

TEACHINGS OF JESUS II

Teachings of Jesus II: Syllabus

CLASS #1:

- I. Course Introduction.
- II. The History of the World:
 - A. God's Plan of Redemption.
 - B. Last Things.

CLASS #2:

- II. The History of the World: (cont.)
 - C. The Spiritual World.
- III. Humanity:
 - A. Religion.
 - B. Stumbling Blocks - Those Hard-to-Accept Teachings of Jesus.

CLASS #3:

- III. Humanity: (cont.)
 - C. Human Problems.
 - D. Human Relationships.
- IV. This Life:
 - A. Success.

CLASS #4:

- IV. This Life: (cont.)
 - B. Virtues.
 - C. Unity.
 - D. Money.

CLASS #5:

- IV. This Life: (cont.)
 - E. Sin and Death.
- Exam.

Notes —

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Principles of the Gospels II: Exam

Possible 20 Point Questions

- 1) List and explain (no references needed) four results of the end times (pp. 49).
- 2) Use five Scriptures to list and explain the weapons of Satan (pp. 57).
- 3) Use four Scriptures to list and explain various ways to expose hypocrisy (pp. 60, 61).
- 4) Use Lk 11:27, 28 and Lk 1:45-48 to argue against “Mariolatry?” (p. 62).
- 5) Use Mt 16:26 and Mk 8:36, 37 to answer the question, “What is important?” (p. 70, 71).
- 6) Use the following Scriptures to develop the idea of a healthy disinterest in money: Lk 12:15, 3:10-14, 16:1-12 (p. 77).

Possible 10 Point Questions

- 1) Briefly explain the implications of the definition of eternal life in Jn 17:3 (p. 51).
- 2) According to Luke 4, list three weapons of the believer in Spiritual warfare (p. 57).
- 3) Use Mt 5:37 to offer a cure for hypocrisy (pp. 61).
- 4) Briefly explain the concept of Jesus as a stumbling block (pp. 62, 63).
- 5) Use one Scripture to give one example of other types of stumbling blocks (p. 63, 64).
- 6) Use Mt 10:28 to describe a cure for fear (p. 65).
- 7) Is there marriage in heaven? Refer to a Scripture in order to answer this question (p. 66).
- 8) Define success using Jn 7:18 (p. 68).
- 9) Use one Scripture to show one thing that humility is needed for (p. 73).
- 10) Define an important principle of ministry that is found in Lk 16:10 (p. 74).
- 11) Use Mt 6:32 to promote a simple lifestyle (p. 77).
- 12) Use one Scripture to explain one result of sin (p. 81, 82).

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I. Course Introduction.

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A. Background to this Course.

The Teachings of Jesus Series of Courses:

This course is the second in a series of three courses that are designed to be a systematic theology of the teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels. The series is based on three “areas.” It is divided into three courses according to the following “areas” of study:

- 1) God:
(**Teachings of Jesus I**, previously titled Principles of the Gospels I).
- 2) The world:
(**Teachings of Jesus II**, previously titled Principles of the Gospels II).
- 3) Christianity:
(**Teachings of Jesus III**, previously titled Principles of the Gospels III).

The course materials are made up of “principles” (ideas that are true throughout the ages) that are arranged in “chains,” one principle after another:

- Each chain of principles forms a “topic.”
- The topics are organized into “themes.”
- The themes are organized into “categories.”
- The categories are organized to form the three major “areas.”

Although these courses are focused upon the Gospels, some of the categories are not limited to them. For example, ‘Sovereignty’ can be seen throughout the Old Testament and the New. However, we will only be looking at the New Testament narratives called the Gospels.

Be reminded that this is intended only as a survey of Jesus’ teachings from the New Testament Gospels. Each of the topics themselves could involve an in-depth study within an entire course. You are encouraged to use this course as a resource for your teaching ministry.

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Teaching Suggestions:

The Outline Flow

The flow of the outline points is very important. Each point builds upon the previous one. Thus, an important task for the teacher is to develop effective ways to move from point to point, topic to topic, theme to theme, and category to category. The ability to create a sense of movement is very important. The materials themselves often provide a sense of this “movement.” Nonetheless, the teacher must add transition sentences and ideas.

Presenting Each Point

Each point begins with a Scripture reference. It is followed by some brief comments that explain the principle and/or how it fits into the flow. Sometimes a principle is repeated because it affects the development of two or more topics. Each Scripture should be read out loud in class. The teacher can use the comments that are provided to explain the point and show how it fits together with the previous point(s).

Class Discussions

This course will not have specific “Discussion Points” allocated for discussion of the material or for answering related questions. There are too many topics and issues to anticipate all the possible discussions. Simply allow questions and comments if they arise during the presentation.

The Gospel Series

The three courses form a series and they should be taught one after another if possible. If there is not enough time to finish the materials from one course, then the teacher can begin the next course in the series from the point where he left off in the previous course. If there is extra time at the end of one course, then the teacher can move on to the materials in the next course.

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B. The Contents of This Course.

1. This course (the second in the series) is divided into three categories that make up the “area” of study called “The World.”
2. The three categories are:
 - a. The History of the World.
 - b. Humanity.
 - c. This Life.

II. The History of the World.

A. Theme #1: God’s Plan of Redemption.

1. Topic #1: Redemption.
 - a. Mt 18:11 - Jesus came in order to **save the lost**. To “save the lost” is a good definition of the essence of redemption.
 - b. Jn 1:29 - Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the **world**, as opposed to the lamb of **sacrifice** in the Old Testament that took away the sins of **Israel**.
 - c. Mk 15:34 - What killed Jesus? The nails, spear, thorns, beatings, etc.? Actually, our sins killed Jesus. The cross of Jesus was our sins that He had to carry upon Himself. As a result, He felt the separation from the Father (Rom 6:23).
 - d. Mt 11:11 - According to Jesus, John the Baptist was the greatest Old Testament character (ahead of Moses, Elijah, David, etc.). Yet, even the least Christian is greater (more important in the history of redemption) than John the Baptist. That means us!

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2. Topic #2: The cross.

- a. Lk 24:25, 44 - According to Jesus, His crucifixion was prophesied in the Old Testament.
- b. Jn 18:10, 11 - The cross is a stumbling block to men because it is difficult for us to accept the fact that God Himself had to die for our sins. Until the end of Christ's time on earth, Peter was falling over this stumbling block.
- c. Lk 14:27 - Whoever does not carry his cross (become a sacrifice) and follow Jesus **cannot** be His disciple.
- d. Lk 12:51-53 - The cross **divides** believers and unbelievers.
- e. Lk 12:49, 50 - The cross is the kindling wood of the fire of judgment (see Jn 3:17-20).

3. Topic #3: Covenants.

- a. Lk 24:27, 44 - Jesus is the focus of all of the covenants. He is seen in all of the Scriptures.
- b. Jn 1:41, 45 - The coming of the Messiah was an Old Testament (covenant) prediction.
- c. Jn 1:14 - Jesus is to the New Testament what the tabernacle was to the Old Testament.
 - 1) The word "dwelt" is literally "tabernacled" (which means to make one's tent).
 - 2) The reference to "glory" reminds us of the "shekinah" glory of the presence of God in the tabernacle.

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- d. Mk 15:38 - When Jesus died the Old Testament was superseded by the New Testament.
 - 1) Man could now come into the presence of God through Jesus.
 - 2) Jesus became the veil of the temple. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil was torn in two.
- e. Lk 23:45 - The veil of the temple was torn in two because the Old Testament way of approaching God was abolished. God is now approached through Jesus who is the **new and open veil**.

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B. Theme #2: Last Things.

- 1. Topic #1: Eschatology (which means the study of the last things).
 - a. The end (last things).
 - 1) When (see Mk 13:10 and Mt 24:14) The end will come after the Gospel has been preached to all the nations.
 - 2) Events that will happen in relation to the end times.
 - a) Mk 13:6-13 - Men will rise up claiming to be Christ. There will be wars, famines, and earthquakes. Family members will be killing each other and Christians will be hated by everyone. These are some of the events that will be associated with the end times.
 - b) Mk 13:20 - False Christs will appear and will try to lead people (even Christians) away from Jesus by performing great signs and wonders.
 - c) Lk 21:8 - Many will appear and say that they are Jesus. Do not follow them.
 - d) Lk 21:7, 10, 11 - Wars, earthquakes, plagues, famines, terrors, and miracles from heaven will indicate that the end is near.
 - e) Lk 21:20-24 - In the end Jerusalem will be surrounded by Armies and it will be destroyed.

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- 3) The great tribulation.
 - a) Mk 13:14-23 - When the abomination of desolation positions himself in the temple it will be time to flee. This seems to be associated with the great tribulation (note the words, “Tribulation like never before and never again.”) It is important to observe that the elect (Christians) are still in the picture during this time.
 - b) Mk 13:20 - God shortens the days of the great tribulation for the sake of the elect. Again, we note that Christians are on the earth during the great tribulation.
 - c) Mk 13:27 - Jesus returns **after** the tribulation, when the sun and moon give not light and the stars fall from heaven. It is **then** that He gathers (raptures) the elect (the Church).
- 4) The return of Christ (see Mk 13:26, 27). His return is **after** the great tribulation.
- 5) It will all happen in the blink of an eye.
 - a) Lk 17:22-24 - In the end there will be a great desire to see the Lord’s return. There will be those who will try to take advantage of this desire by trying to create and observe the kingdom of God. Do not follow them for the kingdom of God will be established in the blink of an eye.
 - b) Mt 24:27 - A very helpful ‘end times’ principle is that there is no decision that must be made with respect to whether Jesus has returned or not. We do not have to decide or figure out if someone is Jesus or not. Those who claim that they are Jesus are all impostors for the coming of Jesus will be like lightning.

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b. Results of the end.

1) Destruction.

- a) Lk 21:33 - Heaven and earth will pass away.
- b) Mk 13:31 - Heaven and earth will be destroyed. The Word will remain.

2) Judgment.

- a) Lk 10:11-14 - The judgment day is associated with “that day” vs. 12, which is associated with the kingdom of God coming in its fullness (vs. 11).
- b) The kingdom of God has not yet come in its fullness, but will come in its fullness when the Judge and His judgment come.

3) Resurrection (see Jn 6:40). Jesus will resurrect believers on the last day.

4) New bodies (see Lk 24:30-43) The new body has flesh and bones (vs. 30), yet it can instantly vanish (vs. 31) and reappear (vs. 36). It has the same deformities as its earthly body (vs. 39). It eats (vs. 43).

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2. Topic #2: The return of Christ.

a. When?

- 1) Mk 13:32 - No one but the Father knows the day or hour of the return of Christ.
- 2) Lk 21:29-31 - However, Christians should know the signs of the times.
- 3) Lk 17:22 - In the last days, a well of desire to see Christ's return will spring up in the hearts of believers.
- 4) Mt 24:27 A very helpful 'end times' principle is that there is no decision that must be made with respect to whether Jesus has returned or not. We do not have to decide or figure out if someone is Jesus or not. Those who claim that they are Jesus are all impostors for the coming of Jesus will be like lightning.

b. The return of Christ in relation to believers.

- 1) Lk 12:35-40 - Believers must always be alert and looking for the return of Christ. Since we do not know when He will come we must be sure that we are always ready.
- 2) Lk 21:34-36 - We must avoid being anxious over the worries of this world or the end could come as a trap. We should be alert. We should always be praying so that we will be strong and prepared when Christ comes.
- 3) Lk 12:42 - Being ready and alert is associated with being a good steward of the things that God has given us to do.
- 4) Jn 14:2, 3 - Jesus prepares places for believers in heaven and will return to take us there.

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- c. The return of Christ in relation to unbelievers.
 - 1) Lk 17:26-30 - The world will not be expecting the return of Jesus. It will come suddenly without a special warning or announcement.
 - 2) Lk 12:40, 46 - The one who is not ready and watching for Christ's return will be the one who is surprised and disappointed when He comes.
 - 3) Lk 21:25-27 - Before the end, unbelievers will be troubled by problems with the oceans, and by miracles in the sun, moon, and stars. As the heavens are shaken, they will have a great fear concerning the things that are coming upon the world.
- 3. Topic #3: Eternity.
 - a. Eternal life.
 - 1) Jn 17:3 - Eternal life is to know God.
 - 2) Jn 3:36 - Belief in Jesus leads to eternal life.
 - 3) Mk 10:21 - Inheriting eternal life is associated with giving everything to Jesus.
 - 4) Jn 12:25 - Eternal life requires that we first hate our lives in this world.
 - b. Eternal life as it relates to this life.
 - 1) Mt 20:21, 22 - Reward in the life to come is directly correlated to action in this life. Our positions in eternity depend on what we do on earth.
 - a) We might say that the more death (to yourself) that you experience here, the more life you will experience there.
 - b) Thus, Jesus indicates that we should be wise in making requests. We must count the cost of the thing that we ask for.

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- 2) Lk 14:12-14 - Jesus actually encourages us to think of ways that we can receive rewards in heaven. One point of understanding is to do things in such a way that will not bring attention to yourself. That is, to do things that will not receive reward here on earth.
 - 3) Jn 12:25 - Eternal life requires that we first hate our lives in this world.
 - 4) Mk 8:38 - If you are ashamed of Jesus and the Gospel here, then He will be ashamed of you there.
- c. Positions in eternity.
- 1) Mt 20:23 - God has prepared positions for each one in the kingdom of God.
 - 2) Mk 10:40 - Even rewards in heaven have been prepared by God beforehand. He has sovereignty over the positions in heaven.
 - 3) Jn 14:2, 3 - Jesus prepares places for believers in heaven and will return to take us there.
 - 4) Mt 20:21, 22 - Reward in the life to come is directly correlated to action in this life. Our positions in eternity depend on what we do on earth.
 - 5) Mt 19:30 - He who is currently first here on earth will be last in heaven. He who is currently last here on earth will be first in heaven.
 - 6) Mt 20:22 - Jesus seems to imply that to have a heavenly position close to His, you must have an earthly life (and death) similar to His.

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d. The importance of eternal life.

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- 1) Lk 12:4, 5 - The importance of eternal life is implied when Jesus explains that we should not be afraid of men or the devil. We should fear God who has power over eternal life.
- 2) Mt 16:26 and Mk 8:36, 37 - The importance of eternity should make everything else relatively unimportant. Our commitment to God depends on our understanding of this truth. It depends on how much we believe it.
 - a) The quantity and quality of your commitment to God depends on the quantity and quality of your faith.
 - b) The quantity of your commitment to the world depends on the quantity of your doubt.
 - c) If we have no doubt, then we will logically give everything that we have to move toward the goal of eternal life. We would “give our all” knowing that there is no risk of being wrong (knowing that in the end we will see that what we believed was really the truth).
 - d) People of faith are committed people because they know that there is no risk of losing. There is no risk of being disappointed or of regretting your life of faith. Doubt leads to the fear of regret. The fear of regret leads to our making the attempt to get satisfaction and comfort in this world a priority just in case we die and realize that our faith was not the truth.
 - e) Thus, a lack of faith in the importance of eternal life will result in a lack of commitment to God.
- 3) Mk 9:43-48 - The relative importance of eternal life calls us to even be willing to cut out an eye if it is necessary. Review the comments of the previous point.

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e. Heaven and hell.

- 1) Lk 15:7, 10 - When a sinner repents there is joy in heaven among the angels.
- 2) Mt 22:30 - In heaven there is no marriage.
- 3) Mk 12:25 - In the resurrection (heaven) we do not marry.
- 4) Lk 20:35, 36 - In heaven there is no marriage or death. We are like angels.
- 5) Lk 24:30-43 - The new body has flesh and bones (vs. 30), yet it can instantly vanish (vs. 31) and reappear (vs. 36). It has the same deformities as its earthly body (vs. 39). It eats (vs. 43).
- 6) Lk 13:28 - Unbelievers will see others in the kingdom of God (heaven), but they will not be able to enter. When they see this they will weep and gnash their teeth.

4. Topic #4: Hell.

- a. Mt 7:13 - The way to hell is broad (we are reminded of the deceptive nature of humanism which promotes “tolerance” and “situational ethics”). There are many ways to get into hell, and many people will go there.
- b. Lk 13:28 - Unbelievers will see others in the kingdom of God (heaven), but they will not be able to enter. When they see this they will weep and gnash their teeth.
- c. Lk 16:19-26 - Before the resurrection of Jesus, there was a place called Hades where sinners were tormented and the righteous were in “the bosom of Abraham”. The sinners and the righteous were separated by a great chasm.

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C. Theme #3: The Spiritual World.

Notes —

1. Topic #1: It is not of this world.
 - a. Jn 15:19 - We are not of this world. Jesus has chosen us out of the world.
 - b. Mt 10:22 - The world hates Christians.
2. Topic #2: Angels.
 - a. Lk 15:7, 10 - When a sinner repents there is joy in heaven among the angels.
 - b. Mt 18:10 - “Little ones” seem to have their own angels. Since in this context a “little one” is a Christian, we can say that Christians seem to have angels assigned to them. In this sense there is validity to the idea of “guardian angels”.
3. Topic #3: Demons.
 - a. Mt 16:18 - Satan is on the defensive. It is the **gates of Hell** (gates are for defensive purposes, as well as representation of city leadership) that will not prevail against us.
 - b. Lk 22:31, 32 - Satan must ask permission from God with respect to what he can do to God’s people.
 - c. Mt 8:29 and Lk 4:34 - Demons are aware of the presence of Jesus. They know who He is, and tremble.
 - d. Mk 5:6, 7 and 1:24 - Demons always recognize Jesus and submit to Him. They have no choice.
 - e. Mk 9:25 - Jesus commands evil spirits to come out **and** not to enter in again.
 - f. Lk 8:31 - Demons can be commanded to depart into the “abyss.”.
 - g. Mt 17:20, 21 and Lk 9:41 - A lack of faith or a lack of prayer and fasting can result in the inability to cast out a demon.

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- h. Mt 12:43-45 - Demons travel and seek to rest in a vessel. If the person who had a demon cast out of him does not fill himself with Jesus, then the demon will return again to his original vessel.
 - i. Lk 11:24-26 - Demons can return after being cast out. They can also bring other demons with them.
 - j. Lk 10:18 - When a demon is cast out it is like Satan is being de-throned (he falls).
- 4. Topic #4: Spiritual warfare.
 - a. The war against our own flesh.
 - 1) Mt 11:12 - The kingdom of God advances forcefully because it has a strong opponent, and forceful men must take it by force because they have an opponent (especially their own flesh). Consider the implications of 1 Cor 9:27.
 - 2) Mt 26:41 and Mk 14:38 - The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. In order to protect ourselves against the flesh and avoid falling into temptation, it is necessary to keep watching and praying.
 - b. The war is part of the Christian life (see Mk 16:17, 18). Certain signs will accompany believers. One of these signs is casting out demons.
 - c. The war against Satan.
 - 1) Lk 11:22 - There are four steps in the deliverance ministry.
 - a) Attack the enemy.
 - b) Overpower the enemy.
 - c) Take away the armor of the enemy.
 - d) Distribute the plunder.

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- 2) Mk 3:27 - To overpower the enemy and take away his armor, he must be bound.
- 3) Mk 9:25 - Jesus commands evil spirits to come out and not to enter in again.
- d. The weapons of the believer.
 - 1) Lk 4:36 - Two things are needed to cast out an evil spirit.
 - a) Authority.
 - b) Power.
 - 2) Lk 4:4,8, 12 - Jesus uses the Word of God to fight the devil and his temptations.
- e. The weapons of Satan.
 - 1) Lk 22:3 - Satan can enter into people.
 - 2) Lk 20:20 - Satan will send spies to trap you. They will act righteous to win your confidence. Deception is one of the most often used weapons of the enemy.
 - 3) Jn 8:44 - The nature of the devil is to lie. He uses lies as effective weapons.
 - 4) Mt 16:23 - One of Satan's greatest weapons against us is to encourage us to focus on worldly interests. This can cause us to deny suffering and hardship, which can lead us away from Christ. The offer of a comfortable life has always been one of Satan's most used weapons.
 - 5) Mk 8:31-33 - Satan will try to tempt us with the comforts and success of the world in order to keep us from the way of God (which is the cross).

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III. Humanity.

A. Theme #1: Religion.

1. Topic #1: Religiosity.

- a. Mt 23:24 and Lk 11:42-44 - A “mold” without the filling is an empty tomb. It is dead. An outward form of religion without the contents in the heart is religiosity. It is a dead ritual.
 - 1) However, we do not have to eliminate all the religious outward forms (tithing for example).
 - 2) We do need to fill them with real and appropriate contents (compassion and justice for example).
 - 3) True religion includes the contents of the heart with the outward forms. Religiosity is satisfaction with ‘form’ only.
- b. Lk 5:39 - This principle can point to something that often leads to religiosity and irrelevant churches. That is, the inability to walk in the new move of the Spirit. Irrelevant churches are often those which cease depending upon God’s leading to be relevant.
- c. Lk 11:46, 52 - Hypocritical leaders do not enter the kingdom of God. They also hinder others from entering the kingdom.
- d. Lk 12:1 - Religiosity produces hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is a leaven. Thus, religiosity grows.
- e. Mt 16:11 - Empty religious teaching is like a leaven (it expands). Jesus warns us to beware of it.

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2. Topic #2: Hypocrisy.

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a. Forms of hypocrisy.

- 1) Mt 23:25, 26 - You can change the outward appearance and still be polluted inside, but if you clean up the pollution inside then it will also change the outward appearance.
- 2) Mt 6:1, 8 - Flaunting your relationship with God is an indicator of hypocrisy. Meaningless repetition in prayer is also a mark of hypocrisy.
- 3) Mt 7:5 - Hypocrisy is often associated with the process of judging others. Judging others is a form of hypocrisy.

b. Results of hypocrisy.

- 1) Lk 12:1 - Hypocrisy grows.
- 2) Mt 23:13 and Lk 11:52 - Hypocrisy keeps people out of the kingdom of God.
- 3) Mt 15:8,9 - Hypocritical worship is good for nothing. Without obedience worship is futile. Thus, the result of hypocrisy is futility.
- 4) Mk 12:40 - Jesus' actions, attitudes and words towards hypocrites indicate that they will be judged with a greater degree of judgment. Thus, the result of hypocrisy is judgment.

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c. Exposing hypocrisy.

- 1) Pointing to reality (as opposed to superficiality) exposes hypocrisy.
 - a) Mt 5-7 - The Sermon on the Mount, (Jesus' first sermon is in Matthew) is the wisdom of God responding to the foolishness of men. It is God who knows the hypocritical tendency of sinful men, responding to and exposing hypocrisy. The Sermon on the Mount invalidates the religious man's error by revealing the true law. The true law goes to the heart of things. God is the God of reality, not superficiality.
 - b) Mt 12:7 - The fullness of the law is not found in its sacrificial aspect, but in its compassion. Compassion is the heart of the law. Compassion points to reality. Sacrifice can often be very superficial.
 - c) Mt 7:12 - The Law and the Prophets are based on reality, not hypocrisy. The reality is to treat others as you would have others treat you. Anything else is superficial.
 - d) Mt 15:11,18 - Defiling yourself is the result of what is said, thought and done (reality). It is not the result of what is eaten (superficiality). It has to do with what comes out of the heart.
- 2) Ways to expose hypocrisy.
 - a) Lk 16:15 - When it came to hypocrisy Jesus was very direct and did not hesitate to confront sin.
 - b) Lk 20:1-8 - Jesus did not allow hypocrites to be in control of the conversation or situation. He used superior wisdom to remain in control and to reveal their hypocrisy.

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- c) Lk 11:45 - When you speak forth truth you will often expose hypocrisy. This will insult and irritate the hypocrites. Speak forth truth and let truth do the judging.
 - d) Lk 12:2 - Hypocrites may fool others now, but their folly will ultimately be exposed. Everything will be revealed for what it really is in the end. Thus, the “final justice” of God brings comfort to the righteous who sometimes feel like Habakkuk felt (see Hab 1:1-4,12-14).
- d. Cures for hypocrisy.
- 1) Mt 23:24 - A “mold” without the filling is an empty tomb. It is dead. An outward form of religion without the contents of the heart is religiosity. It is a dead ritual.
 - a) However, we do not have to eliminate all the religious outward forms (tithing for example).
 - b) We do need to fill them with real and appropriate contents (compassion and justice for example).
 - c) True religion includes the contents of the heart with the outward forms of expression. Religiosity is satisfied with the form only.
 - d) Thus, a cure for hypocrisy is to evaluate your outward forms, not necessarily to throw them out. Do your forms include real heartfelt contents, or are they just a show? Make sure you fill them with real contents.
 - 2) Mt 5:37 - Integrity is the greatest cure for hypocrisy. Practice and treasure integrity and you will avoid hypocrisy. Hypocrisy begins when you allow your “yes” to be something less than “yes” or your “no” to be something more than “no”.

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3. Topic #3: Mariolatry.

- a. Lk 11:27, 28 - Jesus denies and rejects any attempt to give special emphasis, privilege, or glory to His earthly mother.
 - 1) Instead of showing partiality to her, He points to her responsibility toward obedience as being the same as anyone else's responsibility.
 - 2) We see the same type of idea in Mk 3:32-35.
- b. Lk 1:45-48 - Mary was blessed because of her faith (vs. 45) and her humility (v.48). This is not anything special that requires other human beings to worship her. All other Christians have the same opportunity to be blessed (see Mt 5:3-12).
 - 1) This passage actually should be used to reject Mariolatry.
 - 2) Note that Mary, by her own declaration, needed a Savior. If this was true, then how could she be sinless (which is one of the main claims of Mariolatry)?

B. Theme #2: Stumbling Blocks. (Those Hard-to-Accept Teachings of Jesus).

1. Topic #1: Types of stumbling blocks.

- a. Jesus is **the** stumbling block.
 - 1) Jn 18:10,11 - The cross is a stumbling block to men because it is difficult for us to accept the fact that God Himself had to die for our sins. Until the end, Peter was falling over this stumbling block.
 - 2) Jn 7:7 - The coming of Christ is a stumbling block. The world hates Jesus because people hate to be told that they are evil. The coming of Christ points directly to that reality. It points to the fact that man is evil and in desperate need of a Savior. Men stumble over that truth.

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- 3) Mt 11:6 - Jesus is a stumbling block to men because the sinful nature of the human being is naturally offended by the perfect life of Christ. However, blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Him.
 - 4) Lk 8:35-37 - For people who do not know Jesus, the power of God can be frightening. It can be so frightening that they do not want any part of it. It can actually become a stumbling block.
- b. There should only be one stumbling block.
- 1) Mt 17:26, 27 - Jesus must be the only stumbling block. When we present the Gospel we need to try to avoid creating other stumbling blocks (misunderstanding, cultural insensitivity, religious requirements, etc.). Jesus must be the only one. In this way, the person who receives the message is forced to accept or deny Jesus (and not your cultural insensitivity or religious requirements).
 - 2) For example, we should try not to offend others with anything else but Jesus. If Jesus offends them, then the blood is on their own hands. In this passage we can see how Jesus Himself seems to avoid offending others. He does not make the trivial things of this world a big issue. Thus, the real issue (His Lordship) can be the focus.
- c. Unfortunately there are other types of stumbling blocks.
- 1) Other stumbling blocks are inevitable.
 - a) Mt 18:7 - There are other types of stumbling blocks that keep people away from Jesus. Jesus says that they are inevitable.
 - b) Mt 18:8, 9 - We must be “militant” against these stumbling blocks. Anything that blocks your way to God must be destroyed. Do whatever it takes to move forward in Christ and closer to God.

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2) Examples of other stumbling blocks.

- a) Jn 13:8 - We can allow our own righteousness to be a stumbling block. Self righteousness denies the need for God's help. Peter fell over this stumbling block.
- b) Mk 8:31-33 - Satan will try to tempt us with the comforts and success of the world to keep us from the way of God (which is the cross). The temptation of a comfortable life is a common stumbling block.
- c) Mt 20:31 - The world does not want to hear people crying out to Jesus. They will try to silence you. This can be a stumbling block if we focus on men instead of Jesus. We must continue calling on Him no matter what the world says.
- d) Mt 23:13 - Hypocritical leaders can be a stumbling block.
- e) Lk 6:39 - A blind leader causes others to stumble with him.
- f) Mt 18:5, 6 and Mk 9:42 - People who cause "little ones" (new believers) to stumble will pay a great price.

2. Topic #2: Pleasing men and pleasing God.

- a. Mk 11:29-32 - The desire and temptation to please men is one of the greatest stumbling blocks. The person who only wants to please men will always be found stumbling.
- b. Lk 12:4-7 - We should not fear men. We should fear the "rock" who is sovereign over us. Other men are not sovereign over us. As long as we are pleasing the one who is sovereign over us, then we do not have to worry about whether the ones who are not sovereign over us are pleased or not.
- c. Jn 5:44 - Seeking glory for yourself from others can result in an inability to believe.

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C. Theme #3: Human Problems.

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1. Topic #1: Fear.

- a. Mt 10:26 - All things will be revealed. Nothing will remain hidden. This understanding can be used as medicine to cure a fear of people and their power and influence.
- b. Mt 10:28 - Focusing on God and His sovereignty over your life can also be a cure for fear.
- c. Mt 10:29-31 - God is in complete control. He is aware of and in control of every **detail**. What do we have to fear?

2. Topic #2: Anxiety.

- a. Lk 12:26, 31 - We should respond to God's sovereignty by seeking the kingdom of God. We worry about things that we can not control. Instead of worrying, we should realize that God is sovereign. This will free us to control what we can (what we are responsible for). That is, to seek the kingdom of God.
- b. Mt 6:27 - Anxiety can not add time to your life. **So why worry?**
- c. Jn 7:30 - We can not be persecuted without it being God's will. If it is God's will then it is the best thing for us. Thus, we should not worry (also see Jn 8:20). God is in control.
- d. Lk 12:16-21 - Anxiety about the future should not be a motive to save money. The implication is that money can not cure anxiety.
- e. Lk 21:34-36 - We must avoid being anxious over the worries of this world or the end could come as a trap. We should be alert. We should always be praying so that we will be strong and prepared when Christ comes. Prayer replaces worry (see Phil 4:6).

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3. Topic #3: Discouragement.

- a. Lk 21:34-36 - We must avoid being anxious over the worries of this world or the end could come as a trap. We should be alert. We should always be praying so that we will be strong and prepared when Christ comes. Prayer replaces worry (see Phil 4:6).
- b. Lk 18:7,8 - Consistent prayer will lead to justice. God responds to consistent prayer, so do not give up when injustice seems to have won the fight. Do not get discouraged.

D. Theme #4: Human Relationships.

1. Topic #1: Marriage.

- a. There is no marriage in heaven (see Mt 22:30). In heaven marriage does not exist.
- b. Singleness (see Mt 19:12). The ability to remain single is a God given gift. It should not be forced on someone who does not have that gift.
- c. What is marriage (see Mt 19:6)? Marriage is represented by a man leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife. The result is that God joins them together and the man and woman become one.
- d. What is divorce (see Mt 19:6)? Marriage is represented by a man leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife. The result is that God joins them together and the man and woman become one. Divorce is to separate and destroy what God has done.

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e. How did divorce begin?

- 1) Mt 19:8 - In the Bible we can find instructions that were given to men by God but were not consistent with His desire and original intentions. They were **allowed** or **permitted** because of the sin of man.
- 2) Mk 10:5-8 - Divorce is not natural. It only exists because of man's sin and hard heart. It is rebellious in the sense that it goes against God's plan.

f. Divorce, remarriage, and adultery.

Author's Comment:

The issue of divorce and remarriage is complicated. There are several issues that must be taken into consideration. It is beyond the scope of this course to develop all the principles that need to be considered when studying divorce and remarriage. Keep in mind that the comments listed below address the specific corresponding verses and are not an attempt to make conclusions concerning the entire topic.

- 1) Mt 19:9 - Divorce (except in a case of the unfaithfulness of your partner) and remarriage (unless Biblically justified) seems to equal adultery. We could refer to the following equation as a principle:

Divorce — the unfaithfulness of your partner + remarriage = adultery.

- 2) Lk 16:18 - The remarriage of a divorced person constitutes adultery if their divorce was not from Biblical justification. Likewise, remarriage to a divorced person (whose divorce was not Biblically justified) also constitutes adultery.

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3) Mk 10:11, 12 - In a certain sense, divorce is not even recognized by God. If you divorce and remarry, without Biblical justification then you commit adultery. The implication is that in God's eyes you are still married (Note: The study of divorce and remarriage is very complicated. These principles should be studied with other appropriate portions of Scripture).

2. Topic #2: Neighbors.

- a. Lk 10:29-37 - We often try to justify ourselves by limiting our definition of who is our neighbor.
- b. However, Jesus provides us with a clear definition that has very broad limits. Our neighbor is anyone who is in need of mercy. Whose neighbor are we willing to be?

IV. This Life.

A. Theme #1: Success.

1. Topic #1: Success.

- a. What success is not (see Lk 6:24-26). The comforts and luxuries of this world do not mark true success. As a matter of fact, the **successful** Christian life will not result in comfort and luxury.
- b. What is success (see Jn 7:18)? In general, the key to a successful life is to seek the glory of God and not your own. Thus, success is to glorify God.
- c. Where can success be found (see Jn 15:5)? Success is found only in Jesus.

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d. Success in ministry.

- 1) Jn 3:27 - Man is completely dependent on the sovereignty of God. Ultimately, success in ministry depends on God since a man can not receive (which is his responsibility) if it is not first given to him (God's responsibility).
- 2) Jn 5:19 - The key to the success of Jesus ministry was that He saw what the Father was doing.
- 3) Jn 7:16 - The key to a successful teaching ministry is that it is not **your** teaching, but the teaching of God.
- 4) Jn 17:23 - Success in evangelism depends on unity.

2. Topic #2: Greatness.

- a. Mt 18:4 - The one who humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of God. A child is humble in that he is totally dependent on his parents, he innocently trusts them, he naturally desires their affection, and he is willing to obey them.
- b. Lk 22:26, 27 - Jesus established a "new" principle. The greatest is the servant.
- c. Mt 20:25-27 and Mk 9:35 - Greatness in the kingdom of God does not equal the exercise of authority. It does not manifest itself in "lording it over" others.
 - 1) Greatness in the kingdom of God equals being the servant (see Mt 23:11). It does manifest itself in serving others.
 - 2) Indeed, the first shall be the last of all (the servant of all).
- d. Mk 10:45 - To be great in the kingdom you must serve. Service includes being willing to make your life a ransom for others. It includes the willingness to give up your life for others.
- e. Mt 19:30 - Those who are first will be last and the last will be first.

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- f. Mk 10:28-31 - The concept of the last being first and the first being last is set in the context of leaving behind everything for Jesus.
 - 1) Leaving everything behind in this world will result in being last in this world. However, you will then be first in the kingdom of God.
 - 2) Those who try to hold onto everything will advance in this life, but will be last in the age to come.
- 3. Topic #3: What is Important?
 - a. Mt 16:26 and Mk 8:36, 37 - The importance of eternity should make everything else relatively unimportant. Our commitment to God depends on our understanding of this truth. It depends on how much we believe it.
 - 1) The quantity and quality of your commitment to God depends on the quantity and quality of your faith.
 - 2) The quantity of your commitment to the world depends on the quantity of your doubt.
 - 3) If we have no doubt, then we will logically give everything that we have to move toward the goal of eternal life. We would “give our all” knowing that there is no risk of being wrong (knowing that in the end we will see that what we believed was really the truth).
 - 4) People of faith are committed people because they know that there is no risk of losing. There is no risk of being disappointed or of regretting your life of faith. Doubt leads to the fear of regret. The fear of regret leads to our making the attempt to get satisfaction and comfort in this world a priority just in case we die and realize that our faith was not the truth.
 - 5) Thus, a lack of faith in the importance of eternal life will result in a lack of commitment to God.

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- b. Mt 19:17, 21 - Following Jesus is what is most important (note that according to Jn 17:3 eternal life is to know Jesus).
 - 1) Men are always looking for ways to be “good” enough to gain entrance into heaven.
 - 2) However, since there is only one who is good the only “good” thing that we can do is deny ourselves and follow Jesus. To do good is to follow Jesus because Jesus is good.
 - 3) In this passage Jesus does not deny that He is that one Person who is good; He actually proclaims that He is that one person by using sarcasm to rebuke the unbelievers.
- c. Mt 18:8, 9 - We must be “militant” against anything that blocks our way to God. If we want to pursue the most important thing, then we must be willing to do whatever it takes to move forward in Christ and closer to God.
- d. Mt 21:28-31 - The way that you finish is most important, not necessarily the way you start.
 - 1) Consider the difference in the lives of Saul of the Old Testament and Saul of the New Testament.
 - 2) It is what you do that counts, not necessarily what you say.
- e. Lk 3:8, 10 - Repentance is followed by fruit (or life). Repentance that does not result in life or fruit is destroyed. It does not count!

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B. Theme #2: Virtues.

1. Topic #1: The fear of God.
 - a. Mt 10:28 - It is God who should be feared.
 - b. Lk 12:4, 5 - The fear of God should be based on His greatness and sovereignty.
 - c. Jn 9:31 - The fear of God and obedience result in God hearing us.
2. Topic #2: Humility.
 - a. A lack of humility.
 - 1) Jn 9:41 - Sin is very closely linked with a lack of recognition of your need. That is, it is associated with a lack of “brokenness” and humility.
 - 2) Mt 23:12, Lk 14:11, and 18:14 - If you put yourself up high, then God will put you down low. If you put yourself down low, then God will put you up high.
 - b. The way up (to success).
 - 1) Mt 23:12 - The way up (to success) is the way down. It is opposite from the world’s system. To reach success in the kingdom of God it is necessary to lower yourself down. To reach success in the organizations of the world it is necessary to fight your way up.
 - 2) Mt 18:4 - The one who humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of God. A child is humble in that he is totally dependent on his parents, he innocently trusts them, he naturally desires their affection, and he is willing to obey them. To be great you must be humble. Therefore, the way up is the way down.

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c. Humility in ministry.

- 1) Jn 3:30 - In order for Jesus to increase, we must decrease. For our ministries to be successful, (review the sections on “success in ministry” and “what is success?”) Jesus must increase. Thus, humility in ministry is essential.
- 2) Lk 6:42 - Humility is required to minister to others. To help someone else with their faults, you must first be humble enough to consider your own faults and correct them. Then you will be able to help others instead of judging them.

d. Humility is needed for:

- 1) Jn 13:8 - If human righteousness prevails and we do not embrace God’s righteousness that He has provided for us, then we can not be saved. Humility is needed to embrace God’s righteousness and to accept the work that he has done.
- 2) Lk 18:10-14 - Being justified and forgiven is associated with humility and brokenness before God. It is associated with trusting only in God and refusing to trust in yourself. Humility is essential.
- 3) Mt 5:3 - Humility is needed to live in the kingdom of God. Only the humble can reject themselves and embrace Jesus. Only the humble can reject the temptation to rule themselves and accept the rule of Jesus.
- 4) Lk 4:18 and 5:31, 32 - Jesus ministers to those who are in need. Humility (the perception that you are in need of Jesus) is necessary to receive from Jesus and to be ministered to by Him.

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3. Topic #3: Purity and holiness.

- a. Mt 5:8 - God is holy and pure. In order to see Him, you must be pure. We might say that impurity can not see purity, and purity can not see impurity (also see Hab 1:13).
- b. Lk 3:17 - The baptism that Jesus gives seems to include an empowering of the individual to come to Jesus (Holy Spirit) as well as a judgment, disciplining or refining (fire). The fire may point to the process of purifying the person.
- c. Mt 23:25, 26 - You can change the outward appearance and still be polluted inside, but if you clean up the pollution inside, then it will also change the outward appearance. Holiness and purity must be real.
- d. Mt 15:11 - Defiling yourself is the result of what is said, thought and done (reality). It is not the result of what is eaten (superficiality). It has to do with what comes out of the heart. Holiness and purity (or the lack of them) are real things. They come from the heart.
- e. Mk 7:18-20 - Man is defiled or stained (made impure) by what comes out of his own heart.

4. Topic #4: Dedication and Faithfulness.

- a. Lk 9:62 - To be in the kingdom of God takes extreme dedication.
- b. Lk 16:10 - Faithfulness in little things leads to faithfulness in bigger things. The implication is that as we prove ourselves to be faithful in the “little things”, God will entrust us with authority and responsibility over “bigger” things.

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5. Topic #5: Integrity.

- a. Lk 3:10-13 - The action of repentance includes integrity towards others (vs. 13).
- b. Mt 5:37 - Integrity is the greatest cure for hypocrisy. Practice and treasure integrity and you will avoid hypocrisy. Hypocrisy begins when you allow your “yes” to be something less than “yes” or your “no” to be something more than “no”. Integrity is the thing that makes your “yes” and “no” have value.

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C. Theme #3: Unity.

1. Topic #1: Unity.

- a. Mt 12:25 - Unity is essential for the success of any group or organization.
- b. Lk 11:17 - Unity is essential for the success of any kingdom. If the kingdom is divided against itself, then its strength is wasted and its structure falls.
- c. Lk 9:50 - A key principle in the concept of unity is that he who is not against you is for you.
- d. Mt 18:20 - Jesus dwells in the midst of unity. When 2 or 3 are gathered together in His name, He is there in the midst of them.
- e. Jn 17:23 - Success in evangelism depends on unity.
- f. Mt 18:19 - There is power in the midst of agreement. When two Christians agree on something and ask for it in Jesus name, there are positive results. Unity is power!

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- g. Mk 3:6 - The existence of a common enemy can result in strange partners. That is, two groups will work together to fight a common opponent even if they will not come together for anything else.
 - h. Lk 23:12 - The previous principle is illustrated in that worldly groups who are normally enemies can find unity in their common opposition to Jesus.
 - i. Lk 12:51-53 - The cross divides believers and unbelievers.
- 2. Topic #2: Peace.
 - a. Mt 5:9 - The promotion of peace is the family business of the family of God.
 - b. Mt 10: 34-36 - At the same time, we must understand that when Jesus came to earth He did not bring peace in the sense that the Gospel will sharply divide people. Even family members will be divided.
- 3. Topic #3: Enemies.
 - a. Lk 6:27-29 - Jesus' teaching challenges us to not hate our enemies. Beyond that, it challenges us to go out of our way to do something for them.
 - b. Mt 5:38-42 - We are commanded to not resist evil, but turn the other cheek. We are to be willing to love our enemies, suffer, and persevere.

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D. Theme #4: Money.

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1. Topic #1: Money.

a. God provides.

- 1) Lk 12:31-33 - Kingdom teaching does not concern having riches here on earth. It does concern having our needs met (vs. 31), but is in opposition to storing away and accumulating many possessions (see Lk 12:16-21). Kingdom teaching is more concerned with giving than with taking and keeping.
- 2) Mt 6:33 - We are promised that if we seek God's kingdom, then our needs will be met.

b. Simple lifestyle (see Mt 6:32) - The idea of **needs**, according to Mt 6, is a very basic one. 'Needs' include the basic necessities of life like food and covering (shelter, clothes). We should be content to lead a simple lifestyle.

c. A healthy disinterest in money.

- 1) Lk 12:15 - Our lives do not consist of our possessions.
- 2) Lk 3:10-14 - The action of repentance includes compassion and generosity (vs. 11), integrity towards others (vs. 13), and justice (vs. 14). All of these cases focus on having a lack of interest in material things and a desire for social justice.
- 3) Lk 16:1-12 - Money, like anything else, only has worth in terms of how much it moves people toward the kingdom of God. All things, including money, find their reason or purpose for being in terms of how they can point to the kingdom of God.

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d. Saving money.

- 1) Lk 12:16-21 - Anxiety about the future should not be our motive to save money. The implication is that money can not cure anxiety.
- 2) Lk 12:31-33- Kingdom teaching does not concern having riches here on earth. It does concern having our needs met (vs. 31), but is in opposition to storing away and accumulating many possessions (see Lk 12:16-21). Kingdom teaching is more concerned with giving than with taking and keeping.

e. Giving everything.

- 1) Lk 9:57, 58 - To follow Jesus is to be willing to own nothing. It is to be willing to have nothing that is your own. All is God's.
- 2) Lk 14:33 - You can not be a disciple unless you release control of your own possessions. We must consciously make a decision to give everything to God. He will decide what we should do with it.

f. It is impossible to serve two masters.

- 1) Mt 6:24 - You can not serve two masters. You can not do things for money and for God. It is not a little of both. It is one or the other.
- 2) Lk 16:13 - You can not serve God and money because, ultimately, one will become conditional with respect to the other. There can only be ONE Lord.

g. Money in relation to repentance.

- 1) Lk 19:8 - Repentance may relate to money.
- 2) Lk 3:10-14 - The action of repentance includes compassion and generosity (vs. 11), integrity towards others (vs. 13), and justice (vs. 14). All of these cases focus on having a lack of interest in material things and a desire for social justice.

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- h. Lending money (see Lk 6:35). When you lend money you should do it without expecting anything in return.
- i. Salaries of ministers.
 - 1) Lk 10:4-7 - The laborer is worthy of his wages. Ministers must understand that this is not a way justify large salaries. In fact, this thought is in the context of taking **nothing** with them of their own when they go to minister. The idea here is that a minister is worthy of having his **needs** met (note the words “eating and drinking”).
 - 2) Mt 10:8-10 - The ministry of the Spirit is without charge. Those they minister to should, of course, recognize the truth of Luke 10:4-7, but “the ministry” is not a business in which someone should be seeking wealth for wealth’s sake.
- j. Rich people.
 - 1) Mt 19:23, 24 - It is difficult for rich people to enter the kingdom of God because they have much to lose.
 - 2) Jn 10:12, 13 - A pastor should not think of his calling as a “job” or a “career” for which he merely receives a salary - it is so much more! If he is motivated only by the salary, he will be inclined to leave when the ministry is difficult. He must be the shepherd of his own sheep. He can not be a “hireling”.
- 2. Topic #2: The poor.
 - a. Lk 18:22 - When you give to the poor, it is as if you store treasures in heaven.
 - b. Mk 14:7 - There will always be poor people who we can help.

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E. Theme #5: Sin and Death.

1. Topic #1: Temptation.

- a. Mt 26:41 and Mk 14:38 - The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. In order to protect ourselves against the flesh and avoid falling into temptation, it is necessary to keep watching and praying.
- b. Lk 22:40 and Mt 6:13 - We should pray that we will not enter into temptation.
- c. Lk 4:4, 8, 12 - Jesus used the Word of God to fight the devil and his temptations.
- d. 4:10 - Each time that you overcome temptation, the result is added strength and control (note how Jesus became more aggressive after overcoming the first temptations).

2. Topic #2: Sin.

- a. Types of sin.
 - 1) Jn 9:41 - Sin is very closely linked with a lack of recognition of your need. That is, it is associated with a lack of “brokenness” and humility.
 - 2) Jn 16:8, 9 - The judgment of sin is related to not believing in Jesus.
 - 3) Mk 3:28 - Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is considered an unforgivable sin.

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b. Results of sin.

- 1) Mk 15:34 - What killed Jesus? The nails, spear, thorns, beatings, etc.? Actually, our sins killed Jesus. Indeed, the cross of Jesus was our sins that He had to carry upon Himself. Thus, He felt the separation from the Father (Rom 6:23). The result of sin is separation from God. In a paradoxical way, our sin separated God from Himself. The price of redemption was great!
- 2) Mt 27:46 - Jesus felt the separation from God that sin causes. When we sin we separate ourselves from God (Rom 6:23).
- 3) Lk 16:16 - It is not easy to enter the kingdom of God. It goes against our sin nature. Thus, once God has drawn us, we must forcefully direct our will, logic and life to press into it.
- 4) Mt 13:13 - Those who do have ears to hear will increase in their understanding. Those who do not have ears to hear (they are described in vs. 14, 15 as those who are dull hearted due to, perhaps, the hardening effects of sin) will decrease in their understanding. Remember, the reference to having ears to hear is placed in the context of being in relationship with Jesus. A result of sin is that you will not have ears to hear.
- 5) Jn 5:14 - Sin can lead to illness.
- 6) Mt 24:12 - When lawlessness increases the love of the people grows cold. A lack of the law leads to rebellion and hatred. A result of sin is a lack of love.

c. How to respond to sin.

- 1) Jn 8:7 - The reason we should not judge others is because we have sin in our own lives. We should respond to our own sin by not judging others.
- 2) Luke 17:3 — If there is sin, then there should be a rebuke.

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d. The solution to sin.

- 1) Jn 1:29 - Jesus is the lamb of **God** who takes away the sins of the **world**, as opposed to the lamb of **sacrifice** in the Old Testament that took away the sins of **Israel**. Jesus is the final and complete solution to sin.
- 2) Jn 8:31-34 - Obeying the Word results in knowing truth. Knowing truth results in freedom from sin.
- 3) Mt 26:41 and Mk 14:38 - A solution to sin is to keep watching and praying.

3. Topic #3: Death.

- a. Mt 26:52 - Those who go to war, fight, and take up the sword will die in the war or fight by the sword. This is consistent with the law of reaping and sowing.
- b. Lk 2:29 - Salvation is not determined after death (see Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3; Heb 9:27).
- c. Mt 22:32 - Those who have died in Christ are alive because God is the God of the living and not the dead.
- d. Lk 20:35, 36 - In heaven there is no death.
- e. Mt 15:34 - Death is the result of sin. It is to be separated from God.
- f. Jn 12:24 - Death (to ourselves) begins the process of vibrant production in the kingdom of God.
- g. Jn 15:2 - There is a constant process of death that God works in us. Death is replaced with life. Areas of our lives that bear fruit are continuously being pruned to produce more fruit. God cuts away (kills) things that are not needed in our lives.

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Course Conclusion:

Be reminded that this course is intended only as a survey from the New Testament Gospel books of the area of study called “The World.” Each of the topics themselves could involve in-depth study within an entire course. You are encouraged to use this course as a supplement to any of the other MOTMOT courses, and as a resource for your teaching ministry.

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