

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

PREACHING THE LECTIONARY

Cycle A: The Gospel According to St. Matthew
Presented by Fr. Stephen Rowan

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

1:00 - 4:00 pm via Zoom

PART 1

THE FORMATION OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

Familiar, cherished, and irreplaceable scenes

The challenge: To see Matthew in new ways

An “existential” reading: Matthew 9: 9-13



**The Call of St. Matthew
by Caravaggio**

5 NARRATIVE/ DISCOURSE SECTIONS CONCERN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:

Group One (3: 1- 4:25 and 5:1-7:29)

Proclamation of the kingdom and the Sermon on the Mount
(the “Charter” of the Kingdom)

Group Two (8:1- 9:37 and 10:1- 11:1) Ministry and Mission in Galilee
and the Missionary discourse

Group Three (11: 2-12:50 and 13: 1- 53) Opposition from the Pharisees and Others,
and the Discourse in Parables, explained to the disciples

Group Four (13: 54 - 17: 27 and 18:1-19:1a) The Kingdom and the Church
and the Discourse on Church Order

Group Five (19: 1b -23:39 and 24:1-26:1) Ministry in Judea and Galilee
and the Eschatological Discourse

Introduced by the Infancy narratives and culminating in the Passion and Resurrection narratives

TWO MAJOR SHIFTS

Indicated by the words “From that time on,” introduce two phases of Jesus’ ministry:

4: 17: Primarily to the house of Israel (“Son of David”) and

16: 21: To all the world (“Son of Man” and “Son of God”)

The first, last, and central emphasis: “Emmanuel, God-with-us”

[1: 23; 18:20; and 28: 20]

GOSPEL OUTLINE

Infancy Narrative

John the Baptist

Baptism

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Temptations

4:17

"From that time on"

→ Son of David

Teaching

Healing

First Commission

16:21

"From that time on"

→ Son of Man

→ Son of God

Predictions of the Passion

Denunciation of Pharisees

Controversies

Passion Narrative

Last Supper

Agony in the Garden

Crucifixion

Resurrection/
Transfiguration

**The Great
Commission**

Emmanuel

1:23

Emmanuel

18:20

Emmanuel

28:20

A MAJOR THEME: JESUS, HIS DISCIPLES, AND THE CHURCH

The Church is composed of disciples of Jesus, gathered in communion by the authoritative word of Jesus, for the sake of service:

- To do what they have witnessed Jesus doing (Chapter 10)
- To go out and to preach to the whole world (Chapter 28)

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES



Disciples are called by Jesus into communion with the Church for the sake of mission to the world.



Delivery of the Keys by Perugino

Chapter 16: Peter's profession of faith in Jesus as "The Christ, the Son of the Living God"

THE INFANCY NARRATIVES:

A “prelude” or “overture” to the Gospel

- “Son of David”
- “Son of Abraham”
- Uniquely “Son of God”: “Immanuel”
- His name is “Jesus”



Adoration of the Magi - Vatican Sarcophagus Relief
Jesus is sought by God-fearers, gentiles, who come from afar

Massacre of the Innocents by Bruegel



THE BAPTISM IN GALILEE AND TEMPTATION IN THE DESERT

Jesus is baptized “for the sake of righteousness” =
obedience to what the will of God requires

Jesus is tempted about the meaning of “son of God,”
anticipating the temptation and arrest in the garden
of Gethsemane: The key issue: Whom to “worship”

PART 2

THE FORMATION OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLES BY JESUS, THE AUTHORITATIVE TEACHER

As "Son of David," Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven in Deed

1. Matthew 4: 12-17: The mission of Jesus to the house of Israel "fulfills "what had been said through Isaiah the prophet"
2. Matthew 4: 18-22. Disciples, distinct from "the crowd," are called from being fisher folk to being fishers of folk.
3. Matthew 4: 23-25. Jesus ministers to a great multitude in two ways: by "teaching...proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness"

**Jesus, the New Moses,
proclaims the
Kingdom of Heaven
in Word and
interprets the Law
given to Israel**



**Sermon on the Mount
by Fra Angelico**



1. The Beatitudes: Kingdom-like behavior
2. Jesus goes to the “root” of unrighteous living
3. The practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done “in secret” to ensure sincerity
4. “The Lord’s Prayer”
 - Summarizes the great commandments: Love of God above all things, and love of one’s neighbor as oneself
 - Arouses hope in time of great trial
5. Teachings about trust in God, living simply, and building on a sound foundation.

Jesus, Son of David, Shepherd Messiah, proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven in Deeds

1. The Leper (8:1-4)

2. A centurion's servant (8: 5-13)

3. Peter's mother-in-law (8: 14-15)

- A summary (8: 16-17) and a fulfillment saying (Isaiah 53:4)

4. The two demoniacs of Gadara (8: 28-34)

Deep Reading:

The Cure of the Paralytic: Matthew 9: 1-8

FURTHER HEALINGS

The official's daughter and a woman with a hemorrhage (9: 18-26)

The healing of two blind men (9: 27-31)

The healing of a mute person, which the Pharisees "explain" as demonic (9: 32-34)



**Christ Healing the Sick
by Rembrandt**

JESUS COMMISSIONS HIS DISCIPLES

Matthew 10: 5 – 15

To do what he has done

Matthew 10: 16- 42

The conditions and rewards of discipleship

PART 3

MIRACLES, PARABLES, AND APOCALYPTIC

ON PREACHING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

1. Interpret the people in terms of the text
2. Preach the overlap between the heart of the people and the heart of God
3. Preach good news not merely information: “encouragement for castaways”

PREACH THE SCRIPTURES AS AN “EXISTENTIAL ENCOUNTER” WITH THE WORD OF GOD

1. The “silent mystery” is present
2. The word speaks to the heart
3. The word unites one with all
4. The word is irreplaceable

PREACH “MARVELOUS” NEWS IN THE MIRACLES

Healing miracles:

- “Visual aids of the Kingdom of Heaven”
- Focus on the intention and power to save: The healing of the leper,
Matthew 8: 1- 4
- Contrast “before and after”



**Christ in the Storm
on the Lake of Galilee
by Rembrandt**

Nature miracles: Matthew 8: 23-27

The Gospel According to
MATTHEW

Matthew 14: 13-21

The feeding of the five thousand



**Christ at the Sea of Galilee
by Tintoretto**

**Preach “amazement” through
the unfolding of a parable.**

Parable is not Fable:
It is surprising, not predictable

Matthew 13: 1-9: The Parable of the Sower

THE SOWER OF THE SEED

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**Sower of the Seed
by Shkolnik**

Matthew 13: 31-33

The mustard seed and the yeast

Matthew 13: 44-46

The treasure and the pearl

PARABLES ON LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Matthew 18: 10-14

“Go in search of the stray”

Matthew 18: 21-35

Life together requires (extraordinary) forgiveness

Apocalyptic language reveals reasons for hope in dangerous times

Matthew 24: 37-44, from the apocalyptic discourse of Jesus, is selected for the First Sunday of Advent A:

- The events herald the coming of the “Son of Man”
- The parables that follow this discourse emphasize how to act in dangerous times: “Do not be afraid”; “Stay awake”; “watch”; be prepared”; “be like wise stewards = not drunkards”; “be like the wise virgins”; and “do works of mercy with your talents.”

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Weekday 21:

Matthew 24: 45-51

Thursday (Week 21): Act like “faithful and prudent servants = stewards”

Matthew 25: 1-13

Friday (Week 21) and Sunday 32 A: The Parable of the Ten Virgins: “stay awake” and be “wise.”

Matthew 25: 14-30

Saturday (Week 21) and Sunday 33 A: Parable of the servants and the talents and the need to “invest”



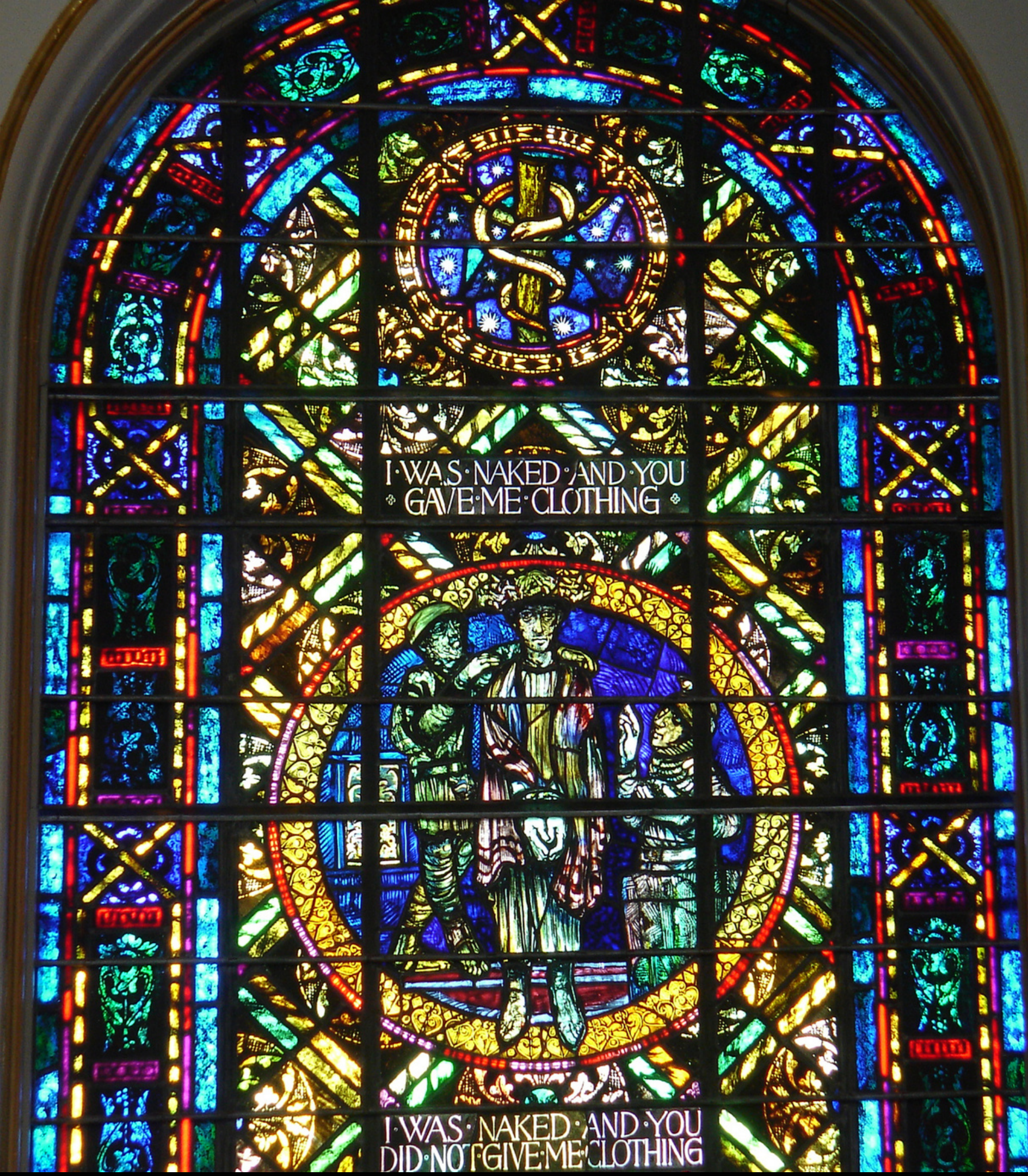
The Baptistery at the Duomo in Florence by Marcovaldo



The Windows from St. James Cathedral (East Apse)



The Windows from St. James Cathedral



The Windows from St. James Cathedral

PART 4

The Gospel According to
MATTHEW

**JESUS, SON OF GOD
THROUGH DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

The Way of the Cross = the Way of Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God

Three predictions of the Passion and three misunderstandings:

- 1.16: 21-23: Disciples must take up the cross
- 2.17: 22-23: The “greatness” of a child
- 3.20: 17-19: Leadership requires service

FIVE CONTROVERSIES clarify Jesus' authority and teaching

Controversy #1 Matthew 21: 23-27. The authority of Jesus to “do these things”; followed by three parables:

- Matthew 21: 28-32. The two sons
- Matthew 21: 33-46. The parable of the tenants
- Matthew 22: 1-14. The parable of the wedding feast

Controversy #2 Matthew 22: 15-22. Paying taxes to the Emperor: Proof of Jesus' innocence on any charge of sedition against Rome.

Controversy #3 Matthew 22: 23-33. The possibility of resurrection

Controversy #4 Matthew 22: 34-40. The Greatest Commandment

Controversy #5 Matthew 22: 41- 45. Jesus, the Messiah, as “son of David” and “Son of God”

The Gospel According to
MATTHEW

Chapter 23: Denunciation of the Pharisees

n of Je'-sus Christ, the son
of A-bra-ham.
and I'-saac begat Ja'-cob;
brethren;
of Tha'-mar;
A'-ram;

found him
worship him
9 When they
lo, the star
them, till it
child was.

Death, Resurrection, and Final Commission

1. The Passover supper: A new “covenant” (26: 26-30)
2. The “trial” of Jesus in the garden; his obedience as “Son” (26: 36-46 and his refusal to use violence
3. The crucifixion and the death of Jesus:
Characteristics of Matthew’s account: Jesus is king and fulfills the scriptures; Jesus is vindicated as the righteous one; Jesus is “Son of God,” proclaimed by a gentile.



Jesus Rising from the Tomb by della Francesca



**The Transfiguration
by Raphael**

The Gospel According to
MATTHEW

The Great Commission:
The Culmination of Matthew's Gospel

n of Je'-sus Christ, the son of
bra-ham.
and I'-saac begat Ja'-cob;
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