

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

Outline to the book of Matthew:

I. The King Has Come 1:1-13:53

1. *The Incarnation and the preparation of the King 1:1 – 4:11*
2. *The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29*
3. *The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1*
4. *The Opposition to the King 11:2 – 13:53*

II. The Kingdom Has Not 13:54-28:20

5. *The Reaction of the King, 13:54 – 19:2*
6. *The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46*
7. *The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of the King, 26:1 – 28:20*

***Subpoints follow Stanley Toussaint's seven main divisions outlined in his commentary.

True Righteousness in the Kingdom context:

Discourse on true law-keeping:

1. Murder 5:21-26 (corporate)
2. Adultery 5:27-30 (marital)
3. False witness 5:33-37 (personal)

Discourse on true worship:

1. Giving 6:1-4 (service)
2. Prayer 6:5-15 (fellowship)
3. Fasting 6:16-18 (devotion)

Discourse on true living:

1. Wealthy living 6:19-24 (priorities)
2. Care-free living 6:25-34 (provision)
3. Self-reflective living 7:1-6 (pride)

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29

(Matthew 6:16-24)

“Learning loyalty to God: The believer’s proper devotion”

Outline:

1. A tool of devotion vv. 16-18
2. The priority of devotion vv. 19-21
3. The controls of devotion vv. 22-23
4. The reality of devotion v. 24

1- The tool of devotion vv. 16-18

A. Observations:

- The tool v. 16a
 - “Moreover, when you fast,”
- The false practice v. 16b-c
 - “do not be like the hypocrites,”
 - “with a sad countenance.”
 - “For they disfigure their faces” (cf. “hypocrite” meaning)
 - “that they may appear to men to be fasting.” (purpose)
- Their reward v. 16d
 - “Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

1- The tool of devotion vv. 16-18

A. Observations:

- The tool v. 16a
- The false practice v. 16b-c
- Their reward v. 16d
- The true practice v. 17
 - “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,”
- The purpose of true fasting v. 18
 - “so that” (purpose)
 - “you do not appear to men to be fasting, but your Father...”
 - “who is in the secret place; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

The Tool of fasting

1. Devotion
2. Prayer
3. Remembrance
4. Humbling
5. Focus

Fasting is simply a tool that CAN help with the believer humbling themselves under God and to recalibrate their spiritual loyalty to Him.
cf. Jesus in the wilderness.

1- The tool of devotion vv. 16-18

B. Summary/Application:

- Fasting was a common practice among the Jews as well as Gentiles.
- Fasting is not commanded in the New Testament.
- Fasting is a tool that can be useful and misused.
- Fasting should be a private affair between the believer and God.
- Fasting can really help to reorient yourself to proper spiritual devotion.

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2. The priority of devotion vv. 19-21
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2- The priority of devotion vv. 19-21

A. Observations:

- False priorities v. 19a
 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,”
- The vulnerability of earthly treasure v. 19b
 - “where moth and rust destroy”
 - Moth = agricultural wealth
 - Rust = Material wealth (lit. decay)
 - “and thieves break in and steal;”

2- The priority of devotion vv. 19-21

A. Observations:

- False priorities v. 19a
- The vulnerability of earthy treasure v. 19b
- True priorities v. 20a
 - “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,”
- The safety of heavenly treasure v. 20b
 - “where neither moth nor rust destroys”
 - “and where thieves do not break in and steal.”
- The principle summarized v. 21
 - “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2- The priority of devotion vv. 19-21

B. Summary/Application:

- There is no-neutrality in our devotion.
- Devotion is depicted in where priorities are regarding wealth.
- This passage doesn't exhaustively explain one's stewardship of material things.
- The context of this passage is the imminency of the kingdom.
- The Israelites were to prioritize heavenly stores over earthly stores.
- Materialism can still pose a hinderance for us in our devotion to God.

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3- The controls of devotion vv. 22-23

A. Observations:

- The controls v. 22a
 - “The lamp of the body is the eye”
 - What follows is a Jewish idiom.
- The good eye v. 22b
 - “If therefore your eye is good,” (idiom = generous)
 - “your whole body will be full of light.”
- The bad eye v. 23a
 - “But if your is bad,” (idiom = stinginess)
 - “your whole body will be full of darkness.”

3- The controls of devotion vv. 22-23

A. Observations:

- The controls v. 22a
- The good eye v. 22b
- The bad eye v. 23a
- The summary v. 23b
 - “If therefore the light that is in you is darkness,”
 - Considering the idiom: if you are hoarding for yourself the things God has provided you, you are in darkness.”
 - “how great is that darkness”
 - Cf. James 4:13-5:6

3- The controls of devotion vv. 22-23

B. Summary/Application:

- The Jewish idiom of “the eye.”
- Our worldview matters in our devotion to God.
- The Jews were to be generous with their material possessions knowing that the Day of the Lord will create great need among them.
- Stinginess results in no “heavenly transfer”
- Our stewardship on earth creates opportunities for heavenly rewards. Do we act accordingly?

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4- The reality of devotion v. 24

A. Observations:

- No-neutrality v. 24a
 - “No one can serve two masters;”
- Hate vs. love v. 24b
 - “for either he will hate the one and love the other,”
- Loyal vs. despise v. 24c
 - “or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.”
- Summary v. 24d
 - “You cannot serve God and mammon”
 - Mammon = earthly treasure

4- The reality of devotion v. 24

B. Summary/Application:

- Again... There is no-neutrality.
- “friendship with the world is enmity with God”
- The Jews cannot serve God and earthly treasure hoarding.
- Again... remember their context.
- Is being wealthy sinful?
- How should believers handle their earthly possessions.
- Illustration: flowing river vs. stagnant pond.



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