



*Saint Mark's Church
Sunday School*

An Introduction to the gospel according to St. Matthew **Code: 8/NT/1**

1. General Aims of the unit

Better Understanding of the gospels which are the record of the life of Jesus Christ

2. Special aims of the lesson

1. to have adequate knowledge about the writer of the gospel, the main theme of the gospel , to whom the gospel was written , the proposed time of writing , the symbol of this gospel and an idea about the synoptic gospels
2. to explore the characteristics of the gospel and its main parts .
3. to remember some events mentioned only in this gospel

3.Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:

1. give a full account about the gospel according to St. Matthew; the writer , the timing , the target group ,its symbol and the main message of this gospel
2. Discuss the characteristics of the gospel and how it is related to its theme and the targeted people .
3. Remember the main events and parts that is mentioned only in St. Matthew gospel.

4.Verses:

Matt 5:3-12 ; 13:31-32 ; 13:33 ; 13:44 ; 13:45-46

5. References:

1. The introduction of St. Matthew gospel – the Orthodox gospel
2. Any other commentary on the gospel of St. Matthew
3. Attached appendix

Pls. note that these type of lessons which are mainly information about spiritual or educational matters and not related to specific stories represent only the skeleton (the bones only) which need flesh around them otherwise the lesson is not attractive to the teens.

APPENDIX

- ❖ The fathers of the Church represents the four gospels by the faces of the four living creatures in the midst of the throne “ *And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.*” (Rev. 4:6,7) . The same faces were recorded in the vision of the prophet Ezekiel “ *Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.....each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.*” (Ezek.1:5-10) .

1. The four Gospels

TOPICS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
To whom it is written	Jewish mind	Roman mind (Pragmatic)	Greek mind (educated and idealistic – philosophers)	All Christian
The writer	St. Matthew , tax collector . One of the 12 disciples.	St. Mark. A Jew born in north Africa . One of the 70 Apostles. His mother Mary one of the followers of the Lord. His house was the first Church. He is a relative to St. Barnabas , and St. Peter.	Gentile from Antioch . Physician by profession. Converted through the preaching of St. Paul , and was one of his companions. He was also an artist.	St. John the beloved . One of the first 12 disciples who followed the Lord. One of the three disciples whom the Lord accompanied in special events. The disciple “whom Jesus loved”
Probable date	AD 58 - 68	AD 45 - 65 (suggested to be the 1 st . gospel among the synoptic gospels)	AD 60 -65	AD 90 -95
Place of	Palestine or	Alexandria or	Rome or Greece	Ephesus

TOPICS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Writing	Antioch Syria	Rome		
The main aim	Jesus is king of Israel who was promised in the prophesies of the OT.	Jesus is the STRONG SERVANT , Son of God , who defeated the devil through His miracles and crucifixion	Jesus is the PERFECT MAN who save the human race from its misery.	Jesus is the “SON OF GOD (The Monogenes). Incarnate God
Symbol	Face of “ MAN ” as St. Matthew emphasises that Jesus was born as a child, the descendants of David .	Face of “ LION ” as St. Mark emphasises the power of Jesus in His miracles and His resurrection from the dead . He is also " <i>The voice of one crying in the wilderness:</i> "	Face of “ BULL ” as St. Luke Emphasises the sacrifice of our Lord (the perfect man) to save the fallen human nature .He started his gospel by the story of Zakarias the priest who offer sacrifices on the altar.	Face of “ EAGLE ” as St. John started his gospel by the eternal birth of Christ John “ <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.</i> ” (John 1:1-2) . He concentrates in his gospel on all the events that prove divinity of Jesus Christ
Language of the Gospel	Aramaic , translated later to Greek	Greek	Greek	Greek
No. of Chapters	28 (1070 verses)	16 (677 verses)	24 (1150 verses)	21 (877 verses)
Main features	+ 42 % unique + The birth of Jesus from St. Mary, and His flee to Egypt. +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee.	+7 % unique +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee. +The Lord attended one	+The Lord’s birth from St. Mary, and an account of his childhood +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee. +The Lord attended one	+92% unique + Recorded the eternal birth of The “Word Of God +The ministry of the Lord in Judea , Samaria . + The Lord attended 3 Passovers in Jerusalem (John 2, 7,

TOPICS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
	<p>+The Lord attended one Passover feast in Jerusalem ,just before His crucifixion</p> <p>+ The Gospel of Kingdom. The word “KINGDOM” repeated about 55 times</p> <p>+ Concentrate on the teaching of the Lord about the Kingdom of heaven (The parables of kingdom of God Mat. 13 , 22, 25).</p> <p>+ Refer to 60 prophesies from the OT.</p> <p>+ Consists mainly of 5 major parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sermon on the mountain (ch.5-7) 2. The Apostolic mission (ch.10) 3. The parables of the kingdom(ch13) 4. Other teaching (ch. 18) 5. Eschatological talks (ch. 23-25) 	<p>Passover feast in Jerusalem ,just before His crucifixion .</p> <p>+The gospel of Power</p> <p>+Jesus has heavenly source of power. He is the Son of GOD . This is evident in all the miracles He performed , and also in His crucifixion.</p> <p>+The accounts are very brief ,with rapid movement to give the sense of urgency , the word “immediately” is repeated in this short gospel more than the whole NT (42 times).</p> <p>+ The gospel shows Jesus very compassionate not only to the Jews but also to the gentiles. He went to Tyre & Sidon and healed the daughter of the gentile woman (Mark 7:24-30) ,feeding the 4000 (Mark 8:1-10)</p> <p>+ The last week (Passion week) ,</p>	<p>Passover feast in Jerusalem ,just before His crucifixion</p> <p>+ Universal gospel , dates the biblical events by reference to the secular history. (ch.2,3)</p> <p>+ The word “son of man” repeated 25 times.</p> <p>+Concentrate on “Jesus” is the friend of the humans , specially the sinners , the needy, and the lost. He is joyfully waiting for their return.(ch. 15)</p> <p>+ It is the gospel of joy , filled with praises. (ch.. 1,2).</p> <p>+ the genealogy of Jesus ends with Adam ,the father of all the human race.</p> <p>+ The main parts of the gospel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our friend became like us.(ch. 1-3) 2. Our friend tempted like us (ch.4) 	<p>12).</p> <p>+John in this gospel emphasise the Divinity of Christ against the heresies of the 1st. century “Jesus is the Son of God , incarnated in flesh”</p> <p>+the following terms are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. .The Word, the Lamb of God (Ch.1) 2. Born of the water and Spirit (Ch.3) 3. The Living Water (Ch.4) 4. The Son gives live to whom He will, all judgement committed to the Son (Ch.5). 5. I AM the Bread of Life (Ch.6) 6. I AM the Light of the world(Ch.8) 7. I AM the Door , I and My Father are one (Ch. 10) 8. I AM the Resurrection and Life (Ch.11) 9. I AM the Way , the Truth , and Life (Ch. 14) 10.I AM the True Vine(Ch.15) 11.I have overcome the world(Ch. 16) <p>+ The last speech , and the last prayer of the Lord (Ch.14-17)</p> <p>+The aim of this gospel is to “.....you</p>

TOPICS	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
		represents 1/3 of the gospel (Ch. 11-16)	3. Our friend feels our sufferings (ch.5-18) 4. Our friend save us(ch. 19-23) 5. Our friend resurrected from the dead (Ch. 24)	<i>may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”(John 20:31)</i>