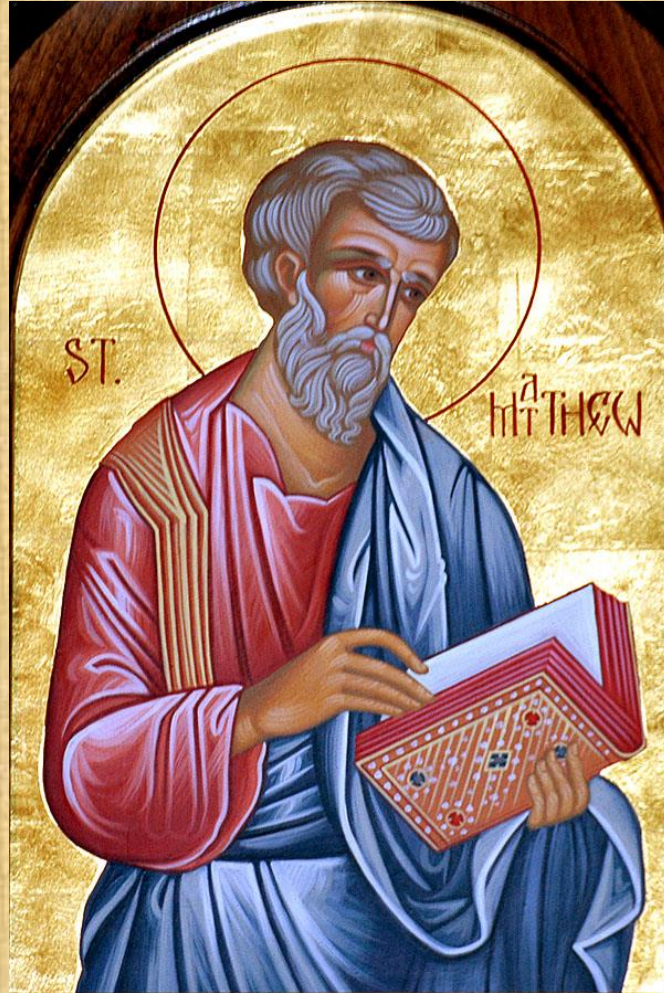
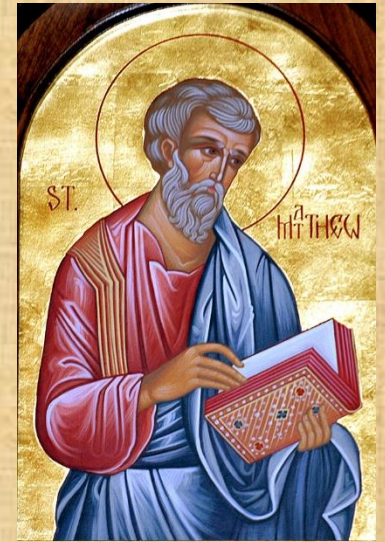


# Living in God's Coming Kingdom



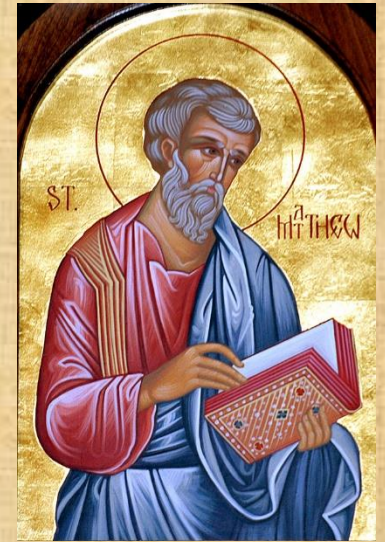
## Main Themes in Matthew

# A QUESTION FROM LAST TIME



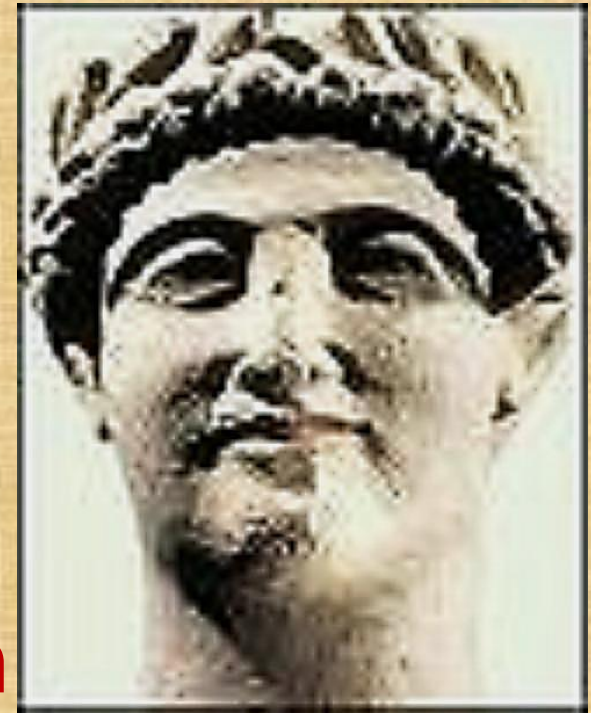
- Did you reflect on one of the titles of Jesus from last week's class"? If so, what impact did it have for you during the week?

# A QUESTION FROM LAST TIME



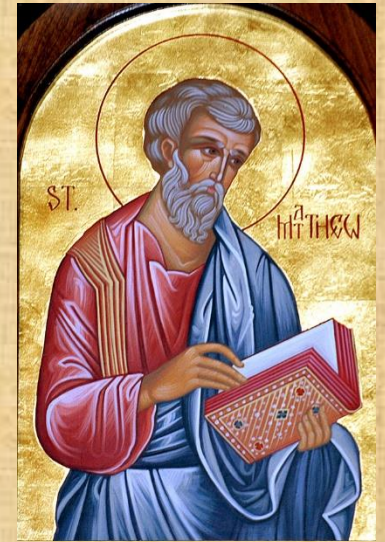
- What effect does it have for you to think of the phrase “Jesus Messiah” instead of “Jesus Christ”?

# Herod the Great and Jesus



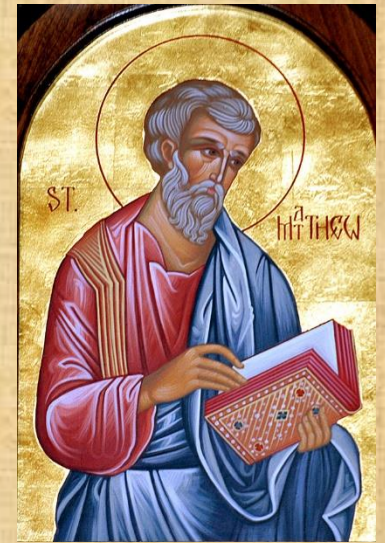
Now when Jesus was born  
in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of  
Herod the king, behold, wise men from  
the East came to Jerusalem,  
saying, “Where is he who has been  
born king of the Jews?” (Matt. 2:1-2)

# Main Themes in Matthew



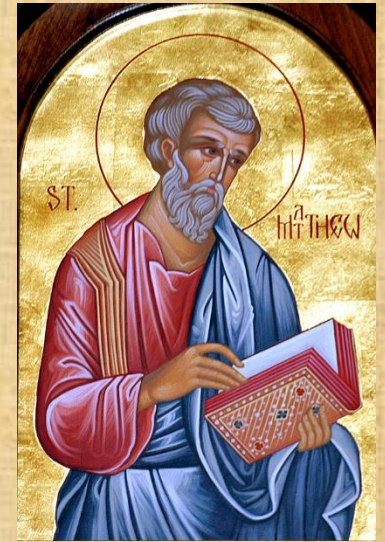
1. Embracing Jesus as Messiah
2. Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven
3. Following Jesus
4. Welcoming All

# A QUESTION!



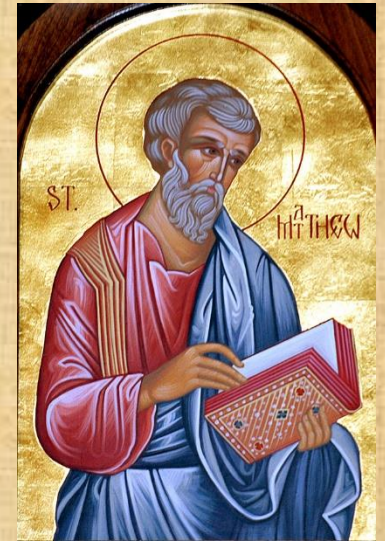
What do you remember about  
John the Baptist?

# John's Message



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matt. 3:1-2)

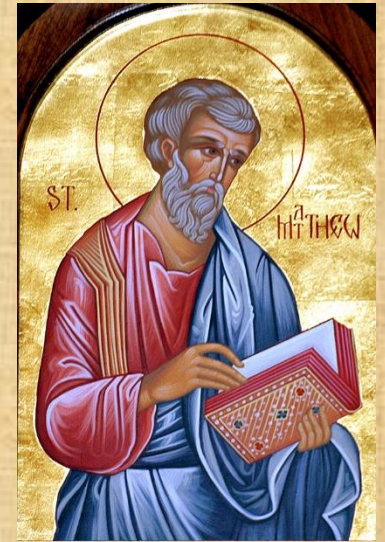
# John's View of Jesus



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” (Matt. 3:1-2)

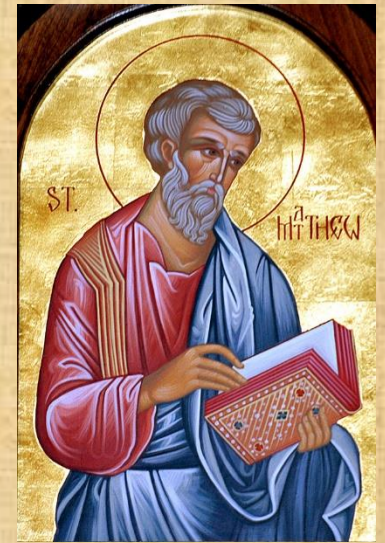


# Early Events in Jesus' Ministry



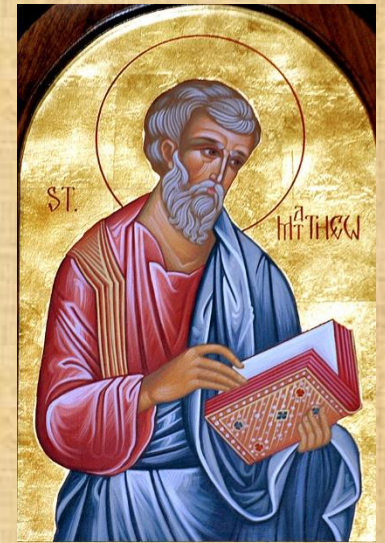
Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria. (Matt. 4:23-24)

# Matthew 11:4-6



“And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”

The Kingdom...

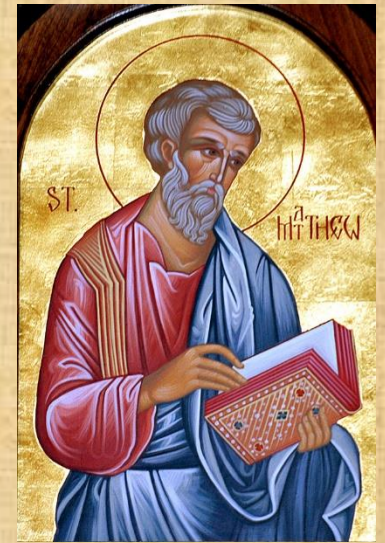


*Already*

*(but also)*

*Not Yet!*

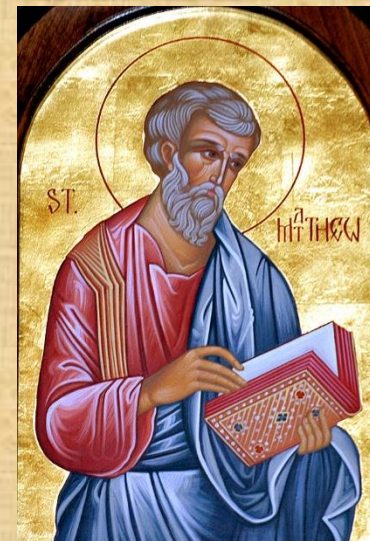
# The Final Kingdom



Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more.”

(Revelation 21:3-4)

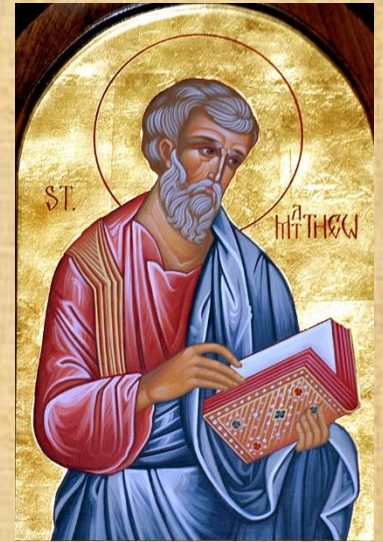
# Where Do We Find the Kingdom?



Where people are...

- *Forgiving others their trespasses*
- *Showing mercy toward others*
- *Doing “the will of my Father in heaven”*

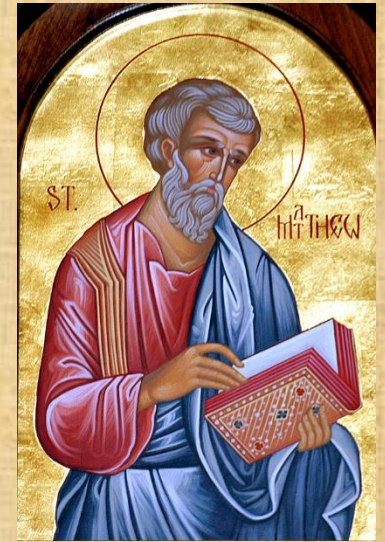
# The Final Kingdom is “Not Yet”!



And Jesus answered, “Take heed...for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

(Matt. 24:4-8)

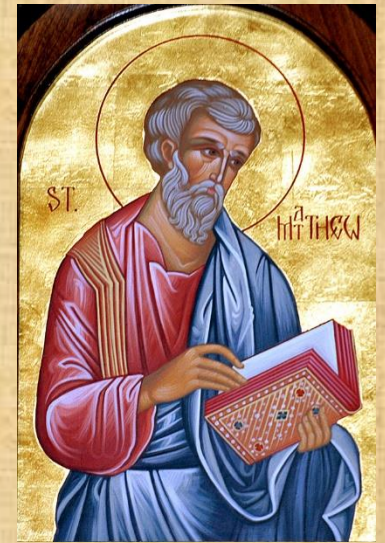
# The Final Kingdom is “Not Yet”!



“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

(Matt. 24:36)

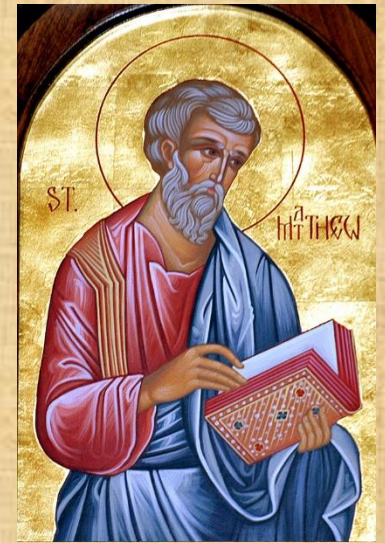
# A QUESTION



If “No one knows, not even the Son,” then why do so many preachers and their listeners keep trying to make predictions about the End?

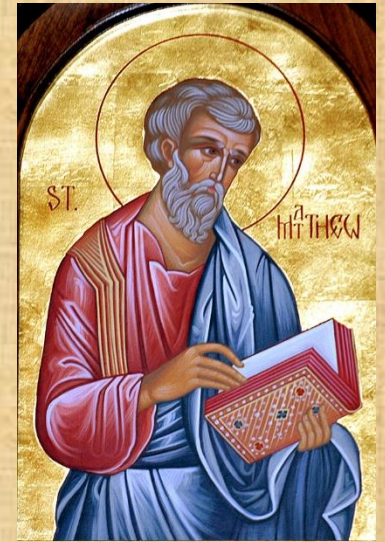


# A FINAL QUESTION



If God's Kingdom is supreme, what is it that leads us humans so often and so easily to boast about being special, or better than others?

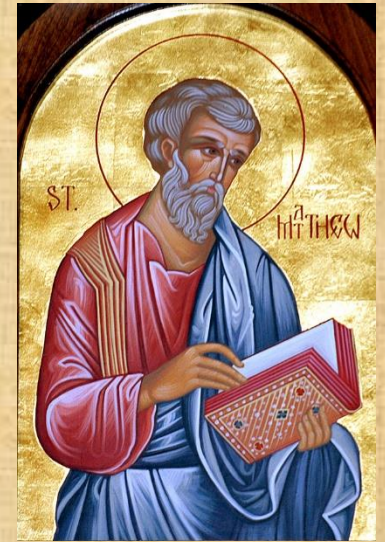
# A Closing Prayer



“Come, O Spirit of God,  
cause blind eyes to see; awaken our land.  
Come, O Spirit of God,  
breathe life through your church;  
Come O Lord, bring heaven to earth,  
bring heaven to earth.”

(refrain; © Capernaum Publishing, 2017)

# FOR THOSE WHO LIKE ASSIGNMENTS!!!



➤ Matthew 5 – 7

*(The Sermon on the Mount)*

➤ Matthew 10:24-39

➤ Matthew 16:13-23