

# **GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

## **Major Themes**

### **1. *Jesus is Messiah***

Matthew clearly taught that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament promises, especially that of the coming Messiah (King). Jesus was presented as king shortly after His birth (2:11-12) and was proven to be so in His resurrection (28:1-10). Matthew used the phrase “kingdom of heaven” 32 times, highlighting Jesus’ kingly authority and power. But while many expected Jesus to be king of Israel, Matthew revealed Him as King of Heaven & Earth.

### **2. *Righteousness.***

Citizens of kingdom of heaven are called to be righteous, and ethical issues are a major focus in Matthew. Jesus’ first recorded words in Matthew had to do with fulfilling righteousness (3:15). He demanded that His disciples invest their treasurers in God’s Kingdom, not in earthly possessions. Love for others is also emphasized. The world’s way of returning good for good or evil for evil is not God’s way; God returns **good** for evil. According to Matthew, mercy and forgiveness are to be paramount virtues in a Christian’s life.

Mercy dictates love for fellow human beings (5:7; 6:2-4, 12 & 14-15) and directly affects a believer’s relationship to God (9:9-13; 12:1-8; 23:23). The failure to exercise mercy results in final judgment (18:21-35).

### **3. *The believer’s Commission.***

In its closing verses (28:16-20) Matthew reveals the plan for the expansion of the kingdom of heaven. Believers are to be “Salt” and “light” (5:13-16), spreading the good news of the kingdom to all the world.