



# A New King

The life of Jesus  
according to Matthew's Gospel



Wk 3

## Sunday 18 February 2024

*Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.*

### TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Baptism
- Bible Reading:  
Matthew 5:1-16  
(p. 968)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Confirmation
- Song
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's! We're very glad to have you with us. We hope you are welcomed warmly and encouraged from the Bible. We would love to hear how you found church. Could you take a moment and connect with us through the QR code or the Connect Card inside?



Today we celebrate the work of God in a number of people as they get baptised or confirmed. Baptism is a practice the Lord Jesus established for his church as symbolic of the great change which takes place when he washes our sins away by his death on the cross. It is a profound – once forever – moment in the life of a Christian. Confirmation is a tradition of the Anglican Church which gives those baptised as infants the chance to make a public declaration of faith and seek the prayers of God's people. It also takes comfort from the work of Christ for us.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.  
BSB: 062 272  
Account Number:  
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

### Next Steps

**Are you new?** We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next [Newish Morning Tea](#) on Sunday 25 February. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

**Been regularly coming?** If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on the 10th of March from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

**Got a question?** Fill out a [connect card](#) to chat with a staff member.

# Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

## A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

## The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever  
Amen.

# Sermon Notes

## Members of the Kingdom | Matthew 5:1-16

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

### 1. Characteristics of a follower

(a) A surprising list

(b) A compelling character

### 2. The purpose of a follower

(a) Light of the World & the OT Nation of Israel

(b) Falling short of the task

### 3. The one true faithful follower

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

## 1. The Modern Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_”

What are two different ways you might fill this in to capture our cultural mindset?

## Read Matthew 5:1-16

### Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. List the traits of those who are 'blessed'.
- B. List what is promised to those who are 'blessed' in the future.
- C. In vv. 13-16, what metaphors are used to explain a follower of Christ's responsibilities?
- D. What do the metaphors aim to encourage?
- E. What is the motive for good deeds?

2. Read Isaiah 42:6, 49:6 & 51:4. How do these encouragements and directions to the remnant of Israel relate to the Matt 5 passage? What task might this be laying at the feet of Jesus's followers?

3. As you consider the list in Matt 5:3-10, what is challenging for you personally? Which encouragements are most difficult for you and why?

4. Watch the video by scanning the QR code and/or consider Matt 27:27-50. Can you identify the different ways Jesus fulfills his own description of a faithful member of God's kingdom?





*“We are the Light of the world, as Jesus told us, but the light that is in us does not come from ourselves or our deeds, no matter how holy and righteous we may think ourselves to be. The luster of our lives is Christ shining His way, His truth, and His life through us.”*

Trevin Wax

5. If Jesus is the true disciple & light of the world (John 8:12), how does that reshape our thinking about the encouragement in v.16 to “let your light shine before others”?

## Prayer Time

*Split into smaller groups:*

1. Do you see signs of growth such that the light of Christ radiates out of you more and more?
2. If so, give thanks and ask God to continue to transform you. To the extent this is not true, spend time confessing your sin and finding assurance in Christ’s perfection for you.



### GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video via the QR code and consider the following questions:



- i. Share in your group someone that you’re hoping or could bring along to the banquet and pray for each other.
- ii. Pray also for those who are coming along, those who are organising and sharing on the night.

## Read the Bible with us!

1. What can you hope for in your life?
2. Where/whom does this come from?
3. Ask God to graciously bring about this change.

Monday - [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Tuesday - [Romans 15:13](#)

Wednesday - [Ephesians 3:16-19](#)

Thursday - [2 Peter 1:3-4](#)

Friday - [Romans 5:1](#)

# Good News Stories

## Jacinta

I had big plans for myself: a life and legacy of helping others – and being recognised for it!

But the Christians I knew were different. They didn't help, they served. They weren't self-seeking, they were sacrificial. I wanted this!

It took me a long time to realise how much I not just want, but need Jesus. I erupt in anger and bitterness. I am weakened by anxiety and sadness. I am arrogant and jealous. But Jesus meets me in my imperfection and loves me still. He gives me peace, strength, humility and the hope of life eternal.

I questioned if this was all just positive psychology. Was Christianity just the easy way out? Yet each time I asked myself these questions, I came back to how true Christianity is. I couldn't deny what the Bible says about Jesus is historically accurate.

To be honest, being a Christian has not always been easy nor without pain. But I keep coming back to Jesus:

Is Jesus wonderful? He is. Is Jesus true? He is. Is Jesus worth it? He is.



## Mike

I have been a geologist for over 50 years, and was agnostic. I felt science adequately explained the origin of the earth. After all, didn't the fossil record adequately explain evolution was real? What more did I need?

I met Fred about 20 years ago through work. Fred and I subsequently met or spoke innumerable times about business because I had a high regard for his advice, on top of which we shared an interest in wine. I recall when our meetings ended, Fred had a habit of saying, "God Bless". I thought nothing more about it.

Toward the end of 2022, Fred and Jill invited us to a wine and cheese function at St Stephen's. This was followed by Carols, and then the Lunar New Year dinner.



Kathy and I were impressed with Alpha, which began that night, and we decided to continue the course. Stephen was at our table on the second night of the course, and he asked me if I was a Christian. I said I wasn't, because I just didn't buy the idea that the world and life was formed in 6 days. He said he felt exactly the same 40 years ago, and that he was a doctor and so also a scientist. There was an immediate connection between us, and I was intrigued. He gave me a book, *Who moved the Stone*, which fascinated me. The discussions at Alpha helped to see that the question wasn't "How did the earth come to be?" but "Who made it?"

After about the 4th week, I had been reading a great deal and the light lit. I got it! I asked Stephen, "what's next?" He sent me a short prayer to read, whereby I could thank the Lord Jesus Christ for his forgiveness, and ask him to come into my life by his Holy Spirit to be with me forever. One Sunday at the end of the 9.45am service, Stephen, Fred, Kathy and I went quietly to the side of the Church. We embraced, I prayed to God and asked Jesus to come into my life. By the time I walked into the hall for morning tea, the whole room knew. I was sooo warmly congratulated. My faith and knowledge of Jesus has continued to grow each day with the help and guidance of many. My Confirmation today is the next step in my life with Christ.

# Notices

## Gospel and Prayer Groups

Our GaP Groups are excellent spaces for you to soak yourself in the promises of God and shape your prayer life accordingly.

They provide a regular time of encouragement, grounded in the Bible's solid hope. The community you experience in a group will enrich your spiritual life and help you shape not only your vision for church but all of life.



If you have not joined a group but you are interested please use the Connect Card or speak to Prash. We are looking to start a couple of new groups this year.

## Lunar New Year Banquet

Registrations close midnight tonight for the Lunar New Year Banquet. Don't miss out. It's on Tuesday night, 20th February, from 7 to 9:30pm.

Here's a taste of our 3-course banquet: Korean fried chicken, Taiwanese fried chicken, Yee Sang Malaysian/Singaporean-Chinese 7-colour salad with sashimi, two types of Cantonese roast pork, Peking duck, Nasi Goreng, Vietnamese rolls, Asian-flavoured gelato, matching alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks including premium Chinese teas.

Everyone is invited. This night is a celebration of food and culture, as well as a chance to open up a meaningful conversation about the things that matter in life. During the night, we will be showing the first video of the world-renowned Alpha course which we hope will open up an interesting and meaningful conversation about life, faith and Jesus over delicious food and drink.



**Book your spot at [st-stephens.com.au/lnybanquet](http://st-stephens.com.au/lnybanquet)**



## What's Coming Up

20 February	Lunar New Year Banquet
25 February	Newish Morning Tea
27 February	Alpha course
10 March	Belonging Course
16 March	Emu Music Conference

For more on what's happening this summer at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/summer](http://st-stephens.com.au/summer)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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