

Message Discussion Guide

THE SON OF GOD AND THE SUBMISSION OF MAN

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

October 10, 2010

Matthew

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Read the following quotation from C.S. Lewis:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd either be a lunatic - on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he'd 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...But don't let us come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to."

Encourage students to think about this quote as they respond to the following question: Can Jesus be respected as a man and not recognized as the Messiah? Can He be respected as a great teacher, without being the Son of God? Allow learners to share their thoughts briefly. Explain that today you will discuss Matthew's portrayal of Jesus as King.

Option 2

Ask learners if they have ever heard someone make the following statement: "When I was a child I made Jesus my Savior, but when I was older I made Him my Lord."

Ask: Can this statement be true? Can Jesus be the Savior without being recognized as Lord and King?

After a few moments of discussion explain that today you will discuss why a true recognition of Jesus as King produces life change.

Review the Message . . .

Is Jesus the King?

- An _____ important _____ question.
- A _____ historic _____ question.
- A _____ personal _____ question.

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The King's Endorsements...

- From the Jewish people: King David.
- From all peoples: Wise Men.
- From the Old Testament prophets:
 - Over 300 specific references to the coming of Christ.
 - Is this made up?
 - Is this manipulated?
 - This is miraculous.
- From John the Baptist.
- From God the Father.
 - He is dearly loved by God.
 - He is fully pleasing to God.

Discussion

- Explain to learners that Matthew was writing his book to a Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed, the Messiah that had been promised. As a Jewish audience, they were greatly familiar with the contents of the Old Testament.
- Enlist two learners to read 2 Samuel 7:12-17 and Genesis 12:1-3. Looking at the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, how important to the Jewish people was the fact that Jesus was a biological descendent of Abraham and King David?
- Enlist three learners to read Matthew 9:27, 12:22-23, and 15:22. How did Matthew use these Jewish people's acknowledgment of Jesus as the Son of David to illustrate recognition of Him as their King?
- Read Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11. What would have been significant to Matthew's audience that even non-Jewish leaders recognized, worshiped, and brought gifts to Jesus as the King of the Jews?
- Knowing that over 300 specific prophecies were made over the 1,000+ years of the Old Testament and that at least 4 of them appear in the first two chapters of Matthew (when Jesus was not yet born or a very small child), how was Matthew making sure his audience knew that these miraculous circumstances were not imagined or manipulated by man?
- The previous endorsements to Jesus' kingship were made prior to His incarnation. How did the witness of John the Baptist (the New Testament prophet) and God, the Father, in Matthew 3:11-17 provide the Jewish people with a visible recognition of His kingship?

Application . . .

- In our North American culture, who, or what, do we seem to require to give us endorsements of Jesus as the true Messiah?
- Who do we put the most trust in to tell us who Jesus is? Who makes us doubt the most?

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- Without having contemporary witness who have visibly seen Jesus what role does our faith play in recognizing Him as King? What role does the Word of God play? What role does our personal experience play?
- Why should God's Word be the authority in our lives for who Jesus is?

The King's Platform...

- He loves the unlikely .
 - To those who are despised , in darkness, and in the shadow of death...
 - The light of Christ dawns on you!
- He conquers the uncontrollable .
 - He has authority over disease .
 - He has authority over demons.
 - He has authority over nature.
 - He has authority over sin.
 - He has authority over suffering.
 - He has authority over death .
 - Jesus conquers with compassion .
- He serves the undeserving .
 - Despite threats, he continues to heal .
 - Despite rejection, he continues to teach.
 - Despite betrayal, he continues to love .

Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Matthew 9:9-13. Why did Jesus tell the religious leaders of the day that He came for those who were unlovely and undeserving?
- Direct learners to look through the headings and passages in Matthew chapters 8 and 9. Over what things did Jesus demonstrate power and authority?
- Focusing on 9:36, describe Jesus' feelings toward the lost.
- Enlist three learners to read Matthew 12:14-15, 13:54-57, 26:47-50. What did Jesus' persistence demonstrate about His obedience to His calling? About His love for people?

Application . . .

- How does Jesus' authority give us hope today? Why can we still have hope when we do not see certain situations resolved in a miraculous way such as these stories in Matthew?
- How is Jesus' compassion encouraging to us today? How should it impact us to know that He is not indifferent to us?
- Why can we see Christ as a personal Savior?
- What are the things in our lives that most affect how we minister to others? How can we follow Christ's model of persistence to God's calling?

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- If you were talking with a friend who questioned who Jesus is, what would you tell them based on today's study?

The King's Promise...

- His life will be _____ taken _____.
 - Is this how a king rules?
 - Is this how a king _____ reigns _____?
- His death will be _____ temporary _____.
 - He is the only King able to _____ defeat _____ death.
 - He is the only King able to _____ give _____ life.
- His victory will be _____ timeless _____.
 - The King's campaign is _____ not over _____.
 - The King is _____ coming back _____.

Discussion

- Read Matthew 16:21-23. How was this statement by Jesus in opposition to what so many Jewish people wanted in a political and religious Messiah?
- What truth in Jesus' statement sets Him apart from all other spiritual or religious leaders of all time?
- Enlist a learner to read Matthew 24:29-31. Jesus will not only conquer death and come back to life, but He promised to come back to take His people with Him into eternity. What does this reveal about Christ's ultimate authority over every single person on earth?

Application . . .

- What are the "things of man" that so often distract us from the "things of God?"
- How do we sometimes change Jesus' identity into a Messiah that we prefer to worship more than who He truly is?
- How does our belief in Jesus' resurrection affect our hope in the future?
- Why does Jesus' resurrection matter to us?

Two Ways To Live...

- _____ Reject _____ Jesus as King.
- _____ Follow _____ Jesus as King.
 - Radical _____ abandonment _____ for His glory.
 - We surrender our entire lives...
 - Our _____ comfort _____ and our careers.
 - Our _____ possessions _____ and our position.
 - Our _____ families _____ and our friends.
 - Our _____ safety _____ and ourselves.
 - We spend our entire lives...

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- For the honor of our King.
- Radical dependence on His grace.
 - He takes the initiative to choose us.
 - He provides the power to use us.
 - He gets the glory through us.
- Radical obedience to His mission.
 - We live to announce His kingship.
 - We die to advance His kingdom.

Discussion

- Read Matthew 4:18-22. How did the disciples respond to His calling?
- Describe what the disciples gave up and/or how their lives changed after following Christ.
- Why did Jesus choose these disciples? What qualities did they have that made them great disciples?
- How was God's glory made evident through their lives?

Application . . .

- How do our lives reveal whether we reject or accept the truth of Jesus as the King of everything and everyone?
- If we truly believe that Jesus is King, why is there not an option to say a simple prayer of salvation, or walk an aisle, or attend church and then live however we want?
- How does radically following Christ place less emphasis on ourselves and our abilities?
- What is our purpose in following Him? What must be our sole motivation for following our King?
- What are we willing, or not willing, to give up or change for the sake of following Him obediently?
- What are the greatest hindrances in our lives to following Christ with everything we have? How can we conquer those hindrances?