WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT MATTHEW

Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

Introduction

- The OT ends with a curse.
- The NT commences with a '*spell*' to break that curse on human kind. [Galatians 3:13].
- 85 of the 4 gospel's 89 chapters deal with the last 3 years of Jesus' life.
- 27 of those chapters deal with the last 8 days of His life.

1 The Human Writer Of The First Gospel

- Matthew, the Capernaum tax collector.
- Also known as '*Levi*' in Mark and Luke.
- A primary source or eye witness to much of the material he provides.
- Tradition suggests he was burned at the stake.
- Consists of 28 chapters and 1071 verses.

2 Keys To Understanding Matthew

- Matthew wrote to convince his country men Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- "All this was done that it might be fulfilled..." (16 times).
- 130 quotes and allusions to the OT.

3 Outline Of Matthew

- [1 & 2] the genealogy and early years of the King.
- [3 & 4] the emergence, baptism, anointing and testing of the King.

- [5-7] the manifesto of the King.
- [8 & 9] the power of the king. Note His power over sickness, nature, the demonic, sin and death.
- [10-12] the demands of the King.
- [13] the parables of the King.
- [14-16] the enemies of the King.
- [17] the transfiguration of the King.
- [18-20] The instruction of the King to His disciples.
- [21-23] the rejection of the King.
- [24 & 25] Prophecies of the King re: Jerusalem and His return.
- [26-27] The Passion of the King.
- [28] The resurrection and commission of the King.

4 Matthew's Signature Phrase

- 'The kingdom of heaven' (38 times).
- Kingdom is translated from the Greek word 'basileia'.
- Meaning 'the reign or the rule of heaven.'
- The miracles etc were the blessings and the foretaste of the coming Kingdom.

5 The Things Unique To Matthew

- Part of the nativity story.
- The Sermon on the Mount.
- The *'Kingdom parables'* in [Matthew 13] and 'end time' parables in [Matthew 25].
- The bribing of the soldiers.
- The use of the word '*church*.'

6 The Theme Of 'God With Us'

• See [1:23], [18:20] and [28:20].

7 Other Things To watch For

 Jesus' use of the term 'follow Me' and who He used the word 'hypocrite(s)' to.

8 The Relevance Of Matthew Today

- Have we truly heard His call to 'Follow Him.'
- Is He truly our King?
- We need again to take the message of His death and resurrection to a dying world.

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