

THE FOURFOLD GOSPEL

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Bible Study Notes

Prepared by
Carey Dillinger

(March, 2000 – February, 2003)

For use in the adult class at

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BEVERLY SHORES
Leesburg, Florida

THE FOURFOLD GOSPEL - THE LIFE OF CHRIST

EVENT	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Introduction to the Study				
PART 1: The period of Christ's life Prior to His Public Ministry				
1. Introductory portions of the several books				
a. John's introduction				1:1-18
b. Luke's preface		1:1-4	3:23-38	
c. The genealogies	1:1-17		3:23-38	
2. Birth of John the Baptist foretold to Zacharias			1:5-25	
3. Birth of Jesus foretold to Mary			1:26-48	
4. Mary visits Elizabeth			1:39-56	
5. Birth and early life of John			1:57-80	
6. Birth of Jesus foretold to Joseph	1:18-25			
7. Birth of Jesus	1:25		2:1-7	
8. The Shepherds			2:8-20	
9. The circumcision and naming of Jesus			2:21	
10. The presentation and purification in the temple			2:22-39	
11. Visit of the Wise Men	2:1-12			
12. Jesus taken to Egypt to escape death	2:13-18			
13. Return to Nazareth	2:19-23		2:39	
14. Visit to Jerusalem at age twelve			2:40-52	
PART 2: Announcement and Introduction of Our Lord's Public Ministry				
15. The forerunner's work	3:1-12	1:1-8	3:1-18	
16. Baptism of Jesus	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-22	
17. Temptation of Jesus	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
18. John's testimony				1:19-34
19. Jesus calls some disciples				1:35-51
20. First miracle at Cana				2:1-11
21. Visit to Capernaum				2:12
PART 3: Visit to Jerusalem for Passover				
22. Goes to Jerusalem				2:13
a. Cleanses the Temple				2:13-25
b. Discourses with Nicodemas				3:1-21
23. Tarries in Jerusalem and baptizes in Judea				3:22
24. John's testimony				3:23-36
25. John's imprisonment	(14:3-5)	(6:17-20)	3:19-20	
26. Christ departs for Galilee	4:12	1:14		4:1-3
27. Christ in Samaria				4:4-42
28. On to Galilee			4:14-15	4:43-45
PART 4: A Period of Galilean Ministry				
29. Another miracle in Cana				4:46-54
30. Christ rejected at Nazareth			4:16-30	
31. Moved to Capernaum	4:13-16		4:31-32	
32. Jesus preaches and calls four fishermen to follow Him	4:17-22	1:14-20		
33. Jesus preaches at many places	(4:23-25)			
34. Jesus heals demoniac in synagogue		1:21-28	4:33-37	
35. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and many others	8:14-17	1:29-34	4:38-41	
36. A preaching tour in Galilee	(4:23-25)	1:35-39	4:42-44	
37. Draught of fishes			5:1-11	
38. Sermon on the Mount	5:1-8:1		(6:17-49)	
39. Jesus heals a leper	8:2-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
40. Jesus heals a paralytic at Capernaum	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	

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41. Jesus teaches by the seaside		2:13		
42. Jesus calls Matthew	9:9	2:14	5:27-28	
PART 5: Jesus at a Feast in Jerusalem (probably the Passover)				
43. Heals on the Sabbath and defends his act				5:1-47
PART 6: A period of Ministry in Galilee and About the Sea of Galilee				
44. Plucking grain on the Sabbath (on the way to Galilee?)	12:1-8	2:23-28	6:1-5	
45. Defends healing on the Sabbath	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
46. Jesus teaches and heals many by the Sea	12:15-21	3:7-12		
47. Jesus spends the night in prayer			6:12	
48. Jesus chooses the twelve	10:2-4	3:13-19	6:13-16	
49. Sermon on the Plain	(5,6,7)		6:17-49	
50. Jesus heals the Centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
51. Jesus raises the widow's son			7:11-17	
52. John's inquiry and Christ's answer	11:1-19		7:18-35	
53. Jesus upbraids cities of Galilee	11:20-30			
54. The Lord dines with Simon			7:36-50	
55. Woman who ministered to Christ			8:1-3	
56. Concerning blasphemy	(9:32-34); 12:22-37	3:19-30	(11:14-23)	
57. Sign seekers	12:38-45		(11:24-36)	
58. Christ's mother and brethren	12:46-50	3:31-35	8:18-21	
59. Dines with Pharisees			(11:37-54)	
60. Discourses on preparedness, covetousness, hypocrisy, His suffering			(12)	
61. Repent or perish, barren fig tree			(13:1-9)	
62. Parables by the Sea	13:1-52	4:1-34	8:4-18	
63. Stilling the tempest	8:18,23-27 (8:19-22)	4:35-41	8:22-25 (9:57-62)	
64. Jesus heals a demoniac	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
65. returns to His own city - Capernaum	9:1	5:21	8:40	
66. Levi's fast - concerning fasting	9:10-17	2:15-22	5:29-39	
67. Jarius' daughter and an invalid women	9:18-34	5:32-43	8:41-46	
68. Rejection at Nazareth	13:53-58	6:1-6	(4:15-30)	
69. Jesus followed by multitudes; taught in villages; sends out the twelve	9:35-11:1	6:7-13	9:1-6	
70. Herod, who had beheaded John, wonders about Christ	14:1-12	6:14-29	9:7-9	
PART 7: Season of Retirement into Districts Around Galilee				
71. First withdrawal from Herod's territory and return				
a. Return of the twelve and retirement beyond the Sea	14:13	6:30-32	9:10	6:1
b. Feeding the five thousand	14:13-21	6:33-44	9:11-17	6:2-14
c. People desire to make Him king				6:15
d. Retires to pray	14:22-23	6:45-46	6:15-17	
e. Walks on the Sea	14:24-34	6:47-53		6:18-21
f. Heals in Genessaret	14:35-36	6:54-56		
72. Discourse on spiritual food, etc. (Capernaum?) Note: About this time there would have been a Passover Feast in Jerusalem, but there is no record of Jesus attending.				6:22-71
73. The Lord reproached for disregarding tradition	15:1-20	7:1-23		7:1
74. Second withdrawal from Herod's territory and return				
a. Withdraws to parts of Tyre and Sidon and heals the Syrophenician woman's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
b. Proceeds to borders of Decapolis, in the mountains, heals many, feeds the 4,000	15:29-39	7:31-8:10		
c. Returns to Galilee via Magadan and Dalmanutha	15:39	8:10		

EVENT	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
75. Tempted by Pharisees and Sadducees	16:1-4	8:11-13		
76. Third withdrawal from Herod's territory				
a. Departs and warns against the leaven of Herod, the Pharisees and the Sadducees	16:5-12	8:14-21		
b. At Bethsaida heals blind man by degrees		8:22-26		
c. The great confession at Caesarea Philippi	16:13-20	8:27-30	9:18-22	
d. Passion foretold, Peter rebuked	16:21-28	8:31-9:1	9:23-27	
e. The transfiguration and about Elijah	17:1-13	9:2-13	9:28-36	
f. Cures epileptic, disciples failed	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-42	
g. Return to Galilee, Passion again foretold	17:22-23	9:30-32	9:43-45	
77. At Capernaum Jesus pays the tribute money	17:24-27			
78. Dispute about rank, Jesus teaches	18:1-14	9:33-50	9:46-50	
79. Concerning forgiveness	18:15-35		(17:1-4)	
80. Our Lord's brethren advise Him to go to Jerusalem				7:2-9
81. Christ goes privately to Jerusalem			9:51-56	7:10
PART 8: Closing Ministry in all Parts of the Holy Land From Feast of Tabernacles to Last Week Before Final Passover				
82. At the Feast of Tabernacles				7:11-52
83. Woman taken in adultery (Jerusalem)				7:53-8:11
84. Further teaching and escape				8:12-59
85. The man born blind				9:1-41
86. Discourse on the Good Shepherd				10:1-21
87. Mission and return of the Seventy			10:1-24	
88. A lawyer and "the Good Samaritan"			10:25-37	
89. Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha			10:38-42	
90. Prayer taught and encouraged			11:1-13	
91. Accused of blasphemy, rebukes Pharisees			11:14-30	
92. Dines with Pharisees			11:37-54	
93. Speaks of covetousness, hypocrisy, preparedness and His suffering			12	
94. Repent or perish, barren fig tree			13:1-9	
95. Healing on the Sabbath			13:10-17	
96. Parables on mustard seed and leaven			13:18-21	
97. At the Feast of Dedication				10:22-38
98. Escapes to places beyond the Jordan				10:39-42
99. In route to Jerusalem, the strait gate, warned against Herod			13:22-35	
100. Dining with a Pharisee			14:1-24	
101. The cost of discipleship			14:25-35	
102. Three parables			15	
103. The unrighteous steward			16:1-18	
104. The rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
105. Offenses, faith and service			17:1-10	
106. To Bethany to raise Lazarus				11:1-46
107. The Sanhedrin plot, retires to Ephriam				11:47-54
108. Toward Jerusalem, ten lepers, the kingdom	19:1-2	10:1	17:11-37	
109. Parable of the importunate widow			18:1-8	
110. Parable of the Pharisee and Publican			18:9-14	
111. Concerning divorce	19:3-12	10:2-12		
112. Concerning children	19:13-15	10:13-16	18:15-17	
113. Rich young ruler, peril of riches, reward of sacrifice	19:16-30	10:17-31	18:17-30	
114. Laborers in the vineyard	20:1-16			
115. Again foretells His Passion	20:17-19	10:32-34	18:31-34	
116. Ambitions of James and John	20:20-28	10:35-45		
117. Two blind men at Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
118. Zacchaeus, parable of pounds			19:1-27	
119. On toward Jerusalem			19:28	3

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PART 9: Last Week of Our Lord's Ministry and His Crucifixion				
120. Jesus arrives and is feasted at Bethany	(26:6-13)	(14:3-9)		11:55-12:11
121. Triumphal entry into Jerusalem and return to Bethany	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19
122. Cursing the fig tree	21:18-19	11:12-14		
123. Cleansing Temple and return to Bethany	21:12, 13-17	11:15-19	19:45-48	
124. Lesson of the withered fig tree (road from Bethany to Jerusalem)	21:20-22	11:20-26	21:37-38	
125. Christ's authority questioned	21:23-27	11:27-33	20:1-8	
126. Three parables				
a. Two sons	21:28-32			
b. Wicked husbandmen	21:33-46	12:1-12	20:9-19	
c. Marriage of the King's son	22:1-4			
127. Questions and answers	22:15-46	12:13-37	20:20-44	
128. Denunciation of scribes and Pharisees	23	12:28-40	20:45-47	
129. The widow's mite		12:41-44	21:1-4	
130. Greeks seek Jesus, His discourse				12:20-50
131. Destruction of Jerusalem and the second coming of Christ	24	13	21:5-36	
132. Parables of virgins and talents	25			
133. Christ predicts and Jews plot His death	26:1-5	14:1-2	22:1-2	
134. Christ anointed	(26:6-13)	(14:3-9)		(12:2-8)
135. Judas' bargain (Note: Probably remained in Bethany all day Wednesday)	26:14-16	14:10-11	22:3-6	
136. Preparation for Passover supper	26:17-19	14:12-16	22:7-13	
137. The Lord goes to the Passover	26:20	14:17	22:14-18 (24-30)	
138. Jesus washes the disciples feet				13:1-20
139. The traitor pointed out	26:21-25	14:18-21	22:21-23	13:21-29
140. Judas leaves				13:30-35
141. Strife for precedence			22:24-30	
142. The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26)	26:26-29	14:22-25	22:19-20	
143. Jesus goes out to the Mount of Olives	(26:30)	(14:26)		
144. Peter warned, swords produced	(26:31-35)	(14:27-31)	22:31-38	13:36-38
145. Comfort for the disciples				14
146. Vine and branches, further comfort				15,16
147. The Lord's Prayer				17
148. On to Gethsemane	(26:30-35)	(14:26-31)	22:39	18:1
149. Agony in Gethsemane	26:36-46	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:1-2
150. Jesus betrayed, arrested and forsaken	26:42-56	14:43-53	22:47-53	18:3-11
151. Taken to Annas first				18:12-13(24)
152. Preliminary trial before Caiphas	26:57-66	14:53-64	22:54	18:14,19-24
153. Jesus mocked and smitten	26:67-68	14:65	22:63-65	
154. In the meantime Peter denies three times	26:(58)69-75	14:(54)66-72	22:55-62	18:15-18,25-27
155. Formally condemned by Sanhedrin and led away to Pilate	27:1-2	15:1	22:66-23:1	18:28
156. Remorse and suicide of Judas (Acts 1:18,19)	27:3-10			
157. First trial before Pilate	27:11-14	15:2-5	23:2-6	18:28-38
158. Tried and mocked before Herod			23:7-12	
159. Jesus scourged and condemned by Pilate, mocked and abused by soldiers	27:15-30	15:6-19	23:13-25	18:39-19:16
160. Our Lord led away to place of crucifixion	27:31-33	15:20-22	23:26-32	19:16-17
161. The crucifixion	27:34-50	15:23-37	23:33-46	19:18-30
162. Extraordinary events	27:45,51-56	15:33,38-41	23:45,47-49	19:31-37
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EVENTS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
PART 10: The Burial, Resurrection, Appearance and Ascension of Our Lord				
163. His burial	27:57-61	15:42-42-47	23:45,47-49	19:38-42
164. Guard at sepulchre	27:62-66			
165. His resurrection, empty tomb discovered	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-10
166. Appears to Mary Magdalene		16:9-11		20:11-18
167. Appears to the other women	28:9-10			
168. Report and bribery of the guard	28:11-15			
169. Third and fourth appearances - to Cleophas and another disciple, and to Simon		16:12-13	24:13-35	
170. Appeared same day and ate with disciples		16:14-18	24:36-43(44-49)	20:19-23
171. Thomas, being absent, doubted				20:24-25
172. A week later Christ appeared to disciples, Thomas being present				20:26-31
173. Appears to disciples at the Sea of Tiberius				21
174. On a mountain in Galilee (Acts 1:9-12)	28:16-20	(16:15-18)	(24:44-49)	
175. Acts 1:3-8; 1 Cor. 15:5-7				
176. The ascension of the Lord (Acts 1:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:8)		16:19-20	24:50-53	
177. Appeared to Paul (1 Cor. 15:8)				
178. Appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos (Rev. 1)				

THE FOURFOLD GOSPEL - THE LIFE OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourfold Gospel contain almost all we know concerning the life of Christ. Secular history chose to ignore Him for matters they deemed more important at the time.
These books were written about thirty years after the death of Christ and are a history of BC 4 to AD 33 in the context of Christianity. However, they are not primarily a history, but instead a written means to preach the Gospel to convert the unbelievers and edify the believers.
The four Gospel accounts are not necessarily presented in strict chronological order. Luke's account is somewhat chronological and Matthew stays within certain time frames, but emphasizes subjects first.
2. The Four Pictures of Christ - Christ's greatness could not be described in one book. According to John, even what has been written does not do justice to Christ.
 - a. Matthew's account concerns itself with the relationship of Jesus to the Jews. Matthew shows how Jesus: fulfills the Old Testament, judges the Jews for their hypocrisy, is the son of David, is the promised Messiah, and is the Rabbi of rabbis.
 - b. Mark's account emphasizes action and stresses suffering on the part of the Messiah and the disciples. This Gospel shows that Jesus would be a spiritual leader, not a secular one.
 - c. Luke's account stresses the blessings of salvation brought by Jesus Christ, emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and shows that the Gospel is for the common man.
 - d. John's account shows that Jesus was sent by the heavenly Father to be the Savior of the earth and that He came with the full authority of heaven even though He was a man.
3. Matthew's Account
 - a. The author
 - (1) one of the twelve, also known as Levi (Mk. 2:14)
 - (2) a Jew and a publican (Roman tax collector) (Mt. 10:3)
 - (3) he followed Jesus when he was called (Lk. 5:27,28)
 - (4) held a feast for Christ (Lk. 5:29)
 - b. Addressees - primarily written to the Jews (Mt. 10:5,6; 15:24)
 - c. Purpose - to show that Christ Jesus was indeed the Messiah of Jewish prophecy. Note the use of the words: fulfilled, King, and kingdom.
 - d. Distinctive features
 - (1) ten parables - the tares, hidden treasure, the pearl, the dragnet, the hard-hearted servant, workers in the vineyard, the two sons, marriage of the king's son, the ten bridesmaids, the talents.
 - (2) Three miracles - the two blind men, the dumb man who was possessed, the coin in the fish's mouth.
 - (3) Nine incidents - Joseph's dream, the wise men's visit, the escape to Egypt, Herod's massacre, Pilate's wife's dream, the death of Judas (also recorded in Acts), the saints resurrected in Jerusalem, the bribing of the guard, and the "great commission."
 - (4) Various teachings - "The Sermon on the Mount," "come unto me."
4. Mark's Account
 - a. The author
 - (1) the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12)
 - (2) also called John Mark (Acts 12:25)
 - (3) a relative of Barnabas (Col. 4:10)

- (4) associated with Paul on the first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5)
 - (5) temporarily alienated from Paul (Acts 13:13; 15:37-39)
 - (6) friendship with Paul restored (2 Tim. 4:11)
 - (7) secular history and tradition places Mark as a companion of Peter in later years (1 Pet. 5:13)
- b. Addressees - Possibly the Christians at Rome, suggested by lack of prophecy fulfillment and explanatory material included that would be needed by Gentiles. (Mk. 3:17; 5:41; 7:1-4,11,34)
- c. Main Theme - "Christ, the tireless servant of God and man." Emphasis is on Christ's deeds.
- d. Distinctive features
- (1) the shortest Gospel
 - (2) a vivid, dynamic style
 - (3) lets the work of Christ testify to His deity
 - (4) the most personal Gospel (Mk. 1:13; 3:17; 10:14; 10:32; 12:37; 6:3)
 - (5) alludes to Christ's humanity (Mk. 3:5; 4:38; 6:6; 7:34; 8:12; 10:21)
 - (6) nineteen miracles - eight showing power over disease, five showing power over nature, four showing authority over demons, two showing conquest over death.
5. Luke's Account
- a. The author - Luke, the beloved physician (Col. 4:14).
- (1) author of Acts, also addressed to Theophilus
 - (2) close friend and companion of Paul
 - (3) Paul's influence can be seen in the writing of Luke.
- b. Addressee - Theophilus, identity unknown. Probably a Gentile. Since Luke takes time to explain Jewish customs, it is assumed that he was writing primarily to Gentiles.
- c. Purpose - see Lk. 1:1-4. More will be said on these verses in a later lesson.
- d. Distinctive features
- (1) emphasizes the universal grace of God (Lk. 2:32; 3:6; 24:47).
 - (2) "The Son of Man" (Lk. 6:20; 7:37; 8:2; 10:33; 15:1; 16:20,21; 17:12; 23:43) (lowly and outcast)
 - (3) a devotional Gospel, emphasizing prayer.
 - (a) three parables on prayer, (Lk. 11:5-8; 18:1-8; 18: 9-14)
 - (b) prayers of Christ (Lk. 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:29; 11:1; 22:32,44; 23:46)
 - (4) joy and praise - chapter 1 and 2.
 - (5) honors womanhood - chapters 1 and 10 (Lk. 23:27; 2:37; 4:26; 7:12; 18:3; 21:2)
 - (6) almost half the material in this book is only found in this book.
 - (a) examples of incidents: draught of fishes, raising the widow's son, the ten lepers, Malchus' ear healed.
 - (b) Sixteen parables - including the fig tree, the prayer parables, and the rich man and Lazarus.
6. John's Account
- a. The author - the apostle John (21:20,24)
- (1) the son of Zebedee
 - (2) the beloved disciple, the brother of James
 - (3) a member of the so-called "inner circle," with his brother and Peter
 - (4) entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother
- b. Addressees - this Gospel does not appear to be addressed to any one group, but it does fill in much material that the other so-called synoptic Gospels do not contain.
- c. Purpose - to inspire the readers to faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

- d. Distinctive features
 - (1) considered to be the "deepest" of the Gospel accounts
 - (2) Christ reveals Himself more completely
 - (a) His person and attributes
 - (b) His divinity
 - (c) The work of the Holy Spirit
 - (d) His divine commission
 - (e) Concerning the Fatherhood of God
 - (3) much emphasis placed on the "last days."
 - (4) certain conversations found only in John: Nicodemus and the woman at the well.
 - (5) discourse on the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10).
 - (6) Eight miracles (six unique to John's Gospel) - water to wine, healing the nobleman's son, blind man at the pool, man born blind, raising Lazarus, second draught of fishes.
 - (7) Two great themes: faith and eternal life.

- 7. The Pre-existent Christ - before Christ came to the earth as a man, he existed as part of the Godhood. This can be shown to be true from an examination of scripture.
 - a. Heb. 13:8 - Christ is eternally the same. If He is eternally the same, then He always existed, and therefore he is deity.
 - b. Heb. 7:3 - is further commentary on His eternal existence - He had no beginning. Melchizedek demonstrates this fact as a type of Christ.
 - c. Micah 5:2 - Micah's prophecies show that the activities of the Messiah have been eternal.
 - d. Jn. 8:58 - Christ Himself says that he pre-dates Abraham and entitles Himself, "I Am." The significance of this title is that it equates to the Old Testament "Jehovah."
 - e. Jn. 1:1; 17:5 - Christ pre-dates the world. We learn from verses 1 and 14 of chapter one that the "Word" is Christ and not only was He present at creation, He was an active participant (v.3). In Jn. 17:5 Jesus prays for a return to His former glory - before the world.

- 8. The Prophetic Christ - Bible handbooks and other Bible reference materials often have lists of prophecies concerning Christ and show when and how they were fulfilled by Him. The following list of prophecies might be of interest: Gen. 22:18; Ps. 2; 45:2; 110:1; 118:22; 132:11; Isa. 2:4; 9:6; 11:1; 28:16; 42:1; 59:16; 61:1; 63:1; Jer. 23:5; Hag. 2:7; Zech. 3:8; 6:12; 12:10; 13:7; Mal. 3:1