

Advent/Christmas texts
Bible Study class
Lesson 5 outline
July 16, 2017

Introduction

Matthew tells the same story as Luke, but he includes some new people, leaves out others, and emphasizes different points.

Try to read Matthew 1-2 in one sitting. What stories did you miss? In Luke's infancy narratives, the word "favor" appeared six times. What words/themes show up several times in these passages?

Who has power in these stories? How do they exercise it?

What is God doing behind the scenes?

Matthew 1:1-17

1. Four women are mentioned in Jesus' genealogy: Try to look up their stories
 - a. Tamar: Genesis 38
 - b. Rahab: Joshua 2
 - c. Ruth: Ruth 1-4
 - d. "wife of Uriah" (Bathsheba): 2 Samuel 11-12
2. Why do you think Matthew included these stories? Are these stories we should read in worship on Sunday morning?

Matthew 1:18-25

1. Why would Joseph have reservations about pursuing this marriage?
2. What would have happened to Mary had Joseph followed through with his plan?
3. Note how God uses dreams to communicate with people.
4. Note the connection between Matthew 1:23 and Isaiah 7:14.

Matthew 2:1-12

1. Last Sunday, we talked about power in Luke's infancy narratives. These verses raise the issue of power again. Who has power? What kind of power do they have?
2. Note the connection between Matthew 2:6 and Micah 5:2.
3. How many wise men were there?
4. The use of a dream occurs again.

Matthew 2:13-15

1. The theme of power occurs again. What kind of power does Herod have? What kind of power does Joseph have?
2. Do you think Joseph ever regretted saying “yes” to the angel of the Lord?

Matthew 2:16-18

1. Of what benefit is this passage today? Why do we shy away from it?
2. If you were the one assigned to write on these verses, what would you say? Are there connections to our day?
3. Are there any hymns in our hymnal for passages like these?

Matthew 2:19-23

1. These verses don't seem as important as others, yet they are here. What lessons do we draw from them?