

VOICE OF MATTHEW: “The King & His New Community of God”

In this series we will see how Matthew (1) strengthens people’s memory of Jesus by writing out the story of his life, (2) traces God’s epic plan for the Jewish people straight to the arrival of Jesus and his kingdom, and (3) arranges Jesus’ teachings into 5 big “People-Building Talks” so different traditions can utilize his words to debate and imagine a community together.

[study #4 focusing on [Matthew chpt. 10](#)]

Big-Talk #2: “How to Be on His Mission”



ACTION #1. [Did You Read Ahead?]

The leadup stories in [chpts. 8-9](#) prepare us for Jesus’ upcoming Big-Talk #2 in today’s study. For those who read ahead, were there any thoughts from the leadup stories that interested you the most?

chpts. 8-9 leadup stories’ theme:

the type of kingdom Jesus brings is
MORE PROFOUND (deeper, wider)
than most anticipated

2 curious verses to
check out sometime:
[8:11](#) ... [9:17](#)

ACTION #2. [Starting Big-Talk #2]

Read [Matthew 9:36-38](#) and then discuss: *what exactly motivated Jesus to begin training up leaders, and what, specifically, do you think he was going to train those leaders to be able to do?*

ACTION #3. Of the hundreds of people following Jesus, he now selected 12 to be his “Apostles,” which means “Sent Ones.” Read his basic instructions to them in [Matthew 10:1-20](#) and then discuss:

- what might the Apostles have been thinking when they heard Jesus’ command to *go do miracles*?
- how would describe the “theme” he told them to preach on... what does the phrase he used even mean?
- why do you think an important part of their mission was to either give a “blessing” or to “shake off the dust” of those they had preached to?... why might that have been an important thing to do?

ACTION #4. The rest of Jesus’ instructions sound like his “Sent Ones” were to expect great amounts of very personal conflict and that he was sending them into “disruption.” Read [Matthew 10:27-39](#) and discuss:

- why might the primetime for them to share God’s message be when folks are out of their comfort zones?
- what do you think Jesus even means when he says he has not come to bring peace, but rather a sword?
- how can his “peaceful” teachings for the family ever go together with those about “disrupting” them?

ACTION #5. It is interesting that Jesus warned his “Sent Ones” that God’s treatment of other people would be based on how those other people treated *them*. Read [Matthew 10:40-42](#) and discuss: what do you think about this principle... does it even make sense, or does it seem fair, or right?

READ AHEAD, maybe journal a page on it: [Matthew chpts. 11-12](#)