

Bethel Bible Series

A Light in the Darkness

New Testament Week 7

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - How do you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to others?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *Jesus the Savior*

Jesus the Savior

Did God send Jesus to save the Jews? = Jesus came to save all people, Jews were just vehicle
Isaiah 49:6 = Too small a thing ... to restore ... Israel .. salvation to the ends of the earth
Are all of God's people going to join Him in heaven?
Matthew 7:13-14 = No, the road is narrow, only a few find it
What is this narrow road, the only true way to eternal life in heaven?
John 14:6 = Jesus is *the way* ... *No one comes to the Father except through Me*

Picture Concepts

Great Waterfall = The human predicament of eternal death resulting from sin
Broken Boats = Man's attempts to save himself are inadequate
Person Clinging to Cross = God's saving act in Christ solved human predicament
Large Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from God-imposed & Self-imposed Separation
Second Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from guilt and from a "sense of guilt"
Third Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from the treat and power of evil (God's armor)

First Grave = Jesus saves from spiritual death
Second Grave = Jesus saves from temporal death (dead lives)
Third Grave = Jesus saves from eternal death

Cross Spanning Chasm = Jesus brings man to God & the blessings of His plan
Ascending Stairway = Jesus cross gives a pathway to God's eternal mansion
Pathway to Placid Lake Scene = God's salvation includes redemption of creation

Lesson - *A Light in the Darkness*

Purpose of the Gospels

Were the gospels intended to tell the complete history of Jesus?
John 21:25 = No, they barely touch on what Jesus did
Why were the gospels written?
John 20:30-31 = *That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ ... & may have life*
Luke 1:1-4 = *So you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught*
Mark 1:1 = To tell *the beginning of the gospel* (good news) *about Jesus Christ*
Matthew 28:19-20 = To preserve Jesus' story to fulfill His Great Commission

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Mark (John Mark)

- First and shortest of the four Gospels
- Mark was Peter's "interpreter" and wrote down what Peter said about Jesus
 - Christians gathered in Mark's home for prayer while Peter was in prison
 - Peter called Mark his "son" and went to Mark's home when freed from prison
 - Mark joined Paul & cousin Barnabas on Paul's first journey as far as Perga
 - With Barnabas on second journey; With Paul, and later Peter, in Rome
- Written to Gentiles while Mark was in Rome
 - Hebrew expressions and Jewish customs are explained
 - Uses Latin and Roman terms when Greek might be unfamiliar or confusing
- A Gospel of Action
 - Emphasizes Jesus' deeds rather than words
 - Includes few parables but most of Jesus' miracles
 - Uses the word "immediately" 41 times
 - Uses "and" frequently to keep stories moving
 - (29 of the 35 verses in the Greek of Chapter 3 begin with "and")
 - Records Jesus' Actions (*Crossways 42*)
 - Ministry took place in and around Galilee, Jerusalem only at end of ministry
 - Anointed at baptism as the Messianic King in the form of a Servant
 - Miracles fall into four groups:
 - Isaianic signs (fulfillment of Isaiah prophesy - healing)
 - Miracles over nature
 - Miracles over the demonic realm
 - Miracles over the power of death

Matthew (Levi)

- Tax collector under Herod Antipas of Galilee
 - Only apostle called individually (statement to Christ's grace)
 - Tax collectors were despised and rejected by the Jews
 - Education and intelligence were required for tax collectors
- Written for Jewish Christians
 - Serves as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - Demonstrates that Jesus is the promised Messiah
 - Focuses on Jesus as fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy
 - Quotes 50 times from OT, alludes to OT passages 70 more times
 - Presents Jesus as the New Israel (*Crossways 44*)
 - Taken into Egypt,
 - Anointed at baptism,
 - Tempted 40 days in wilderness,
 - Gave God's Law in Sermon on the Mount,
 - Lived role of Davidic King in the form of a Servant,
 - Exiled for sins of the world through death on the cross,
 - Returned from exile in the resurrection,
 - Promised His presence and His return in glory.

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Luke

- The longest and most literary of the four Gospels
 - Combined with Acts, accounts for 25% of the NT, more than Paul's letters
- The only Gentile to write a New Testament book
 - Paul's "beloved physician" and companion on his journeys
 - Contracted by Theophilus to write a full and orderly account
 - Written in a polished Greek style, translates Aramaic and Latin words to Greek
- Gospel of Contrasts
 - the rich man and Lazarus
 - the Pharisee and the publican
 - the prodigal and the elder brother
 - Mary and Martha
 - the penitent and the impenitent thieves on the cross
 - the Messiah of the Jews and the Savior of all mankind
- Comparison with Matthew and Mark (*Crossways 45*)
 - Infancy narrative - Matthew and Luke
 - Passion Predictions - Each has three (*numbers indicate chapters*)
 - Post-resurrection appearances - Galilee in Mt & Mk, Jerusalem in Mt & Lk
 - Ascension - Only Luke
 - Synoptic (*seen together, with the same eyes*)
 - Similar structure, same geography and time plan, same passion histories

John (Son of Zebedee)

- Last written and most theological of the four Gospels
- John was "the disciple whom Jesus loved"
 - Wrote Gospel in old age, before writing Revelations
- Written around themes, not chronological (A spiral, not a straight line)
 - 92% of its material is unique, not included in the synoptic gospels
 - Most of Jesus' time is spent around Jerusalem
 - 20% of its material is devoted to the upper room scene
 - 39% of its verses recount lengthy sermons
 - Written to strengthen Christians, not as a missionary appeal
 - John displays Jesus' humanity, and reports unmistakable claims of His deity
 - The language is richly symbolic
 - Common words are given deep theological meaning and used repeatedly
- The Identity of Jesus (*Crossways 46*)
 - Important titles are given to Jesus already in Chapter 1
 - Jesus replaced the "foundation stone" of the temple where God and man meet
 - Jesus' titles climax with Thomas' confession that Jesus is Lord and God
 - The first 12 chapters show that Jesus replaces Jewish institutions and feasts
 - Jews said that resurrection, judgment & eternal life come at the end of time
 - Jesus said the believer can possess them here and now in this life

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Dark Clouds Over Earth = Evil covered God's earth in darkness
Isaiah 8:20-22 = *No light of dawn...only distress, darkness, gloom...utter darkness*

Manger Scene = Into this darkness the Redeemer came as an innocent child
Isaiah 9:1-2, 6 = *People in darkness have seen a great light...to us a child is born*

Light Surrounding the Christ Child = The Messiah brought God's light into the dark world
John 12:46 = *Jesus came as a light so no believer should stay in darkness*
John 1:4-9 = *The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood*

Cross and Thorns = Men loved the darkness and crucified the source of light
John 3:19-21 = *Men loved darkness...evil hates the light...won't come into light*
John 12:35-36a = *Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you*
Mark 15:33 = *Darkness came over the whole land*

White Clouds and Beam of Light = God turned this evil deed into a victory
Genesis 50:20 = *You intended to harm...but God intended it for good...save lives*
Colossians 1:12-14 = *God rescued us from darkness into kingdom of light*

Infant Hands and Crucified Hands = Baby's hands reached & took world's sins to a cross
Luke 23:33 = *there they crucified Him*

Golden Crown = Christ's eternal kingdom was ushered in by His death
Luke 23:42-43 = *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom...*
2 Peter 1:11 = *... into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

Ring of Light Encircling Globe = Jesus is the Light of the World
John 8:12 = *I am the light of the world...*
Ephesians 5:8-14 = *Live as children of light...expose the deeds of darkness*
1 Peter 2:9 = *Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*

Closing Prayer

Summary = Go back over picture concepts

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 7 and Assignment 8

Next Week - *The Empty Tomb*