



Themes and Threads of the Holy Bible: The Gospels and Acts

Matthew

Author: Matthew

Date: 40-60 AD

To: Especially to the Jews

Genealogy (1:1-2:23)

Five Books

Book One: Galilee and The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 3:1-7:29)

Book Two: Ten Miracles and The Mission (Matthew 8:1-11:1)

Book Three: Seven Parables, Teachings, and Ministry (Matthew 11:2-13:53)

Book Four: Vision for the Church (Matthew 13:54-18:35)

Book Five: Last Teachings (Matthew 19:1-25:46)

Passion of Christ: Death, Resurrection, and Ascension (Matthew 26:1-28:20)

Key Verses:

“So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Do you ever feel weary from sin? Has too much license increased your desire for more and more of your fix of choice in order to feel new again? Are you burdened with legalism, trying to keep religious rules, regulations, and stipulations,

feeling as though you can never measure up to perfection? Jesus is offering you restoration through a fully surrendered life in Him. He is asking you to begin a journey toward wisdom. You can come to Christ and be fully forgiven, starting a new life full of love, free from the weariness of license and the burden of legalism.

Mark

Author: Mark

Date: 45-50 AD

To: Believers in Rome

Birth and Preparation of Jesus, the Servant (Mark 1:1-13)

Message and Ministry of Jesus, the Servant (Mark 1:14-13:37)

Galilee (Mark 1:14-9:50)

Journey to Jerusalem (Mark 10:1-52)

Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-13:37)

Passion of Jesus, the Servant: Death, Resurrection, and Ascension (Mark 14:1-16:20)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

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Do you see your life as a servant? You might know if you consider how you feel when you are treated like one. Jesus described Himself as a servant. To reflect His heart, think about who you can serve this month. Make a list of those in need and serve each with the appropriate loving deed; all the while repeating to yourself, “I am a servant of Christ.”

Luke

Author: Luke

Date: 55-62 AD

To: Theophilus, Gentiles, and people everywhere

Preparation of Jesus (Luke 1:1-4:13)

Preaching of Jesus (Luke 4:14-21:38)

Passion of Jesus (Luke 21:39-24:53)

Key Verses:

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

How important is it to you to reach the lost, those outside a fully-surrendered relationship with Christ? Do you have a list of people for whom you are praying to have eternal life in Christ? Do you make your muscles move with your prayers by engaging with them? Here are four simple questions you can ask to connect with a person’s heart:

“What is your church or spiritual background?”

“Will you please tell me your story?”

“Where is God in all that for you?”

“In terms of the God thing, would you describe yourself as skeptic, seeker, or surrendered?”

If the Holy Spirit prompts you that someone might be ready to surrender to Christ, you can ask: “Would you like to draw a line in the sand, put a stake in the ground, and fully surrender your heart and life to Christ as Savior and Lord?” Follow an affirmative answer with a request to pray this prayer to God: “I can’t. You can. I can’t free myself from the penalty of my sin. In Christ, You can. I can’t free myself from the power of my sin. In Christ, You can. I fully surrender my heart and life to You as Savior to free me from the penalty and Lord to free me from the power of my sin. Please forgive and restore me.” In everything and with everyone, act with Christ’s heart of humility, and His Spirit will connect those you encounter with God.

John

Author: John

Date: 60 AD

To: Everyone

Prologue (John 1:1-18)

Public Ministry of Jesus (John 1:19-12:50)

Private Ministry of Jesus (John 13:1-20:31)

Epilogue (John 21:1-25)

Eight Signs:

(1) turning water to wine (John 2:1-11), (2) healing the nobleman's son (John 4:46-54), (3) healing the lame man (John 5:1-9), (4) feeding 5,000 (John 6:1-14), (5) walking on the water (John 6:15-21), (6) restoring sight to the man born blind (John 9:1-41), (7) raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44), and (8) the miraculous catch of 153 fish (John 21:1-14)

Seven Discourses:

(1) Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), (2) Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42), (3) Bread of Life (John 6:25-71), (4) Light of the World (John 8:12-30), (5) Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21), (6) Grain of Wheat Dies—Life (John 12:20-36), and (7) Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-16)

Seven *I Am* Statements:

(1) "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35); (2) "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12, 9:5); (3) "I am the gate for the sheep" (John 10:7); (4) "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, 14); (5) "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25); (6) "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6); and (7) "I am the true vine" (John 15:1).

Key Verses:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (John 19:30).

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

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When on the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The Greek word for the phrase is *teleo*. This was the same word written at the top of a Bill of Sale marked, "Paid in Full." The perfect life, death, and resurrection of Christ is the clearest portrait of underserved love ever painted on history's canvas. John

recorded the ultimate sign of Christ's empty tomb, proving He conquered sin and death. Therefore, the question each of us must answer is, "Do I believe in Him?"

Acts

Author: Luke

Date: 62 AD

To: Theophilus and All Believers

Empowered Church (Acts 1:1-7:60)

Evangelizing Church (Acts 8:1-12:25)

Expanding Church (Acts 13:1-28:31)

 Paul's First Missionary Journey 48 AD (Acts 13:1-15:41)

 Paul's Second Missionary Journey 53 AD (Acts 16:1-18:43)

 Paul's Third Missionary Journey 55-56 AD (Acts 19:1-23:56)

 Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey 61-63 AD (Acts 24:1-28:31)

Key Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

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Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to engage with someone outside a fully surrendered relationship with Christ? Read a chapter in Acts each day for the next four weeks, praying for God to use you to connect a specific person with Jesus. He will answer your prayers.