

SHEFFEY BIBLE COLLEGE

Course: Hermeneutics 102

Chapter 15 Student Handout

NEW TESTAMENT—GOSPELS

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM TODAY'S LECTURE

- Understand the meaning of the term gospel.
 - Recognize the Gospels as Christ-centered biographies.
 - Learn the two primary questions for interpreting the Gospels.
 - Understand how to interpret individual Gospel stories.
 - Learn how connected stories communicate larger theological truths.
 - Recognize important literary forms used by Jesus.
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I. THE NATURE OF THE GOSPELS

Key Principle

The Gospels are Christ-centered biographies that proclaim the good news about Jesus.

Short Explanation

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John communicate the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Important Definitions

Gospel: The good news concerning Jesus Christ.

Christological Biography: A biography centered upon the person and work of Christ.

Notes

II. UNDERSTANDING THE GENRE OF THE GOSPELS

Key Principle

The Gospels must be interpreted according to their intended literary form.

Short Explanation

The Gospel writers selected and arranged material to communicate theological truth about Jesus.

Notes

III. THE TWO PRIMARY QUESTIONS FOR READING THE GOSPELS

Key Principle

Every Gospel story should be interpreted individually and within its larger context.

Short Explanation

Interpreters should ask what a story teaches about Jesus and what the Gospel writer communicates through the arrangement of stories.

Important Definition

Literary Context: The relationship of a passage to surrounding passages.

Notes

IV. INTERPRETING INDIVIDUAL GOSPEL STORIES

Key Principle

Careful observation reveals the theological message of a story.

Short Explanation

Ask observation questions, look for authorial clues, notice repetition, and observe direct discourse.

Important Definition

Direct Discourse: Words spoken directly by a character within the narrative.

Notes

V. INTERPRETING A SERIES OF STORIES

Key Principle

Connected stories often communicate larger theological truths.

Short Explanation

The Gospel writers frequently arrange stories to reinforce a central message.

Important Definition

Narrative Connection: The relationship between stories that contribute to a larger message.

Notes

VI. APPLYING THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPELS

Key Principle

Faithful application grows from faithful interpretation.

Short Explanation

Believers should apply biblical truth in ways consistent with the author's intended meaning.

Important Definition

Application: Living out biblical truth in contemporary life.

Notes

VII. SPECIAL LITERARY FORMS IN THE GOSPELS

Key Principle

Understanding literary forms protects against misinterpretation.

Short Explanation

Jesus used hyperbole, metaphor, simile, irony, rhetorical questions, parallelism, and parables to communicate truth.

Important Definitions

Hyperbole: Intentional exaggeration for emphasis.

Parable: A story used to communicate spiritual truth through comparison.

Notes

THINGS TO KNOW (EXAM ANCHORS)

1. Define gospel.
2. Define christological biography.
3. Explain how the Gospels differ from modern biographies.
4. Explain why the Gospel writers selected and arranged material.
5. Identify the two primary interpretive questions for reading the Gospels.
6. Define literary context.
7. List the observation questions used when studying Gospel stories.
8. Explain the importance of authorial clues.
9. Explain the role of repetition in Gospel interpretation.
10. Define direct discourse.
11. Explain how multiple stories communicate larger theological truth.
12. Define application.
13. Define hyperbole.
14. Define metaphor and simile.
15. Define narrative irony.
16. Define rhetorical question.
17. Define parallelism.
18. Define parable.
19. Explain the danger of excessive allegorization.
20. Explain why faithful application depends upon faithful interpretation.

Closing Summary

The Gospels proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through carefully selected and arranged accounts of His life and ministry. By understanding literary context, observing the text carefully, and recognizing literary forms, believers can accurately interpret and faithfully apply the teachings of Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

Read Chapter 16 in *Grasping God's Word* in preparation for the next lecture.