

Midway through Matthew 2026: Jesus- ‘quick’ learner- (Pastor Dean!)

What have we heard and seen on the Sunday ‘go-round’.

[A ‘pericope’ problem—one of many (don’t get me started)—is how the Gospels lose their individual voices when the church year starts in Advent and ‘ends’ in Holy Week/Good Friday/Easter. The texts on Sundays after Pentecost can become ‘*also rans*.’ After all, we’ve ‘done it’ all in Lent etc. ‘Ordinary’ is the term for all those -used to be Trinity- Sundays after Pentecost. It’s quotidian time.] To ‘get’ Pastor Dean’s ‘Quick Learner,’ we’ve got to pay attention! New Wine is here for the thirsty. Back to the beginning:

Matthew & his readers (including Immanuel Lutheran 2026) Known unknowns: 1st come a rainbow of listeners—Jewish Christians (‘fulfillment’ verses for ex. 1:22 to 27:9-10) maybe, but, for sure, a wide variety of gentiles (nations: goys!). [‘Matthew’s’ identity as the Jewish tax collector Matthew goes way back, but see 21:2 & 7—so uncomfortable when prophecy *has* to be fulfilled.] [Mts’ church in 18:15-20]

Infancy narrative (Mt.2 vs. Lk.2)— [we’ve done this before but happy to have Christmas in July!]

Mary & Joseph-post Christmas (!?): Jesus & his folks are fleeing into Egypt [Thank God for Roman ‘Open Borders’!]. Slaughter in Bethlehem [Rachel weeping] Raised in Nazareth because....[Yup--fulfill!]

Baptism! [Mt. 3] And Temptations (see parallels and differences w/ Luke. Mark doesn’t have the story while John has no temptation-s) ‘Who’s in Charge in this world anyway?’ [Mt. 4-Lent !!] Preaching & then:

Suddenly: Sermon on the Mount! [Oooh!] Blessings on...! A Moment for Anxiety! [5:25] -why don’t we have Philippians 4 paired with this Gospel?

Transfiguration (17:1-9): This Sunday is too early for us to figure out....

[Lent: John! Until *Passion* Sunday (the WORKS!): Blood on our heads—and our children’s heads: How to preach on that one? See Capon] Easter & Pentecost is best left to John, ne?]

Trinity Sunday: Matt. 28:16-20: ‘The believed & they doubted!’ The Commission: ‘Go to all the Gentiles!’ [O.k. the great commission, but if we read Matthew beginning to end: It’s the Jesus Journey-& the Gentiles’ representatives (the Magi) were at the cradle.]

Jesus in Matthew: WE B Learning what it means to be *the* Messiah [‘*Come thou unexpected Jesus!*’] [Matthew 11 = Jesus ‘*new voice*’ Barclay. See also Jesus’ reaction to John’s death—not just 5K.]

Just as Luke’s has his special section (stories/parables that are only in Luke’s Gospel), we’ll take time to enjoy some ‘only in Matthew’ items. See the handout from Advent—we’re still here! [unmerciful servant 18:23-35/Fish coins! 17:24-27/Vineyard laborers 20:1-16/2Sons 21:28ff]

“Come to me ***all...***”

