3

Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday Feb 19, 2023

talk 4

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday Feb 26, 2023

talk 5

Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday Mar 5, 2023

talk 6

Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday Mar 12, 2023

talk 7

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday Mar 19, 2023

talk 8

Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday Mar 26, 2023

talk 9

Matthew 4:12-17

Sunday Apr 2, 2023

talk 10

Matthew 4:18-25

Welcome to ...

Matthew 1-4



The human authorship of this gospel has been attributed to Matthew the ex-tax collector who accepted the invitation of Jesus to follow him and who was subsequently called to be one of the 12 disciples of Jesus.

Matthew's intent in writing this gospel is to show his readers the Kingship of Jesus. This theme is flagged right from the start as Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus showing that he is the son of (king) David, the son of Abraham (1:1). Jesus is the King of God's chosen people.

Throughout his account Matthew continuously shows how Jesus not only fulfils the promises of God delivered through the prophets of the Old Testament, but also embodies the true nature of Israel which God had been desiring all along (3:17). However, while Matthew may be writing to a predominately Jewish audience the Gentiles (non-Jews) are by no means excluded. The wise men of the East (Gentiles) are the first to worship Jesus as king (2:11); and the gospel ends with the well known (little heeded?) instruction from Jesus to his followers to make disciples from all nations (28:19-20).

Scholars have determined that the odds for all the specific prophecies made in the Old Testament concerning the promised Messiah (333) to be fulfilled by one person are one in 83 billion. Yet Matthew shows us even in the opening two chapters that Jesus is that Messiah.

The problem is that Jesus was not the Messiah that the people were expecting! After more than 700 years of foreign rule and oppression the nation of Israel's expectations were that the Messiah would appear with great authority and completely subjugate these foreign powers and reinstate the rule of Israel just like the good old days of David and Solomon. Their understanding was a very geographical, political and materially based hope. Matthew shows that Jesus is indeed the long awaited, promised Messiah. However, his rule and his kingdom are quite different from the expectation. Even though we live on the 'other side' of the coming of the King expectations have been warped in our day and our lives as well. As we start to read, study and prayer through this gospel it may be worth asking how our preconceived expectations of being a part of God's Kingdom need correcting.

The name Matthew means Gift of God. It was the gift of God that turned a hated and despised tax collector (named as Levi by gospel writers Luke and John) into the author of a brilliant gospel delivering truly great news. I pray that it would be seen to be a gift of God in our church as the lives of our regular crowd and those who are yet to join us are impacted by the majestic truths contained in this portion of God's Word



Study 1

Matthew 28:16-20

We are directed by the King of Heaven and earth to go

1. Growth through Relationships

What has been **good** and what has been a **challenge** for you this week?

Take a little time to pray for each other.

2. Growth through the Word

Read this week's passage.

What is the ...

- **Gist** of the passage?

- **Gems** of the passage?

- **Jams** (difficulties/questions) of the passage?
- How does this passage point us to **Jesus' authority in heaven and on earth**?
- What is one way the teaching of this passage will **shape your life** this week (and moving forward)?

3. Growth through Prayer

Be sure to leave a good amount of time for this part.

Take time as a group to pray for the ministry of MPC locally and globally. Try to use the passage as much as possible to guide and shape your prayers.