

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

A¹ 19:3-9 Dialogue with Pharisees – marriage and divorce
'what God has joined together, let man not separate'

B¹ 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'

C¹ 19:13-15 Children being brought to Jesus
Jesus teaches his disciples: ***'the kingdom belongs to such as these'***

A² 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'

B² 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

C² 20:17-19 Jesus going up to Jerusalem
Jesus teaches his disciples: **he must suffer and die on the cross**

A³ 20:1-23 Dialogue with Mrs Zebedee and her sons – *status and power*

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

B³ 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'

C³ 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