

Matthew' Gospel: The First Path How Do We Face Change?

Major Sections of Matthew's Gospel

The Genealogy

The Announcement of Jesus's Birth

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

The Flight to Egypt and Galilee

Jesus's Baptism

The Temptations

The Sermon on the Mount

(The Wisdom Teaching of Jesus -- Parables -- Expanding the Sermon on the Mount)

The Passion of Jesus

Crucifixion and Death

The Resurrection of the Messiah

Wisdom Teachings of the Beatitudes

- Accept that we do not and will not know the results in advance. We often feel “poor in spirit.”
- Make farewells to our yesterdays and embrace the grief we feel.
- Be humble in our willingness to journey. Yielding to exile will yield riches of Spirit.
- Know that our true hunger and thirst are for Spirit, and only Spirit, despite all trials and temptations.
- Greet all we encounter, within and without, in mercy, and reap the rewards of gratitude. Recognize that mercy derives from *merces*, a Latin word that translates as “reward.”
- Be full of heart. Do not seek to remove any thought, any feeling, or any person from our inner life. Each is an aspect of Spirit. Welcome them all.
- Believe in “Jeru-Shalom” as a home of welcome that accommodates the true peace of respect for differing voices, if we will but listen.
- Accept inner and outer hardship as needed for the sake of living a new life in the presence of God. Power and applause are not what we seek. Our journey leads instead to humility and service.
- Anticipate lack of esteem. Be prepared instead for conflict – and meet it with respect and love.