June 13,2023

Dear Sojourners in Faith and Bible,

I hope this finds you well as we enjoy the last days of spring into the sundry delights of summer.

We have been immersed in the language and themes of Matthew (e.g., discipleship-learning-teaching, Kingdom of Heaven, obedience, righteousness) and will be moving on soon to Luke and John.

Please continue to read and wrestle with **Matthew 5–7** and, if adventurous, read on and think about **Mt 20.1–16 and 25.31–46**. As with Mark earlier, please consider the following to digest Matthew and his portrait of Jesus and the disciples/discipleship, **especially in the light of our earlier observations lessons from Mark**; please come ready with your observations and questions, which I still consider the best parts of our class, beside prayer and fellowship.

How does Matthew begin? What might that indicate? — cf. Mark

What are Matthew’s main points or arguments? — cf. Mark

What is it trying to argue or demonstrate? How does it do that—what words and ideas does it present? — cf. Mark

What might we think about Jesus as we watch and hear what unfolds in Matthew? What portrait of Jesus emerges in Matthew? How about the of the disciples, the so-called Twelve? What do you think of the disciples? And of particularly named disciples? — cf. Mark

What does Jesus do and say? — cf. Mark

Who is the intended audience? — cf. Mark

How does the Gospel end? — cf. Mark

What Mosaic concerns or themes do you see in Matthew? What about Davidic? — cf. Mark

What do you find inspiring in Matthew? Or helpful? Curious? Disappointing? Annoying? Troublesome? — cf. Mark

After all the myriad questions and attempted answers, so what? What could we learn from Matthew for our faith journey? What spiritual—or if permitted to suggest, *theological*—insights could we gain for *our* journey of faith? — cf. Mark

As always, I look forward to **your observations and questions**, and please never hesitate to **suggest any biblical, theological, or life topics** along the way, even if they are only tangentially related. We can be flexible and take detours on our journey through the Bible. Remember that the unofficial title of our Bible study thus far is “Anything and everything you always wanted to ask about the Bible but were to afraid or busy to ask.”

Please see the [“syllabus” online](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/4absbpuggvqu2oy/AABGloIpXgSwCUfNeCiZ-WfXa?dl=0) for where we are headed: [Bible intro 2021-04 Ann’s Choice](https://www.dropbox.com/s/zpy3ca1j2a02ppn/Bible%20intro%202021-04%20Ann%27s%20Choice%20%28handout.pdf?dl=0) (also attached; printed copies available in front of my office in Resident Life, Liberty Commons).

For Zoomers, here are the instructions:

Zoom (online or using an app):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82395191045?pwd=TTRiQklwR2RhRzZkNFNxU2RRbGRoUT09>

Meeting ID:                  823 9519 1045

Meeting Password:       annschoice

Dial in by telephone: nearest phone access in New York City

Dial 1 (929) 205 6099

Enter Meeting ID: 823 9519 1045, followed by “#”

Enter Passcode: 394871 if requested

See you in class or via Zoom. Have a wonder-ful evening.

With prayer and best wishes,

