

# MINING IN MATTHEW: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

BY DR. JERRY VINES

*By the Book*™ A Chapter by  
Chapter Bible Study Series  
from Jerry Vines Ministries  
2295 Towne Lake Parkway  
Suite 116 #249  
Woodstock, GA 30189

## Let's Begin

*The Vines By the Book™ Bible study series enables you to study the New Testament in a chapter by chapter sequence. These leaders' guides are prepared to help you lead Bible studies in a simple, easy to understand manner.*

*The studies are not designed to cover every verse of the chapter. Rather, their intention is to give a summary view of the teaching each chapter presents. I believe as you pursue this method of Bible study, you will agree that going through the Bible chapter by chapter remains a great way—perhaps the greatest way—to understand God's Word.*

*The Gospel of Matthew is a gold mine of spiritual realities and a great place to dig for every nugget of truth you will need to live your life as Kingdom citizens.*

*As you study Matthew, may you and those you teach enter into God's wonderful will for you—experiencing life with Jesus Christ as King!*

*Jerry Vines*

## Matthew: The Most Popular Gospel

Matthew has been known as the “Teacher’s Gospel,” mainly because of the way Matthew put the Gospel together. It lends itself to such a suitable format. That alone may account for why it was the most quoted Gospel by the early Church among the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Mark’s Gospel has Jesus on the move, swiftly flowing from place to place, “preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God” (Mark 1:14-15). In Mark, the term translated “straightway” is used 19 times—more than the other three Gospels combined. It means “immediately”.

And while Luke’s Gospel focuses on Jesus’ encounters with Gentiles and John on the deeper meanings of Jesus’ sayings, Matthew focuses on the sermons of Jesus. Scholars call them “discourses.”

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For purposes here, we’ll just refer to them as His sermons. There are five. The first is also the most well known. We usually call it “The Sermon on the Mount” (chapters 5-7). The other four are found in chapters 10, 13, 18 and 24-25 respectively.

## Matthew: The Most Particular Gospel

Another important consideration as we mine the truth of Matthew’s Gospel is the obvious Jewish overtones recorded there. For example, reference to the Old Testament scripture in Matthew happens more frequently than in any of the other Gospels. There are well over a fifty direct quotations from the Old Testament with an additional seventy-five indirect references.

In addition, Matthew stresses not only the constant fulfillment of prophesy, but also the reign of the Messiah who comes from a Jewish lineage. This is not to say Matthew has no focus on Gentiles. In fact, the very first worshippers who came to Jesus were Gentiles from the East. *Magi* they were called (chapter 2).

Finally, what’s known as the Great Commission (chapter 29:19-20) was a global order Jesus issued to preach the Gospel to all nations because He was a Savior for the entire human population.



## Matthew: The Most Peculiar Gospel

No one would have chosen Matthew as the penman of the first record we possess concerning the birth of God's Son. At least, no one on earth. Here's why: Matthew was a publican—a tax collector—by profession. These men stood as the most fiercely hated people in the first century. In many cases, tax collectors were thieves and robbers, charging enormous sums of money beyond Rome's toll for their services. Often times, they served under bribes given by the richest people to drive poorer people out of business.

Also, those most patriotic to the restoration of the Jewish nation from the shackles of Rome viewed tax collectors like Matthew as the absolute scum of the earth. They could not understand why a Jew would sell their countrymen out for the approval of the likes of Rome. One needs only to take a peek at the Pharisees' attitude toward the publican in the temple area about which Jesus spoke to grasp a correct understanding of the attitude the multitudes had toward someone like Matthew (Luke 18:9-14).

## Matthew: The Most Personal Challenge

Following is an outline I think will greatly benefit you as you work your way through Matthew's Gospel. As you do, remember Matthew is **the most popular Gospel**. No Gospel was quoted more than Matthew by the early Church.

Also, recall that Matthew was **the most particular of all the Gospels**. That is, of the four Gospels, Matthew focused on the Jewishness of Jesus, the Messiah, and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Finally, as you dig your way through Matthew's gold mine of Gospel truth, sifting through every shovel God has for you, recall this: **Matthew is undoubtedly the most peculiar of the Gospels**. God took one of society's despicable rejects, transformed his life, forgave his sin, made him a new man and commissioned him not only as an Apostle but as the author of His life's story. What an amazing God we serve! What an amazing Gospel we study!

**The Revelation of the King (Chapters 1-10)**

**The Rebellion against the King (Chapters 11-13)**

**The Retirement of the King (Chapters 14-20)**

**The Rejection of the King (Chapters 21-27)**

**The Resurrection of the King (Chapter 28)**

