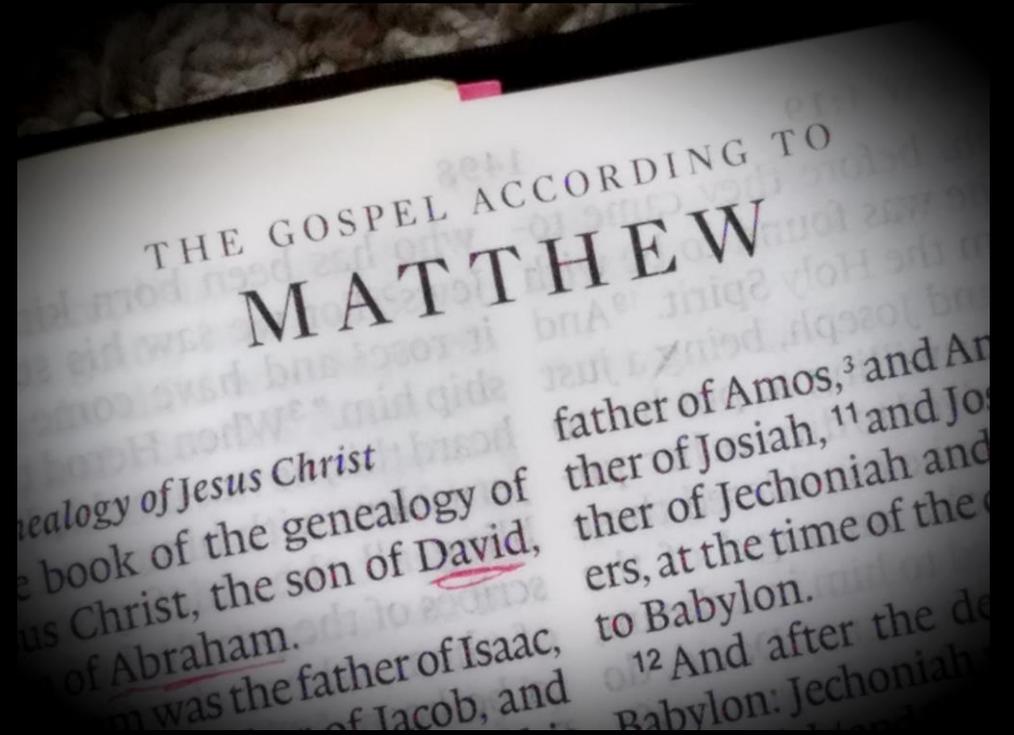


Verse by Verse

Matthew 17



Matthew 17 Introduction

Matthew 17 Introduction

- Matthew's Gospel is sometimes called the "Gospel of the Kingdom" because he uses the word "kingdom" so much.
- It appears 55 times in 53 verses of Matthew.
- With the coming of Jesus the King, the kingdom has broken into human history, but it is still not fully here.
- Christ reigns, but he has not taken his full authority.

Matthew 17 Introduction

- When Jesus started his ministry in **Matthew 3:2**, he said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- Toward the end, in **Matthew 26:29**, upon instituting the Lord’s Supper he said, “I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Matthew 17 Introduction



God's kingdom transcends time, space, politics, denominations, cultures and the realms of society. It is both now and not yet, close by and removed ...

– Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas

Matthew 17 Introduction



Governed by covenant systems, the kingdom's institutions include the family, church and civil government. God has given the guidelines for the operation of all three, and negligence to adhere to these guidelines results in disorder and loss.

– Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas

Matthew 17 Introduction

- The last chapter ended with Jesus hinting at what we are about to see.
- All three **Synoptic Gospels**, **Matthew**, **Mark** and **Luke** have Jesus saying something similar.
- In each case it is followed by **the Transfiguration**.

Matthew 17 Introduction

- In **Matthew 16:27-28**, Jesus said,

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Matthew 17 Key Verses

Matthew 17 Key Verses

- Matthew 17:5 (ESV)

⁵ ... behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Matthew 17 Key Verses

- **Matthew 17:18-20** (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰ He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17 Outline

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13
2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21
3. Jesus Looks Ahead 17:22-23
4. The Temple Tax 17:24-27

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:2 transfigured The Greek word is the one from which we get our word *metamorphosis*.
- His face shone ... The face of Moses shone after his time on the mountain because he reflected the glory of God.
- Jesus radiates his own glory.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:3 Moses and Elijah These two Old Testament heroes represent the Law and the Prophets.
- 17:5 Compare this with Matthew 3:17 at the time of Christ's baptism.

And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:5 listen to him

- Compare this to Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (ESV),

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:9 Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.
- Jesus is reinforcing what he already started telling them earlier, that he would die and rise from the dead.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:10-13 Elijah and John the Baptist
- Our Old Testament ends with this in Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV),
⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:11 Elijah does come and he will restore all things.
- Jesus confirms that we should still expect Elijah to come.
- For homework, read Revelation 11:1-13, for what many believe is the future coming of Elijah that Jesus confirms.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- 17:12-13 John the Baptist already came “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17).
- The nation’s rulers and religious leaders did not receive him.

1. The Transfiguration 17:1-13

- When Jesus finally comes as King, it will be obvious to all.
- There will be no opportunity to reject his rule, only to give him the honor he deserves, either willingly or unwillingly.
- **Philippians 2:9-11** (ESV)

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Peter on His Experience v. Scripture

Peter on His Experience v. Scripture

- 2 Peter 1:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain ...

Peter on His Experience v. Scripture

- 2 Peter 1:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21

- 17:15 he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.
- Seizures are not uncommon and need not be demonic at all.
- One indication that this boy's condition is demonic is the word "often" describing him falling into fire and water.
- Demons eventually work to destroy the people they dominate.

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21

- 17:19-20 (21) In our understanding and practice of prayer, we have to include everything the Bible says about it.
- We should include “Your will be done,” confession of our sin and so on.
- But let’s not use any of that to explain away this passage.
- Sometimes weakness in prayer is a lack of faith.

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21

- By easily handling demons, Jesus illustrates his supreme authority as King.
- It is not simply an authority on earth, though it is that.
- It is also complete authority in the spiritual realm.

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21



Satan has power, but the only way he is free to use that power over the lives of individuals, families, churches, or even the broader society is when Christians fail to operate from under the rightful headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan does not have the authority to use his power when disciples function under the covering of Jesus Christ.

– Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21



This is why Satan will try hard and long to lure people and divine institutions out from under the lordship of Jesus Christ. He knows that if he can get them out from under Christ's covering, he has free reign to deceive and harm them however he chooses. It is under the covering of the lordship of Christ that disciples stand protected.

– Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas

2. A Boy with a Demon 17:14-21

- Let's continuously remind ourselves of who Christ is – our Savior, King and Lord – and Lord over this entire universe.
- And then let's remind ourselves of who we are – his representatives here on earth.
- One of our roles here is to exercise his authority, to accomplish his will here on earth.
- Let's not fall short due to a lack of faith.

3. Jesus Looks Ahead 17:22-23

3. Jesus Looks Ahead 17:22-23

- Jesus again reminds them of what is going to happen.
- His earthly place as King is not yet going to be revealed.
- In the last chapter, Peter tried to argue with Jesus about this point and Jesus would have nothing of it.
- Now no one argues. They are only distressed.

4. The Temple Tax 17:24-27

4. The Temple Tax 17:24-27

- Only **Matthew** gives us this story.
- He was a tax collector before he was a disciple of Jesus, so maybe that's why he found it interesting.
- It looks like Jesus and his disciples were broke, so you are in good company.

4. The Temple Tax 17:24-27

- This tax was a Jewish religious tax, for the temple, and not for the Romans.
- It was based on the half-shekel census tax in support of the tabernacle that Moses collected in **Exodus 30:11-16**.
- This passage illustrates obedience to human authority when that authority does not conflict with God's.

4. The Temple Tax 17:24-27

- Though Christ is King and his authority is ultimate, he has presently placed us in nations with human governments.
- Our citizenship is in heaven, but we need to live as Christ's representatives – his ambassadors – here on earth.

Peter on Human Authority

Peter on Human Authority

- 1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Paul on Human Authority

Paul on Human Authority

- **Romans 13:1-7** (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval ...

Paul on Human Authority

- **Romans 13:1-7** (ESV)

⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing ...

Paul on Human Authority

- Romans 13:1-7 (ESV)

⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Matthew 17 What We Just Read

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Matthew 17 Key Points

- Jesus is King and we need to remember that – even if we live in a world that refuses to believe.
- We are his representatives.
- Sometimes that involves exercising Christ's authority and not doing so can be due to a lack of faith.
- At other times representing Christ means submitting to human authority, as in the case of taxes.
- Knowing the difference is key. This means constant growth in understanding God's will for us in this present age.

Matthew 17 One Last Verse

Matthew 17 One Last Verse

- Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 17 A Prayer

Matthew 17 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- We declare Jesus to be King of kings, Lord of lords and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. We also declare him to be King, Lord and Ruler over our lives.
- May your Kingdom come and your will be done.
- We ask your help in discerning your will so that we will more faithfully represent Christ as we go about our earthly business.

Matthew 17 A Prayer

- Help us to know how to exercise Christ's authority in the spiritual realm, in our families, in our church and in our daily community life.
- Help us to see when we are not doing so, especially when that is the result of a lack of faith. We admit that our faith needs to grow.
- Help us also to see all those numerous cases when submission to earthly rulers is the right thing to do.

Matthew 17 A Prayer

- We thank you that we live in a place where we are free to worship you.
- We pray that you would give those that govern wisdom to govern according to your will.
- We also pray that you would have mercy on them and lead each of them into a saving knowledge of you.
- And finally, we look forward to the soon return of Jesus Christ.
- Amen.

Matthew 15 References

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