**The Gospel of Matthew**

**“The gospel was a message before it became a book.”**

**Matthew 14-20**

**Outline:**

Matthew 13:53-58 Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth

Matthew 14:1 The Death of John the BaptistMatthew 14:13 Feeding the Five ThousandMatthew 14:22 Jesus Walks on the WaterMatthew 14:34 Jesus Heals the Sick in GennesaretMatthew 15:1 The Tradition of the EldersMatthew 15:10 Things That DefileMatthew 15:21 The Canaanite Woman's FaithMatthew 15:29 Jesus Cures Many PeopleMatthew 15:32 Feeding the Four ThousandMatthew 16:1 The Demand for a SignMatthew 16:5 The Yeast of the Pharisees and SadduceesMatthew 16:13 Peter's Declaration about JesusMatthew 16:21 Jesus Foretells His Death and ResurrectionMatthew 16:24 The Cross and Self-DenialMatthew 17:1 The TransfigurationMatthew 17:14 Jesus Cures a Boy with a DemonMatthew 17:22 Jesus Again Foretells His Death & ResurrectionMatthew 17:24 Jesus and the Temple TaxMatthew 18:1 True GreatnessMatthew 18:6 Temptations to SinMatthew 18:10 The Parable of the Lost SheepMatthew 18:15 Reproving Another Who SinsMatthew 18:21 ForgivenessMatthew 18:23 The Parable of the Unforgiving ServantMatthew 19:1 Teaching about DivorceMatthew 19:13 Jesus Blesses Little ChildrenMatthew 19:16 The Rich Young ManMatthew 20:1 The Laborers in the VineyardMatthew 20:17 3rd Time Jesus Foretells Death & ResurrectionMatthew 20:20 The Request of the Mother of James and JohnMatthew 20:29 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

**Use of these passages in Worship this Year:**

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| 2/26 | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| 8/6 | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 8/13 | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| 8/20 | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| 9/3 | Matthew 16:21-28 |
| 9/17 | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 9/24 | Matthew 20:1-16 |

**From Last week:**

Read the Parable of the Weeds and the Explanation from Matthew 13:24-30 & 13:36-43

Where does evil come from?

What are we to do about it?

What is the ultimate good news?

In this part of the story Jesus is rejected at Nazareth (his home town), then John the Baptist is killed at a royal feast of “King” Herod causing Jesus to retreat into the wilderness.

**Read: Matthew 14:13-33**

What contrast is Matthew making between Jesus and Herod?

Does this ‘feeding’ remind you of any Old Testament references?

When the disciples encounter Jesus walking on the water Peter asks “if it is you”… Jesus responds with Take heart, evgw, eivmi,, (I am) – Think back to Moses at the burning bush – What does God say about God’s name?

Why do you think Peter wanted/needed to get out of the boat?

Where is Peter’s lack of faith made evident?

Skim the outline: What Questions arise for chapter 15?

* Things that defile: “what in our own time violates this holiness and nullifies the church’s witness.” (NIB, 335)
* The Canaanite Woman’s faith: This woman is a double outsider (woman and foreigner) who do we overlook that might be in need of the salvation Jesus brings?
* Jesus feeds the 4000 – did you know that he did this miracle twice?
* In the first part of 16 – the Pharisees want a sign to prove that Jesus is messiah, then the disciples forget to bring bread with them on their next journey and are worried about having enough food. Jesus accuses them of having little faith. Why do you think the Pharisees didn’t understand the ‘feedings’ as a sign of the messiah?

**Read Matthew 16:13-28**

“The nickname “Peter” means “stone” or “rock” (Aramaic = Cepha, Greek = Petros) (Petrified is a derivative). What was Peter’s real name?

Notice the dramatic turn of events in how Jesus relates to Peter. (Jesus calls him a “stumbling stone”) What is the problem that Jesus recognizes?

What does it mean for you to take up a cross and follow Jesus?

What do you make of verse 28?

Skim the rest of chapters 16,17, and the first part of 18. What questions arise?

Faith that moves mountains: “We might be tempted to believe that, if the smallest faith moves mountains and our achievements seem quite ordinary, our faith must be smaller than the smallest – good math, but pedestrian exegesis. Rather this disruptive picture pushes at us the gnawing reminder that as disciples we are agents of the church in which Christ himself is “with us” which means God-with-us, and that with God nothing is impossible, a guard against fitting God into our ideas of what is possible and coming to terms too quickly with the way things are.” (NIB, 378)

**Read Matthew 18:15-35**

What do you learn about church discipline? Forgiveness? And the extravagance of grace?

**Read Matthew 19:16-20:16**

What does the story of the rich young man communicate to you?

Who can be saved?

What does the parable of the Vineyard mean to you?

“The most difficult thing for modern Western Christians to understand about this whole section dealing with marriage, divorce, children, money, success, and ambition is not the individual teachings, but that such matters are more than individual concerns to be decided by each person. Matthew’s perspective calls for Christians to understand themselves as belonging to a community, so that no decision is purely personal and individual.” (NIB, 394)