

CLASS NOTES:

Week FIVE



Topic: THE GOSPELS

Text: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

KEY POINTS:

1. Many prophets had described what the Messiah would be like, where and to whom He would be born, where He would travel, and other details about Him. God's chosen people have been waiting for the promised Messiah to come, and _____ years have passed since the time of the prophet Malachi.
2. In those 400 years, the Greeks conquered the promised land. (Alexander the Great 334BC) which was an AWFUL time for the Jews.
 - a. They erected a statue of _____ in God's temple and sacrificed pigs
 - b. They made _____ illegal.
3. The Jews temporarily took over again (164BC by Maccabees sons) and then the _____ conquered the entire Mediterranean world. (63BC)
4. As the New Testament begins, Caesar Augustus rules the Roman Empire, and he has appointed several officials to rule over different parts of Israel
 - a. One government with a local _____ bound by oaths
 - b. _____ is the common language
 - c. Roman _____ laid, so travel is widespread
 - d. Jews spoke aramaic and _____
5. JEWISH BELIEFS AT THIS TIME:
 - a. Law was framework for Jewish life and legal basis for activities
 - b. Keeping law was basis for receiving God's _____
 - c. Lawbreakers should expect God's wrath
 - d. Believed God will create a new order of things and _____ his people. (MESSIAH would deliver the Jews from Roman oppression!)
 - e. Jews were exempt from military service
 - f. High priests collaborated with Romans in some ways
 - g. Levites were priests for temple service
 - h. Scribes, teachers and interpreters of law, called "Rabbi". Not considered part of the priesthood.
 - i. Pharisees and Sadducees. Pharisees could be priests, levite or scribes. Priests tended to be Sadducees and Scribes tended to be _____.
 - j. Pharisees made additional "laws" to serve as boundaries around Moses law
 - k. Sadducees came from priestly and wealthy families. Viewed more as roman sell-outs. Didn't believe in angels, spirits or _____. Only accepted pentateuch as authoritative. Pharisees see themselves as more relatable to poor law keepers.
 - l. Essenes- withdrew from society to maintain pure religion. Saw Israel as unfaithful to God.

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- m. Zealots- Advocated rebellion against non jewish rulers as allegiance to YHWH.
No king except God! Tendency to incite riots.
- 6. Each gospel was written to a specific _____ and with a slightly different purpose.
- 7. The first three are called the _____ gospels because of how similar they are, but the book of John takes a different approach.

MARK: Jesus as Servant and Supernatural Being

- 1. Mark was the _____ gospel to be written (60AD) and was aimed at the Romans.
- 2. Mark was NOT one of the 12 disciples, but it is known that Mark and _____ were close, so it is thought that Mark got a lot of his eyewitness accounts from Peter.
- 3. Mark portrays Jesus as a servant, and spends a lot of time focusing on the deeds of Christ.
- 4. Supernatural events recorded in Mark:
 - a. Mark 1:24
 - b. Mark 2:5, 8-10
 - c. Mark 3:11
 - d. Mark 5:7, 26-27, 40-42
 - e. Mark 6:39-44, 47-48
- 5. The Romans were very _____ oriented, so Mark doesn't talk much about prophecy or genealogy. His writing is structured like "Here's the guy, and here's what he did."

JOHN: Jesus as GOD for all mankind

- 1. Written 80-90 AD by John, son of Zebedee (aka the disciple whom Jesus loved)
 - a. Between 66-70AD there was a Jewish revolt. The emperor of the revolt was NERO. There was a fire in Rome in 64 AD and Nero publicly blamed the Christians. He brought the first organized persecution of Christians.
 - b. Nero died and Vespasian became emperor in 68AD. He was in power when the temple in Jerusalem was burned for the SECOND time and Jerusalem was destroyed.
 - c. SO, tensions between Gentiles and Jews are HIGH when John writes this gospel.
 - d. Tensions are also high between Jews and Christians because the Christians include Gentiles in their community.

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2. John's gospel establishes Jesus existed before creation. John's gospel also features Jesus' seven "I AM" statements:
 - a. I am the bread of life

 - b. I am the light of the world

 - c. I am the door of the sheep

 - d. I am the good shepherd

 - e. I am the resurrection and the life

 - f. I am the way, the truth and the life

 - g. I am the true vine

LUKE: Jesus as the "Son of Man" (Jesus' humanity)

1. Luke was a Greek _____ who wrote his gospel around 60AD.
2. He was taught under Paul and was also a _____.
3. He is known for his attention to detail in the retelling of Jesus' ministry.
 - a. In Luke 3:23-38, Luke traces Jesus' genealogy from Joseph to Adam. Why all the way back to Adam?

4. Luke highlights social concerns, poor, and _____ in Jesus' ministry
5. Luke is volume 1 of a 2 volume work. (Acts is volume 2!)
6. Luke tells the most _____
7. Luke's gospel is the only one that tells the _____ Samaritan story.

MATTHEW: Jesus as Messiah and KING (The gospel directed at the Jewish people)

1. In Jewish culture ancestry is critically important, so Matthew starts out with a list tracing Jesus all the way back to Abraham. Matthew begins this genealogy of Jesus with two names- WHY? Read *Genesis 12:1-3*, *2 Samuel 7:11-13*

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2. Over and over throughout this book, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the KING, and that He came to fulfill what the prophets had predicted about the Messiah.
 3. Along those lines, Matthew tells his fellow Jews the way that Christ came into the world:
 - a. Matthew 1:18-21

 - b. Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7
-
4. Matthew reminds the reader of an important prophecy, that the Messiah would be born in BETHLEHEM. *Read Micah 5:2*
 5. Matthew then jumps ahead to the story of the _____ looking for the newborn Jesus. *Read Matthew 2:1-2*
 6. Herod is annoyed about all of this and worries that this prophesied “King” will be a threat to his throne, so he has men look up the prophecies to find where the birthplace of the promised Messiah will be. They tell him it is _____ and he had all the male children under two years old KILLED in Bethlehem.
 - a. In a dream, God told Joseph that this was going to happen, so they quickly fled to EGYPT where they would remain until Herod was dead.
 - b. This fulfilled ANOTHER prophecy about the coming Messiah. *Read Hosea 11:1*

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Read Isaiah 40:3:

A voice proclaims:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Read Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea 2 [and] saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert,

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths.”

John’s job was to _____ the way for the Messiah, and in previous verses we hear him clearly telling the people that he is the One they are waiting for.

Read Matthew 3:11-12

7. Jesus came to John to be baptized, and John had no question in his mind that Jesus was the promised _____. After Christ was baptized, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by Satan for 40 days. Over and over Jesus rebuked the enemy by using _____. At the end, he returns to Galilee and begins his earthly ministry.

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8. Jesus chooses 12 disciples to come alongside Him in His ministry, and in Matthew 5-7 He gives an infamous sermon (aimed for His disciples) known as the “sermon on the _____”. This sermon gave a description of what we are called to be as Jesus’ disciples.
- Caring for the poor
 - Being salt and light to our world
 - Loving our enemies
 - Knowing how to pray
 - The golden rule
9. Jesus also proves His authority as KING by performing many miracles including:
- Healing of leprosy (authority over _____)
 - Calming a storm (authority over creation)
 - Healing a paralytic
 - Healing blindness
 - Exorcising demons (authority over the spiritual realm)
10. Jesus gives His disciples unique authority- what it is? *Read Matt 10:1*
-
11. Then, he sends them out to tell people that the kingdom of God is a hand, but the message is sent to only one group at this time. Who is it sent to? *Read Matt 10:5-6*
-
12. Why do you think Matthew makes a point of mentioning this?
-
13. One day, Jesus breaks some shocking news to his disciples. *Read Matt 16:21*
14. Sure enough, Jesus eventually returns to Jerusalem (to the Mount of Olives) where he will ride into the city on a _____ back while the people shout “*Hosannah to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest*”
15. The Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes were all plotting Jesus’ death at this point. He was a threat to each of these groups for different reasons.

Sadducees	Pharisees	Scribes
-Hellenized Jew (they had adopted Greek culture) -Did not believe in resurrection -“Liberals” of their day -Power source at temple in Jerusalem	-Jewish conservatives -Sticklers for the law and shunned Greek thought -“Power base was outside of Jerusalem -Natural enemies of Sadducees	-Lawyers -Authority on Jewish law

16. Jesus tells his disciples that his _____ is coming. *Read Matt 26:1-5*

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17. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, will betray Jesus on the evening of Passover for _____ pieces of silver. He had so much regret and remorse after handing Jesus over that he tried to give the money back.
- a. *What happened to the money? Read Matt 27:3-10*
-
18. At the last passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples, he broke the bread and explained that it was to be considered his _____, eaten in remembrance of what he would do on the cross. Likewise, He used the _____ to show His blood, which would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins.
19. As they leave the upper room, the disciples follow Jesus to the Mount of Olives where Christ will tell them that Judas isn't the only _____ who will betray Him.
- a. *Read Matthew 26:31-35, Zechariah 13:7*
- b. *How many times does Jesus predict Peter will disown Him? _____*
20. There in the darkness of night and the thick of the garden, Jesus cries out in sorrow. He begs His disciples _____ different times to stay awake and pray with Him, but they fall asleep, leaving Him alone with His Father God-and with the burden of choosing to die for us. *Read Matt 26:39,42*
- a. *What does the cup represent? _____*
21. Judas and a great crowd of people armed with weapons and anger arrive. With a kiss, Judas identifies Jesus and He is taken to Caiaphas, the high priest. While there, many false witnesses make false statements about Jesus to condemn him. In the face of these accusations, Jesus stays silent. There's another prophecy about this.... *Read Isaiah 53:7*
22. Jesus' silence infuriates the _____, so they pressed Him with these words: "Tell us if you're the Christ, the Son of God." *Matt 26:63*
23. Jesus answers "You have said so." and they then accuse Him of _____ and sentence him to death on a cross.
24. While Jesus is being held, Peter fulfills the prophecy against him and denies knowing Jesus on _____ occasions while in the outer courtyard.
25. In the morning, they bring Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Remember, the Romans rule over Israel at this time. Jesus was being accused of blasphemy, which by _____ law had a sentence of death. *(Lev 24:16)*
26. So the leaders want Jesus killed, but they know that the Roman governor would care nothing about enforcing their Mosaic law concerning blasphemy. So they change the charges. They tell Pilate that he is a _____ rebel that is opposing payment of taxes to Caesar and is claiming to be a King. *(Luke 23:1-2)*
27. After trying to shove this problem onto Herod and getting him back, Pilate is stuck. Every Passover, there is a custom of releasing a prisoner. So Pilate tells them they can either have Jesus released or have this notoriously dangerous murderer released. He thinks they will surely pick Jesus, but they pick _____
28. Jesus had predicted his death _____ times, but the third time he specified *how*. *Read Matt 20:17-19*
29. Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent, so He tries to satisfy his accusers by having Jesus _____. The Roman soldiers twist a crown of thorns, pressing it deep into His flesh, then they mock Him, strip Him naked, spit on Him and beat Him until he is limp. *(Luke 23:16, John 19:1-5)*

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30. Finally, Pilate delivers Jesus to the soldiers to be crucified. They parade Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem, then nail Him to a cross (at the summit of Mount Moriah!) To mock Jesus for His claims, above the cross they hang a sign with the words, “King of the Jews”. They divide Jesus’ clothing four ways, but when they come to His tunic, they cast lots to see who would get it.

Read Psalm 22:8

31. The moment Jesus gave up His spirit, something happened. *Read matt 27:50-53*

a. *What happened?* _____

32. Jesus’ body is wrapped in linen and placed in a tomb. When Mary and some other women come to treat his body with spices after Sabbath, they find the tomb is _____.

Read Matt 28:5-6

Topic: THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

Text: Acts

1. Jesus appeared alive on the earth for _____ days after His resurrection, and at that point, His Father took Him up to heaven (called the “ascension”)
 - a. How many people were eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection in that time? _____
 - b. Before He ascended, He gave a command to those who had followed Him. This is called the great commission. *Read Mark 16:15-16*
What is the great commission? _____
2. He also leaves them with the command to stay in the city until they have been clothed with _____ from on high. *Read Luke 24:49*
What are they to stay and wait for? _____
3. Ten days after Christ’s ascension, The Feast of _____ is beginning in Jerusalem.
 - a. This was a Jewish feast that is also called the Feast of Weeks. God commanded the Jews in Leviticus 23:15-16 to count 7 full weeks (49days) after the second day of Passover, then present offerings of new grain to the Lord as a lasting ordinance. “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word meaning “fifty”
4. This feast was a festival expressing _____ to the Lord for the blessing of the harvest, and is also tied to the giving of the Ten Commandments, or “The giving of the law”.
 - a. The Jews believe that it was precisely at this time that God gave the Torah to the people through Moses at Mt. Sinai.

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5. All Jewish _____ were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem during this festival.
6. What happened on the Day of Pentecost? *Read Acts 2:4*

7. How many were “added to their number” on the day of Pentecost? (How many became believers) _____
8. What is significant about Jesus giving them the Holy Spirit on this PARTICULAR day?
 - a. Jeremiah 31:33 _____
 - b. 2 Corinthians 3:3 _____
9. _____ gave the first sermon on the day of Pentecost. *Read Acts 2:14-41*
Scripture References in his sermon are: Joel 2:28-32, Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 110:1
10. The people knew enough from the prophets and David's writing to expect a Messiah.. But they expected a Messiah that was SIMPLY a _____. Not God in the flesh. (They expected a human descendant of David to take back the throne and rule a free Israel in the promised land and to establish a Kingdom on earth that would never be conquered by a foreign people again.)
11. Peter is showing them through these prophets and the prophecies of King David that this Messiah was more than a man. He was God himself.
How can a man defeat death and live forever?
How can the LORD call another being “Lord” unless he is also divine??
12. Then Peter gives testimony to the fact that Jesus demonstrated his authority over creation, sickness and even death. He is demonstrating that Jesus was not a man, but was in fact God. Which means that they crucified God for _____.
13. Peter makes it very clear that Jesus came of his own will and according to God’s own plan, and that not only did he defeat death, but now sits in _____ at the right hand of God the Father.
14. It’s through the name of Jesus that men find forgiveness for sins against the Father, and it’s through Jesus that you receive the _____ of your salvation, the Holy Spirit.
 - a. This Holy Spirit is the new law that was promised, the law written directly on your heart. This is the sign of the new covenant, sealed by the blood of Jesus.
15. After the Holy Spirit came, the ministry of Christ began to travel through the world in the order He predicted it would. It caused quite a stir, and people weren’t always welcoming of the message. The church was _____ as a result.
 - a. *Read Acts 7:54-8:3*
 - b. *Who was the Pharisee present at Stephen’s stoning? _____*
 - c. *This day a huge persecution broke out against the church and all the disciples basically had to run for their lives. So they were all scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. And Saul began to destroy the church. He went from house to house dragging both men and women out of their homes and putting them in prison.*
 - d. *God actually used this outbreak of persecution to spread the word of the gospel and testimony of Jesus to these other areas. This was how the church grew so rapidly!*

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