



# MESSIAH – WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

Tim Hill, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# What have I created here?

- Ice
- Mop
- Metal
- Ash
- Sand
- Lidded

- Plastic
- Wooden
- Galvanised

**Matthew's gospel starts with a list – first 16 verses. Why?**

**TO AVOID THIS...**



# Matthew's Gospel - Identity

Matthew sets out to 'prove' to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah and that He:

1. **Fulfils Old Testament story – make sense of it all, including genealogy, prophecies, Jesus' life reflecting key OT elements, etc.**
2. **Reveals God's true nature – as Father, one who is WITH US, calling us back into relationship with Him**

**Matthew has had a revelation and wants his people to understand too!!**

# Programme Through to Autumn...

Approx 16 sessions

1. How does Jesus fulfil and/or make sense of the Old Testament here?
2. How does Jesus reveal God as Father? Does this surprise the Jews and the Greeks?
3. What fresh revelation about our identity does he bring?

# Chapters 1-3 – Jesus contextualised

- **Matthew firstly connects Jesus with the Old Testament – identity as:**
  - Son of David (as promised – the royal line)
  - Son of Abraham (will be a blessing to his people)
- **Fulfils OT prophecies**
  - Lineage
  - Birthplace
  - Miraculous conception
  - Immanuel, etc. (remember this – we will return to it later)
- **Jesus' identity as 'new Moses'**
  - One come to lead his people out of slavery
  - Out of Egypt
  - Water experience (Red Sea/baptism)
  - Wilderness (40 years/days)
  - Law (receives on a mountain/gives on a mountain) – fulfils it

# Chapters 4-7 – The Kingdom

- **God's rescue method for the world is His Kingdom through Jesus' kingly identity**
  - **Confronts evil (especially spiritual – demonic, disease, death, etc.)**
  - **Restores God's rule and reign**
  - **Create new family who will live a new way under Jesus's Kingship**
  - **Gives sermon to explain workings of new 'upside-down' kingdom – poor, rich, Jew, Gentile, slave, master – all invited to repent and join in equally**
  - **Here to fulfil the Torah (law) and not throw it out**
  - **To transform the hearts of the people so they can truly love God and love their neighbour**

# Chapters 8-10 – Follow Him!

- **Demonstrations of His identity in practice – 9 stories – all are sick, hurting or in danger - Turns Jewish ideas upside-down again**
- **Leper**
- **Centurion's servant**
- **Sick mother**
- **Stormy seas**
- **Demonised men**
- **Paralysed man**
- **Dead girl & sick woman**
- **Two blind men**
- **Mute man**

**Then Jesus sends the disciples out to other people groups – teaching them how to communicate and respond to acceptance & rejection**

# Chapters 11-13 – Varied Responses

**Group of stories about responses to Jesus' claimed identity – confirm Jesus' points about acceptance and rejection**

- 1. Positive – some people accept Him**
- 2. Neutral - question His identity and want more information (John the Baptist, some of Jesus' family, etc.)**
- 3. Negative – Jewish leaders and scholars (false teacher, blasphemous, leading the people astray) deny His identity – “He's NOT the Messiah”**

**Chapter 13 parables – commentary on these responses to Jesus (sower, mustard seed, pearl, buried treasure)**

# Chapters 14-20 – Different Expectations

- **Various demonstrations – miraculous food!**
  - Jewish AND non-Jewish crowds, Messiah widely accepted
  - Leaders reject him – should be defeating pagans and protecting Jewish ‘superiority’ - so plot against him
- **Jesus withdraws to teach his disciples more about His identity**
  - Ch 16 - “Who do you say that I am?”
  - Challenges Peter’s view of the Messiah
  - Teaches on Isaiah 53 – a suffering Messiah – the Servant King
- **Ch 18-20 teaches on the upside-down Kingdom**
  - Gain honour by serving
  - Forgiveness not revenge
  - Gain wealth through giving away

# Chapters 21-25 – Kingdoms Clash

- Jesus rides in on a donkey – demonstrates the humble ‘Servant King’ identity
- Turns over the tables in the temple – asserting his royal authority and identity in the place where Israel and God met together
- Jesus’ final block of teaching is about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and then about the consequences – they fail to recognise his identity so Jerusalem will be destroyed – BUT Jesus will return to claim his kingdom

He delivers a constant, living demonstration of his true identity until...

# Chapters 26-28 – Plot Twist & New Calling

- **Death and resurrection**
  - **Matthew gives extensive OT references**
  - **Demonstrates Jesus' identity in the context of Jewish history & tradition**
  - **Crucifixion not a failure but a triumph!**
  - **The (Isaiah 53) Servant King wins through the resurrection**
  - **Final verse – The Great Commission – ‘tell them about my identity’**

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”**

# **“GET USED TO DIFFERENT!”**

**The Jesus Way...**

- **Scarcity into abundance**
- **Confusion into calling**
- **Chaos into order**

**At every turn Jesus does different and unexpected**

**Are you ready for the next 15 weeks as we try and  
“Get used to different”?**

