

The Seeds Of Heaven Sermons On The Gospel Of Matthew

[#Seeds of Heaven](#) [#Gospel of Matthew sermons](#) [#Christian teachings](#) [#Biblical exposition](#) [#spiritual growth](#)

Explore the profound wisdom within 'The Seeds Of Heaven: Sermons On The Gospel Of Matthew.' This collection offers insightful discourses that delve into the foundational teachings of Jesus, guiding listeners to cultivate spiritual understanding and growth from the parables and lessons presented in Matthew's Gospel.

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The Seeds of Heaven

This inspirational collection of sermons by the renowned preacher, author, and speaker is based on the Gospel of Matthew.

The Seeds of Heaven

Previously unpublished in the UK, The Seeds of Heaven originated as a series of radio broadcasts reflecting on stories and events from Matthew's Gospel. In the skilled hands of Barbara Brown Taylor these each become stories of our own time, resonating deeply with the hopes, fears and questions of contemporary readers as she finds and then brings to life timeless truth in the words and on the pages of the Bible. However much the pressing questions of our shared, public life change, here is an attempt to speak the truth of the Christian faith in a way that honours both the holiness of scripture and the holiness of people's real lives here on earth. These timeless stories of seeds, weeds, doubt, risk, family fights, shame and glory will speak deeply to many readers and enable them to discover God's truth in their own lives.

The Seeds of Heaven

Reflecting on Matthew's Gospel, renowned preacher Barbara Brown Taylor takes timeless stories of seeds, weeds, doubt, risk, fights, shame and glory and explores how they resonate with contemporary readers, enabling them to discover God's truth in their own lives.

The Seeds of Heaven

"The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor is widely considered one of the best preachers in the United States. This slender volume contains twelve of her sermons based on the Gospel of Matthew that were first heard on the radio during the Episcopal Series of the Protestant Hour. As you read them, you will walk with the preacher into ""the spacious land of God's abiding presence with us all.""

Heaven and Earth in the Gospel of Matthew

A much-overlooked aspect of the Gospel of Matthew is the theme of heaven and earth. Rather than being a reverential circumlocution for God, 'heaven' in Matthew is part of a highly developed discourse of heaven and earth language. Matthew's idiolectic way of using heaven language consists of four aspects: 1) a distinction in meaning between singular and plural forms of "ouranos"; 2) frequent use of the heaven and earth word pair; 3) regular reference to the Father in heaven; and 4) the recurrent use of the Matthean expression, kingdom of heaven. This book examines the historical precedents for each of these aspects and shows in Matthew how they serve one overriding theological purpose: to highlight the tension that currently exists between heaven and earth or God and humanity, while looking forward to its eschatological resolution.

The Message of Matthew

The Gospel according to Matthew is perhaps the most important single document of the New Testament, for in it we have the fullest and most systematic account of the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of the founder of Christianity, Jesus the Messiah. Michael Green shows how this very Jewish Gospel portrays the power and purpose of Jesus' life and work, which was to bring light to all nations. Matthew records Jesus as Son of God, Messiah, Son of David, Son of Man and supremely as God returning to Jerusalem as judge and redeemer. The consequences of this steady focus are as relevant now as then. We need Matthew's emphasis on the unity of God's revelation, old and new, its reaching on the life of discipleship and the meaning of the kingdom of heaven, and its insights into the people of the messiah, the end of the world and the universality of the Good News.

Matthew

Jesus is King. Standing as a central theme of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus's kingly authority has profound implications for how we live in the world and interact with those around us. In this reader-friendly commentary, seasoned pastor Doug O'Donnell leads us through the first book of the New Testament, highlighting key themes and offering helpful illustrations for preaching. Drawing on years of pastoral experience, O'Donnell shows how Matthew's various emphases—including Jesus's messianic titles, fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, teaching on the kingdom of heaven, and present and future role as judge—all relate to Christ's kingship. Designed to help pastors faithfully preach God's Word, this commentary ultimately highlights Matthew's call to all people to worship and obey Jesus, our humble King and gracious Savior. Part of the Preaching the Word series.

The Gospel According to Matthew

This volume, based on seventy-three sermons that consecutively cover Matthew's Gospel, receives strength through the very roughness and directness of the word spoken under the inspiration of vast, visible audiences while addressed to the impressionable hearts of men. From first to last, the various units in the exposition proceed on the assumption that it was the intention of the writer to set forth the Person of our Lord in relation to His kingly office. So from the mystic account of His advent in human history, through the record of the authority of His ethical enunciation, the mercifulness of His method, the majesty of His death, and the glory of His resurrection, to the ringing claim of "all authority," and the clarion command to "disciple the nations," we are ever in the presence of the King. In an enthusiastic review, the Sunday School Times observes, "It will prove a mine of treasure for teaching the Sunday - school lessons. There is hardly a page from which some expression of great force does not strike out at the reader.

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew 13

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew 13 is a message of meditation based on the Bible and written by Arthur Walkington Pink (1 April 1886 – 15 July 1952) was an English Bible teacher who sparked a renewed interest in the exposition of Calvinism or Reformed Theology. Little known in his own lifetime, Pink became "one of the most influential evangelical authors in the second half of the twentieth century."

Arthur Walkington Pink was born in Nottingham, England, to a corn merchant, a devout non-conformist of uncertain denomination, though probably a Congregationalist. Otherwise, almost nothing is known of Pink's childhood or education except that he had some ability and training in music. As a young man, Pink joined the Theosophical Society and apparently rose to enough prominence within its ranks that Annie Besant, its head, offered to admit him to its leadership circle.[4] In 1908 he renounced Theosophy for evangelical Christianity. Desiring to become a minister but unwilling to attend a liberal theological college in England, Pink very briefly studied at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in 1910 before taking the pastorate of the Congregational church in Silverton, Colorado. In 1912 Pink left Silverton, probably for California, and then took a joint pastorate of churches in rural Burkesville and Albany, Kentucky. In 1916, he married Vera E. Russell (1893–1962), who had been reared in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Pink's next pastorate seems to have been in Scottsville. Then the newlyweds moved in 1917 to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where Pink became pastor of Northside Baptist Church. By this time Pink had become acquainted with prominent dispensationalist Fundamentalists, such as Harry Ironside and Arno C. Gaebelein, and his first two books, published in 1917 and 1918, were in agreement with that theological position. Yet Pink's views were changing, and during these years he also wrote the first edition of *The Sovereignty of God* (1918), which argued that God did not love sinners and had deliberately created "unto damnation" those who would not accept Christ. Whether because of his Calvinistic views, his nearly incredible studiousness, his weakened health, or his lack of sociability, Pink left Spartanburg in 1919 believing that God would "have me give myself to writing." But Pink then seems next to have taught the Bible with some success in California for a tent evangelist named Thompson while continuing his intense study of Puritan writings.

What are They Saying about Matthew's Sermon on the Mount?

What Are They Saying About Matthew's Sermon on the Mount? is an excellent summary of the contemporary scholarship on the Sermon on the Mount from the past thirty years. Author Warren Carter has selected the historical, source, and redaction critical studies by biblical scholars as well as ethical reflections considered most important over the past three decades. He begins, most appropriately, with the sources of the sermon, moves on to its structure, and then looks at the situation of Matthew's readers. He next analyzes the content of the sermon, together with the Lord's Prayer. Finally, he considers the ethical claims of the sermon, especially issues of interpreting the sermon for contemporary faith communities. This is an essential resource for everyone interested in understanding the Sermon on the Mount.

The All-Seeing Unseen Eye of God and Other Sermons

This volume is a compilation of Newcomen's most rare sermons. The sermons reflect a life dedicated to experiencing and understanding the bible, spiritual truth, and experimental Christianity. His preaching is eminently biblical, energetic and powerful. They clearly display the peculiar ability Newcomen had to capture the attention of a church congregation in order to teach them the great truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His first sermon covers, "The All-Seeing Unseen Eye Of God" which is a fantastic exhortation to holiness taken from Hebrews 4:13, "But all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him, with whom we have to do." God knows every person who ever was or will be, all their works, all their speeches, and all their thoughts, and such things are always present in the mind of God. This should prompt us to fear and revere God. This sermon alone is worth the cost of the volume. It is best exhortation on this subject matter in print. "The Craft and Cruelty of the Church's Adversaries" is a powerful polemic against Roman Catholicism, Arminianism and Libertinism which deters Christians to the true faith found in Jesus Christ alone. He explains Nehemiah 4:11, "And our adversaries said, They shall not know nor see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease." He shows how the church is at war with the wicked designs of men who would tear down the work of Jesus Christ. Also included is "Jerusalem's Watchman," "Walking Worthy of the Gospel," and a funeral sermon on Acts 13:36. This work is not a scan or facsimile and has been made easy to read with an active table of contents for electronic versions.

The Message of Matthew

Matthew's Gospel is the first--and perhaps the most important--single document of the New Testament. In it you will find the fullest and most systematic account of the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of the founder of Christianity, Jesus the Messiah. In this *Bible Speaks Today* volume, Michael Green shows how this very Jewish Gospel portrays the power and purpose of Jesus' life

and work, which was to bring light to all nations. Matthew records Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, Son of David, Son of Man and supremely as God returning to Jerusalem as judge and redeemer. The consequences of this steady focus are as relevant now as then. Now more than ever we need to hear Matthew's emphasis on the unity of God's revelation old and new, its teaching on the life of discipleship, its exploration of the meaning of the kingdom of heaven, and its insights into the people of the Messiah, the end of the world and the universality of the Good News. Green offers introductory material on the author of Matthew, the readers to whom the Gospel was originally written, the popularity of the Gospel, its structure and themes, and recent scholarship focused on Matthew. He then provides a passage-by-passage exposition of Matthew, paying attention to the application of the text as well as its interpretation. A study guide follows the exposition and will help you to further ponder and practice what this Gospel teaches you about Jesus and your place in the kingdom of Heaven.

The King of the Kingdom of Heaven

The Gospel of Matthew presents the Lord Jesus Christ as the long-prophesied King of God's promised kingdom. **THE KING OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** is a verse-by-verse commentary of Matthew's Gospel, written from a dispensational, premillennial perspective that is essential to correctly understand God's prophetic kingdom program. This thorough commentary traces the theme of Christ's kingship from His royal virgin birth, through His authoritative teaching and sign miracles, to His sacrificial death, bodily resurrection, and commission to His disciples. The author holds the text of Matthew's Gospel in highest regard as the inspired Word of God. He balances practical application with scholarly attention to the details of historical background, grammar, and word meaning. Readers of this commentary will gain greater insight into the earthly life, ministry, and mission of the King and His coming kingdom. Dr. Thomas O. Figart served for thirty-eight years on the faculty of Lancaster Bible College in various roles, including Distinguished Professor, Chair of the Biblical Division, Academic Dean, and Interim President. He currently resides in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he continues to teach the Word of God. An undergraduate of Johns Hopkins University (B.S.), Figart also holds a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Th.D. from Grace Theological Seminary. He is also the author of **MEANINGFUL MEDITATIONS: A WORD STUDY OF PSALM 119**.

Eight Sermons on eleventh chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, preached in 1828 and 1829

One of the most beloved books of the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew speaks with eloquence and power. Among the Gospels, Matthew paints a fuller picture of the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus. Anna Case-Winters's incisive commentary reveals that Matthew is clearly a theological book. It is about God's saving work in Jesus Christ. Moreover, it is presented in a way that easily lends itself to the task of teaching and preaching. Case-Winters highlights five themes that shape the distinctive portrait of Jesus this Gospel offers. Here we see Jesus facing up to conflict and controversy, ministering at the margins, overturning presuppositions about insiders and outsiders, privileging the powerless, demonstrating the authority of ethical leadership, challenging allegiance to empire, and pointing the way to a wider divine embrace than many dared imagine. Case-Winters captures the core of Matthew's unique Gospel, which speaks powerfully to the life of Christian faith today in the midst of our own issues and struggles.

Matthew

In his explanation of Jesus's teaching in Matthew 5-10, D. A. Carson clearly presents the call for every believer to live a pure life. He offers pastors and lay readers rich insights and practical life application from the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus's Sermon on the Mount and His Confrontation with the World

They say the Bible is true, but does it ring true? Does it resonate? In this journey through the Gospel of Matthew, Matt Woodley considers the audacious idea of a God with us--confronting us in the midst of all we've invested ourselves in and dedicated ourselves to, and encouraging us with the promise that the God who made us has a better life in mind for us. The Resonate series recovers the ancient wisdom of Scripture for a complex world. The stories and insights of each book of the Bible are brought into conversation with contemporary voices of hope and lament--the cultural messages we interact with on a daily basis. The Scriptures become a meeting ground where God is confronted with the pressing concerns of our day, and we are confronted in turn with a fresh experience of God's truth.

The Gospel of Matthew

A comprehensive introduction to preaching, emphasizing the encounter with God's grace as the goal and heart of the sermon.

Setting Words On Fire

Table of Contents 1. Look at Your True Self and Believe in the Gospel Of the Water and the Spirit (Mark 7:1-23) 2. Acknowledge the Word and Seek God's Mercy (Mark 7:1-23) 3. Admit Your Human Nature (Mark 7:14-23) 4. Admit Your Fundamentally Sinful Nature and Ask God For His Grace of Salvation (Mark 7:18-37) 5. God's Work That Saves the Hungry Souls (Mark 8:1-10) 6. The Faith That Enables You to Be Born Again (Mark 8:22-26) 7. A Christian's Life Is All about Self-Sacrifice (Mark 8:27-38) 8. Let's Confess the True Faith to God (Mark 8:27-38) 9. Be Strong in the Midst of Difficulties! (Mark 8:33-35) 10. Moses, Symbol of the Law; Jesus, Incarnation of Grace and Truth; John the Baptist, the Mediator (Mark 9:1-13) 11. What Will Happen to Those Who Are Rich in Their Hearts? (Mark 10:17-27) 12. The Hundredfold Blessing That Is Received with Persecution (Mark 10:23-31) 13. The Spiritual Wish and the Fleshly Wish (Mark 10:35-52) 14. The Faith of Bartimaeus the Blind Beggar (Mark 10:46-52) 15. The Lord Has Need of You (Mark 11:1-10) The Gospel of Mark testifies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God Himself. And it also testifies that He is our Savior. So we can see the writer of the Gospel of Mark bearing witness of Jesus forcefully, testifying that He is God Himself and our Savior. That's why I would like to bear witness of this Jesus Christ manifested in the Gospel of Mark as much as possible, based on the gospel of the water and the Spirit. What is obvious is that the core Truth of Christianity is found in the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Where, then, is the gospel Truth of the water and the Spirit revealed? This Truth of salvation is revealed in detail in the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of John the Baptist, the substance of the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit exerts a tremendous influence on other people's souls. The faith of this gospel enables every believer to come before the holy God, come under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Such faith allows us to attain "spiritual priesthood." We must preach that Jesus Christ is our Savior according to the revelation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit and our faith. So, we do not want the gospel of the water and the Spirit to remain exclusively ours. This gospel of the water and the Spirit is the gospel that should be shared with everyone all over the world. The New Life Mission <https://www.bjnewlife.org>

FROM THIS CORRUPTED WORLD TO HEAVEN ABOVE

Jesus preached, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matthew 4:17). This is the Gospel. But what did Jesus mean by preaching in this way? Is Christ's gospel the gospel we know and love as Paul preached, and many ministers preach today, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified," (1 Cor. 2:2)? Is this what Jesus preached or even meant in his heralding of the good news or the kingdom of heaven? What did Jesus consider the good news, and is it the same as what Paul considered good news? Is the message of the gospel different for the Apostles than it was of Jesus? This work will cover ideas such as what does it mean that the kingdom is upon you, or for that matter, that you must repent in light of it? What did Jesus expect his listeners to do in hearing him preach this way? How is this kingdom important in light of who Christ is, and what he commissioned his ministers and preachers to preach about him? What didn't Jesus tell his disciples to preach about him going to the cross, or rising from the dead, or ascending into heaven in his exaltation? Or did he? McMahan unfolds Christ's kingdom proclamation, and how it relates to who he is as King, what he does as King, what his kingdom is like, what he considered "God's kingdom" from the Old Testament, what he taught about the kingdom in the Gospels, and what the response should be to his kingdom as a result of his preaching. Christ spoke extensively in both didactic teaching and preaching, as well as illustratively in his parables about the "kingdom of heaven" and "kingdom of God." This is not a peripheral topic of study. Christ specifically and emphatically required people to repent in light of the coming of the kingdom. Much, if not most, of his teaching in the Gospels surround kingdom proclamation. To King Jesus, the kingdom is a very important topic. It should be an important topic to all believers. Christians ought to know whether the kingdom is "within them" or not, whether they have repented in light of it, and what it means that there is such a kingdom at all.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Upon You

Conflict is all too common in the church today. But as Frances Taylor Gench reminds us in this book, conflict over scriptural interpretation has been with the church since its earliest days. Gench reflects on those early experiences of conflict, presenting substantive studies of biblical texts showing that discord (such as Romans 14-15; Matthew 14; Jeremiah 28; 1 Corinthians 12-14; John 13-17) and drawing lessons from each about how it informs current conflicts in the church. In the process, she provides a constructive resource to help Christians wrestle with Scripture in the midst of their disagreements. This innovative book can be used by individuals and in groups. Numerous study questions conclude each chapter.

Faithful Disagreement

Covering 2,000 years, this two-volume set is the first encyclopedia devoted to Christian writers and books. In addition to an overview of the Christian literature, this encyclopedia includes more than 40 essays on the principal genres of Christian literature and more than 400 bio-bibliographical essays describing the principal writers and their works.

The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature

This collection of children's sermons communicates the gospel to youngsters on their level and in a way that interests them. Just as Jesus referred to common objects when he taught, these lessons use everyday items to illustrate the them. Each message includes the scriptural background and a list of materials needed.

From a Mustard Seed

The Gospel of Matthew, Volume one, is the first in a six or seven volume set. Three hundred and twenty five sermons were preached, in a seven and a half year period, in public worship, through every word and every verse of the Gospel.

The Gospel According to Matthew Volume I

Everyone loves a good story—one with interesting characters, an intriguing plot, lots of twists and turns, and a surprise ending. Jesus was a master storyteller, teaching primarily through a technique we call parables. In fact, over one third of the gospel material in the New Testament is parabolic in nature. Examining the parables of Jesus, *Living Water* views parables as a wisdom genre belonging to *mashal*, the Jewish tradition of sacred poetry, stories, proverbs, riddles, and dialogues through which wisdom is conveyed. In the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), *mashal* is often associated with perplexing sayings, for its meaning is deliberately obscured in order to force the reader or listener to deeper thought and higher consciousness. While examining the parables of Jesus, *Living Water* focuses not so much on traditional explanations and interpretations but on their paradoxical and perplexing nature. In addition, this book encourages us to take a parabolic approach to all Scripture, viewing it as an aid to help us move from egoic existence to unitive existence. This Spirit-led way of living, thinking, and being requires a transformation from our False Self to our True Self, from dualist self-obsession to nondualist consciousness characterized by risk-taking, compassion, generosity, availability, and joy, a path charted by the parables of Jesus. Benefitting from recent scholarly research, *Living Water* is unique in content and conception and is useful for individual or group study. Each chapter concludes with questions suitable for discussion or reflection.

Living Water

The book of Revelation is one of the most studied works in the New Testament, and often has a tendency to be borrowed by fanatics and poor theologians to create a science-fiction type of "end times theology." Edwards in no way encompasses that line of thinking. Instead, he draws six texts from Revelation, four to teach the plight of the wicked in hell, and two to teach the strengthening and bliss of the saints in heaven. His sermons and texts are as follows: Ripe for Damnation, from Revelation 14:18-19 on God's vintage winepress of wrath against the wicked. The Dangers of Decline, from Revelation 2:4-5 concerning the saint's leaving their first love of Christ. Cold Nor Hot, from Revelation 3:15 concerning the manner in which wicked men profess to be Christian but live like the heathen. Approaching the End of God's Grand Design, from Revelation 21:6 concerning the end of God's plan to glorify himself in the wicked and the just. Serving God in Heaven, from Revelation 22:3 concerning the saint's enjoyment of serving Christ for eternity. And, lastly, The Lamb's Book of Life, from Revelation

6:15-16 concerning the wicked who desire the rocks and mountains to fall on them when they appear before the wrath of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. This is not a scan or facsimile, has been updated in modern English for easy reading and has an active table of contents for electronic versions.

Ripe for Damnation: Sermons on the Book of Revelation

A spiritual journey may take many forms, from Dante's descent to the pits of Hell and up the other side to the bliss of Paradise, to Pilgrim's progress (or even to Billy Pilgrim, unstuck in time in Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*). It could be Elijah running headlong into the desert, or Jonah being flung ashore and shouting in Nineveh, a petulant prophet to the end. Faith can be carried like pennies in the pocket or worn like a coat of many colors. Abraham and Moses, Mary and Peter—all of them carried their faith, and all of them had their doubts. Doubt is the companion of faith, and the mystery that bonds them together comes out in stories. These are stories of faith, doubt, and mystery. Not all who wander are lost.

Wandering, Not Lost

With this new lectionary commentary series, Westminster John Knox offers the most extensive resource for preaching on the market today. When complete, the twelve volumes of the series will cover all the Sundays in the three-year lectionary cycle, along with movable occasions, such as Christmas Day, Epiphany, Holy Week, and All Saints' Day. For each lectionary text, preachers will find four brief essays—one each on the theological, pastoral, exegetical, and homiletical challenges of the text. This gives preachers sixteen different approaches to the proclamation of the Word on any given occasion. The editors and contributors to this series are world-class scholars, pastors, and writers representing a variety of denominations and traditions. And while the twelve volumes of the series will follow the pattern of the Revised Common Lectionary, each volume will contain an index of biblical passages so that nonlectionary preachers, as well as teachers and students, may make use of its contents.

Feasting on the Word

"Hollywood films are perhaps the most powerful storytellers in American history, and their depiction of race and culture has helped to shape the way people around the world respond to race and prejudice. Over the past one hundred years, films have moved from the radically-prejudiced views of people of color to the depiction of people of color by writers and filmmakers from within those cultures. In the process, we begin to see how films have depicted negative versions of people outside the white mainstream, and how film might become a vehicle for racial reconciliation. Religious traditions offer powerful correctives to our cultural narratives, and this work incorporates both narrative truth-telling and religious truth-telling as we consider race and film and work toward reconciliation. By exploring the hundred-year period from *The Birth of a Nation* to *Get Out*, this work acknowledges the racist history of America, and offers the possibility of hope for the future"--

A Long, Long Way

Recovering Abundance: Twelve Practices for Small-Town Leaders invites readers to live a new story--to join a movement of renewal for small towns and rural communities. Andy Stanton-Henry provides twelve civic-spiritual practices, rooted in Jesus's miracle among the multitude, that rural and small-town leaders can use to renew their congregations and communities. Each chapter explores how one practice was demonstrated in the story, has been embodied in small-town and rural leaders and communities, and can be applied today. Through these twelve practices, Stanton-Henry helps readers tune in to an alternative story, one he discovered in his own rural Ohio community. Yes, he saw the commonly lamented decline and devastation that have brought suffering to rural Americans and that seem to foster resentment and despair. However, as he dug deeper into the stories of his neighbors, he began to notice that small towns and rural regions are working. They are working to build inclusive, thriving, local economies, to weave a welcoming social fabric in their region, to cocreate a positive future--following the practices he explores in this book. *Recovering Abundance* is a new story about the agency and creativity of what Stanton-Henry calls "ordinary leaders," not a story about scarcity and deprivation but one of abundance and generosity.

Recovering Abundance

It was once said that all a person has to do to realize God has a very good sense of humor is to look at a platypus. The same sentiment applies to the Bible. The Bible often seems like foreign territory, not only for students encountering it in introductory classes, but also for those who have spent many years in church. To many people, it is an intimidating collection of rules, lists, and theological arguments. But in reality, most of the Bible is made up of fascinating stories. Sometimes they're funny, sometimes they're weird, sometimes they're inspiring, but they're never dull. This college-level introduction invites students into biblical studies through creative, humorous retellings (and a few cartoons here and there) of the basic biblical narratives. The best way to get into the Bible, says Robert F. Darden, is to get to know its stories. In this new approach to introducing the Bible to students, Darden covers the major biblical stories and characters, retelling them in such a way as to bring out their original humor and pathos, and inviting the student to encounter them more fully by moving into the text itself. [Click here to listen to Terri Gross's interview with Robert Darden on NPR's Fresh Air about the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project.](#) Darden runs the project at Baylor University where he is a journalism professor. The purpose of the project is to identify, acquire, preserve, record, and catalogue the most at-risk music from the black gospel music tradition, primarily between 1945 and 1970.

Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples

This second volume of Sermons by Jonathan Edwards on the Matthean Parables contains a previously unpublished series of six sermons by Edwards on Jesus' parable of the Sower and the Seed, as found in Matthew 13:3-7. Edwards preached these sermons in 1740 immediately following the visit of George Whitefield to Edwards' church in Northampton, Massachusetts, in October of that year. Not only does this series have a historical significance for its place in the Great Awakening, but it contains important pronouncements on the preacher's craft and the hearer's responsibilities. These sermons have been placed in the context of Edwards' preaching style and method, and framed by historical considerations. Prepared from the original manuscripts by the staff of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University, this series represents a significant addition to the available Edwards corpus that will be of interest to scholars, religious leaders, and general readers.

Sermons by Jonathan Edwards on the Matthean Parables, Volume II

Five outstanding preachers from diverse denominations skillfully weave together scripture with dynamic stories and illustrations to create eloquent messages for every Sunday and major celebration in the church year. Combining deep biblical grounding with an astute understanding of the meaning of Jesus' message and ministry for contemporary living, these insightful sermons pull readers into God's Word and engage both the mind and the heart. Offering a vision of God's unconditional love and the grace-filled life, this collection of model messages from an experienced group of master preachers passionately proclaims the Good News, provides a wealth of sermon seeds, and revitalizes the faith of anyone who reads them.

Sermons on the Gospel Readings

Feasting on the Gospels is a new seven-volume series that follows up on the success of the Feasting on the Word series to provide another unique preaching resource, this time on the most prominent and preached upon New Testament books, the four Gospels. With contributions from a diverse and respected group of scholars and pastors, Feasting on the Gospels will include completely new material that covers every single passage in the New Testament Gospels, making it suitable for both lectionary and non-lectionary use. Moreover, these volumes will incorporate the unique format of Feasting on the Word, with four perspectives for preachers to choose from for each Gospel passage: theological, pastoral, exegetical, and homiletical. Feasting on the Gospels will provide a special resource for all who preach, either continuously or occasionally, on the Gospels.

Feasting on the Gospels--Matthew, Volume 1

We have been honored to work with a multitude of gifted thinkers, writers, and editors. We present these essays as their offering-and ours-to the blessed ministry of preaching." -From the introduction by David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor --Book Jacket.

Are There Horses in Heaven?

The Gospel of Matthew, volume two, is the second in a seven volume set. Three hundred and twenty five sermons were preached, in a seven and a half year period, in public worship, through every word and every verse of the Gospel.

The Gospel of Matthew

Preachers mount the pulpit steps terribly burdened by the conviction that they are somehow responsible for the growth and spiritual well-being of their congregants. How, they ask themselves, can mere words communicate the reality of God, bring life to a congregation, or foster spiritual growth? This study argues that effective sermons function much like Jesus' parables--by bearing witness to divine power. Parables and preaching both testify to something beyond themselves: to a life-giving dynamic that far outstrips the force of words alone. Preachers are not go-betweens or gatekeepers for the kingdom of heaven: rather, they imitate Jesus by dying to themselves in the very act of proclamation, relying directly on God for their sermons to bear fruit. As well as offering a novel interpretation of Jesus' agricultural parables, *Of Seeds and the People of God* presents a Christ-shaped theology of preaching. Beyond exegesis or rhetoric alone, faithful proclamation is a question of spirituality, of preachers and listeners together yielding to God's gift of new life.

Heaven

Feasting on the Word: Pentecost and season after Pentecost 1 (Propers 3-16)