# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 3 & 5

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:* Matthew’s gospel is a gospel which is tuned for the Jewish Christian. For those of us in YL we do this all the time, we use this approach all the time (i.e. how do I share the gospel faithfully in a way that “speaks their language”)
* In YL club talks we should aim to continually answer the question “who is Jesus? The biblical scholar RT France said in the Gospel of Matthew “virtually every aspect of the Gospel’s theology could be subsumed under this heading.” (France, Matthew, 41)
* Since Matthew has more chapters (28) than I can fit into my club year (~22 per year) I have to pick and choose just a little. For this talk I am covering both chapters 3 and 5. They fit together nicely for an intro talk, incarnation talk, and a bit on something we should talk about more in YL: the Kingdom of God (which is God’s plan for the world through us).
	1. Waiting for God (3:13-15)
	2. God’s announcement of Jesus (3:16-17)
		1. God announces “this is my son”
	3. The way the world is / the way the world could be (5:21-48) / Jesus is...
		1. Murder / Life (5:21) Jesus is life
		2. Anger / Patience (5:22-26) Jesus is patient
		3. Cheating& Adultery / Faithfulness (5:27) Jesus is faithful
		4. Lust / Respect (5:28-30) Jesus respects you
		5. Divorce / Family (5:31-32) Jesus doesn’t leave you
		6. Broken Promises / Trust & Honesty (5:33-37) Jesus is trustworthy
		7. Payback for wrongs / Help when you need it most (5:38-42) Jesus is gracious
		8. Hate / Love (5:43-48) Jesus is love
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| Possible main point(s):* For ages people weren’t entirely clear about God, even those who believed in God. God came down to earth to let us know precisely who God is and what God wants for this world. We learn all of this by looking at the life and teaching of Jesus.
* God is very aware that the world isn’t the way it should be right now, Jesus gives us his vision for the world and it is awesome.
* We know what the world is like, Jesus tells us they way it is supposed to be, and Jesus is the one who can make it happen... and we play a part in it!
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus is: 1) the Son of God, 2) loved by God, and 3) pleasing to God (3:17)
* Jesus is very aware about how harsh and difficult the world and people can be (5:21-48)
* Jesus’ recalibrates misunderstood teaching in order to make the world the way it was designed to be (5:21-48)
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| What this has to do with our life:* If you have ever wondered if there is a God, Jesus came to earth to show you all you want and more.
* If you have ever been hurt and frustrated at the world, people, or your own life, Jesus has an entirely different plan in mind for the world and how you fit into it.
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| Relevant technical details:* There are a lot of Christian and unfamiliar terms in 3:13-17 (i.e. Galilee, Jordan, baptism, John, all righteousness, heaven, Spirit of God, and dove). Often it is helpful to explain these, in this introductory talk I would fly through these and spend more time on “who is Jesus” and “what he has to do with our world”. Technical details will be more useful to clarify later in this Gospel and later in the talk sequence.
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| Possible illustrations:* Bring a megaphone (either a powered one or just a big rolled up paper poster board) and make the announcement in 3:17
* Consider making a PowerPoint file of the “world” notes above, use a whiteboard or the file I provide [HERE](http://ylhelp.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Matt-5-Club-Talk-Presentation.pptx).
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 3 (NIV84)

*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

**3** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.’ ”

4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

*The Baptism of Jesus*

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 5 (NIV84)

*The Beatitudes*

**5** Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Salt and Light*

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

*The Fulfillment of the Law*

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

*Murder*

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

25 “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

*Adultery*

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

*Divorce*

31 “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

*Oaths*

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ 34 But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

*An Eye for an Eye*

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

*Love for Enemies*

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.