

1. **Intro** - “Your Worldview Matters”

1. Ravi Zacharias - Story of the Muslim convert who challenged the west to view Faith as central to their lives - “The Westerner regards life more important than what they believe, that is why the west will be over-run. Faith, in the West, is sort of an extracurricular interest and a mere aspect of life for the sake of inner peace. But faith seldom enters the conscience as a conviction.” - *Jesus Among Secular Gods* pg. 11

2. **Question:** What worldview did the people of Jesus’ time have?

1. Calling of Matthew Levi -
 1. **Text** - Matthew 9:9-13
2. Gospel Writer focused on Jesus as fulfillment of prophetic King
 1. Repeatedly quotes OT Prophets pointing to Messiah in the story of Jesus
 1. Matthew 1:23 = Isaiah 7:14;
 2. Matthew 2:6 = Micah 5:2;
 3. Matthew 2:15 = Hosea 11:1
 1. These OT Prophets ministered in Israel in the time of Oppression, wickedness, idolatry & religious apathy.
 2. “Micah’s message alternated between oracles of doom and oracles of hope. The theme is judgment and deliverance by God. Micah also stresses that God hates idolatry, injustice, rebellion and empty ritualism, but He delights in pardoning the penitent.” - Intro to Micah from NASB 95
 2. SDABC on Matthew 9:13 -
 1. **“I will have mercy.** Or, “I desire mercy” (see Hosea 6:6). As used here, “mercy” may be said to stand for character, that is, for the traits of character that God would have His people reflect (see on Matt. 19:19; 22:39). Similarly “sacrifice” stands for the forms of religion, which have an unfortunate tendency to eclipse

practical religion (see 2 Tim. 3:5). In this sense “mercy” represents righteousness by faith as “sacrifice” does righteousness by works. The forms of religion without the vital spirit of religion, Christ says, are worthless. See on Mark 7:7–9, 13; John 4:23, 24.

2. God did not ordain the Jewish ceremonial system because, in itself, it represented His ideal of religious life. In themselves, the ancient sacrifices had no value (see Heb. 9:9; 10:1–11). The Lord is not pleased with externals alone (see Micah 6:7). What God requires of man is “to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” (see Micah 6:8). “To obey” has always been “better than sacrifice” (see 1 Sam. 5:22; see on Matt. 7:21–27; Mark 7:7–9).
3. **Text** - Matthew 1:18-25 - Joseph’s Dilemma
 1. **Answer** - “The people, in their dark despair, and the rulers, in their thirst for revenge and power, both longed for the day when the Messiah would appear and restore the kingdom of Israel. They had studied the prophecies, but they did not understand what they read. So they overlooked the scriptures that pointed out the humble nature of Jesus’ first coming. And they misapplied those scriptures that speak of the power and glory of His second coming. Pride blurred their vision. **They interpreted prophecy to fit into their own selfish plans.**” - Messiah pg. 20
4. **Challenge for us** - “Interpreting prophecy to fit selfish plans”?
 1. Matthew 9:13 —> Luke 5:32
 1. **“What did you expect when you became a Christian?** I’m sure Bishop Ridley, the courageous Bible translator of the sixteenth century, did not expect to be burned at the stake. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German martyr under the Nazis, did not expect to be hanged at thirty-nine because of

his unswerving faith in Jesus Christ. Alexander Solzhenitsyn did not expect, when he was confirmed in the faith, to spend years in prison because of his beliefs. Nevertheless, I am sure we all did have certain expectations when we became Christians.” - Larson, B., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1983). Vol. 26: The Preacher's Commentary Series, Volume 26 : Luke. Formerly The Communicator's Commentary. The Preacher's Commentary series (108). Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Inc.

5. **Story** - Pilate's Encounter with the King of The Jews -

6. **Text** - John 18:33-40

1. Key Verse - v. 37 - “You say that I am king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the cosmos: to demonstrate the power of truth. Everyone who seeks truth hears My voice.” - The Voice Bible Paraphrase
2. **Concept** - “Surely, they'd pick Jesus over Barabbas”!?
 1. SDABC on Matthew 3:23 — “Christ made it clear that the kingdom He established at His first advent was not the kingdom of glory (see DA 234). That would only be, He said, “when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him” (Matt. 25:31). Nevertheless, Jesus admitted before Pilate that He was indeed a “king” (John 18:33–37); in fact, this was His purpose in coming into this world (John 18:37). But He explained further that this “kingdom” was “not of this world” (John 18:36). The kingdom He came to establish “cometh not with observation,” but is a reality within the hearts of those who believe in Him and become the sons of God (Luke 17:20, 21; cf. John 1:12).”
 2. Pilate's wife is given a dream and Pilate was in a dilemma prompting him to propose Barabbas as a scapegoat -
 1. “By giving the people a choice between this thief & the clearly innocent Jesus. Pilate was

appealing to their sense of justice...Pilate never thought it would come to that. He cringed at the thought of sending an innocent man to that most cruel death... but the mob only called out louder & louder “Crucify Him! Crucify Him! - Messiah pg. 473

3. “No country hated the domination of the Roman power more than the Jews. But to get rid of Jesus, the Jewish leaders would swear loyalty to the foreign power they hated. ‘Anyone who makes himself a king is against Caesar,’ they answered” - Messiah pg 476

7. **Summary** - We have a challenge to understand prophecy in our time. To present to the world the gospel & strike a fine balance between oracles of doom & oracles of hope.
8. **Appeal Song** - Away in a Manger
 1. Sung by Pr. Vince with Guitar