

MEET THE KING!

with Matthew

'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Mat. 3:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

2nd Session THEME: The tested King

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

The Christian message is that the Saviour and King has come and that the work of salvation – God's new Exodus, God leading an international people united with Christ, to the promised Kingdom – has already started. Those who believe in Jesus Christ and therefore submit to Him as the saving, commanding King will have it; the end of those who oppose the King and the kingdom will perish, like Pharaoh and his armies. However, sometimes we may get hard questions: If it has begun, where do we see it? Can you prove it? Why do we still wait for it – after 2000 years? It seems God doesn't really care... In which way did you or do you currently struggle with some of such doubts or unbelieving thoughts?

2. Read Matthew 4 30 minutes to understand the passage

Look again at verses 1-4

The first test

- How does this test remind us of how Israel once was tested?
- Read Exodus 16:1-3. Even though the Israelites had just been redeemed from Egypt, they felt stressed and thought not that God's providence could save them from the current trouble. Have you experienced this also? And if so, do you have an idea where this problem comes from?
- Jesus didn't fail the tests wherein we all sometimes fail. What would Matthew's purpose be (and the Holy Spirit's purpose) to let us know about that?
- How did Jesus respond to the devil's temptation and what should we learn from that?

Look again at verses 5-7

The second test

- Someone says (s)he trusts God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11; but you see (s)he continues in something God has explicitly forbidden in the Bible. How is this person deceived?
- The devil tempted Jesus by quoting the Bible, God's true and infallible Word (Psalm 91). How did Jesus respond – and what can we learn from that?
- When Jesus was crucified, He could have asked the Father for many angels to save Him from the cross (see Matthew 26:53). Why did Jesus choose not to do that?

Look again at verses 8-11

The third test

- Read Psalm 2:7-8. How did the devil tempt Jesus for the third time?
- Jesus would have the inheritance through the way of obedience and bearing the cross. Read Romans 8:16-17. What do you learn?
- How is the way of self-denial and bearing the cross a way contrary to our contemporary culture? And wherein do you find it difficult to go this way?
- Look at what happened afterwards – see verse 11 – what can you learn from this verse?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Look again at the Icebreaker question. What did you learn from God's Word today for your own situation? Take a few moments of silence to think/pray/meditate hereon; then share and end with prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

Deuteronomy reflects on how Israel had failed to meet its tests (Exodus 14:22-17:7) and provides instructions, fulfilled in Christ, but still relevant for us. To dig deeper, read Deuteronomy 6 – 8.