

# God's Story, Our Story

## Lesson 22: Jesus Christ – Public Ministry

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14)*



*Mt 4:17; Is 9:1-2;  
CCC 541-42*

*Mt 4:18-20; Mt 10:1, 5-7  
CCC 551*

*Mt 5-7*

*Mt 6:25-34; 6:5-15; Mt  
7:13*

*CCC 547-550*

*Mt 8-9; Lk 8*

*Mt 12:1-13; Lk 6:1-5;  
Mk 2:27-28*

*Mt 14:13-21; Jn 6*

1. Jesus' teaching in brief:
  - a. The kingdom of God has come.
  - b. Repentance and the forgiveness of sins.
  - c. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament.
  - d. Jesus reveals the Father - our Father.
  - e. The Beatitudes - how to be a true disciple.
  - f. Love one another.
  - g. The reality of eternal life.
  - h. The paschal mystery – Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and ascension reveal that he is God and that we are to share divine life.
  - i. We have a share in his mission.
2. Jesus fulfills the OT by restoring the kingdom of David. The kingdom of Heaven is for everyone, Jews and Gentiles. This fulfills the Abrahamic covenant. Entering the kingdom requires repentance from sin and belief in the Gospel.
3. Jesus calls twelve disciples to participate in his mission. He sends them out to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of Heaven.
4. Jesus fulfills the Mosaic covenant through giving a new law: the Sermon on the Mount which includes blessings and curses. The new law prohibits anger against one's neighbor; adultery; divorce; swearing oaths; and makes as an imperative to love one's enemies and to be reconciled to God and neighbor.
5. Jesus tells us that we must trust in divine Providence; fast and prayer in secret; and forgive each other. Entering into heaven requires us to pass through the "narrow gate".
6. Jesus claims to be a divine Person: the Son of God. His words and works attest that he is the promised Messiah.
7. Jesus came to liberate man from slavery to sin, Satan and death. The physical healings Jesus wrought in the people were signs of interior spiritual healings from sin. Jesus manifested his power over the physical world and over Satan and his angels.
8. Although Jesus physically raised the dead to life, his work of restoring a sinner to righteousness is a far greater work.
9. In showing that he is the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus restores Israel's understanding of the meaning of Sabbath worship.
10. Jesus feeds 5,000 men with just five loaves and two fish. Immediately afterwards, Jesus gave the Bread of Life discourse: "I

<p><i>Mk 1:35, Mt 14:23, Lk 6:12</i></p> <p><i>Mt 15, 23</i></p> <p><i>Mt 13; Mt 18:21-35; Lk 10:30-37; Lk 15:1-32; CCC 546</i></p> <p><i>Mt 16:13-16</i></p> <p><i>Mt 16:17-20; CCC 552-553</i></p> <p><i>Mt 17:1-13; CCC 554-556</i></p> <p><i>Mt 16:24-26; 19:16-28</i></p> <p><i>Mt 19:3-12</i></p> <p><i>Mt 21:1-11; Zech 9:9</i></p>	<p>am the bread of life... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you..."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. In praying often and for long periods to the Father, Jesus teaches us to pray.</li> <li>12. Jesus has frequent conflicts with the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees over the interpretation of the Law.</li> <li>13. The many parables of Jesus tell us about different aspects of the kingdom of God and Christian discipleship.</li> <li>14. Jesus reveals himself to the apostles as the Messiah and Son of God.</li> <li>15. Jesus entrusts Peter with the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Peter is to have primacy of governance over the Church on earth. Peter will be the unshakeable rock of the Church.</li> <li>16. The Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt Tabor manifests his divinity and also shows that he is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.</li> <li>17. The Cross is a major aspect of Christianity. Christians are to "take up your cross and follow [Christ]". Jesus encourages his disciples to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience (e.g. rich young man).</li> <li>18. Due to the hardness of their hearts, Moses had permitted the Israelites to divorce. Jesus restores God's original plan for marriage: one man and one woman bound together for life.</li> <li>19. Riding triumphant into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus is proclaimed the Son of David. This entry marks the last stage of Jesus' public ministry before entering into his Paschal Mystery.</li> </ol>
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### **Questions for Discussion**

1. According to Luke, Jesus begins his public ministry when he reads a passage from Isaiah (Luke 4:18-19). How is this reading fulfilled in him?
2. How does Jesus' Sermon on the Mount fulfill the Mosaic covenant?
3. How does the prominence of "the cross" in Christian teaching affect your life?
4. Why was it necessary to transform the Jews' understanding of the Law? How did Jesus do this? How does it impact our lives today?
5. The restoration of the kingdom is a major theme in Matthew's Gospel. How does Jesus do this and how is the Davidic kingdom transformed by Christ? Are you in the kingdom?