

# *The Gospels*

Grace Institute at Grace Community Church

## **Course Objective**

To know the person of Jesus as he has been revealed to us through the Gospels.

## **Course Information**

- The course will now meet on Wednesday evenings (from 7-9PM) at the church. (The class was moved from Tuesday to Wednesday.)
- There are Bible readings and questions which are intended to precede each class time (a.k.a. "homework"). To get the most benefit from the class the Bible readings are strongly encouraged. The questions will be discussed informally during our time together.

Last document update: 18-Feb-10

## **Reading Assignments and Discussion Questions**

### February 16, 2010

- John 1:1 – 1:18
  - Q1. In what ways does the beginning of John (1:1 – 1:5) point to the Genesis account? What may the author be communicating by this parallel?
  - Q2. What does John 1:9-13 say about the cause of unbelief?
  - Q3. What is the significance that the "Word became flesh" (1:14)? Hint: this verse could be literally translated as, "And the Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us"
- Malachi 3:16 - 4:6
  - Q4. What will characterize the coming day when the LORD will act upon the earth?
  - Q5. What is the role of Elijah with regard to the LORD's coming?
- General History
  - Q6. How did the Sadducees' reasons for opposing Jesus differ from that of the Pharisees?

- Luke 3:1 – 3:37
  - Q7. What is the significance of John confronting the people's heritage from Abraham?
  - Q8. In what way did John's baptism prepare people for Jesus?
- John 2:13 – 3:21
  - Q9. In what way does the serpent that Moses held up clarify the purpose of the cross (consider Numbers 21:4-9)?
  - Q10. How should we answer the individual that asserts that God the Father is angry and unreachable but Jesus the Son is loving and approachable?
- Luke 4:14 – 4:30 (consider also Isaiah 61:1 – 61:7)
  - Q11. What expectations would the people have after Jesus declared that Isaiah's prophecy would be fulfilled?
  - Q12. What makes Jesus' statement so offensive that the people seek to kill him?

March 3, 2010

- Mark 3:1 – 3:35
  - Q13. What would have resulted if Jesus had chosen to not heal on the Sabbath?
  - Q14. Critics accuse Jesus of casting out demons by demonic power. In his reply to these critics, what does Jesus assert about his own authority? (Mark 3:22-28)
- Mark 3:1 – 3:35
  - Q15. What does Jesus assert about his own authority? (Luke 5:17-26)
  - Q16. What by title does Jesus identify himself? For what reason would Jesus choose this title? (Luke 5:17-26)
- John 5:1 – 5:47
  - Q17. Jesus again heals a man on the Sabbath (ref. John 5:1-17). In reply to his critics, what does Jesus assert about his own authority? (John 5:18-29)
  - Q18. What does Jesus intend to communicate by choosing to refer to himself as he does in this passage? (John 5:19-47)
- Luke 17:1 – 17:37
  - Q19. What seems to be the Pharisees' expectation about the nature of the Kingdom of God? (Luke 17:20-37)
  - Q20. What does Jesus say regarding when the Kingdom of God will come and what it will bring? (Luke 17:20-37)

- Matthew 13:1 – 13:58
  - Q21. What aspect of a mustard seed (or leavened bread) reflects the nature of the Kingdom of God?
  - Q22. What does the parable of the sower teach regarding how the Kingdom of God is realized?

March 17, 2010

- Matthew 5:1 – 7:29
  - Q23. For what reason are these individuals named in Jesus' Beatitudes blessed? (Matt 4:23 – 5:12, also Luke 6:17-26).
  - Q24. In what sense does Jesus fulfill the Law? (Matt 5:17)
  - Q25. Why does Jesus declare a standard of behavior that we cannot achieve? (Matt 5:21-5:48).
  - Q26. Is there a conflict between Jesus' instruction to not judge others (and to take the spec out of our eye) and his instruction to judge a tree by the fruit it bears? How should we reconcile these passages? (Matt 7:1-5, 7:15-20).
- Matthew 5:1 – 7:29
  - Q27. What does Jesus intend to communicate by declaring that he is the "bread of life"? (John 6:35-6:59)
  - Q28. Jesus declares that we must eat of his flesh and drink his blood to have life. Many in the crowd are offended and depart because they understand Jesus to be speaking literally. Why does Jesus not correct their misunderstanding? (John 6:52-6:65)
- Matthew 16:1 – 17:26
  - Q29. How might Jesus' warning against the "leaven" of the Pharisees and Sadducees be related to his subsequent declaration to be the Christ? (Matt 16:1-20)
  - Q30. Why did Jesus wait so long before revealing himself as the Christ to his own disciples?
  - Q31. Why does Peter object to Jesus' pronouncement? (Matt 16:13-23)
- Mark 10:1 – 10:52
  - Q32. What were the disciples' expectations for Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?
- Luke 14:1 – 14:35
  - Q33. Jesus declares that no disciple can have competing affections and must be willing to renounce even his parents or children for the sake of Christ (Luke 14:25-33). Can one believe in Christ (be saved) without also being a disciple?

## Course Syllabus

The course is structured as twelve one-hour sessions (with two sessions of material to be covered in each evening that the class meets).

- I. Background [*February 16, 2010*]
  - A. The Word Revealed
  - B. Old Testament Expectation
  - C. Historical Timeline
  - D. Historical Influences
  
- II. Beginning [*February 16, 2010*]
  - A. Birth Narrative
  - B. John the Baptist
  - C. Jerusalem Appearance
  - D. Rejection at Nazareth
  
- III. Early Ministry [*March 3, 2010*]
  - A. Son of Man
  - B. Son of God
  - C. Jesus' Signs
  - D. Jesus' Message
  - E. Jesus' Opposition
  
- IV. The Kingdom of God [*March 3, 2010*]
  - A. New Testament Emphasis on the Kingdom of God
  - B. Old Testament Background for the Kingdom of God
  - C. Kingdom of God: Future / Present
  - D. Kingdom of God: Transcendent / Tangible
  - E. Kingdom of God: Individual / Community
  - F. The Already / Not Yet Kingdom of God
  - F. Living "In-Between"
  
- V. Middle Ministry [*March 17, 2010*]
  - A. Sermon on the Mount
  - B. Feeding of the 5000

- VI. Late Ministry [*March 17, 2010*]
  - A. Jesus the Messiah
  - B. Anticipating the Cross
  - C. Discipleship
  
- VII. Final Ministry [*March 31, 2010*]
  - A. Lazarus Raised
  - B. Triumphant Entry
  - D. Opposition
  
- VIII. Last Supper [*March 31, 2010*]
  - A. Olivet Discourse
  - B. Last Supper
  
- IX. Last Instruction [*April 14, 2010*]
  - A. Promise to return
  - B. Role of the Holy Spirit
  - C. Life in Christ
  - D. Hardship in the world
  - E. Jesus' prayer for the church
  
- X. Trial [*April 14, 2010*]
  - A. Judas
  - B. Garden prayer
  - C. Arrest
  - C. Trial
  
- XI. Crucifixion [*April 28, 2010*]
  - A. Crucifixion
  - B. Burial
  
- XII. Resurrection [*April 28, 2010*]
  - A. Resurrection
  - B. Jesus exalted
  - C. Commission to the church