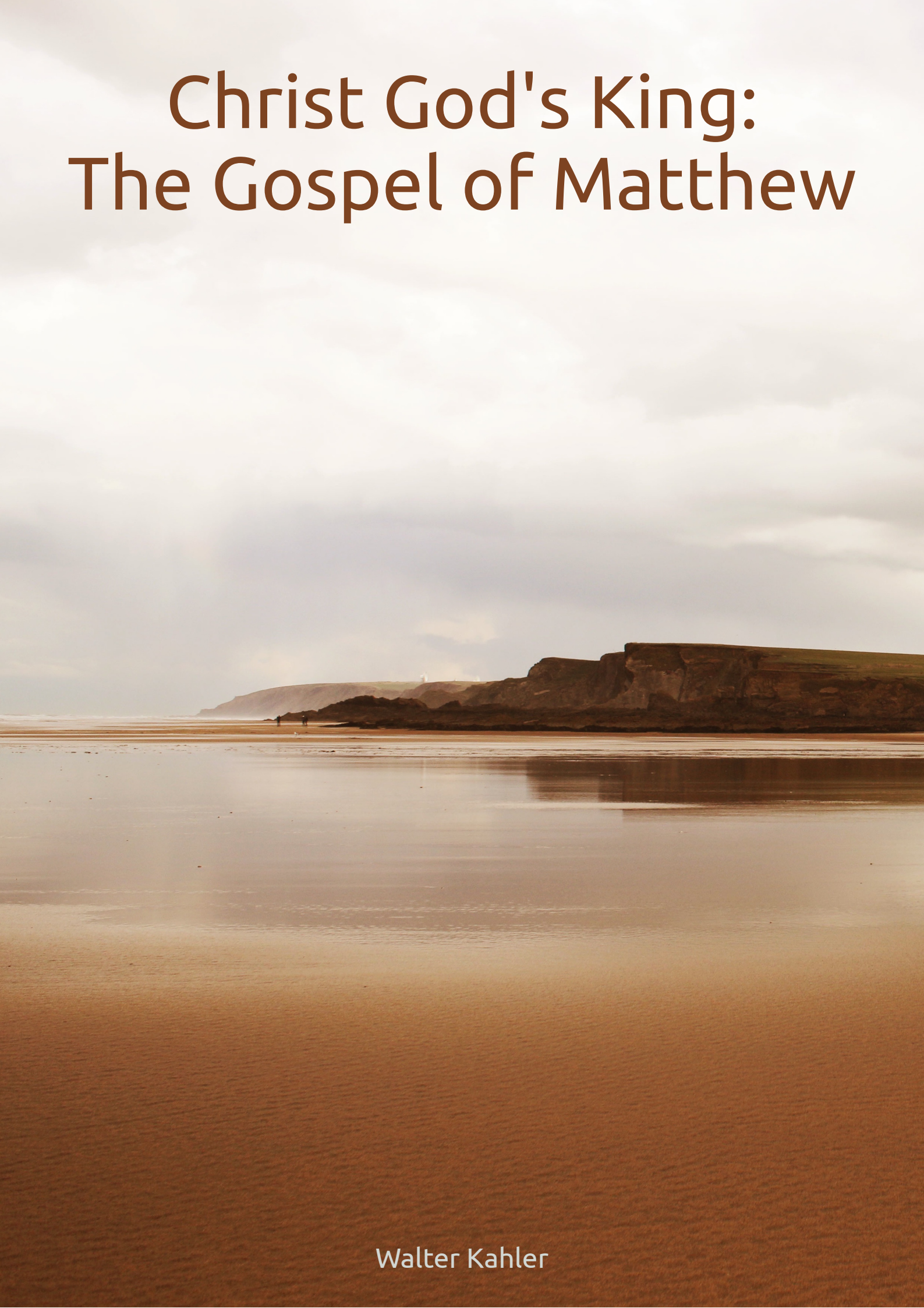


Christ God's King: The Gospel of Matthew



Walter Kahler

Christ The King

Christ the King:
The Gospel of Matthew
By
Walter Kahler

Christ The King

Table of Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1: God Establishes Christ's Kingship

Chapter 2: Christ's Birth: A Miraculous Gift from God

Chapter 3: The Three Wise Men Unwavering Trust

Chapter 4: Satan's Failed Attempt on Baby Jesus

Chapter 5: Repentance and the Commencement of Christ's Kingship

Chapter 6: Christ's Deliverance: God's Greatest Pleasure

Chapter 7: Christ Defeats Satan's Temptation

Chapter 8: Christ: The Essence Of Real Discipleship

Chapter 9: The Indisputable Miracles of Christ

Chapter 10: Christ's Sermon on the Mountain

Chapter 11: What Lies Beneath the Parables?

Chapter 12: Divided We Stand in God's Glory

Chapter 13: God's Unbelievable Sacrifice

Chapter 14: Christ's Resurrection Unveiled: God's Final Plan

Chapter 15: God's Greatest Commission: The Holy Spirit

Chapter 16: God's Final Chapter: Christ's Ascension

Christ The King

Introduction

I think you'll agree with me when I say each of the Gospels highlights the ministry of Christ as it unfolded before the world. The authors wrote on the way Jesus administered God's truth. And the Gospel of Matthew establishes Christ as God's King.

This book summarizes Christ's kingship. The writings are from Christ the King Series from A Christian Mindset blog www.achristianmindset.org It depicts the way God setup Jesus as King of His chosen people. The Disciple Matthew walks us through our Messiah ministry. In his Gospel it begins with a genealogy of Jesus and ends with the Great Commission.

Matthew takes us through a powerful narrative of how Christ shared God's message to the Jews. First, he discusses the remarkable birth of the Savior. Then he shows the troubles baby Jesus endure from the jealousy of king Herod. Next comes John the Baptist role in paving the way for Jesus to start His ministry.

It shows Christ crushing Satan's temptations, His Disciples calling, and His famous sermon on the mount. Then it highlights Christ's incredible power through His unbelievable miracles. Next it explains Jesus's parables followed by His separation of real believers from those who stay blinded to God's truth. Besides those points it heightens the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ Jesus.

Here's something we both can agree on is Matthew's Gospel gives compelling evidence to the reality of Jesus. Come take a journey through this life-changing account of our Savior.

Christ The King

Chapter 1

God Establishes Christ Kingship

God is fascinating in the way He delivered Christ into the world. Matthew a Disciple and author of a Gospel shows how God establishes Jesus as King.

In Matthew's opening chapter he records the genealogy of our Messiah. Here, God placed Christ as the Son of David who was king of Israel (Matthew 1:1). This testimony proves Christ as

royalty by highlighting a direct link to other kings of Israel. God used David's connection to bring light to Christ's Kingship.

Many Prophets shared with God's people the news of a future king with a spiritual wisdom unlike any other. Isaiah foretold the power he would have over the Lord's chosen ones (Isaiah 9:6). In God's

Christ The King

sovereignty, Christ holds the highest esteem.

Man's outlook on kingship is one of prestige, elegance, and power. God's King brings salvation with infinite spiritual life. In Matthew's Gospel the three wise men from the east came and worship the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

When new kings claim their thrones it's normal to send a messenger announcing his arrival. Matthew did the same by writing on John the Baptist's message of Christ's kingship (Matthew 3:1-12).

John's news reached a multitude of people and many flocked to their baptism. John's ministry prepared the way for Jesus' arrival and he shared repentance as the way of receiving God's New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

In the Book of Revelation Christ is King (Revelation 17:14), supporting Matthew's portrayal of Jesus's kingship. Another declamation referring to Christ the King is in the Gospel of John (John 12:15).

Jesus came to earth as King and in the second coming (Revelation

Christ The King

1:7) returns as King (Revelation 19:16). And God's faithful believers will join Him.

Have you found God's King?

Christ The King

Chapter 2

Christ's Birth: A Miraculous Gift From God

The birth of Christ is an incredible part of history. I think you'll agree with me when I say God's unique plan to use the Holy Spirit as the way to make Jesus human is astonishing. This remarkable set of circumstances hasn't reoccurred.

It's not by accident God used His Spirit to allow the Virgin Mary to conceive His Son. Our Father told His Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14) of this extraordinary future event.

Matthew's recording of the virgin birth (Matthew 1:18-25) gives

insight to the dangers Mary faced. In our modern times, it's normal for women to bear a child out of wedlock. But not so for Mary. She and the child's life became endangered. The penalty for this infraction of adultery ended in death.

But, Mary found favor with God (Luke 1:30), and He chose her to bear His

Christ The King

Son. This honor God granted her isn't by chance, but from her obedience and faithfulness. Remember, in Mary's time, God's people had trouble staying in good standing with Him. Her devotion didn't go unnoticed because God rewarded her faith with giving birth to His Son.

When I ponder over Christ's miraculous birth, it makes me joyful. Many people try to discount God's mightiness. They convince themselves conceiving a child without biological partners is absurd.

Thinking these thoughts isn't one of faith. Believers know faith is understanding with God everything is possible (Luke 1:37) and not by sight alone (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Remember, God always keeps His promises (2 Peter 3:9). And throughout the Old Testament, the Lord showed His plan for a saving King. So, Matthew's commentary of Christ's birth proves God's loyalty. Our Father never leaves us guessing. God's grace is an incredible blessing.

Christ's arrival on earth paved the way to our rebirth. On Jesus's

Christ The King

birthday, God's transformation from the old way of believing into His new one became a reality. In that town of Bethlehem laying in the manger, our Father showed the world His gift of salvation. But it's up to God who receives this eternal blessing.

I'm grateful for Christ's birth. Are you?

Christ The King

Chapter 3

The Three Wise Men Unwavering Trust

In Matthew's Gospel, he shares the journey of the three wise men from the east. In this story, two relevant circumstances arose from their arrival in Jerusalem. Their perseverance in finding baby Jesus showed an unwavering trust in God.

First, they asked where to find Christ's birthplace. They didn't hesitate telling others their mission is worshiping the King of the Jews.

And as the result of their inquiry it caused trouble amongst the citizens.

Their message disturbed Herod, the king. Because God used strangers to announce the news of his King's birth. This threatened Herod's throne. So the king of Judea gathered the Jewish spiritual leaders asking them where this remarkable event took place. They answered Herod by sharing Bethlehem (Matthew 2:6) as God's chosen town.

Christ The King

Even the residents of Jerusalem became terrified. Imagine living under Herod's hard rule knowing he wouldn't tolerate another king to invade his territory. And when those wise men disobeyed Herod, he took his rage out on the Jews by murdering their first-born boys ages two years and younger (Matthew 2:16).

The real revelation in Matthew's three wise men story is how the Jews didn't receive God's word. On Christ's birthday, God's chosen people became numb to His presence. They forgot God's prophecies because their spiritual leaders (the Pharisees) didn't teach them God's truth.

The Pharisees held Moses as the ultimate authority in sharing God's word. They relied on his teachings and added unique traditions for their followers. But when those wise men came to worship the King of the Jews it fell on deaf ears. None of them remembered Moses' words on God's truth on the birth of Christ (Deuteronomy 18:18-19).

The time of Christ's birth isn't an accident. God knew the way His

Christ The King

children believed needed to change. They became confused over the truth of God's word because their spiritual leaders misled them. So the Lord used Gentiles to announce Christ the King.

God commanded those men to worship baby Jesus. So they traveled to a foreign land leaving behind the comfort of home and humbled themselves to Christ the King (Matthew 2:11). Guided by God (star) these Gentiles glorified God by offering young Christ gifts.

I wonder if my faith is strong enough to do the same. Could I leave

my familiar place and have the spiritual confidence to share with total strangers God's message of salvation? Do I have trust in Christ to pick up my cross regardless of its burden and live in God's will?

The three wise men are excellent examples of a faith in action anchored in an unwavering trust in God. Matthew allowed us to witness their unshakable reliance on the Lord and when we follow Christ with the same actions, our lives become spiritually whole.

How do you relate to the three wise men story?

Christ The King

Chapter 4

Satan's Failed Attempt on Baby Jesus

God's mightiness is hard to fathom. In Matthew's Gospel, he gives insight into the Lord's undeniable strength. Our Father's enemy

(Satan) understood Christ's Kingship meant the end of his reign and tried using King Herod to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:13).

God knows everything and protected Christ from the wickedness of Herod. Nothing gets pass God (Jeremiah 16:17). Satan knows Christ's Kingship is God's final plan for humanity and tried to eliminate Him as a child.

Since God is almighty (Revelation 1:8)

the devil didn't exterminate the King of the Jews!

When you look at Matthew's second chapter a glimpse into God's undeniable plan of salvation emerges. Last week we discussed

Christ The King

God's announcement of His promised Messiah (Matthew 2:2). And the rest of this chapter shows us God's indisputable faithfulness. Our Father ensures us evilness will never defeat His King keeping our eternal inheritance in tact (Ephesians 1:11-12).

The devil uses many wicked ways to destroy God's kingdom. When Herod unleashed his rage on the Jewish people (Matthew 2:16) we see Satan's hatred.

Throughout the Old Testament the terror caused by Lucifer is real. In Noah's generation God stepped in and annihilated Satan's evil grip on the human heart (Genesis 6:17).

No one past or present can change the evil facts of the devil and Matthew saw this by watching Herod murder innocent boys (Matthew 2:16).

Even today we see this happening around the world but God in His Glory secured a way out of spiritual death. The Lord guaranteed Christ's delivery into the world so everyone is saved (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We are fortunate to experience God's grace and proclaim the good news of Christ!

Christ The King

In fact, God used the Prophet Jeremiah to make known the future suffering Christ birth caused at the time it took place (Jeremiah 31:15). You may wonder why God doesn't intervene and eradicate evilness. That's a great question, and it's hard to grasp the way God works. But a saving faith understands the Lord gives everyone a chance to know Him.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

(Romans 1:20 NKJV).

God keeps His word and led Joseph into Egypt fulfilling Hosea prophecy (Hosea 11:1). Our Father never changes and His word without exception is pure. Everything God does is in the Bible and He used Matthew to highlight the prophecies from the Old Testament.

Matthew closes his second chapter by giving us the reason Christ lived in Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23). Again we come in contact with Satan's relentless attempts on killing baby Jesus. This is the

Christ The King

third time God sent an angel to direct Joseph actions in protecting His Son.

When I pause and ponder over Matthew's second chapter it strengthen my trust in God's eternal plan. This recorded Biblical history gives me the opportunity to test my faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). And for me God's words are more than metaphors they are the actions I need to take to live in Christ.

What's your outlook on Matthew's second chapter?

Christ The King

Chapter 5

Repentance and the Commencement Of Christ's Kingship

Experiencing Christ's commencement begins with repentance. Nothing grabs Jesus's attention more than a believer's willingness to turn away from sin and do the will of God.

In the past weeks, we saw how God established Christ as King (Matthew 1: 1-17) and reviewed Jesus' unconventional birth (Matthew 1:18-25).

Next, we examined the three wise men declaration of Christ the King (Matthew 2:1-12).

And then we looked at Satan's failed assassination on baby Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15). So, when the devil didn't succeed in killing God's King we saw Lucifer's murderous acts on innocent boy's (Matthew 2:16-18).

Our last conversation ended with how Christ became a Nazarene (Matthew 2:19-23).

Now we check out the role John the Baptist plays in proclaiming

Christ The King

Christ the King of the Jews.

In Fact, when new Kings took the throne he sent a messenger announcing his kingship. Likewise, God did the same by choosing John the Baptist as His envoy.

God used John as a courier for Christ's Kingship. John's ministry became the starting point to God's new Covenant with humanity. And for this reason (God's kingdom) the Lord's messenger preached repentance (Matthew 3:2).

In Matthew's third chapter God shows us the course of action, oneself must take to receive His King. Since God's Spirit worked through John, it paved the way for Christ's commencement. First Matthew tells us John listened to those whom he baptized confess their sins (Matthew 3:6).

Yes, confession is an imperative action in a life anchored in Christ's Deity and without a willingness to confess a believer's life experiences unnecessary suffering.

But God's messenger didn't stop at confession. No, he emphasized a change in behavior through repentance.

Christ The King

And those two Christian attributes (confession and repentance) are equally relevant to our present day walk in Christ!

The Pharisees and Sadducees became curious and visited the Jordan where many Jews received baptism. Upon their arrival, John unleashed a strong warning on their motives. His stern words (Matthew 3:7-10) are most compelling evidence of how they weren't favorable in God's eyes. Here Matthew displays their spiritual fate by illustrating their inward hearts.

John's confrontation with the Pharisees and Sadducees is important to realize because if I'm not right in my faith, the same results will happen to me. This means I must live in repentance and prove a change in behavior.

Repentance is a point often overlooked. Since God holds repentance as one of His highest commandments (2 Chronicles 7:14), then it becomes crucial to understand how to apply it to our faith. I know repentance is hard. In my journey with Christ, the greatest spiritual lessons I've learned come from my disobedience. When I hold onto sin, my spirit is gravely affected, and I suffer from guilt. Until I

Christ The King

get right with Christ, the spiritual pain causes me to make unwise decisions.

But when I stop and spend quiet time confessing my sin to Christ, then when God sees fit He releases my turmoil. Even though at times it takes a while before I experience God's mercy; without exception this experience changes my behavior. And the more I spend quiet time with Christ the easier I find to live holy.

This message of repentance John preached is a focal point for every Christian past and present. The moment he began sharing God's plan

of preparation for Christ an entry into His kingdom emerged.

God wants everybody to understand salvation starts with an act of contrition. Once we humble ourselves, without reservation, then

Christ takes control of our hearts, and we learn the real meaning of repentance. Since Matthew shared with us the importance of repentance then there are no excuses not to apply John's message.

What are your thoughts on repentance?

Christ The King

Chapter 6

Christ's Deliverance: God's Greatest Pleasure

God is astonishing in the way He keeps His word. For centuries He used Prophets to prepare for the day of Christ's deliverance. The Lord's love for His Son coupled with His compassion for humanity gives Him incredible pleasure.

God made this eternal deliverance His greatest gift. To receive this infinite treasure, one must receive God's grace (Ephesians 2:8). Because of Christ's baptism; God's new plan for salvation is real (Matthew 3:15).

Last week we discussed God's message of repentance. We saw the crucial role an act of contrition is in God's eyes.

Christ The King

Matthew wastes no time to show us God's joy in delivering His beloved Son (Matthew 3:16-17).

When God speaks, it has the utmost importance for humanity. It's imperative to understand God's language. Without knowledge of His dialect, eternal life stays elusive. And, Matthew recorded Christ's deliverance through God's voice.

Here in this part of Matthew's third chapter (Matthew 3:13-17), we come to see God's overwhelming joy for His Son.

Since Adam and Eve's disobedience, it's rare for God to express

pleasure with humanity. In Jesus's baptism, God treats us with His happiness.

Imagine witnessing God's pleasure. It's mind boggling pondering over the Lord's excitement to give humanity a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). But God's love is never absent from those He saves. I'm thankful to understand Christ is the way to God's kingdom (John 14:6).

Watching the pleasure God showed in delivering His Son is a privilege. With this in mind, remember not everyone understands the meaning behind Christ's ministry. This experience is an incredible gift. We are

Christ The King

fortunate God included us in His kingdom.

The moment God exposed Christ as His Son the way of believing in Him changed. At the time of Christ's arrival, an unfavorable faith in God developed and under those circumstances God put right this tragic mistake.

At this point in man's history, many believers relied on traditions handed to them through the generations. Most of those doctrines center on rituals and not anchored in God's truth. But Christ's deliverance put an end to this incorrect understanding of God's word.

Because of Christ's deliverance God unlocked His mysteries (Colossians 1:24-27).

When I meditate over Christ's deliverance, it makes me grateful for God's truth.

I use to live in darkness consumed by a life full of resentment, bitterness, and selfishness. Everything I centered in prideful motives leading to a life filled with disappointment.

It brings me great pleasure to share with you God pulled me from the darkness. Today my life changed, and it started with God introducing

Christ The King

me to Christ. This new way of living isn't easy, but with Christ, as my guide, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37). Even though I'm not perfect Christ helps me overcome my sinful nature.

Christ's deliverance fosters many discussions, and we have touched on a few of them. We can agree without Christ our lives stay troubled. But on the positive side with Him, our place in God's kingdom is everlasting!

What does Christ's deliverance mean to you?

Christ The King

Chapter 7

Christ Defeats Satan's Temptations

As we continue looking at Matthew's Gospel we see how God made Christ the King over temptation. A most compelling evidence attesting to this truth is the way Christ defeats Satan's temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:3-11).

A temptation is a real and devastating problem. Eve couldn't resist it nor did Adam. I can't either and neither can you. The moment we give

into its demand, everything changes for the worse. In fact, this three syllables ten letter word damages our relationship with God.

But the Lord's love for His children is greater than the trouble temptation causes because He redeems us through Christ.

To show us Christ's as the redeemer, Matthew's testimony to the three temptations He faced proves Jesus is stronger than everything the devil can dole out. Each time Lucifer confronted Christ with his cunning deception He didn't waver from God's powerful truths. When we take a deeper look into the enticement, Satan used against

Christ The King

Christ an incredible insight of God's sovereignty emerges. Since the Messiah is God's Son so Lucifer created those temptations to overtake Jesus's kingship.

In other words, those attempts of disobedience aren't for humans but made for Jesus. The devil understood who Christ is and designed his temptation in line with assaulting His loyalty to God.

For instance, the devil's first try to trick Jesus is asking Him to do a miracle. Here Matthew shows us the wisdom of Christ. Jesus rebutted His tempter by sharing the purpose of life isn't just physical.

Christ used the Old Testament scripture to let Satan know the way God intends for a believer to live (Deuteronomy 8:3). Here our Messiah gives us a blueprint for building a spiritual foundation anchored in God's will. Remember, my friends.

Salvation goes beyond the flesh. After Jesus defeated Satan's first entrapment, then he tries to lure Christ into tempting God. Here we find the devil seeking to extinguish himself as an expert in interpreting God's word. The devil used Psalm 91:11-12 to show our Messiah his knowledge of God's law. Again Jesus corrected him by explaining another key point in living in

Christ The King

God's kingdom is never to tempt the Father (Deuteronomy 6:16). Here Christ gives His adversary God's truth to stress the Lord's way in staying humble. Tempting God is useless because He is the most powerful and knows our hearts.

God's enemy failed in those two attempts but gave one last try to make Christ stumble. This last temptation is the real motive behind Satan's intention of turning away from God and working for his evil deeds. But Christ's unshakable trust in the Lord coupled with His perfect wisdom crushed the devil's trap. Jesus said to him: "Away with

you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Matthew gives concrete evidence of Christ's undeniable power in defeating Satan's temptations. Under those circumstances, Jesus proved He is God's King by illustrating His dominance over sin. Through Christ's victory, God rewarded Him by sending angels to minister to Him (Matthew 4:11). Likewise, we receive a blessing when we rely on Jesus because God takes notice when we move away from sin and into righteousness.

Christ The King

I know the result of temptation. Every time I give into its enticing call my spirit becomes disturbed leading me to sin. I'm powerless over its entrapment. The moment I succumb to its demands my relationship with God becomes fractured placing a wedge between Christ and me.

On my own, this troubling dilemma gets worse. But when I humble myself before Christ and ask for help I find courage beyond mine.

Then I'm able to stop and turn away from temptation.

My battles with temptation are overwhelming. But because of my everyday reliance on Christ, those wars become less. Since Christ

overtook Satan's domain, He gives me the strength to live in God's will.

I'm not perfect and when I sin my willingness to repent gives me a way back to Christ. Even though I have to wait for God's mercy the results from practicing patience outweigh the suffering caused by a hardened heart.

In conclusion, temptations aren't impossible to overcome because God gave us Christ as our saving King. No matter how tempting you become remember Jesus is never absent.

Christ The King

How do you overcome your temptation?

Christ The King

Chapter 8

Christ: The Essence of Real Discipleship

After Christ had returned from His 40 days of fasting (Matthew 4:1-2), He chose His first four disciples. God planned for His Son's ministry to be short, and Christ needed to teach others the mysteries of God's kingdom (Colossians 1:26-27). These four men became the essence of real discipleship.

It's not by accident Christ approached these men. Since Christ is God (John 10:30), we see God's Spirit working because those men without

delay followed Jesus. They didn't question who Jesus is and did as He asked. This illustrates God's undeniable presence in a faithful believer's life.

The first two men anointed to discipleship are Peter and his brother Andrew (Matthew 4:18). They were fishermen casting their nets from the shore. Christ told them He will make them fisher of men (Matthew 4:19). Here Jesus gives us the essence of discipleship-fishers of men.

In fact, Christ appointed Peter as the leader of His church.

The next two who Christ called on is James and John (Matthew 4:21-

Christ The King

22). Again Matthew highlights the impact God made in their lives. Those two men showed an unshakable trust in Christ because upon hearing God's command they picked up their cross and walked with Christ.

When we take an honest look at the way, those men responded to Christ; we gain knowledge into true discipleship. The first thing to remember is their unselfish commitment to God. Their faith shows us a disciple denies oneself for the will of God. It takes selflessness to live as a disciple. Likewise, for us to become disciples, we must do the

same.

Jesus recruited eight more disciples. One of those twelve betrayed Him (Judas Iscariot) in the garden of Gethsemane. Many others entered discipleship because God planned for anyone who believes in Christ sovereignty (John 8:31-32). Today others are still being granted this same privilege.

The essence of discipleship is applying Christ's teachings to our everyday lives. It's easy speaking the Gospels. But a more challenging presentation of God's Spirit is exemplifying the impact Christ has in

Christ The King

the way we respond to adversity.

For example, our reactions to life terms need to radiate the way Christ dealt with His troubles. Even though our problems don't match the ones Jesus endured, He shows us the spiritual principles necessary in staying firm on God's word. It's our reliance on Christ that we find courage beyond ours to face the world full of evilness.

One of the first things to remember is discipleship radiates God's Living Spirit. This doesn't mean a disciple is perfect. Everyone falls short of living in God's will (Romans 3:23), and no one is free from sin

(1 John 1:1-10). With this in mind, we must remember it's our willingness to repent and let Christ remove our trespasses. Nothing pleases God more than a believer's action of repentance.

A disciple is a spiritual craftsman working for Christ's Deity spreading God's truth. And for this purpose, the Holy Spirit is the driving force behind discipleship. Without God's Spirit present in the life of a disciple, the message of Christ's Kingship is ineffective. This includes taking a self-righteous approach in sharing Jesus's truths.

Discipleship is of divine importance because our spiritual lives depend

Christ The King

on our willingness to live in Christ. This significant God-granted experience is not without responsibility. We must pick up our cross (regardless of its pain) and become His servants. Remember we no longer living in the world but God's kingdom!

Are prepared for Christ discipleship?

Christ The King

Chapter 9

The Indisputable Miracles of God

God never fails to place Himself as the true God, and He used Christ's miracles as the means of setting Himself above everything. No other false gods match God's eternal grace.

We are discussing the Gospel of Matthew. In this Gospel, God established His Son Christ as King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). The Lord made His King unlike any other king manned. No human king equals Christ's eternal powers. Because when Christ walked on earth He healed many human sicknesses (Matthew 4:23).

It's important to realize the way God operates. When we look at the last three scriptures in Matthew's fourth chapter, we notice God's divine plan working in Christ's healing ministry. Our Father captivated those present since many traveled to see Him work wonders. They

Christ The King

became baffled over Jesus's ability to heal.

Christ carried out thirty-seven recorded miracles. With this in mind, God leaves no doubt of whom Christ is because those unusual events come from God and no human can duplicate them. No human past or present can heal or cure the many physical defects known to humanity.

Yes, the disciples healed others, but it was through the Holy Spirit they did miracles. And those miracles are a witness to God's existence and His powerfulness.

In the days of Christ's ministry, God saw it fitting to show those living on earth an unbelievable experience. Right before their eyes, a first of its kind set of events unfolded. They heard of the miracles of how God parted the Red Sea and provided food.

With their own eyes, the indisputable existence of Christ's supernatural powers emerged.

One of the greatest of miracles Christ showed was raising humans from physical death. To highlight His unique qualities, Jesus raised three people from the dead (Matthew 9:18, 23 Luke 5:11 John 11:43).

Christ The King

Take a moment and envision this incredible display of Christ's amazing ability. It's inconceivable. But God is almighty, and this resurrection miracle (Matthew 9:25) proves Christ is His Son because no human restores human life.

Besides resurrecting others from death, Christ gave sight to the blind (Matthew 9:29).

Imagine being blind, never seeing God's stunning natural wonders. Unable to predict the way your mother looks or fixate on a sunrise. They lived in darkness. Then through your faith and asking Christ for

healing, your sight restored watching the world for the first time. God is remarkable, and this miracle is the essence of Christ's unbelievable ability to do the impossible (Luke 18:27).

Another miracle Christ did was curing a leper. When Jesus walked on earth, this infectious disease frightens people. Hopelessness plagued those inflicted. The infected became outcasts living in isolation. They couldn't live with family friends or with the general population. Those free from the illness thought unfavorable towards them because of superstitions. Anyone touches a leper became uncleaned and could

Christ The King

not live among the healthy. But Jesus placed His hands on him, and the leprosy was no more (Matthew 8:3).

The indisputable miracles of Christ give us the wisdom of God's powerfulness. Miracles explain the extraordinary attributes of God aimed at showing us His love for humanity. Christ's miracles strengthen our faith because in our present times we don't experience miracles. Remember our faith isn't by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

What do Jesus's miracles mean to you?

Christ The King

Chapter 10

Christ's Sermon on the Mountain

I have heard many great sermons preached on God's truth. Those pastors are pouring out their hearts to spread God's words. They motivate, inspire and encourage me to live for God. But the most excellent sermon I've ever read is the Sermon on the Mountain and the one sharing is Christ Himself.

Understanding the Sermon on the Mountain (Matthew: Chapters 5-7) is of the utmost importance. In fact, this speech speaks volumes and describes the Christian qualities God's expects from his faithful followers.

Those chapters are Christ's blueprints for building a spiritual

Christ The King

foundation anchored in God's Spirit. Here Christ gives us the tools of righteousness and leaves no doubt of the will of God.

Contained within those three chapters are God's real truths and corrects every wrong presentation of the Lord's word. In the Old Testament, the stubborn attitudes from God's chosen ones continued to place distance between them and God. They became misled, and their spiritual leaders taught them an incorrect understanding of God's word.

They practiced Jewish traditions giving little or no focus on God's law.

And when the time came for God to deliver Christ to them they were unprepared for the Lord's truth.

As soon as Christ taught His Disciples the wisdom behind the Father's words everything they knew changed. The scriptures written in The Sermon on the Mountain comes directly from God's voice and spoken by Christ.

Christ's opens His sermon with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) and ends it by telling the disciples His role as God's Son (Matthew 7:24-27).

Christ The King

The Sermon on the Mountain shows the actions a member in Christ's kingdom needs to take to find favor with God. In fact, the other three Gospels support its validity. Everything Jesus spoke of in this powerful sermon is in each Gospel. God is constant, never deviates from His words and we understand this from the way the Gospels tells the same truths.

In this sermon, Christ's delivers God's message of how a believer needs to respond to life's terms. In other words, it spells out the solutions to the way we approach God (Matthew 6:5-15) and how to

treat our neighbors (Matthew 5:43-48). Christ made sure He spoke on the actions God wants humans to take to live in His kingdom.

Christ shows God's way of handling anger (Matthew 5:21-24), lust (Matthew 5:27-30), marriage (Matthew 5:31-32), and hatred (Matthew 5:43-48). Jesus explained the reason not live by oaths (Matthew 5:33-37) and how to avoid selfishness (Matthew 5:38-42).

In Chapter 6 the sermon identifies the proper way to please God (Matthew 6:1-4). Jesus spoke on how to pray (Matthew 6:5-15) and fasting (Matthew 6:16-18). The rest of this chapter places the focus on

Christ The King

building a relationship with God (Matthew 6:19-20, 24) righteousness (Matthew 6:22-24), and trusting God (Matthew 6:25-34).

Chapter seven begins with Jesus sharing God's command of taking a non-judgmental towards others. Then Christ points out going to God by asking, seeking and knocking on God's door. The last sixteen verses of chapter seven cover the narrow way, false belief, and reliance on Christ himself.

Over the next few weeks, I will share a deeper look into The Sermon on the Mountain. I hope you will join me and share your experiences with

Christ's masterful display of God's word.

Christ The King

The Beatitudes

Throughout man's history, God recognizes faithful believers. He rewards those who place Him as their number one priority and live by His commandments. The Lord blesses His chosen ones, and in the Gospel of Matthew, we find this to be true. Blessed are God's faithful followers.

Christ's sermon on the mountain begins with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12). Each of them starts with a blessing. In fact, this is Christ's way of reaching out to humanity with the keys to eternal happiness. Because being blessed means living a joyful life through God's grace.

This blissful consciousness is God given and not by our making. And when we live the Beatitudes, God takes notice, and our lives become prime examples of a Christ-centered life. And this makes living in a broken world enjoyable.

Jesus uses the Beatitudes as the blueprint for a life built on God's word through living in His truths. They radiate a life anchored in Christ's Deity showing others the inner-workings of God's Spirit. In the same way, they are the spiritual principles the Lord gives to those worthy to receive His unconditional love. In the Beatitudes, Christ outlines God's

Christ The King

eternal plan for a life centered on Christian action. As a matter of fact, it's in those scriptures that Jesus spells out in perfect detail the behavior a Christian must show to find God's blessing. For this reason, we need to deny ourselves and live for Christ.

It's important to realize the Beatitudes have three distinct attributes. First, they show a life rooted in humility. For example, becoming poor in spirit isn't a lack of spirit but is surrendering free will for God's purposes.

Once a believer becomes willing to continue letting go of individualism for Christ's sake then his or her spirit transforms into one driven by the Holy Spirit. And this brings an overwhelming want to serve God better.

This spiritual transition from spiritual darkness into Christ's light opens the door to the kingdom of heaven. And the more our spirits yearn for God, the happier we become because real gratification of life comes from dependence on Christ and not from selfish motives.

The second Christian attribute contained within the Beatitudes is acting on God's word without reservations. A point often overlooked is

Christ The King

salvation is an active participation in God's truth. And this means developing a personal willingness to apply faith under each circumstance of a Christian's life. With this in mind it's easy to understand words are meaningless until they become active. Christ makes it easy to understand the meaning behind the Beatitudes.

As a matter of fact finding the kingdom of heaven, God's comfort, eternal inheritance, and Christ's righteousness are more than words. One must take action by showing God a willingness to do His will in a world that rejects His truths. This means showing a humble,

mournful, and righteous life (in unjust circumstances) and knowing others will ridicule us for standing firm on Christ's words.

The last spiritual attribute in Christ's Beatitudes is receiving God's unconditional love. A most compelling evidence to God's love is best shown in His rewards of mercy, seeing Him, becoming sons of God. And receiving a great reward in heaven for standing firm in times of Christ persecution is His gift to the faithful.

Christ didn't shy away
from the way God responds to those who follow the Beatitudes.
In my past unhappiness raised its head. Living in darkness brought me

Christ The King

emptiness and discontent. Everything I tried to bring me joy failed because I lived in the lusts of the world. My selfish motives became interwoven in prideful ambitions. I knew nothing of meekness nor God Himself. Then, when I wanted to die, God rescued me.

I'm grateful God saved me and introduced me to Christ. Today my code for Christian living are the Beatitudes. I'm not perfect and fail to live those spiritual truths. But the moment I realize my failure and humbly ask Christ for help then through repentance I'm connected to the Holy Spirit.

How do you practice the Beatitudes?

Christ The King

The Bright and Sweet Aroma of Salvation

God is incredible. His eternal light is bright, and the sweet aroma of salvation is His endless gift of good fruit. This experience comes from the ones Christ receives from God (John 17:24).

Christ is impressive in the way He teaches God's truths. One of His greatest messages is making a real believer the salt and light of salvation (Matthew 5:13-16).

In other words, living in the Lord's kingdom is full of flavor and filled with eternal light. And this means we must show those around us the impact Christ has on our lives through our Christian actions.

In our study of the Sermon on the Mountain (Matthew Chapters 5-7) we come into contact with Christ's remarkable way of sharing God's truths.

Remember the Beatitudes gave us a glimpse into the Lord's

Christ The King

designed plan for righteous living.

To put it another way, those truths hold us accountable to show others the way the Lord wants us to live for His purpose. This is important to realize because Christ's next discussion is taking those internal changes and displaying them to those around us.

Since God saves a soul through His grace (Ephesians 2:8), then we need to attract others into His light. For this reason, He delivered Christ to us so we can shine above our carnal selves and radiate the sweet aroma of a saved life.

And when we live by God's will then our lives are a bright spot to those around us. For one thing, the Holy Spirit gives us the Christian attributes needed to help others overcome adversity. It's in Christ we find the wisdom to comfort those in distress.

Shining Christ's Light to those around us comes with responsibility. The first thing to remember is God watches the way we treat our neighbors.

Remember we don't choose who Christ places in our paths. It's easy assisting others we love, but the more challenging testimony of our

Christ The King

faith is when God asks us to shine His light on someone we want to avoid. In this case, the Lord is asking us to go beyond our personal preference and offer our selfless services. And failing to not act on God's commandment opens the door for a hardened heart.

Living a distasteful life brought me negative results. My life full of bitterness, resentment, and jealousy. The way I conducted myself left a horrible taste in other mouths. I was vulgar and rude causing people to turn away from my ungodly behavior. This immoral way of living left me alone, afraid and at odds with God.

I'm pleased to announce to you I'm no longer bearing rotten fruit. God stepped in and pulled me out of the black hole of despair and everything changed. And for the first time, I saw His shining Light. Today even in my imperfections Christ's never dimmed His light. I now know the fruits of salvation, and this keeps me seeking the will of God.

It's not by accident we cross paths with other believers. Since our bond is with Christ, God attracts us through the Holy Spirit and this unity strengthen His kingdom.

Christ The King

As long as we keep faithful our place in God's house is secure. It's important to realize Christ makes sure our light is bright, and this allows us to share with others God's everlasting reality.

Expressing love, reaching out to others and giving more than expected are the results from Christ's light and leaves the greatest impression to those receiving it. This is even more rewarding when we show the ones we dislike the same as those we love.

The experiences of Christ's light are many, and we have touched on a few of them. Christ provides us many opportunities to shine. God's salt

heals because it never goes flat. And when we show others, the source of our Light this pleases God because we are professing His truth.

How do you shine Christ's light to others?

Christ The King

The Undeniable Key of Righteousness

In Christ's sermon on the mountain (Matthew Chapters 5-7) He shows the conduct God expects a member of His kingdom to manifest to their neighbors. When we take an honest view of the Bible, our understanding of how God opposes mistreating others emerges. And Christ spoke on the key of righteousness.

Jesus held nothing back when speaking of God's truth. In His homily, He set right every misinterpretation on anger (Matthew 5:21-26), adultery (Matthew 5:27-30), and marriage (Matthew 5:31-

32; Matthew 19:1-10).

Likewise, Christ illuminates the way to selflessness (Matthew 5:38-42), unconditional love (Matthew 5:43-48), and humility (Matthew 7:1-6).

It's in this part of Christ's teachings He lays out the Christian actions necessary in living a God-centered life. The first thing to remember is Jesus highlights love (Matthew 5:43-48) as God's favorable interaction with those who cause us trouble. So finding spiritual love comes from reliance on Christ.

Christ The King

Righteousness is out of reach on willpower alone. We understand this truth when we revisit Adam and Eve's great fall from God's grace (Genesis 3: 1-19). The second they disobeyed God, sin sprouted and corrupted the human soul. Their penalty for disobedience cost them God's affection, but the Lord loved them and provided them the key to a pure heart (Genesis 3:22).

Remember, Christ defeated sin (1 Peter 2:24) and without His intervention, in the way, I react to being mistreated is sinful. Think of it this way. When someone belittles me and I react in the same way,

then sin controls my response. But the more I grow in Christ when those circumstances arise my ability to forgive increases. And when I fall short in love, then repentance is my way back to righteousness. It's important to realize the key to righteousness as set forth through Christ's firm teaching is love and humility. Both a loving and humble existence lead to a life of glorifying and serving God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and helping others. God is pleased when we live a modest life and express His love to others.

For example, when Christ talked about murder, He made it known

Christ The King

anger is its taproot. In, our generation the world reminds us the devastation anger causes in society. Nowadays, murder is a headline broadcast to the masses.

Jesus understood anger is dangerous and the way to stop it from infesting the heart is reconciling our indifferences and making amends for wrong doings (Matthew 5:24). Making right wrongdoing is an act of love and an example of humility.

Love coupled with humility removes resentment and brings serenity in angry circumstances. And when we show those around us God's love

our lives become rich in righteousness.

Another excellent illustration of pure at heart is understanding other's sinful ways (Matthew 7:1-6). It's easy to forget my sinful actions. At birth, sin is present (Romans 5:12). So passing judgment on others is senseless because God knows everyone falls short in living holy.

I am familiar with the fruitfulness of pointing the finger at people's shortcomings. Many times when I become self-righteous it's an unpleasant experience. I never walk away from it feeling good. But the more willing I am to live in Christ the less I judge others. This

Christ The King

revelation brings me peace and I can love people who cause me problems.

Our discussion on the key to righteousness comes to an end, and we touched on a few aspects to its reverence for God. Since righteousness doesn't come easy then a more comprehensive understanding stems from building a personal relationship with Christ. And with Jesus as our guide finding a pure heart is God's reward for adhering to His word.

Have you found the key to righteousness?

Christ The King

Unleashing the Power Of Prayer

One of the most common stumbling block in unleashing the power of prayer is avoiding alone time with God. It's easy allowing the demands of family, careers and social events to override my prayer life.

When I become too busy for God, it opens the door for unnecessary troubles. I know this from experience because when I'm not active in embracing Christ, my problems become overwhelming and I take the wrong actions in finding a resolution.

But the moment I show God my undivided attention then He takes my life and eliminates my obstacles. This doesn't mean it takes place right away. A point often overlooked is God uses a timetable, unlike mine. The emphasis is without Christ as my top priority my prayers stay unanswered.

Christ The King

The Lifeline of Prayer

Think of it this way. When a child's conception happens, the umbilical cord is its lifeline. And without this essential physical bond between mother and child life doesn't exist.

Likewise, the same holds true in prayer because failing to speak with the Lord cuts me off from the Light of Christ. And living in spiritual darkness is eternal death.

As we continue looking at the Gospel of Matthew Christ shows how

Christ The King

confused the believers are in knowing God's truths. One problem they experienced is understanding the way God wants a believer to pray. With this in mind, Jesus delivered them the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Many of us approach prayer with good intentions but lose focus on the way God wants us to speak to Him. No one is perfect in their walk with the Lord (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In Matthew sixth chapter verses five through fifteen we find Christ's exceptional lesson for praying. It's not by accident Jesus first shared

on preparing the proper mindset for rightful praying (Matthew 6:5-7). Our Messiah pointed out two unfavorable approaches for praying and one worthy of receiving God's grace.

Improper Prayer

Jesus started with a stern message on humility. It's important to realize God disapproves prideful actions. Here Jesus tells us not to pray intending to show others (Matthew 6:5). And Christ warns us a prayer anchored in self-centeredness is unprofitable in God's eyes. Remember the Lord doesn't find it amusing to live as a hypocrite.

Christ The King

The second key in Christ prayer lesson is avoiding repetitive words. Our Messiah identified prays with long and duplicate words are worthless to God.

Christ said this:

“And when you pray do not use vain repetitions as the heathens do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”

(Matthew 6:7)

No, the Lord prefers a simple and sincere language.

Christ's Vision of Proper Praying

God is faithful to those who follow His commands and Christ reminds us this truth. Jesus left no doubt the greatest approach in praying is private. Nothing pleases God more than facing Him alone. Here Jesus promises if we do this then God will answer our prayer, and our reward becomes noticeable (Matthew 6:6).

Christ's Prayer Command

Once I get Christ's recipe for acceptable praying, then the wisdom behind the Lord's Prayer is at my disposal. It's in this prayer I find the three ingredients needed in unleashing the power of prayer.

Christ The King

The first action to take is glorifying God (Matthew 6:9). Christ made it known God responds to those who glorify Him. And when we obey our Messiah God steps in and protects us from His enemy. Nothing draws us closer to our Creator than honoring His presence. And nothing matches God's indisputable grace.

Selfless service to God (Matthew 6:10) is a key to finding the full might of prayer and brings us to Jesus's second point in the Lord's Prayer. Each of us understands the essence of serving God's purpose brings us incredible spiritual balance in every circumstance of living. Nothing is more impactful or profound than working for God!

The last three verses of Christ's lesson on proper praying is asking God for guidance (Matthew 6:11-13). In those scriptures, Jesus commands us to ask God for spiritual food (our daily bread), forgiveness of sin (others included), and removal from temptation and deliverance from evil. Each of those requests is straightforward petitions keeping us focused on fulfilling His will.

Now with Christ's knowledge of praying and our willingness to apply it then we can unleash its full potential. Every one of us has bear witness

Christ The King

to the miracle of prayer both in personal experience and observing others victory. Remember with God everything is possible!

Have you unleashed the power of prayer?

Christ The King

Chapter 11

What Lies Beneath the Parables

Parables are priceless analogies of faith in action. Jesus used them to show examples of God's truths through visualizing His word through a story. And what lies beneath the parables is an endless delivery of God's wisdom.

In Matthew's Gospel twenty parables come to the surface and overall thirty-nine appear in three Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). With this in mind, we see they play a significant role in learning God's truths.

Christ The King

Their simplicity is a point often overlooked. The Parables are full of incredible insight in understanding God's word, yet I have a tendency to over-think them and complicate their message. This why placing my trust in Christ is crucial in uncovering the meaning of those fascinating scriptures.

It may surprise you not everyone understood Christ's parables (Matthew 10:13-15). Since, God knows the hearts of humans (Luke 16:15) and at Jesus' time on earth, many lived in dead faith; He decided to hide their meanings. And their refusal to accept God's real word cost them the wisdom to understand God's will.

In fact, the Apostles were the first men to gain the knowledge (Matthew 13:16-17) of their powerful lessons. Jesus knew His ascension into heaven was inevitable and used the Parables as a way of preparing them for life after His departure. Christ explained their secrets to help them spread His Gospel.

It's in the Parables we find the spiritual actions needed to apply God's

Christ The King

Their simplicity is a point often overlooked. The Parables are full of incredible insight in understanding God's word, yet I have a tendency to over-think them and complicate their message. This why placing my trust in Christ is crucial in uncovering the meaning of those fascinating scriptures.

It may surprise you not everyone understood Christ's parables (Matthew 10:13-15). Since, God knows the hearts of humans (Luke 16:15) and at Jesus' time on earth, many lived in dead faith; He decided to hide their meanings. And their refusal to accept God's real word cost them the wisdom to understand God's will.

In fact, the Apostles were the first men to gain the knowledge (Matthew 13:16-17) of their powerful lessons. Jesus knew His ascension into heaven was inevitable and used the Parables as a way of preparing them for life after His departure. Christ explained their secrets to help them spread His Gospel.

It's in the Parables we find the spiritual actions needed to apply God's truth in our daily lives. They cover a multitude of Christian behavior favorable in God's eyes. For one thing, they teach us the value of faith, love, and humility. Each of them gives reverence to the way God intends for us to live in harmony with Him and the world.

For example, the Parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16), shows Christ's way of humility. Here we see how one's impartial generosity stirs up an unacceptable reaction in receiving fairness. In this case, Christ's message is humility. And humility is gratitude in disguise, but complaining is the result of a hardened

Christ The King

heart.

Another more famous Parable is the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9). This leaves no doubt the faith needed for finding God's saving grace (Ephesians 2:8). It is important to realize real faith and Christ great explanation (Matthew 13:18-23), points out God's definition of eternal faith (Matthew 13:23).

And we must follow Jesus so we can build on the Lord's unshakable foundation and secure our eternal lives.

One of the most compelling evidence of love is the Parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35). Behind the act of forgiving is unconditional love.

When we forgive others, our love radiates through a compassionate heart. It's in our willingness to let go of our hurt feelings and show our offenders a loving spirit. This valuable lesson teaches us it's pointless to hold onto bitterness. This great freedom transforms our lives into one working for Christ and living God's will.

When I spend time on the Parables, I meditate on them. I breathe in their spiritual air refreshing my spirit and re-energizing my heart. And

Christ The King

I ask myself what the action I need to take so I bring them into my life is.

We have discussed a few Parables. Now that we have a basic understanding of their purpose then it becomes easy to use them in helping us grow in the knowledge of Christ. We will never find God's hidden wisdom until we take time and apply them to our faith.

What do you find lurking beneath the Parables?

Christ The King

Chapter 12

Divided We Stand in God's Glory

God used Christ's kingship to set His chosen ones apart from those who fail to glorify Him. The great division between real believers and people unfit to live in spiritual eternity became necessary. And it's in

becoming divided we stand in God's glory!

Christ made it known (Matthew 10:34-39), He didn't come with peace but to carry out God's ruling. In fact, God decided it was time to rescue His people from the false teachers and set up Christ as His Supreme Ruler. So, from this point forward a real believer must accept Christ as God's way (John 14:6).

It's important to realize not everyone enters heaven. This may confuse you because we hear a belief in Christ (Acts 16:31) equals salvation.

Christ shared this:

Christ The King

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV)

With this in mind, Jesus is reminding us a simple belief isn't enough. We must go further and live by examples of God's grace (Romans

10:9). This means our actions must show others the internal changes Christ made in our hearts.

Remember talk is cheap, but faith in action is life-changing (James 1:22).

The message of Christ's division is easy to grasp. It's in those verses (Matthew 10:34-39) that Christ shows God's truth on a believer's relationship with Christ.

First, He shows us loving Him must become our number one priority and fail to love Him above everything will end up unfavorable in God's

Christ The King

eyes (Matthew 10:37).

It's important to realize our love for Christ must go beyond the kind we have for our families and friends. God commands us to love him first then love others (Matthew 22:36-40). Our ancient ancestor Abraham is a prime example of how to love God even when it means denying a love for family (Genesis 22:1-24)

Christ divided love as a reminder of glorifying God. Here we must accept the Lord as the reason we live and love Him without reservations. In reality, Jesus is saying by loving God first our affection

Christ The King

towards family increases.

As important to loving Christ is denying oneself for His purpose (Matthew 10:38). Nothing is more satisfying to God than humbling ourselves before Christ. When we abandon our personal agenda and seek Christ, then God steps in and blesses us with His grace. This remarkable interaction with God is experiencing the undeniable existence of the Holy Spirit.

Again, Christ teaches us we must become divided from our powerlessness over temptations. Until I surrender myself to Jesus, the mystery of God stays elusive.

I experienced both sides of this division. On the negative side, I defied God. In this chapter of my existence agnosticism caused me immense suffering. I tried my best in convincing others to turn away from God by pointing out His unresponsive reactions to the wickedness of the world.

My argument based on the cruelty people inflicted on each other was wrong. I didn't understand how God works in a broken world. As shown above, those thoughts got me nowhere.

Christ The King

It brings me great joy to announce God has removed my disbelief. Today I no longer live on the wrong side of Christ's division. As a matter of fact the Lord shed His grace upon me, and now I see the world through faith's eyes. This new and profound outlook isn't of my making but Christ.

Given these points, I owe everything to God. In summary, Jesus's division paves the way to an eternal life with God. Jesus divided us so we can glorify God in heaven.

What're your thoughts on Christ's division?

Christ The King

Chapter 13

God's Unbelievable Sacrifice

God's unbelievable sacrifice of His Son shows each faithful believer His undeniable love for those who glorify Him. Throughout, the Old Testament, the Lord taught His people how to make sacrifices favorable to Him. And when our Father delivered Christ as His new covenant then He planned to offer the death of His son as the gift of salvation.

Good Friday reminds us of Christ's death. Each year this significant reflection on God's incredible sacrifice keeps us focused on Christ's ministry. God used Christ's death to set us free from original sin. God's love for humanity is hard to fathom. The most compelling evidence of God's love is His eagerness to interact with humans. In fact, when Adam and Eve fell from His grace He didn't stop loving them. Instead, God forgave and reopened His door (Genesis 3:22).

Likewise, Christ is our tree of life. Nothing is more satisfying to God than to watch us surrender our wills and lives over to His Son. And God's personal sacrifice of His Son makes life on earth a joyful experience.

Christ The King

In the centuries leading up to Christ's arrival on earth, God used the Prophets to teach His children the truth of His word. In those times most of the people rejected or ridiculed the Lord's messengers. They stayed in disbelief. And when God changed His method of faith (Christ) many of them couldn't accept God's new plan.

In Christ's final hours (Matthew 27:45-50), God showed those witnessing this sacrifice His disapproval for rejecting His Son. Verse 45 sets the mood of God by the darkness He shed on the land. It's

important to realize when God darkens the sky He is manifesting His wrath.

And in verses (Matthew 27:51-54) we see God's wrath on display. Imagine experiencing an earthquake and watching the dead rise from their graves. Those terrifying events are most compelling evidence to God's existence. This shows the power of God because it's supernatural and unrepeatable.

One of the more popular verses in this part of Matthew's Gospel is scripture 27:46 when Christ cried out to God.

Christ The King

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46

This scripture's impact is mighty. Here God shows Christ absorbing the sins of the world. Christ's death separates sin, and it's a point often overlooked. It's in this statement God completes His unbelievable sacrifice.

Christ's crucifixion is crucial to remember. But to stop here isn't wise. Because it's in His resurrection, we become God's new creations!

Christ The King

Chapter 14

Christ's Resurrection Unveiled God's Final Plan

God unveiled His promise of an eternal life free from sin through Christ's resurrection. This assurance of a life spent in spiritual bliss isn't a theory but a reality to those who live in Christ. And a believer understands this truth because God's Living Spirit gives them the courage to live holy in a world riddled with evilness.

When I ponder over the great Resurrection, it brings me joy knowing God amended Adam and Eve's disobedience (Genesis 3:22). It's important to realize this undeniable event transformed my life into God's light. So without understanding Christ's rising from the dead my spiritual life stays elusive.

When Jesus unfolded God's plan for the end of His time on earth (John 2:19), it set in motion the reality of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension. Those who heard Him speak on these events became confused. They imagined He meant destroying the physical building and rebuilding it in three days.

With this in mind, we must accept God's temple is Christ Himself. Those present when Jesus spoke of the resurrection couldn't grasp the Lord's unique way of redemption. Yet when Mary Magdalene saw the

Christ The King

open tomb and God's angel told her the news of the resurrected King, she became overjoyed (Matthew 28:1-10)

We are fortunate for Matthew's recording of Christ's rising from the dead. Because when the actual resurrection occurred and the Roman soldiers shared this news with the chief priests they bribed them (Matthew 28:12). Then instructed them to use dishonesty and blame the Disciples for stealing His body (28:13-14).

Under those circumstances, a web of doubt engulfed those alive during this significant interaction with God's plan of salvation. For example,

Christ The King

the Apostle Thomas refused to believe Christ arose from the dead until he touched the wounds of Christ's body (John 20:24-26).

Not much has changed since those ancient days. Many people reject the resurrection. They cling to individualism rooted in self-searching motives. Everlasting life isn't their focus because they live in the here and now. And they live a fast-paced existence missing out on the spiritual nature of life.

In the past, I recoiled from the Lord. My outlook on Him was one of disbelief. I spent every day spewing my agnostic venom on others. Even in those dark times, God had plans for me to partake in His Son's resurrection. I hope your experience with the Great Commission captures your faith in a profound way.

In summary, God's exposure to Christ's resurrection gives us an endless delivery of grace. It's in this powerful act of the Lord we become purposeful and spiritual useful in proclaiming the Gospel. Now with our newfound wisdom, we can live in this broken world.

How do you live in the resurrection?

Christ The King

Chapter 15

God's Greatest Commission the Holy Spirit

Now that Christ rose from the dead and taken His seat at the right

Christ The King

hand of God (Mark 16:19) then it becomes our responsibility to partake in the Great Commission. Since God's Spirit is alive and we believe in the resurrection, this holds us accountable to spread the Good News. In fact, it's in the Holy Spirit we discover the wisdom behind God's message of salvation.

God's new Covenant includes the Trinity and illuminates a believer's spiritual life. Once God's awakens His chosen ones, His Living Spirit transforms the heart of a faithful servant. This gift from Christ supplies us with God's wisdom and governs us to carry the truth to others (Romans 1:16).

One of my favorite conversation is the one placing God as the focal point. When I share with others, the impact Christ makes in my life a God consciousness emerges. This spiritual connectedness inspires me to devote myself to His purpose. Nothing brings me greater joy than glorifying God and in return, the Holy Spirit brings an internal peace unmatched in the world temptations.

Likewise, the moment God captured my life everything changed. His grace empowered me with the Holy Spirit and put me in the hands of

Christ The King

Christ. Since then a new and improved outlook on life took root and keeps me seeking God's truth. But the neatest experience is growing in the image of Christ. I love the way God teaches me.

When it became known Christ rose from the dead, then He appeared to the Eleven Disciples. Their first thoughts on the risen King brought doubt. They couldn't fathom Jesus resurrection. And Jesus in His glorious triumph took away their disbelief and sent them out to baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Here, Christ gives them the power of the Holy Spirit to anoint

discipleship to God's people. It's important to realize the Trinity is the backbone of salvation. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the qualities of a real disciple and separates true believers from the world.

God's Living Spirit coupled with Christ's Deity is an unshakable foundation for eternal life. They are full of spiritual power and the devil flees knowing it's impossible to penetrate Christ's armor. In fact, salvation is the greatest protection against the cunning ways of God's enemy.

Given these points, it's easy to understand God uses the Holy Spirit to

Christ The King

finish real discipleship. The Lord never leaves us in doubt and our personal experience with His Living Spirit gives testimony to Christ's faithfulness!

Christ The King

Chapter 16

God's Final Chapter: Christ's Ascension

God never fails to keep His promise and Christ's Ascension into heaven shows His action to make it known. No greater display of God's love for humanity matches the return of Christ back to the Lord's right

motion God's ultimate power over His kingdom. And it erased Adam's original sin.

A point often overlooked is how Christ's arrival back to heaven makes Him God's intercessor. When Jesus taught His ministry on earth, He took the form of man, and everyone saw Him. But His Ascension transfigured Him from flesh to a Living Spirit. Now sitting next to God He intercedes for the Lord's chosen ones.

The Son of Man in His glorious consciousness makes us worthy to receive the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact without Christ's

Christ The King

hand. In fact, the Ascension completed Christ's physical reign on earth and God's final chapter.

Jesus's departure from the world marks the start of God's final chapter of salvation. Two-thousand and seventeen years ago this incredible act of God unfolded and paved the way to Christ's second coming. With this in mind, we must expand our knowledge of Christ, so we don't become complacent in faith and live in infinite darkness.

The moment Jesus took His seat at God's right hand this demolished Satan's power. The Ascension overtook the devil's domain setting in

intercession, our spiritual lives stay incomplete. In Jesus, we become holy and favorable in God's eyes. This remarkable connection with our Messiah smashes the devil's intentions of turning us away from God.

In the Old Testament times, God used the Holy Spirit to keep His trusted servants (Prophets) focused on carrying His word to the Israelites. They became a liaison between humanity and God. But with God's new covenant Christ is an anchor to everlasting life.

Christ commands us to ask Him for help (John 14:12-14), and the ascension made this possible. Without Christ's help, we stay

Christ The King

oppressed. But with Him as our Savior, we become transformed into a child of God. And this keeps us united in God's kingdom.

When I meditate on Christ's return to God, it brings me great joy. For me, it's important to realize my eternal inheritance is how earnest I am in denying myself and letting Jesus guide my life. Even in my imperfections Jesus never fails to give me with God's daily bread. All I have to do is continue seeking and follow the commands of the Lord.

What does Christ's Ascension mean to you?

Christ The King