

Sermon Reflections

A Greater King and the Greatest Kingdom (Matthew 1-5)

Summary: Renounce the throne of your life. Bow to a far better King – King Jesus.

1. King Jesus keeps God’s promises when you couldn’t keep them. (vv. 1:1-17)

- It is said that the taproot of sin is failure to believe in the promises of God¹. With this in mind, why is God’s fulfilled OT promise of a Messiah so very important to each and every believer?

2. King Jesus saves from sin when you couldn’t save yourself. (vv. 1:18-24)

- With Mark 2:7 in mind, why is the birth of Christ – Immanuel (God with us) important when considering the forgiveness of sins offered by faith in Christ alone?

3. King Jesus deserves worship when you couldn’t resist idolatry. (vv. 2:1-23)

- Herod’s idolatry of power and rulership would result in death (2:16-18). What does Scripture say about idolatry ... does God tolerate any idolatry? Is idolatry ever harmless? How does worship of the Savior help us identify, resist, and repent of idolatry?

4. King Jesus demands change when you haven’t changed. (vv. 3:1-17)

- Did the Pharisees immediately repent of their sins after John the Baptist’s warnings? What was his warning to them? Do you think he was too harsh with his words? Why should there be a sense of urgency with our evangelism?

5. King Jesus withstands sin and temptation when you couldn’t. (vv. 3:13-4:11)

- Fasting for 40 days, Jesus was tempted by the devil. In light of Heb 4:14-16, how do these verses bring encouragement to us in our battle with the world, the flesh, and its desires?

6. King Jesus reverses the curse of sin when you could not. (vv. 4:12-25)

- Jesus preached repentance (v. 17). What does repentance mean? Is repentance a one-time event only at conversion? Explain why or why not.

7. King Jesus gives God’s blessings when you couldn’t see them. (vv. 5:1-16)

- Read through the Beatitudes (vv. 2-11). In the context of this passage, what does it mean to be “blessed”? In light of v. 12, how does a “blessed” attitude affect the relationships you have with your neighbor? (see vv. 13-16).

8. King Jesus changes the heart when you couldn’t stop sinning. (vv. 5:17-48)

- Read James 4:1-4 and Matt 5:21: Have you ever been angry at someone ... or, called someone “stupid”? What does Christ equate anger with? How do these verses (17-48), point us to our need for daily repentance? Reflecting on your own walk of faith, give an example of what this repentance would look like?

¹ www.desiringgod.org/messages/battling-unbelief-at-bethlehem