

## The Gospel of Matthew: An Outline for Discipleship

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‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe *all that I commanded you.*’  
(28:18 – 20) What is ‘all that I commanded you?’

### The Literary Structure of Matthew: A New Torah

When Jesus had finished these words (7:28)  
When Jesus had finished giving instructions (11:1)  
When Jesus had finished these parables (13:53)  
When Jesus had finished these words (19:1)  
When Jesus had finished all these words (26:1)

Moses’ teaching (Torah) : Israel :: Jesus’ teaching (Matthew’s Gospel+) : Church

### Book 1: Meeting Jesus & Allowing Him to Transform Our Hearts, 1:1 – 7:28

*The Sermon on the Mount 5:1 – 7:28*

- Blessed are the *pure in heart* (5:8).
- But I say to you that everyone who is angry [in his *heart*] with his brother (5:21 – 26).
- He who looks on a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her *in his heart* (5:28).
- But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you [*heart* attitude of self-defense vs. self-giving] (5:38 – 48).
- Your Father who is in heaven sees your *secret* motives (6:4, 6, 18).
- Where your treasure is, there will your *heart* be also (6:21).
- Beware of the false prophets, who...*inwardly* are ravenous wolves (7:15).

### Book 2: Experiencing the Power of Jesus’ Word, 8:1 – 11:1

*Structure of Matthew 8:1 – 9:38: Ten Declarations*

Text	Subject	Beneficiary/Audience	Issue
8:1 – 4	Miracle 1	Jewish	Uncleanness, leprosy
8:5 – 13	Miracle 2	Gentile	Illness, suffering
8:14 – 17	Miracle 3	Jewish	Fever, demons
8:18 – 22	Teaching 1	Crowd	Jesus requires everything from us
8:23 – 27	Miracle 4	Jewish	Stormy sea
8:28 – 34	Miracle 5	Gentile	Demons
9:1 – 8	Miracle 6	Jewish	Paralysis
9:9 – 17	Teaching 2	Disciples, Pharisees	Jesus has come for sinners
9:18 – 26	Miracles 7 & 8	Jewish	Uncleanness, death
9:27 – 31	Miracle 9	Jewish	Blindness
9:32 – 34	Miracle 10	Jewish	Mute, demons
9:35 – 38	Teaching 3	Disciples	More workers for the harvest!

In Scripture, a thematic pattern develops around the number 10 concerning God’s activities.

	Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Genesis 5:1 – 6:8	Genesis 11:10 – 30	Genesis 2:4 – 50:26	Exodus 7 – 11	Exodus 19 – 20	Matthew 8 – 9
<b>Ten acts leading up to a new work of God</b>	Ten declarations of Creation; God forms all life	Ten generations from Adam to Noah, new creation	Ten generations from Shem to Abram, new humanity	Ten genealogies of Israel; God forms the nation Israel	Ten plagues; God uncreates Egypt to free Israel	Ten commands; God makes the Mosaic covenant	Ten word miracles; Jesus forms new covenant movement

### Book 3: Facing Rejection & Building Resolve, 11:2 – 13:53

Major Action	Response of Faith	Response of Rejection	OT Texts
Identity of Jesus through John the Baptist questions Jesus' identity (11:1 – 24).	John the Baptist asks about Jesus' identity (11:1 – 15)	Some reject Jesus, who critiques 'this generation' (11:16 – 24)	Isaiah 35, 61
Jesus claims to reveal the Father, calls himself Lord of Sabbath rest and restores Israel – and eventually the Gentiles – to Sabbath completion (11:25 – 12:21).	Some come to Jesus for rest (11:28 – 30); his disciples experience something greater than David and the Temple (12:1 – 8); people are healed (12:9 – 14)	Some reject Jesus for picking grain and healing on the Sabbath (12:2, 10, 14)	Jeremiah 6, Isaiah 42
Jesus claims to defeat Beelzebul and the demons; Jesus' word is important (12:22 – 45).	Some call Jesus the Son of David (12:23)	Some attribute Jesus' power to Beelzebul (12:24)	Jonah, 1 Kings 10
Jesus divides and reconstitutes Israel around his word alone (12:46 – 13:53).	Some are good soil, and receive the word in an honest and good heart (13:8, 23)	Some are on the road (13:4, 19), rocky soil (13:5 – 6, 20 – 21), thorny soil (13:7, 22)	Isaiah 6, 55

### Book 4: Expanding the Mission Cross-Culturally, 13:54 – 19:1

- They came to land at Gennesaret (14:34)
- And Jesus went away from there and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon (15:21)
- And departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee (15:29)
- Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi (16:13)
- Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him... 'Up to seventy times seven.' (18:21 – 22)

### Book 5: Confronting the Powers, 19:2 – 26:1

- Jesus prepares for conflict in Jerusalem, and lays out clear ethical distinctions in the realms of
  - Sex: higher standard for marriage (19:1 – 12)
  - Money: generosity and simplicity vs. materialism and greed (19:13 – 30)
  - Power: servanthood vs. greatness (20:1 – 34)
- Jesus enters Jerusalem, confronts the Temple authorities (21:1 – 22:46)
- Jesus pronounces woes on the scribes and Pharisees; conflict of two spiritualities (23:1 – 39)
- Jesus pronounces doom on Jerusalem's Temple; conflict with the old system (24:1 – 51)
- Jesus gives parables about his judgment and vindication (25:1 – 46)

### Closure: Remembering & Reproducing, 26:2 – 28:20

- Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be spoken of in *memory* of her (26:2 – 13)
- Bread and wine, done in *remembrance* of Jesus (26:26 – 29)
- And Peter *remembered* the word which Jesus had said (26:75)
- Sir, we *remember* that when he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again' (27:63)

### Questions

1. What do you want to grow in over the next year? Heart level issues as you scan through 5 – 7? Ministry skills? Areas of doubt? Ability to handle conflict? Etc.
2. What are your strengths or spiritual experiences from Jesus that you could offer?
3. What are your current areas of growth?
4. What subject areas of Matthew do you think you would like to spend more time in?
5. Who do you respect that you think might want to ask some questions of, learn from?
6. Who do you think you can invest in and develop?