

Staff Study On The Four Gospels:

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We read the gospels and had four different meetings through the process to share what jumped out at each of us. Below is a compilation of what stood out to us as a staff from this read through:

- ◆ Jesus is amazing!
 - Nothing is better, more important, or more powerful
- ◆ Pursuit of righteousness / avoidance of evil (sin)
 - This is not just knowledge of the scriptures, or experience/years spent in a certain church position - **it's a full out pursuit of God and His Kingdom, His desires, His will.**
 - **It is a sole dependence on God**, for guidance, answers, etc...
 - **People believe things and behave in certain ways because that's what they have been taught or shown through example**
 - “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ and do not do what I say?”
 - **We cannot be the blind leading the blind**
 - The righteous are used by God, those who are holy, set aside
 - **There's something obviously different about people who are connected to God**
 - Jesus constantly got away to stay close with the Father
- ◆ **Jesus expects faith from people who have seen what He can do**
 - Jesus' frustrations centered around unbelief
 - But He is willing to stick with those that don't
 - **Fruitless trees are useless to the owner**
 - They take up space and resources
 - **Ministry is about going beyond our comfort zone, and outside of places where we will receive because we have given**
 - **The reward in ministry is heaven, it's not here**
 - The joy isn't even in the power to do powerful ministry here, but simply that our names are “written in heaven”
 - “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher”
- ◆ Jesus was very conscious of culture and company when presenting Himself
 - He was careful and wise with what He said, when He said it, and who it was to
 - He didn't mix words
 - His words were rarely without actions attached
 - If they weren't immediately, it wasn't long before action followed

- ◆ Jesus always had a plan
 - Everything was done with purpose
 - He was always thinking ahead
 - Invited a group to join His plan
 - Jesus modeled how to generate and work with a small group
 - ▶ Shows the importance of small groups
 - ▶ Jesus cared for His team on a personal level (John's Gospel)
 - Stayed focused on the plan
 - You don't plow a field and look back
 - A strong focus allowed more freedom in ministry
 - ▶ Those that followed could creatively join in and actively participate without distracting from the vision
 - He kept things simple and direct
 - Ministry wasn't over complicated
 - Minimal hoops to jump through
 - Cut back on the red tape
 - Priorities were clear, so rules and regulations were well ordered (ie: healing on the Sabbath)
- ◆ New wine can't go in old wine skins
 - New needs to go in new
 - Jesus makes us new to receive the new covenant
 - The principle could expand to other areas as well