

## *Preaching Matthew's Gospel*

### **1. Look for structure, themes and purpose**

*Topping and Tailing*

Ch 1-2 – The prologue

1:1-17 – Genealogy

1:18-2:23 Five Birth and Infancy narratives

- 1:22 – Isa 7:14
- 2:6 – Micah 5:2
- 2:15 – Hosea 11:1
- 2:18 – Jer 31:15
- 2:23 – ?

(i) *The fulfillment theme is important*

(ii) *The fulfillment is more than simply predictive prophecy being accomplished*

(iii) *The fulfillment may be unexpected*

## 28:16-20 – Conclusion

*All Authority*

*Make disciples*

*All nations*

### Matthew's aims:

(1) To convince Jewish readers that Jesus the Nazarene is the Messiah – 'the one who was to come'

(2) To equip Jewish Christians to 'make disciples' of their fellow countrymen and people from 'all nations'

### Structure

ch 1-2 – prologue

ch 3-4 – Introduction

Note: 4:23 and 9:35 – a couple of structural markers

ch 5-7 – The words of Jesus

ch 8-9 – The works of Jesus

Some more structural markers:      7:28    11:1    13:53    19:1    26:1

→ A map of Matthew's gospel

## 2. Keep thinking fulfilment

### Ch 3-4 – The Introduction

3:1 *In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea...*

3:13 *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.*

4:1 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.*

4:12 *When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee.*

4:18 *As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers...*

### Who is Jesus?

Ch 5-7 – Jesus as teacher

Ch 8-9 – Jesus as healer

Two other examples

14:13-21 Feeding of the 5000 – see Isaiah 55

14:22-33 Walking on water – see Isaiah 43

### 3. Keep thinking context

e.g. Matthew 13:53 – 16:20

**Nazareth**

**Herod**

*Feeding (5000)*

*Water*

**Traditions**

**Unclean hearts**

*Canaanite woman*

*Feeding (4000)*

**Signs of the times**

**Misunderstood metaphor**

Some say...

You are the Christ!

...Teaching about the cross...

#### 4. Look out for the microstructures

*e.g. Chapter 13*

A Introductory parable: the sower (1-9)

*Interlude: the purpose of parables (10-17)*

*explanation of the parable of the sower (18-23)*

B Parable of the weeds (24-30)

C Parable of the mustard seed (31-32)

C' Parable of the yeast and the dough (33)

*Interlude: the purpose of parables (34-35)*

*explanation of the parable of the weeds (36-43)*

D Parable of the hidden treasure (44)

D' Parable of the pearl of great value (45-46)

B' Parable of the net (47-48)

*Interlude: explanation of the parable of the net (49)*

*have you understood all these things? (50)*

A' Concluding parable: the householder (51-53)

E.g. Chapters 19 and 20

**A<sup>1</sup>** 19:3-9 Dialogue with Pharisees – marriage and divorce  
*'what God has joined together, let man not separate'*

**B<sup>1</sup>** 19:10-12 Disciples cynical (worldly) about marriage  
*'if this is the situation...it is better not to marry'*

Jesus teaches them...(about singleness)

*'not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given'*

**C<sup>1</sup>** 19:13-15 Children being brought to Jesus  
Jesus teaches his disciples: *'the kingdom belongs to such as these'*

**A<sup>2</sup>** 19:16-22 Dialogue with a rich young man – wealth and possessions

*'it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven'*

**B<sup>2</sup>** 19:23-30 Disciples confused (worldly) about riches/entry into the kingdom  
*'Who then can be saved?'*

Jesus teaches them...

*'what is impossible with man is possible with God'*

**D** 20:1-36 A parable: **the rewards God gives are a matter of grace**  
*'the first shall be last and the last shall be first'*

*"A way of setting God's grace against all human notions of what constitutes firstness". R.T. France, Tyndale Commentary*

**C<sup>2</sup>** 20:17-19 Jesus going up to Jerusalem  
Jesus teaches his disciples: **he must suffer and die on the cross**

**A<sup>3</sup>** 20:1-23 Dialogue with Mrs Zebedee and her sons – *status and power*

*'can you drink the cup I am going to drink?'*

**B<sup>3</sup>** 20:24-26 Disciples indignant (worldly) over this power-play

Jesus teaches them...

*'whoever wants to be first must become your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many'*

**C<sup>3</sup>** 20:29-34 Jesus and his disciples leaving Jericho; two blind men want to see

Jesus has compassion on them and gives them sight

*What do the disciples need to see?*

## **5. Keep preaching the gospel**