

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						

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Week of February 19th

More about the Gospel of Matthew:

When he met Jesus, Matthew was collecting taxes for the corrupt King Herod and his Roman bosses. Matthew was a small-time collaborator in the big machine that squeezed money out of his fellow Jews. Holding the job that more than any other represented “Selling Out”, he was likely a guy who bothered trying to practice the Jewish way of life given by Moses. So it’s telling that Matthew’s account of Jesus’ life is the most Jewish of the four we have. He presents Jesus as the Jewish Messiah-King, fulfilling God’s law and showing how citizens of Jesus’ kingdom can really live. Matthew was one of Jesus’ twelve closet friends, an eyewitness to the events that changed everything for him.

Time frame that Gospel of Matthew was written:

Roughly 6 B.C. to A.D. 30. There were many Judaisms in Palestine at the time. Some Jews thought the animal sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple were central; others said the Temple’s priests were corrupt and would have nothing to do with them. Matthew’s account is harshest toward the Jewish sect that was closest to what Jesus practiced: the Pharisees. The rabbis (the Pharisees’ term for “teacher”) interpreted Moses’ teachings so that ordinary people could live them. Jesus (who was also called rabbi) claimed the right to throw out their interpretations, many of which had long pedigrees, in favor of his own God-inspired understanding.

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