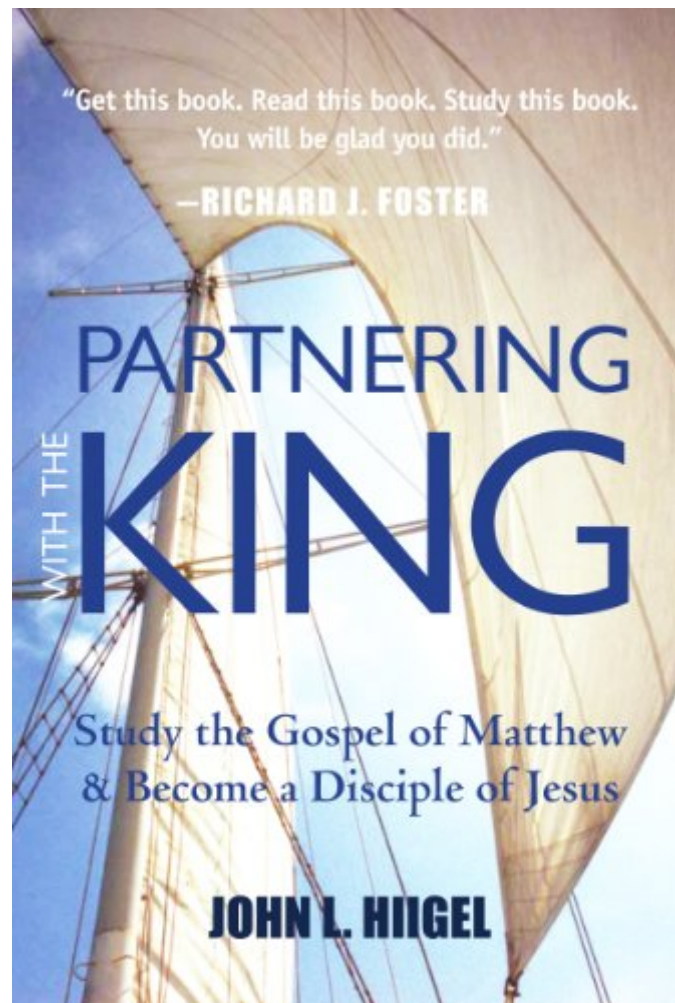




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Partnering With The King: Study The Gospel Of Matthew And Become A Disciple Of Jesus



Synopsis

The very meaning of life is to live and serve with Jesus, who brings the reign of God. In a word, it isÂ discipleship. We dwell with him and learn from him and embrace his mission as our own.Â As we do, he remakes our hearts, binds us to one another, and empowers us to partner with him in his penetrating action to transform the world.Â Partnering with the KingÂ presents thirty-one readings about discipleship, meditations covering the whole Gospel of Matthew, to be read by individuals daily for a month or by groups, for example, weekly from fall to spring. Discussion questions are included. For newcomers to faith, the book can serve as a guide into the Christian life. For more seasoned Christians, it is a source of renewal and vision.

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Customer Reviews

With the five patches of `red letters' and its exploration of Jesus' life, Matthew's gospel is an apt manual for discipleship. In Partnering with the King, author John Hiigel takes us on a 31-day-tour of Matthew, exploring its implications for disciples. The book opens with an examination of the story about the feeding of the five thousand (Matt. 14:13:21). In that story, Jesus' disciples were asked by

Jesus to feed a crowd but had no resources to do so (or very little resources). Jesus takes whatever they had to give and he multiplies it and uses it, miraculously feeding the multitudes. This is what Hiigel calls 'partnering with the King.' Jesus holds the power because he is God and King, but we get to partner with him in bringing God's kingdom to this earth. Just like the disciples, we are asked to do what seems impossible, but as we learn to faithfully obey Jesus multiplies what we offer a. The nd uses it for his glory. The feeding of the five thousand is a personally meaningful image for my life and ministry and provides a great organizing motif for this book. After the feeding of the five thousand, the rest of the daily entries follow the book of Matthew in a largely chronological fashion. As Hiigel walks through the text several themes emerge. Jesus' authority is seen in his miracles, healing, casting out of demons, and his teaching. His life is commended to us for our imitation, and we are challenged to put into practice his teaching. Ultimately his entries explore what it means for us to participate with Christ and 'partner with him' in bringing about his Kingdom in its fullness. Disciples see the the kingdom Theses daily entries can each be read in 10-15 minutes and are fairly meaty. Hiigel teaches Biblical Studies at the University of Sioux Falls.

This new study of Matthew's Gospel by John Hiigel, Professor of Biblical Studies at University of Sioux Falls is a penetrating analysis of the narrative with practical bits of wisdom throughout the text. John takes us through Matthew in 31 readings introducing us to many of the key themes of the text. I really enjoyed the format that John provided us with the Scripture text, background commentary, theological points, and application. I think anyone who reads this book will find great encouragement and be challenged by the Gospel and its call to follow Jesus as a disciple. John carefully brings out the theological message of the Gospel of Matthew in a profound way. After giving us the genealogy in Matthew 1, John writes, "This leads to the genealogy's second contribution: the idea that something long hoped for is being fulfilled. The technical term for this idea is eschatology, time arriving at its destination. Jesus' coming marks the decisive moment when God dramatically intervenes to fulfill his plans." (14) We usually skim past the genealogy because it is either boring or we don't quite understand what all the family names mean. Yet, as John points out, there is a grand story that signals the arrival of new state of affairs that is centered around the coming of the Messiah and his fulfillment of Israel's hopes. The beauty of this history is also on offer for us, as John writes, "every disciple is part of this grand unfolding story that is much bigger than our own individual life story." (14) Though we don't recognize the immensity of the story we are involved in, the grand narrative of following Jesus stretches through families, neighbors, friends, and beyond.

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