

# Jesus Is King: The Messenger – Week 8

## INTRO

Matthew opened His gospel and presented to us his three major themes for the rest of his gospel about Jesus. **1)** Jesus is the King who surpasses David **2)** King David came to break the curse of sin and death. **3)** King Jesus offers entrance to His kingdom – redemption - to anyone, especially the unlikely.

### So far:

- The King has been prophesied (Genealogy)
- The King has been born (Visited by state diplomats, marked by a star, echoes David).
- The King has been declared (John the Baptist as the forerunner)
- The King has been anointed (Baptism and the Holy Spirit).
- The King has delivered His law (The sermon on the mount).
- The King has shown His authority over every realm (Miracles).
- **The King will now send out ambassadors** (Sending out the twelve).

## HOOK

**Matthew 21:33-45** - Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went into another country. 34 When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. 35 And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.

37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' 39 And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures, "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

- A shocking story making heavy implications about who Jesus is AND about who we are. **What do you think is the main point of Jesus' parable?**
- It can be summed up by **Matt. 10:40** from our text today. And this is the underlying theme of Jesus' sermon before He sends out His emissaries.

## BOOK

**Matthew 10:40** - *Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.*

- Rejecting the messenger is rejecting the sender. Receiving the messenger is receiving the sender.

## LOOK

### THERE ARE MANY WHO NEED THE GOSPEL

**Matthew 9:35-38** - *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

- His sermon hasn't changed from the beginning. It is always a proclamation of the gospel and call to His kingdom.
- Jesus' motivation was His compassion.
- “Without a shepherd” – A statement condemning the current spiritual leaders.

**What is the gospel?** (Refer to the parable above to show our total depravity.)

Nautical version: We have a Captain. We have hated Him and mutinied against Him to serve ourselves. Our loathing of serving Him has compelled us to kill Him and throw Him from our lives.

You may be thinking, “I don't have any desire to kill Jesus. I just want to live my own life.” **Who were these tenants?** Common people, like you, who when motivated by their sin saw an opportunity and quickly shed their morals. **To anyone who hasn't given your life to Jesus, what makes you any different from them?** They were those whose hearts were untransformed and stony... unrepentant. Those who watched Jesus from afar, but never made Him 'Lord.'

Out of His great love for us, He came to us to meet us where we are and commands us to repent. Look to Him, turn from sin, and believe. That's the gospel.

**In compassion**, Jesus looks at a sea of faces – He knows their names, their personalities, their upbringings, their sin, their woundedness, the real reasons they are there – and He sees them with an individual love which only their Creator could

know. He even sees in the crowd some faces painted with curiosity who will one day be burning red with gleeful malice. Today they're whispering, "Who is this Jesus?" Then, they'll be shouting, "Crucify Him!"

**And STILL He sees them with compassion** (splanchnizomai: emotion that moves you deep down in your "bowels".) *He loves us before we ever love Him* (Rom. 5:8) *For God SO loved, He gave...* (John 3:16)

Spurgeon believed Jesus told His disciples to begin their ministry in Jerusalem specifically FOR those soldiers who nailed Him to the cross, those priests who lied about Him to convict Him, and those who were calling for His death. "*Forgive them because they don't know what they're doing* (Luke 23:34)." And many would. "*Who YOU crucified* (Acts 2:36)."

**We aren't a world full of whipped dogs** and Jesus came and adopted a few of us and made us feel better. We were the mutinous sailors, the murderous tenants, the self-worshipping rebels who have no regard for His commands or fear of His holiness. And Jesus loves us. (E.g. **Thomas Blackshear Painting: Forgiven.**) He doesn't pick the nicest person out of the crowd, the best person, or the person closest to being swayed.

**We are all alike**, deserving of the punishment for treason against holy God. **In reality, is there even a crowd?** There's only the decision of your sinful heart, of whom you are the rebel leader.

And at the will of His good pleasure, He chooses among His executioners to pull back the black curtain of blindness so they can see their sin and the love of God in all His mercy and grace.

**Those are the ones who respond** to the sermon of the kingdom of heaven and become a disciple of King Jesus.

- And Jesus says, "There are many who are ready for this gospel, but few who serve the Master and go."
- It's here, Matthew notes Jesus called out of the larger crowd of disciples a chosen few to be "apostles."
- Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the younger, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.
- What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

**Apostle** (Apostolos) – “the sent.” They were to be delegates, messengers, ambassadors to be sent out in the name of the King and as representatives of His kingdom and operating with His authority.

- **10:1** - *And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*
  - They’re operating in the same realms as Jesus (discussed last week)!

**Then the rubber met the road: Jesus sent them out** to the cities and towns all over Israel. They were to imitate Jesus. Their sermon was the same, “*The kingdom of heaven is at hand (10:7)*” and the miracles they did were to show that God, Himself, was at work.

- They were to exclusively preach to Jewish cities/towns.
  - The time for the Gentiles would come, but the gospel MUST be preached to everyone in Israel first. They must be without excuse.
  - **10:18/28:18-20** – the Gentiles will receive their chance.
- Perform the miracles Jesus did.
- Accept no pay for their gifts to people.
  - They were to only accept room and board for their work.
  - There’s no room for pursuit of personal gain when we’re on mission.
- Take little to no preparations. **Why?**
  - Live by faith like the Israelites in the wilderness. God would provide.
- Be a blessing to the home of whoever shows hospitality and reception to the message.

**Matthew 10:14-15** – *And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.*

- Jesus – “You don’t want anything to do with that city. You don’t even want their dust to be attached to you.” **Why is Jesus so harsh against such a city?**
- A disciple shaking off the dust of that city is symbolic to God’s treatment of them. **Why?**
- A rejection of the messenger is a rejection of the message.
- A rejection of the message is a rejection of the Sender, the King.
  - **And what will the outcome be for those who reject the Master?** The same as those who plotted against His Son and shouted “Crucify Him!”

## Many need the gospel!

### THERE WILL BE RESISTANCE TO THE GOSPEL

**Matthew 10:16** – *I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves...*

**Matthew 10:17** – *...they will deliver you over to courts and whip you in their synagogues...*

**Matthew 10:18** – *...you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake...*

**Matthew 10:21** – *...Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death...*

**Matthew 10:22** – *...you will be hated by all for my name's sake...*

**Matthew 10:25** – (paraphrase) Obviously, if they hated me, they'll hate my followers too.

- Our church may not be bombed **this** Sunday morning in the middle of the sermon. You may not be woken up **tonight** to the grip of a soldier's hand on your hair. It may not be today that you watch **your** mother chopped to death with a machete while your held powerless to the ground. You may not be locked into a shipping container with 20 others and left for months to endure the biting cold of the nights, the burning metal in the heat of the day, and the nothing to prevent the bugs when you finally lay down on the corrugated steal in your own filth because you have no access to plumbing.
- You may find yourself comfortably numb that you haven't tasted persecution. **That's not happening in 2022...**
- **...in the United States.** But it is in Eritrea. It is in N. Korea, Afghanistan, and Somalia. This is very much a reality for Christians around the world. And for some, it will be THIS Sunday. It will be TONIGHT. It will be THEIR mother. And right now, today, many Christians are in the steal prisons of shipping containers praying for an endurance we don't understand.
  - 2015 – 7,100+ Christians were killed for their faith. That's twice as many at in 2014, and three times as many as 2013.
  - 2016 - 1,329 churches attacked.
  - As of 2017 - 215 million Christians across 53 countries are living under sever persecution and my examples are their reality.
    - Scriptures like we're reading tonight mean something to them.

**HOPE:** (**v.20,22,26,31,32**) – When you're pressed, the Holy Spirit will speak through you. And those who are truly Jesus followers will endure to the end. Don't fear

because God cares for you, sees you, and is with you. I, Jesus, will acknowledge you – stand by you, brag on you, claim you as mine - before the Father in heaven.

1. **There are many who need the gospel.**
2. **There will be resistance to the gospel.**

a. Following Jesus IS dangerous. But the only boundaries to what the Holy Spirit can through you are those you set in playing it safe.

## TOOK

### RECEIVING THE MESSENGER IS RECEIVING THE SENDER

**Matthew 10:40** - *Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.*

- There is great reward to those who receive you, the messengers. Why are those who receive them and bless them rewarded? **They are receiving the gospel of salvation and becoming members of the kingdom of heaven!**
- To receive the messenger is to receive the Sender.

**John 12:49** - *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.*

**John 5:23b-24a** - *Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.*

- Jesus is God’s Messenger. We are physical beings, finite and small. God is transcendent and infinite, completely ‘other’ from creation. **How can we know a transcendent God?**
- The only way we can know God is for Him to break into our limited world and reveal Himself. Jesus is the bridge, His Ambassador.
- And if God is the God of all life, Jesus, our ambassador of God, is our only hope.

### **Example: Senora Luna’s Cooking Pot** (American Foreign Service Association Journal)

- 2003, Pete Harding, U.S. human rights officer/ambassador to Bolivia.
- Senora Gaby Luna Velasco had lost her home and business in a fire.
- All she had was her charred life savings held in a cooking pot.
- He petitioned the U.S. Treasury to restore the money.
- Six month later, they came through with \$17,000 dollars.

- **“He was the bridge, the interpreter, the sole point of intersection between those worlds – doing his best to bring them together to solve a problem.”**
  - That’s JESUS!!! He interpreted God’s word and will for us. He was the bridge to the Father, to Life and Love Himself, and the point of intersection between heaven and earth – **that’s the kingdom of heaven.**

**To receive Jesus (the Messenger) is to receive the Sender (God).**

**To reject Jesus is to reject the Sender.**

**Where do you stand?**

The stand you can’t take: **Universalism** (all are saved in the end) or **Pluralism** (all faiths are equally valid with sincerity).

**Where do other major world religions stand of the person of Jesus?**

- **Judaism** – born of a girl named Mary, popular rabbi, had 5 disciples, had supernatural powers from the devil, claimed to be the messiah, executed the day before Passover, believe his body was stolen by a gardener.
- **Islam** – born of the virgin Mary, held in high regard as a prophet and apostle of Allah but nothing more, performed miracles, and even ascended to heaven without dying. Didn’t die on a cross, isn’t God’s son – Allah has no son.
- **Hinduism** – holy man, wise teacher, a god along with other gods.
- **Buddhism** – lived an enlightened life was an enlightened man, wise teacher. The current Dalai Lama calls him a “holy man.”
- **Mormons** – He’s God’s first spirit child from a sexual union between spirit God and human Mary in heaven. Satan is his brother. We can all become gods like him.
- **Jehovah’s Witness** – He’s the archangel Michael. The first created. He stopped being Michael when he took human form. He was a perfect human. God disposed of his body after death and resurrection where he returned to being Michael again.

**C. S. Lewis:** “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any

patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to” (Mere Christianity, 1952, p. 55–56).

**John 3:18** – *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

**John 14:6-10** - *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*

**Truth: Kevin DeYoung** - All paths lead to God, but only one path will present you before God without fault and with great joy. Pick a path, any path—it will take you to God. Trust me: you will stand before Him one day. You will meet your Maker. You will see the face of Christ. There are many ways up the mountain, but only one will result in life instead of destruction.

- **There are many who need the gospel.**
- **There will be resistant to the gospel.**
- **Receiving Jesus is receiving the Father, entering the Kingdom, having life.**

### Who is Jesus to you?

**Think hard.** If he is a wise teacher, an enlightened man, a preacher of love and tolerance, then you have no responsibility. If he was a raving lunatic with delusions of grandeur or an evil manipulator for his own gain, you still have no responsibility.

**Continue as you are.**

But if there’s a chance He’s actually God’s Son, God in flesh. You have a crisis to deal with. If He’s Creator God, He has the right to rule. If He has the right to rule, and has made commands, then you either stand in submission or in rejection.

### Who is Jesus to you?

As your **ambassador**, He stands in the door with His arms outstretched in mercy, calling you to come to salvation. As your **judge**, He is something else entirely.

## FURTHER INQUIRY

Are there still apostles today or was the role of apostle exclusively for the chosen 12 + Paul and Matthias?

## RECAP

- In Matthew 9 and 10, King Jesus is preparing and sending out ambassadors called apostles.
- Jesus' love compels His mission to call His people to His kingdom.
- We see Matthew's three major points around gospel proclamation:
  - Many need the gospel.
  - The gospel will receive resistance.
  - To receive Jesus is to receive the Father and have salvation.
- All of us must consider the implications if Jesus is God's Son.

**Challenge 1:** Read Matthew chapters 9 and 10

**Challenge 2:** Ask, what is one area you've withheld Jesus' authority in your life?

What's a small way you can surrender part of that this week?

**Challenge 3:** Replace 40 minutes of YouTube videos with one sermon on YouTube.

~ *Soli DEO Gloria*

## eGroup Questions /// The Messenger

**Pray.**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.*

**Questions:**

1. Have you ever had someone be a mediator for you in a way that helped you like Senora Luna's story? (*Make sure you give limited time for answers.*)
2. How would you explain to someone that Jesus is a mediator?
3. Why is the parable about the tenants so shocking (Matt.21:33-45)?
4. What do you think its main point is?
5. Do you think everyone has the capacity to do something awful?
6. Why do you think over the centuries and even today, the Christian gospel is met with so much resistance, so much persecution?
7. What does it mean to "receive" Jesus?
8. What are the implications?
9. Would any of you be willing to share an area you haven't fully surrendered ye?
10. What is a way you can make a small step in surrender this week?

**Ask for prayer requests. Pray.**

**Fill out student contact sheet in your folder.**