

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom



THE GREAT OMISSION

Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship



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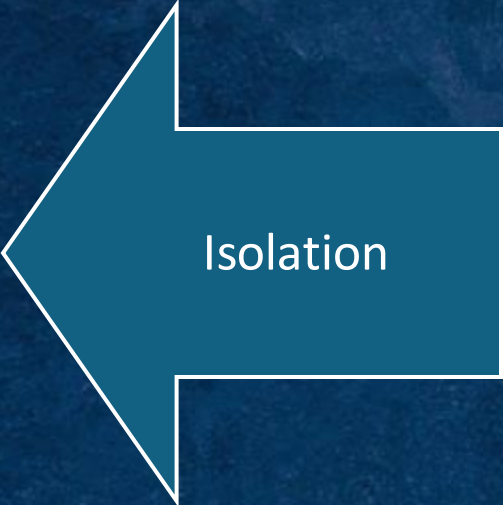
Author of The Divine Conspiracy

There is an obvious Great Disparity between, on the one hand, the hope for life expressed in Jesus—found real in the Bible and in many shining examples from among his followers—and, on the other hand, the actual day-to-day behavior, inner life, and social presence of most of those who now profess adherence to him...the governing assumption today, among professing Christians, is that we can be “Christians” forever and never become disciples... And this (with its various consequences) is the Great Omission from the “Great Commission” in which the Great Disparity is firmly rooted.

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Two extremes to avoid in our interpretation



Isolation

Reading the Sermon in isolation from Matthew's gospel or the NT.



Domestication

Treating the Sermon as irrelevant for Christians today.

Matthew 4:17, 23-24a, 25a, 5:1-3, 7:24-29

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” . . . ²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread...²⁵ And great crowds followed him...^{5:1} Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Matthew 4:17, 23-24a, 25a, 5:1-3, 7:24-29

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.... ^{7:24} “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Matthew 4:17, 23-24a, 25a, 5:1-3, 7:24-29

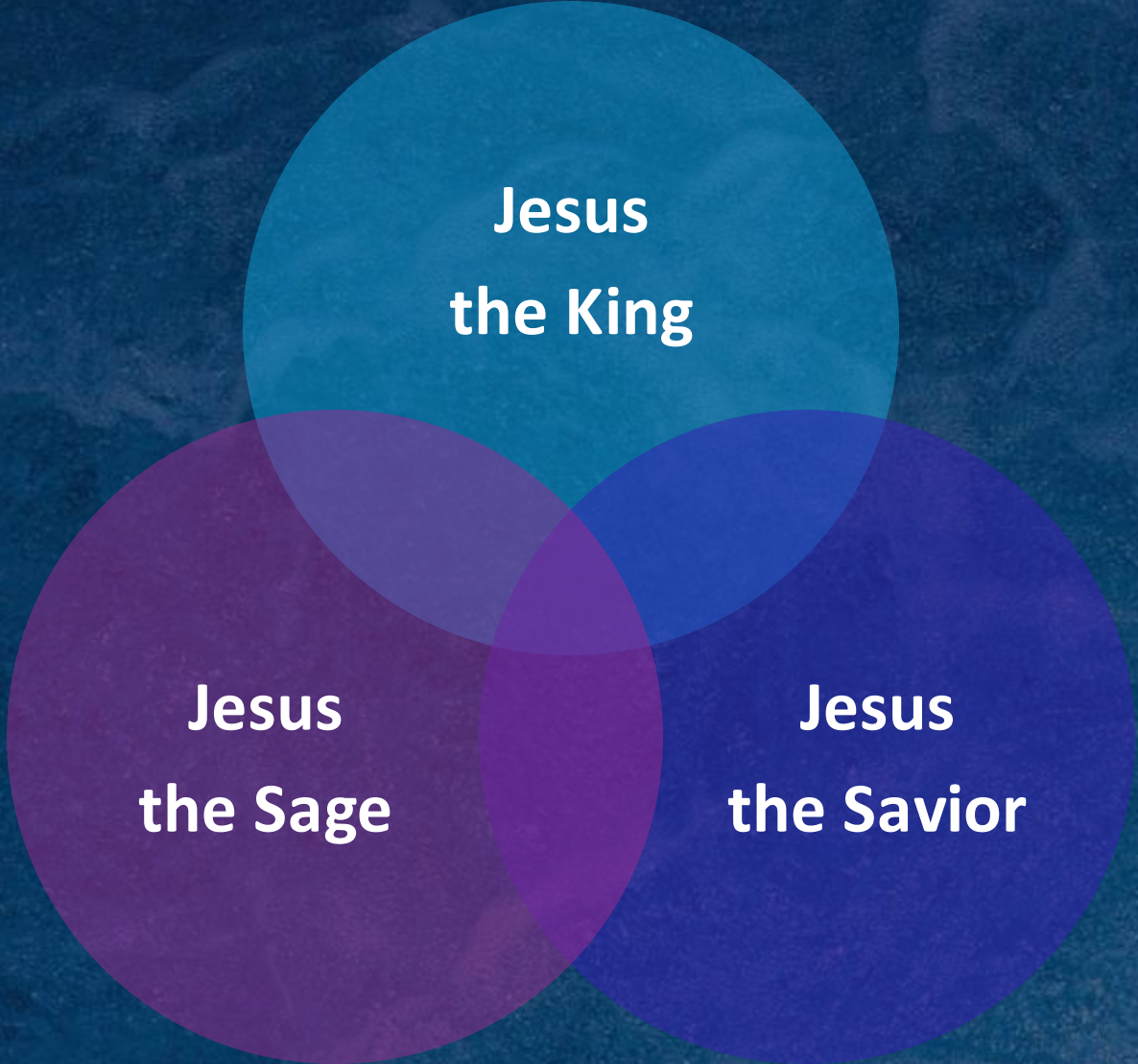
²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” ²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Outline

1. Jesus the King

1. Jesus the Sage

1. Jesus the Savior



A Venn diagram consisting of three overlapping circles. The top circle is teal and labeled 'Jesus the King'. The bottom-left circle is maroon and labeled 'Jesus the Sage'. The bottom-right circle is dark blue and labeled 'Jesus the Savior'. The circles overlap in the center and at the intersections of two circles. The background is a dark blue textured rectangle.

**Jesus
the King**

**Jesus
the Sage**

**Jesus
the Savior**

1. Jesus the King

Matt. 4:17, 23; 5:3

Matthew 4:17, 23, 5:2-3

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^{5:2} And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven....

1. Jesus the King

The kingdom in the Sermon:

- “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3, 10)
- “least . . . great in . . . enter the kingdom of heaven” (5:19-20)
- “Your kingdom come...” (6:10)
- “Seek first the kingdom of God” (6:33)
- “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven” (7:21)

1. Jesus the King

What is the kingdom?

- The kingdom is God's future saving reign already revealed in Jesus. To belong to the kingdom is to live under Jesus' reign, with all the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

1. Jesus the King

Application

- Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount is spoken with the authority of a king and teaches us how to live as citizens of his kingdom.

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- Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount is spoken with the authority of a king and teaches us how to live as citizens of his kingdom.
- Do you live under the reign of Jesus—or does something else hold more power in your life?

2. Jesus the Sage

Matthew 7:13-14, 24-27



Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:24-29

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

The Sermon *on the* Mount and Human Flourishing

A THEOLOGICAL COMMENTARY



Jonathan T. Pennington

“The Sermon is offering Jesus’s answer to the great question of human flourishing, the topic at the core of both the Jewish wisdom literature and that of the Greco-Roman virtue perspective, while presenting Jesus as the true Philosopher-King.”

—Jonathan Pennington

2. Jesus the Sage

Application

- What is your vision of “the good life”? Does it agree with the teaching of Jesus?



We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith.



Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by an offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. (C. S. Lewis)

2. Jesus the Savior

Matthew 1:21-23

Matthew 1:21-23

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us)

3. Jesus the Savior

What is salvation?

- Salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences, including both sin's guilt and power (reign).

3. Jesus the Savior

How Matthew portrays Christ as Savior

With themes and categories from the prophet Isaiah and story of Israel to show how Jesus is the long-awaited Savior.

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With themes and categories from the prophet Isaiah and story of Israel to show how Jesus is the long-awaited Savior.

- Jesus and the New Exodus (Matt. 1-4)
- Jesus as the Servant of the Lord (Matt. 8:16-17; 12:18-21; 20:28)

Matthew 8:16-17

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

Matthew 12:18

**“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. . .”**

Matthew 20:28

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

3. Jesus the Savior

Application

The Sermon on the Mount paints a portrait of life under the saving reign of God.

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- Are you living a life of *faith* (trust in the Father)?

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Application

The Sermon on the Mount paints a portrait of life under the saving reign of God.

- Are you living a life of *faith* (trust in the Father)?
- Are you living a life of *righteousness* (imitating the Father)?

Summary

1. Jesus the King

1. Jesus the Sage

1. Jesus the Savior

Takeaways

- Read the Sermon this week. Meditate on Jesus's promises. Tremble at his warnings. Wonder at his wisdom. Ponder the paradoxes in his teaching.

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- Read the Sermon this week. Meditate on Jesus's promises. Tremble at his warnings. Wonder at his wisdom. Ponder the paradoxes in his teaching.
- Let the words of Jesus bring you to the feet of Jesus himself.