

Bible Study 2022-2023

Class #1

9/13/22

Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the Parish Hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 10:30 A.M.** beginning **September 13, 2022** and ending **May 9, 2023** except for the following Tuesdays related to a holiday:
 - Nov 22, 2022 – Thanksgiving Week
 - Dec 20, 2022 – Christmas Week
 - Dec 27, 2022 - New Year's Week
 - Apr 4, 2023 – Holy Week
- The same class will be given every Tuesday evening from **7:30 P.M. until 8:30 P.M.** in the Parish Hall
- Contact info: email: biblestudy@straymonds.org ; Tel: **703 644-5873**
- Inclement weather decisions will be **based on a Parish Announcement**

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Please sign in with your name, telephone number, and “print” your e-mail **if you have not previously registered**
- I will automatically forward you a copy of the class charts via e-mail every week
- I will forward prayer requests from the group upon receipt
- Anyone who wishes, may record the presentation
- Any version of the bible is acceptable – I will use the *RSV Catholic Edition*
- Although we will not follow a specific text, it will be centered around Jeff Cavins’ **Great Adventure Bible Timeline Series**

Administrative Information (Cont)

My Background

- Methodist
- Wake Forest College 1962
- Joined the Catholic Church 1975

CCD Catechist 1980 - 1997

MA in Theology (discipline in Scripture) NDGS of
Christendom College 1999

Dr. Tim Gray

Father Sebastian Carnazzo, PhD

Co-DRE with Beverly at St Raymond's 1997-2005

Presented Bible Study & RCIA for over 22 years

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Overview of this course:
 - We will begin a study of the Synoptic Gospels
 - Please feel free to ask questions during or after the presentation or via email
- I will present the AM and PM class live via Zoom, and Mary Butler will post the AM video on the Parish Website along with the class charts
- I have forwarded the zoom links to all via email

Administrative Information (Cont)

- The Long-Term Bible Study Plan
 - The Synoptic Gospels
 - Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of Paul
 - The Corpus of John (Gospel of John through Revelation)

Synoptics 2022-2023

Introduction

9/13/22

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels

- Gospel
 - From the English word - *godsel* “Good News”
 - From the Hebrew word - *bsorah* meaning *from the Battlefield*
 - From the Greek word *euangelion* meaning *good news*

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- “*Gospel*” is a term found in the Old Testament meaning the information brought from the battlefield by a runner related to victory in battle
 - “Let me run, and carry **tidings** to the king that Yahweh has delivered him from the power of the enemy” (**2nd Samuel 18:19**)
- This imagery takes on an eschatological emphasis by the time of the ***Prophet Isaiah***

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings **good news, tidings***” (Isaiah 52:7)
- This was about “salvation” (being saved from your enemies; restoration of the kingdom)
- Winning battles was the duty of the king
- In the New Testament, this is about being ***saved from sin and death***
- There is one gospel of Jesus Christ, presented in four versions
- The RSV uses “tidings or news,” but the Septuagint used “*euangelion*” – good news

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Just a couple of centuries ago, a runner (or the postman) was the principle means of delivering information
- This is important to grasp as the idea of the good news was an actual concept that appeared in the Old Testament
- It is through that lens that we should understand it in the New Testament

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- The first century Christians, like Matthew, understood the term “gospel,” as a lens for understanding the scripture, (which at that time was understood as what we now call the “Old Testament”)
- When Matthew throws out the word, “good news” we and his audience must understand how he viewed it
- Understanding these concepts will enable us to make a little more sense out of the gospels

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Synoptic:
 - To be looked at together
 - Lined up in columns, compared, or contrasted because they are so similar
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- For every book in the Bible, you need to ask three questions:
 - Who was the author?
 - Who was his audience?
 - What was the purpose of him writing to that audience?

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Matthew
 - Tax collector and Apostle known as Levi
 - Provided information already known by members of the early church in Jerusalem and Judea
- Mark
 - Young secretary to Peter in Rome
 - Jewish and Gentile members of the church in Rome
 - Provided a copy of Peter's message
- Luke
 - Medical doctor and traveling companion of Paul
 - Gentile converts to Christianity in Asia Minor
 - Helped Paul bring others to Christianity

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- For this course, the majority of the Gospel readings will be from the **Gospel of Matthew**
- Then, we will look at Luke and a bit of Mark
- Father pointed out that no synoptic course can look at all three equally
- Matthew is the easiest, and most Semitic gospel, and presents the best introduction (for those who have a background in the Old Testament), and the best early Christian worldview depicting things as they were happening

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- The term synoptic is relatively recent being popularized in the 19th century (just before the development of what Bible Scholars call “synoptic problem)”
- Books were developed that presented Matthew, Mark, and Luke laid out in columns on pages so one could compare and contrast them
- The term synoptic also helps the reader realize that these three were significantly different than the Gospel of John

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Apostle – Greek – *Apostolos*, meaning “one who is sent”
 - 12 Apostles –for the 12 Tribes of Israel
- Disciple – Greek – *Mathetes* - One who engages in learning through instruction from another (*pupil, apprentice*)

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- The **Infancy Narrative** of Jesus is presented in
 - **Matthew 1-2**
 - Genealogy
 - Betrothal
 - Birth in Bethlehem
 - Visit of wise men
 - Flight to Egypt
 - Killing of innocents
 - Return to Nazareth

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- **Luke 1-2**

- Zechariah's Encounter with Gabriel
- Call and fiat of Mary
- Mary's journey to Elizabeth and birth of John
- Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
- Birth of Jesus in cave
- Visit of angels and shepherds
- Presentation of Jesus
- Loss of teenage Jesus for three days