



Season of Prayer and Discernment: Daily Devotional

We ask you to join us as we pray and seek God’s will for our ministries. We encourage each person in the church to commit themselves to prayer and scripture to be best open to God’s call and leading. We believe there is strength and unity to be found in a church that prays and encounters God’s Word together. This prayer calendar can be found online at www.canonsburgup.org.

February 2012						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Matthew 1 - 4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Matthew 5 - 11						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Matthew 12 - 18						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Matthew 19 - 25						
26	27	28	29			
Matthew 26 - Mark 1						

In the Name of Jesus Christ

February 12, 2012

Rev. Tom Hamilton

More about the Gospel of Matthew:

The story of Jesus doesn’t begin with Jesus. God had been at work for a long time. Salvation, which is the main business of Jesus, is an old business. Jesus is the coming together in final form of themes and energies and movements that had been set in motion before the foundation of the world. Matthew opens the New Testament by setting the local story of Jesus in its world historical context. He makes sure that as we read his account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we see the connection with everything that has gone before. “Fulfilled” is one of Matthew’s characteristic verbs; such and such happened “that it might be fulfilled.” Jesus is unique, but he is not odd.

Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is everything previous to us completed in Jesus, we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on for a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos – God. We are neither accidental nor incidental to the story. We get orientation, briefing, background, and reassurance. Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God’s creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives – work, family, friends, memories, dreams – also completed in Jesus. Lacking such a context, we are in danger of seeing Jesus as a mere diversion from the concerns announced in newspapers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Excerpt from: “The Message Remix: The Bible in Contemporary Language”
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