

Week 4 - What to believe and next steps to take:

- A. **What to believe** – Disciples love the church and live for the glory of Jesus Christ in the church.

- B. **Next Steps** – (Experiences of Relationship with Jesus). I need to continually put myself in a position where Jesus can bring growth (Word, Spirit, Church). I need to trust the Lord in situations that He brings for growth (suffering/hardship).
 1. Scripture memory:
 - a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
 - b. Colossians 2:14 “...having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...”
 2. Scripture reading – Matthew 1-4
 - a. Ask this question when you read a chapter – What do I need to believe about God from reading this chapter?
 - b. If I believe this about God, what will I do or stop doing as a result of believing this?
 3. Meditation is lingering in contemplative listening, listening to what God has said in His word, resulting in specific obedience to God and His word.
 - a. Meditation of scripture is often a wonderful way to see the Lord and His truth and obey Him.
 - b. Spend time meditating on the verse that captures what you need to believe and how you will obey.
 4. Pray
 - a. Pray for the people in your life that need a disciple to be a blessing to them.
 - b. Begin to pray for the person/s you will disciple in the next year.
 - c. Continue to journal a couple prayers requests you would like to be praying this week.
 5. Begin to think about a plan for becoming first generation disciple maker at FBCGT

On that day when Matthew was sitting at his tax booth collecting money to satisfy his wants, Jesus came by and said to Matthew, “Follow me.” It was as if Jesus were saying, “I am everything you want. Leave all

this and follow me.” Matthew left everything and got up and followed Jesus. Do you know where they ended up? They ended up at Matthew’s house where Matthew made a great feast. Guess who came. A whole bunch of Matthew’s friends, none other than the tax collectors association. They all had one big party with Jesus. Jesus loved Matthew. He was rejected and he was a traitor but Jesus loved him. Matthew never turned back. He followed Jesus as his Lord and Savior. After Jesus ascended to heaven, Matthew, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote this gospel. It was some time around AD 50 to AD 70, before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. Matthew wrote this gospel to a Jewish audience in order to communicate the truth that Jesus is everything anyone could ever want, especially the Jew. He is the King and the Savior, the only one who can satisfy our souls. Matthew found his life and his joy in Christ and Christ alone, the King of the Jews. In following Jesus Christ, Matthew went in to Ethiopia and Egypt sharing this gospel and seeing many converted to Christianity. The king of Egypt ordered his servants to kill Matthew because of his evangelizing and one of the king’s servants came to Matthew and killed him with a spear. Matthew lived and died for Jesus Christ because in Christ he found everything for which his soul longed.

Matthew begins his declaration of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:1, *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham (ESV)*. This is a clear proclamation that Jesus is everything we could ever want. He alone can satisfy our souls. He alone can give eternal life. He alone is King and Savior. We do not need to look any further.

Jesus is the son of David, the rightful king. Around sixteen times in Matthew you will read the phrase, “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet.” You will see over 90 OT quotations. Much of what the prophets were prophesying and so much of what the OT was pointing to was to a coming King. Listen to what the prophet Nathan said to King David in II Samuel 7, “I [God] will establish the throne of his [your son] forever....Your kingdom shall be made sure forever.” There is a king that is to reign forever in the line of King David. Jesus is that King. Jesus is the one who is reigning and will reign forever. He is the only one and there is no other. He is the King of kings. Jesus is from the line of David, the one true King of kings and Lord of lords. We need look no further. He alone is the King. By the way, even if we wanted to look further, we have no where to look. When the temple was destroyed in AD 70, all the genealogical records were destroyed. There is no way to ever trace anyone else to the kingly line of David after Jesus Christ. Perhaps that is God’s way of placing an exclamation point on the truth – Jesus Christ is the King of kings and we need look no further.

Jesus is also the Savior of the world, heir to the promises given to Abraham and the only avenue to participation in those promises of God. He alone is the Savior. Jesus is the son of Abraham. In Genesis 12, God calls Abraham and tells him that he will bless those who bless him and curse those who dishonor him. Then he says that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed. Later in Genesis 22 we see again that the Lord tells Abraham that in his offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. That blessing promised to the nations of the earth through the offspring of Abraham is found only in Jesus. He is the avenue of that blessing, he is the offspring of Abraham, and that blessing ultimately is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. This great blessing is the righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus Christ. You must read Romans 4:9-13, 18-25 to understand the greatness of this little phrase in Matthew, “son of Abraham”,

Romans 4:9-13, 18-25 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. ¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law

but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Because Jesus is the son of Abraham we can receive the blessing of salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Jesus can be our savior by grace through faith. Jesus Christ is the son of Abraham, the Savior of the world who saves all those who place their faith in him, who follow Him. Jesus is all we really need and everything we could ever want. In him and him alone do we find life, joy, peace, hope, eternity. He is everything for which our souls long. We need look no further but we do need to follow Him. Disciples follow Jesus.

Matthew will emphasize time and time again that Jesus is the King of kings and the Savior of the world. He begins with the opening verse. Genealogical lists in Scripture usually begin with the oldest and progress to the most recent. It is usual to start a genealogical list with the first person in the list and end with the most recent and last. Matthew, however, begins with Jesus and then lists his ancestors, ending with Jesus. Even this is done to make a point. Jesus is the focal point of all history. He is the one to follow. We should follow Jesus Christ. Only following Him will bring true life, eternal life.

Matthew more than any other gospel details how Jesus was rejected and brutally crucified for our sins. The King of kings laid down his life for each one of us so that we might know him both as King and as Savior. He is King over all no matter what you about following him but he will only be your savior if you follow him, if you believe in him and trust him for the forgiveness of your sins. He is everything you have ever wanted. He is your King and to him every knee will bow so please trust Him as your Savior and follow Him.

In Jesus' day people would often bury their valuables to protect them from seizure. Jesus told a story of a man who found a great treasure in a field that had been buried and lost for unknown reasons. This person who found the unknown treasure then went and sold everything he had in order to purchase the field and obtain that treasure. When you find Jesus, you find that buried treasure, when you follow Him, leaving all other pursuits behind, you obtain the hidden treasure for which you soul longs. When you follow Jesus you find the treasure of life, eternal life.

Jesus told another story about a merchant who spent his days in search of find pearls. One day he found the one pearl he had been looking for his whole life. He went and sold everything, every inferior pearl he owned, everything he had he sold that he might buy that one pearl. Jesus Christ is that pearl. Each person in Jesus' story gave up everything to obtain their treasure. That is exactly what it means to follow Jesus. You give up your life and you follow Him. Do you think that after the man gave up all to get the field he felt like he had given up anything? Do you think that the man who sold all he had to buy the pearl, after he had the pearl, had given up anything? No. They now had the treasure. Following Jesus Christ means that you give him your life but when you follow Him you have obtained the treasure of real life, joy, peace, you have given up everything and gained so much more. Jesus is our treasure.

Jesus is everything. By virtue of the message of the gospel, like with Matthew, Jesus has walked by the "booth" of your heart. He has turned and looked you in the eyes, seeing into your soul, and asked the question, "Will you follow Me?" Everything you want can really only be found in Jesus. He alone is the

King of kings and the Savior of the world, the son of David and the son of Abraham. And He loves you.
Will you follow Him? Disciples follow Jesus.