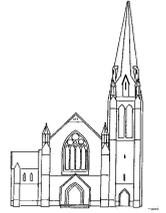




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN Ayrshire.



**Interim Moderator - Dr James Anderson
Locum - Glenn Ronald**

July 2021 Newsletter

Dear friends, Matthew's Gospel is mainly Jewish. Jesus' words are in five units. Once Jesus' divinity is clear, John the Baptist makes way for Christ, the one who resists temptation. Jesus provides the towering "Sermon on the Mount", His disciples continue His mission after His Jerusalem rejection, and His resurrection eclipses His crucifixion.

For Matthew, Jesus' ties to Israel, and Israel's refusal to accept Him, are major issues. Matthew says Christians had to abandon Judaism when they were rejected. This led to the Church's creation. The disciples mission expanded the Christian message beyond Judaism. Jesus' death was divinely predicted, furthering His mission. Jesus' actions reflect His words.

Jesus is the Messianic Son of God, doing God's will. He is the Jewish king who heals, preaches and teaches Jewish law. Jesus gives us the Kingdom of Heaven presently, and in the future. John the Baptist prepares the way. Jesus is the Shepherd who rescues Israel's wayward sheep. They should seek forgiveness, respect the Sabbath, and obey the Law. Despite Jesus' Jerusalem rejection, His resurrection gives us hope His Kingdom will stretch everywhere.

God is the Father who rules the world. Jesus enacts God's plan. He judges Israel and the Temple. God's command appears through the Messiah who sacrifices His life for us. Scripture is fulfilled through Jesus enacting God's plan. Jesus is born of a virgin in Bethlehem, who emerges from Egypt, and suffers for a nation. He is the "Nazarene" who travels to Gentile Galilee. He suffers our sickness and shepherds a lost people. He is the servant who reaches out to Gentiles, transforming Israel, returning them to God. His disciples continue His greater mission creating future disciples, forming the Church.

Papias sees this as Matthew's Gospel, but this is disputed. Matthew's name is clearly on it however, tracing its origins back to the early to middle 2nd century. It was very popular. But how could an apostle use the text of a non-apostle? Matthew using Mark. This forgets Mark as witness to Peter's testimony. Also, how was Matthew, a Jew, so well-versed in Greek? It was a Greek-speaking culture. More importantly, how could Matthew have written such a late Gospel? However, the consensus is that it is Matthew's Gospel, explaining its popularity in the Early Church.

Matthew appears first in Ignatius of Antioch's letter to Polycarp. Ignatius died in 107. It appears the Temple still existed, i.e. before 70. Irenaeus said Matthew was written when Peter and Paul founded the Early Church, in the early to middle 60s, or earlier. Matthew could have been written due to Nero's persecution of Christians in the middle 60s, or James' (Jesus' brother's) stoning in 62. Some however believe in a post 70 Matthew, as it predicts Jerusalem's destruction. Matthew may be set in Israel or Antioch, Syria. Matthew appears first as it was thought the first written, by an apostle, with the strongest Old Testament link, and it is the most popular.

My wife, Wanda, recently has had a major operation and is slowly recovering. She is being looked after wonderfully well by the dedicated Staff of Crosshouse Hospital. We greatly appreciate all of your kind messages of support, your cards and your phone calls. Thank you so much. Stay safe and keep well.

Best wishes, Glenn.

The Calling of Matthew



"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:13 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	U	Q	R	M	H	D	J	V	P	T	Z	Y	B	N	W	G	L	X	E	C	O	S	A	F	I

1. 11-24-19 _____

2. 21-22-18-18-20-21-11-22-4 _____

3. 5-20-4-21-13 _____

4. 23-26-21-1 _____

5. 7-26-15-15-20-4 _____

6. 7-22-21-11-22-4 _____

7. 23-26-15-15-20-4 _____

8. 6-20-24-18-11-6-13 _____

SINNER	MERCY	HEALTHY	DINNER
COLLECTOR	SICK	TAX	DOCTOR

The Calling of Matthew



"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)

Z G U C Q R R B H Z V X S C R
 F J U S E C G I S X T K U N E
 N Q B N A N O E G U H O T O N
 R I N I I C L L D H K S P J U
 C I T T Q P R F L P T W I D P
 D M T E I Y S I A E R E U C D
 D I A C A Q E H F K C L O M K
 S H S T S C V B E I G T W U Y
 U I O Q T R H Z O A C O O T S
 D Q K U O H T E G O L E V R W
 Q E X T S P E W R L T T L K S
 H N C S C E A W O H S H H H A
 P O B T N W G F K W C B U Y W
 D V T H Q A S I N N E R S G A
 M E R C Y D M U R T O K R G R

DISCIPLES	MATTHEW	DOCTOR	COLLECTORS
SACRIFICE	DINNER	HEALTHY	TEACHER
MERCY	SITTING	BOOTH	SINNERS
RIGHTEOUS	FOLLOW	HOUSE	SICK