

Matthew Sermon Series
(in the focus on “Christ Center)
Introduction

Purpose & Goal of this Series

As we go through 2022, we continue to reflect on and go deeper into our understanding and practice of Discipleship, in particular, through praying our Disciple’s Prayer as a church.

“O GOD, WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, WE LONG FOR YOU. COME, TRANSFORM US
TO BE CHRIST-CENTRED, SPIRIT- EMPOWERED, MISSION-FOCUSED
DISCIPLES, MULTIPLYING EVERYWHERE.”

As we turn to Matthew, we see that this first gospel of the New Testament brings Israel out of a 400 year silence. Throughout this 400 year intertestamental period, God’s people grew in their anticipation and longing for a Messiah. During this 400 year period, the Jewish people saw some significant changes happen: their numbers had greatly multiplied and were now dwelling together in the same land, rather than being under Persian rule, they were now under Roman rule. This meant religious change, political and cultural transitions. The end of the Old Testament closed with an exhortation from Malachi to “remember the law of my servant Moses”, and with that, God paused in his communications through men until the time of the New Testament. God’s silence must have seemed strange and deafening to His people. Some may have demanded that He speak as He had always spoken to His people. Others would remember God’s warnings given through the prophets, reminding one another of the wickedness and sinfulness and lack of faith that would once again emphasize the reality of the need of a saviour. This time of silence and waiting was part of God’s eternal plan, to increase and intensify the longing in the hearts of God’s children for the promised messiah. God was using this time to prepare the unfolding of His plan and the revelation of His greatest Word to humanity, His Son, Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Matthew was written to this Jewish audience, an audience that had been looking and longing for God to speak and show Himself once again to His people. Matthew writes very convincingly of this truth, drawing attention to Jesus’ inheritance of the Davidic kingship over Israel, and the fulfillment of promises made to Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and the many prophets. Through our study of Matthew, we hope to also go through this process of fulfilled longings and anticipation, because the promise made to the Jewish people, is the same promise that we receive today. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News for all people.