

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

SCRIPTURE, SET TO SOUND

FORTY-TWO

A 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Five chapters · Act 1 · Matthew 1-4, 17

WELCOME

You picked this up for a reason.

Maybe you love the Gospel of Matthew and you want to sit in it a little longer. Maybe you've never opened a Bible in your life, but something about the idea — the whole first book of the New Testament, retold in rhyme — pulled you in. Either way, you're welcome here.

The Book of Matthew is a 28-track hip-hop album that walks through the complete Gospel of Matthew, chapter by chapter. Every lyric is drawn straight from the text. A human chose the chapters, shaped the words from the King James Bible, set the sound, and sequenced the story. The music itself was brought to life with AI tools — we say that plainly, because we'd rather you trust us than be impressed by us. The instrument is new. The Word is not.

This little book is five days. Five chapters from Act I of the album. Each day you'll read a short passage of Scripture, sit with a reflection, hear a few lines from that chapter's song, answer two honest questions, and pray one sentence. Ten minutes, give or take. No pressure to be anyone you're not.

Matthew opens with a genealogy — a long list of names, some of them a mess. That's not an accident. The whole point of the book is that God writes broken people into His story on purpose. So whatever you're carrying into Day 1, bring it.

Let's begin.

— **The Book of Matthew**

DAY 1 — THE BLOODLINE

MATTHEW 1 • FORTY-TWO: THE BLOODLINE

"And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations." — Matthew 1:16–17 (KJV)

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." — Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

REFLECTION

The Gospel of Matthew opens with the most-skipped passage in the New Testament: a genealogy. Forty-two generations, three sets of fourteen, name after name after name. Easy to skim. But slow down and read who's *on* the list.

Tamar, who tricked her father-in-law. Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho. Ruth, a foreigner from a hated nation. Bathsheba, named here only as "her that had been the wife of Urias" — a relationship born in scandal and a cover-up. These are the names God chose to run the bloodline of the Messiah through. Not in spite of the mess. *Through* it.

We hide our family histories. We edit our pasts down to the parts we can say out loud. God did the opposite. He published the whole list, stains and all, and then wrote *Immanuel* — "God with us" — at the bottom of it.

If you've been carrying the idea that your past disqualifies you, today is the day to put it down. Grace wasn't the backup plan. Grace was the plan from the very first name. The line that runs through liars and outsiders and broken homes is the same line that runs to Christ — and it has room for you.

LYRIC EXCERPT

*Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba — every name a stain God don't hide the broken pieces in the
bloodline frame Grace was the plan from the genesis — done The math of the Messiah — Forty-
Two is One*

REFLECT

1. Which part of your own story do you most often leave off the list? What would it mean to believe God already wrote it in?
2. Who in your life has a "stained" past that God is clearly not finished with? How does that change how you see them — or yourself?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that grace was the plan from the beginning — and that there is room for my whole story in Yours. Amen.

DAY 2 — REFUGEE CROWN

MATTHEW 2 • REFUGEE CROWN (OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON)

"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." — Matthew 2:13 (KJV)

"When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son." — Matthew 2:14–15 (KJV)

REFLECTION

The wise men came looking for a king and found a baby. They brought gold for royalty, frankincense for worship, myrrh for burial — gifts fit for a throne. And almost immediately, that newborn King became a refugee.

Herod wanted Him dead, so an angel told Joseph to run. Not to a palace. To Egypt — the old land of slavery, the place Israel had fled *from* centuries before. The King of Kings spent His first years as an undocumented child in a foreign country, His family moving by night to stay alive.

We tend to imagine that being in God's will means being safe and comfortable. Matthew 2 says otherwise. Joseph was squarely in the center of God's plan — obeying every instruction, exactly on time — and the road still ran through fear, displacement, and a king who wanted his Son dead.

If your obedience has led you somewhere hard, you are in good company. The flight to Egypt wasn't a detour from the story. It *was* the story — written down a thousand years earlier in a prophet's scroll. God called His Son out of Egypt to show that He goes down into our worst places and brings us back up. Wherever you've had to flee, He has been there first.

LYRIC EXCERPT

Crown on a refugee, runnin' through the night / Egypt held the slavery, now it's holdin' the Light
— [lyric excerpt]

REFLECT

1. Where has following God led you somewhere that felt anything but safe? What did you learn there that you couldn't have learned in comfort?
2. The verse says God called His Son *out* of Egypt. What is one "Egypt" you're still waiting to be called out of?

PRAYER

Father, when the road runs through fear, remind me that You have already walked it — and that You call Your children out. Amen.

DAY 3 — RIVER AND FIRE

MATTHEW 3 • RIVER AND FIRE (THE DOVE CAME DOWN)

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." — Matthew 3:11 (KJV)

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." — Matthew 3:16–17 (KJV)

REFLECTION

John the Baptist stood in the Jordan and preached one word: repent. Not "improve." Not "try harder." Turn around. He baptized with water as a sign of cleaning up the outside — but he kept pointing past himself to One who would do the real work, baptizing not just with water but with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Then that One showed up — and got in line. Jesus, who had nothing to repent of, waded into a repentance baptism. And the moment He came up out of the water, heaven tore open. The Spirit came down like a dove. The Father's voice said the most important sentence a human being can ever hear: *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Notice the order. Jesus had not yet preached a sermon, healed anyone, or gone to a cross. The Father called Him *beloved* before He had done a single thing in ministry. The love came first. The work came second.

Most of us live the other way around — performing, achieving, hoping the approval will finally arrive. River and fire flips it. Identity is a gift, not a wage. Before you produce anything this week, you are already someone's beloved. Let that be the ground you stand on, not the prize you're chasing.

LYRIC EXCERPT

Dove came down where the river runs deep / Heaven called me beloved before I made a leap —
[lyric excerpt]

REFLECT

1. Do you live like God's approval is a gift you already have, or a wage you're still earning?
Where does the difference show up?
2. What would change this week if you truly believed "beloved" was said over you *before* your performance?

PRAYER

God, let me hear You call me beloved before I do anything to deserve it — and let that be enough. Amen.

DAY 4 — IT IS WRITTEN

MATTHEW 4 • IT IS WRITTEN (THREE ROUNDS IN THE WILDERNESS)

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred." — Matthew 4:1–2 (KJV)

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." — Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

REFLECTION

Right after heaven called Him beloved, the Spirit led Jesus straight into the wilderness — hungry, alone, and tempted. The mountaintop and the desert were back to back. That order matters: sometimes the hardest stretch comes not because you've wandered off, but because you're exactly where the Spirit led you.

The enemy came three times. Turn these stones to bread — meet your real hunger your own way. Throw yourself down — force God to prove He loves you. Bow to me — take the shortcut to the crown and skip the cross. Three rounds. Three temptations to take a legitimate need and meet it through illegitimate means.

Each time, Jesus answered the same way: *"It is written."* He didn't argue, negotiate, or out-clever the devil. He stood on the Word He already knew. He had Scripture in His mouth before the test arrived, and that's what carried Him through.

Here's the quiet challenge of Day 4: you cannot pull out a sword you never picked up. Jesus could say "it is written" in the wilderness because He had hidden the Word in His heart long before the wilderness came. The temptations we face are rarely new — they're the same three, dressed for our decade. The defense is ancient and available: know the Word, and stand on it when the pressure comes.

LYRIC EXCERPT

Forty days starving and the devil wanna bet / Every round I answered, "Nah — it is written" — that's the threat — [lyric excerpt]

REFLECT

1. Which of the three temptations — meeting a need your own way, demanding proof, or taking the shortcut — do you recognize most in your own life right now?
2. What is one verse you could "pick up" this week so it's in your hand before the next test arrives?

PRAYER

Lord, put Your Word in my mouth before the wilderness comes, so that when I am tested I can stand on what is written. Amen.

DAY 5 — STARGAZING ON THE MOUNTAIN

MATTHEW 17 • STARGAZING ON THE MOUNTAIN (LISTEN TO HIM)

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." — Matthew 17:1–2 (KJV)

"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." — Matthew 17:5 (KJV)

REFLECTION

On a high mountain, the curtain slipped. For a few minutes the disciples saw Jesus as He truly is — His face blazing like the sun, His clothes white as light, Moses and Elijah standing beside Him. The same voice from the river spoke again from a bright cloud, but this time it added a command: *"This is my beloved Son... hear ye him."*

Peter, overwhelmed, wanted to freeze the moment — let's build three shelters and stay up here forever. It's such a human instinct. When God finally feels close and clear, we want to camp there. But the mountaintop was never meant to be a permanent address. Down below, in the very next scene, a desperate father was waiting with a son no one could heal. The glory was real, and so was the valley — and Jesus walked down into it.

The word that came out of the cloud wasn't "stay." It was "listen." Whatever you've glimpsed of God's glory — in worship, in a song, in a moment you couldn't explain — the point isn't to bottle it. The point is to come down the mountain carrying His voice into the ordinary, hard, valley-floor parts of your life.

You've made it to Day 5. You've sat on a few mountaintops this week. Now comes the real test of a devotional: not how it felt up here, but whether you'll listen to Him down there.

LYRIC EXCERPT

Face like the sun on the mountain, but the cloud said clear / Don't build a tent up here — listen to Him, then disappear — [lyric excerpt]

REFLECT

1. Where in your life are you tempted to "build a tent" — to stay in a past spiritual high instead of moving forward?
2. The voice said "hear ye him." What is one thing you sense Jesus asking you to *listen* to and carry down into this week?

PRAYER

Jesus, I've seen a glimpse of who You are — now give me the grace to listen to You and follow You down into the valley. Amen.

KEEP WALKING THE STORY

You just read five chapters. There are twenty-three to go.

The Book of Matthew unfolds the whole Gospel the same way you experienced it this week — Scripture first, set to sound, one chapter at a time. It's being released as a serialized journey: new chapters arrive steadily, each one its own moment, all the way through the end of Matthew. The five songs behind these devotions are Act I. The genealogy you met on Day 1 — *Forty-Two: The Bloodline* — is where it all begins.

If these five days meant something to you, here's how to come along for the rest:

- **Join the list.** Get each new devotional and chapter the moment it drops, plus first listens and behind-the-song notes you won't find anywhere else.
- **Pre-save Chapter 1, *Forty-Two: The Bloodline*.** One tap tells the streaming platforms this music matters — and it makes sure the song lands in your library on release day automatically.

[JOIN THE LIST →] · [PRE-SAVE CHAPTER 1 →]

However you found this — thank you for spending five days in the Word with us. The list is long. The names are messy. *Immanuel* is at the bottom of it. And there's room for you in the story.

— **The Book of Matthew**

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