

Life & Teachings of Jesus

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Course Information

I. Course Description

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus, focusing on the work He accomplished in salvation. Examines the historical setting of His ministry and the special emphasis of each Gospel. The lectures were recorded in Fall 1996.

II. Emphases

- *The nature and distinctive traits of the Gospels, especially Matthew, Mark, and John.
- *The phases of Jesus' ministry, so students can read episodes of the Gospel in context.
- *Jesus' work: His miracles, His encounters with friends and foes, the events of Passover week.
- *Jesus' teaching on the kingdom, ethics, discipleship, parables, eschatology, and Himself.
- *Introduction to current scholarship in Gospel studies.
- *The basic elements of interpretation, applying and teaching the Gospels.
- *Interpreting and teaching special texts, such as miracles and parables.
- *Redemptive and Christ-centered teaching from the Gospels.

III. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353).

- *Bruce, F.F., *Jesus, Lord and Savior*, IVP, 1986.
- *Stein, R., *The Method and Message of Jesus' Teachings*, Westminster, 1995.
- *Doriani, Daniel, *Getting the Message*, P&R, 1996.
- *Blomberg, Craig, *Interpreting the Parables*, Intervarsity Press, 1990.
- *Blomberg, Craig, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, Intervarsity Press, 1987.

Supplementary readings:

On the debate on the historical Jesus:

- *Michael J. Wilkins & J.P. Moreland, *Jesus Under Fire*, Zondervan, 1995.
- *Gregory Boyd, *Cynic, Sage or Son of God*, Bridgepoint, 1995.
- *Luke Johnson, *The Real Jesus*, Harper, 1995.
- *John Wenham, *Redating Matthew, Mark & Luke*, Intervarsity Press, 1992.
- *Ben Witherington, *The Jesus Quest*, Intervarsity Press, 1995.

Of special interest:

- *John Stott, *The Sermon on the Mount*, Intervarsity Press, 1978.
- *Christopher Wright, *Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament*, Intervarsity Press, 1992.
- *Excerpts from Josephus' writings, the Mishnah and gnostic or pagan sources of the era.

Note: For a helpful introduction to the relationship of history to our faith read V. Phillips Long's book, *The Art of Biblical History*.

IV. Class Calendar

- Lecture 1—The Story; Historicity of the Gospels (*Reading: Bruce, chs. 1-3, 13*)
 Lecture 2—The Reliability of the Gospels; Land of Palestine & Its People
 Lecture 3—The Traits of Matthew Among the Gospels
 Lecture 4—Themes in Matthew (*Matthew 2:1-12; Bruce, ch. 4*)
 Lecture 5—The Temptation; The Kingdom of God (*Stein, chs. 1-2, 4-6*)
 Lecture 6—Ethics of the Kingdom: Interpreting the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-6
 Lecture 7—Sermon on Mount: Exposition of Matt. 5-6 (*Matthew 5:1-16; Doriani, chs. 1-4*)
 Lecture 8—Sermon on Mount: Exposition of Matt. 5-6 (*Matthew 6:19-24; Doriani, ch. 6*)
 Lecture 9—Acts 2:36 & the Christology of Acts
 Lecture 10—Miracles: Definition & Place in Ministry of Jesus (*Doriani, ch. 5; Blomberg, Reliability, 73-100*)
 Lecture 11—Methods for Preaching & Teaching the Miracles (*Luke 5:17-26*)
 Lecture 12—Methods for Preaching & Teaching the Miracles (*Mark 4:35-41, parallels*)
 Lecture 13—Kingdom Proclamation & Response (*Bruce, ch.5*)
 Lecture 14—Conflict with the Jews (*Bruce, ch.7; Doriani, chs. 7-8*)
 Lecture 15—Parables (*Matthew 13; Stein, chs. 3, 6*)
 Lecture 16—Parables: Definitions, Strategies & Interpretation (*Blomberg, Parables, ch. 2*)
 Lecture 17—Parables of Luke 11-12; Prayer
 Lecture 18—Parables (*Luke 15:20-32*)
 Lecture 19—Preaching or Teaching the Parables (*Matthew 16:13-20*)
 Lecture 20—Transition to Training of Disciples (*Matthew 18:15-20*)
 Lecture 21—Community Life (*Doriani, ch. 9, 10*)
 Lecture 22—Matthew 19-20, Commitment to the Kingdom; Review (*Matthew 20:25-28; Bruce, ch. 6*)
 Lecture 23—The Deity of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels
 Lecture 24—Final Week: Into Jerusalem & the Temple Districts (*Mark 11:12-2; Bruce, ch.8*)
 Lecture 25—Final Week
 Lecture 26—Final Week: Matthew 24-25
 Lecture 27—Jesus' Prophecy in Matthew 24 (*Bruce, ch. 9*)
 Lecture 28—Contemplating the Cross: Gethsemane; Arrest & Trial of Jesus (*Bruce, ch.10*)
 Lecture 29—Crucifixion & Death of Jesus (*Blomberg, Reliability, 100-110; Bruce, ch.11*)
 Lecture 30—Resurrection & its Meaning (*Bruce, ch.12*)
 Lecture 31—Introduction to Mark
 Lecture 32—Theology of Mark
 Lecture 33—Themes in Luke (*Doriani, ch. 11-12*)
 Lecture 34—Themes in Luke, cont.
 Lecture 35—Themes in Luke, cont.
 Lecture 36—Introduction to John
 Lecture 37—The Gospel of John
 Lecture 38—The Gospel of John, cont. (*John 20:24-31*)

V. Reflection Questions

- Lecture 3: Examine the historical context of Matthew 2:1-12. Who are Herod, the Magi, the scribes? Use your research to illumine the passage's meaning. See *Getting the Message*, ch. 4.
 Lecture 6: What are the beatitudes – a string of disconnected virtues? Are they virtues at all? Is there a unifying theme or structure within them? See *Getting the Message*, ch.6, and Appendix C.
 Lecture 8: Present a discourse analysis of Matthew 6: 19-24. Use Stein on parallelism and *Getting the Message*, Appendix C to determine relationship of 19-21, 22-23,24.
 Lecture 11: Present a dramatic analysis of Luke 5:17-26. See Doriani, chapter 5 (except pages 70-72).

After you complete your work on this reflection paper, please read Dr. Doriani's dramatic analysis of this passage on pages 70-72 of *Getting the Message*, ch. 5.

- Lecture 12: Synoptic problem: Using a synopsis, list the differences between the accounts of the storm in Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Notice the dialogue. How do small variations make a difference in the message?
- Lecture 14: Why were Pharisees angry at Jesus? How could they call Him an agent of Satan? Answer these questions from as many perspectives as possible. (See Doriani, ch.8)
- Lecture 15: Consulting Blomberg, *Parables*, in what sense are the parables of Matthew 13 allegorical? What do the chief story elements represent? What is the main point(s)?
- Lecture 20: Summarize the commands of Matthew 18:15-20. Is this a code of church discipline or something else? Why does the church fall short of keeping these clear commands? Is there a remedy?
- Lecture 22: How does Jesus present Himself as our redeemer in Matthew 20:20-28 (especially verses 25-28)? As our example? Searching the Gospels, is there merit in the concept of imitating Christ or not?
- Lecture 24: What is the point of Jesus' cursing of the fig tree? Draw on research into temple, figs, seasons, etc. Consult Matt. 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-25 together.
- Lecture 27: Describe the relation of faith, law, and works in Matthew's theology.
- Lecture 32: Read (or listen to a tape of) Mark in one sitting, without stopping the tape or the reading to think about it. What did you learn by doing this?
- Lecture 38: What is the main point of the Thomas narrative? What is its role in John's Gospel? That is, why might John have closed the main body of John with that episode?

VI. About the Professor

Daniel M. Doriani, Adjunct Professor of New Testament. B.A., Geneva College; M.Div. and Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary; S.T.M., Yale Divinity School. Professor Doriani is Senior Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. Prior to his return to the pastorate, Dr. Doriani served as Dean of the Faculty, Vice President of Academics, and Professor of New Testament at Covenant Seminary from 1991 to 2003. Before coming to St. Louis, Dr. Doriani was Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Geneva College (1986-1991) and pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, MD (1981-1986). He also served as Theologian-in-Residence at Kirk of the Hills in St. Louis from 1996-2003. Dr. Doriani has written six books: *Women and Ministry*; *The Life of a God-Made Man*; *Putting the Truth to Work*; *The Theory and Practice of Biblical Interpretation*; *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*; *David the Anointed*, and *Teach the Nations*. He is New Testament editor for *Reformed Expository Commentary* series, contributing volumes on Matthew and James. He has also contributed chapters to several books on family issues, and written a number of other articles. Dr. Doriani speaks frequently at Christian conferences on topics such as discipleship, Bible interpretation, family and gender issues, godly manhood, and work. He enjoys music and sports and coached college tennis for two years. He and his wife Deborah, a musician, have three daughters, Abigail, Sarah, and Beth.