

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 22)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18, Christians are instructed to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. According to John 5:39, this growth is accomplished through careful Bible study.
3. Jesus' biography is found in the Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
4. A general knowledge of these books is helpful as we study them.
5. This lesson is a study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Discussion:

- I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS' BIOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW
 - A. Concerning the writer's identity, Matthew was:
 1. called by Jesus (Matthew 9:9)
 2. a "publican" [tax collector]
 3. the son of Alphaeus, and he was called Levi (Mark 2:14)
 4. chosen to be an apostle (Matthew 10:2-4).
 - B. The Gospel of Matthew seems to have been written primarily for the Jews.
 1. (1:1-17) The Lord's lineage is traced back to Abraham.
 2. Throughout his book Matthew emphasized the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- II. OUTLINE OF MATTHEW (Jackson -- adapted)
 - A. (ch.1-2) Jesus' birth and childhood
 1. (1:1-17) Jesus' genealogy
 2. (1:18-25) Jesus' birth
 3. (2:1-12) The visit of the wise men from the east
 4. (2:13-15) Escape into Egypt
 5. (2:16-18) Slaughter of the Bethlehem infants
 6. (2:19-23) Return from Egypt and settlement in Nazareth
 - B. (ch.3-4:11) Preliminaries to Jesus' ministry
 1. (3:1-12) The preparation by John the Baptist
 2. (3:13-17) The account of Jesus' baptism
 3. (4:1-11) Temptation in the wilderness
 - C. (4:12-ch.20) Jesus' ministry
 1. (4:12-ch.18) Preaching in Galilee
 2. (ch.19-20:16) Preaching east of the Jordan River
 3. (20:17-34) En route to Jerusalem
 - D. (ch.21-28) Concluding events in Jesus' earthly life
 1. (ch.21-25) The final week at Jerusalem
 2. (ch.26-27) Jesus' death
 3. (ch.28) Jesus' resurrection
- III. IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION REVEALED IN MATTHEW
 - A. Jesus' work primarily consisted of preaching, teaching, and healing (4:23-25; 9:35).
 - B. (ch.13) Jesus presented a number of parables to explain the nature of the kingdom.
 1. By doing so Jesus fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy (13:34-35; Psalm 78:2).
 2. (13:10-17) Jesus explained why He spoke in parables.
 - C. Some of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ in Matthew include:
 1. the virgin birth (1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14)
 2. the place of His birth -- Bethlehem (2:5-6; Micah 5:2)
 3. being called out of Egypt (2:14-15; Hosea 11:1)
 4. giving light to the people (4:13-16; Isaiah 9:1-2)
 5. bearing the infirmities of the people (8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4)
 6. riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (21:1-7; Zechariah 9:9)
 7. the parting of His garments (27:35; Psalm 22:18)
 8. being given vinegar to drink (27:48; Psalm 69:21).