**Four Portraits, One Jesus + 1**

**Four Portraits, One Jesus**

**Mark: Superhero Jesus**

Theme of Mark:

Jesus: Messiah and Son of God: suffering servant and savior of mankind.

Theme verse: Mark 10:45 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.

Characteristics of Mark:

1. Very fast-paced Greek *euthys* immediately 42 times (Matthew 5, Luke 1 time)

Ex: Mark 1:10,12,18,20,21,23,28,29,30,42,43 Q: What impression about Jesus does this create?

Illustration: John Madden Boom!!! (tough actin’ Tinactin) Jesus: a man with a mission.

Q: Are you a man or a woman with a mission?

The point of Mark in showing Jesus as a man of action is that disciples, too, are called to a radical lifestyle of service and suffering.

2. People are amazed by Jesus. Mark 1:27 Awe: Who is this? 4:41, 8:27.

This action-packed, authoritative leader of whom people are amazed is one reason that Mark has been characterized as the gospel for the Romans. [plus the fact that Mark was probably in Rome with Paul and Peter]

3. Apostles put in a relatively negative light. 4:13,40, 6:37,52, 7:18, 8:4,32, 9:19,32,38, 10:13,37,41 and many, many more. They fail to understand, they are surprised at his power, they miss that he is Messiah, they are prideful and self-focused, and Jesus rebukes them. They totally miss that Jesus must suffer, so that he has to remind them repeatedly. Note, in Mark, the restoration of the apostles is not mentioned. The last thing we see of them is running away at Jesus’ hour of greatest need.

**Matthew: Jesus Messiah**

Matthew: Jesus is revealed through his fulfillment of prophecy and of the Jewish messianic expectation.

Theme of Matthew: Jesus the [Jewish] Messiah is the culmination of salvation history and brings salvation from sin to all people.

Theme verse Matthew 5:17

5:17 Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets. Jesus does this in a wide variety of ways.

a. In that he, unlike any other human before him, literally fulfilled all the requirements of the Law of Moses.

Leviticus 18:5: “For the man who obeys them will live by them.”

b. In that through his actions he satisfied the penalty for all of us who did not fully obey the Law of Moses.

c. In that his life fulfilled all the Messianic expectations in the OT. the foreshadows and prefigures contained in the entire Law of Moses (the sacrifices, the festivals, the laws, the items in the tabernacle, etc.) John 5:39

Everything the Old Testament anticipated finds its fulfillment in Jesus.

d. Jesus completes/rounds out/explains more fully what was only implied by the Law of Moses. Progressive Revelation. This is the sense in which the term is used most directly in the Sermon on the Mount. Ex: not just avoiding adultery

Ex: not just murder Ex: not just loving your neighbor.

Examples of prophecy fulfillment:

1. Matthew 1:20-23 (Isaiah 7:14) The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel” (which means God-with-us).

This tells us that:

Jesus is the son of man

Jesus is the son of God

Jesus is God-with us. He is God, and he is with us. .

“all this” (v.22) was to fulfill this expectation

from his birth (1:22) to his ascension,

and even beyond (Matthew 28:20) Jesus is God with us.

2. Matthew 2:15 (Hosea 11:1) tells us that Jesus is Saviour, as he goes down into Egypt in order to call us out of Egypt and slavery to sin.

Out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1. Note that critics accuse

Matthew here of taking Hosea 11:1 out of context, but this is a shallow understanding of the OT and the principle of foreshadowing.

1. Out of Egypt God called Moses, the prefigure of Christ.
2. Out of Egypt God called his people Israel, a foreshadow of our own being called out of Egypt.
3. Out of Egypt God called Jesus as the savior of his people out of Egypt.
4. Out of Egypt God calls every one of us, all of who are slaves to sin (John 8:31f)

3. Matthew 2:23 (Isaiah 11:1-2, Jeremiah 23:5, Zech 3:8, 6:12)

Hebrew: *nazer* = shoot, branch.

Isaiah 11:1-2 Messiah is the branch of Jesse

Jeremiah 23:5 A king who will rule wisely. A branch of David.

Jesus is both the Branch of Jesse/David and a Nazarene.

Jesus is King of Kings. That he is royalty. 2:23 He will be called a Nazarene

4. Matthew 12:15-21 Isaiah 42:1-4. Jesus a humble and gentle servant.

Jesus was the most powerful man who ever lived, yet he dealt gently with us sinners. That is a great comfort to me.

1. Matthew 21:4-5 (Zechariah 9:9-10) Riding on a colt. Jesus is King “your king”, but not the kind of king the world expects. He is a gentle and humble king. Ex:Matt 11:30 My yoke is easy and my burden light.

Zech 9:10 Our king will rule from the River to the ends of the earth.

Is Jesus the king of your life? Are you a citizen of his kingdom? Then you will obey the constitution of that kingdom which is in Matthew 5-7.

6. Matthew 27:6-10 (Zech 11:10-13) Jesus valued as a slave (approximate price for a slave was $30) Jesus' blood money was used to take care of Gentiles. (v. 7)

\* = Matthew uses the “this was to fulfill” formula.

\*1:22-23 Isaiah 7:14 virgin birth

2:5-6 Micah 5:2 Birth in Bethlehem

\*2:15 Out of Egypt I called my son.

\*2:17-18 Jeremiah 31:15 Tears in Ramah for the death of children.

\*2:23 He will be called a Nazarene

3:3 As in Mark, JTB fulfills Isaiah 40:3 in preparing the way for Jesus.

\*4:14-16 Jesus is from Zebulun/Naphtali

\*8:17 Jesus fulfills Isaiah 53:4 by healing many.

10:34-35 Jesus fulfills Micah 7:6 when families divide over the gospel.

11:2-6 John the Baptist prepares the way for the Messiah/Jesus Mal 3:1.

\*12:17-21 The Messiah a humble and gentle servant. Isaiah 42:2

13:14-15 Parables not to be understood by the hard-hearted Isaiah 6:9

\*13:35 Messiah to speak in parables Psalm 78:2

15:7-9 Disobedience Isaiah 29:13

\*21:4-5 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey Zech 9:9

21:13 The temple a den of robbers Isaiah 56:7 Jer 7:11

21:16 Praise from the lips of children Psalm 8:2

21:42 Jesus rejected and becomes the capstone Ps 118:22

26:31 Shepherd struck and sheep scattered Zechariah 13:7

\*27:9-10 Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12-13

**Luke Jesus: The Savior of the World**

**Luke:**  Theme: God’s salvation, as predicted by the prophets has arrived in the coming of the Messiah—Jesus of Nazareth. He is the savior of the world and this salvation is now spreading throughout the world (including that of the Gentiles, of course).

Theme verses: Luke 2:11, Luke 19:9-10 The Savior is Here!

**Jesus is revealed as Messiah primarily through his ministry to the sick, downtrodden, women, the outcast and the Gentile. Theme verse: Luke 2:11 (to lowly shepherds) Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

In Matthew Jesus fulfills specific events prophesied. In Luke, Jesus fulfills the messianic pattern more than specific historical prophecies.

Jesus’ concern for outsiders, the poor, “sinners”, Samaritans

Reversal of fortune (poor become rich, rich become poor)

Emphasis on role of women in Jesus’ life and ministry

**Luke 4:18-19 (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2**

**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**

**v. 21 “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**

John: Jesus is revealed through his miracles and through his statements about himself.

Central Theme

Jesus is the divine son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him

Key Verse: John 1:14 and/or 3:16

Purpose John 20:30-31

But these are written that you may believe[a] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

7 I AM statements

I AM the bread of life 6:35

I AM the light of the world 8:12,9:5

I AM the door (and the gate) 10:7

I AM the good shepherd 10:1,14

I AM the resurrection and the life 11:25

I AM the Way the Truth and the Life 14:6

I AM the true vine 15:1

7 signs

water to wine 2:1-11

healing of official’s son 4:43-54

healing at pool of Bethesda 5:1-5

feeding of 5000 6:1-14

walking on water 6:16-21

man born blind 9:1-12

resurrection of Lazarus 11:1-44

**Four Portraits +1 Hebrews the other gospel.**

**In Hebrews Jesus is the Great High Priest.**

Jesus: A Perfect High Priest

Heb 4:14-5:6. Jesus is the perfect high priest.

Q: What does a priest do? He makes intercession between humans and the supernatural power(s) that control the universe. A bridge-maker.

Latin *pontifex*  a bridge. One who connects to God. He offers praise to God from us and he asks for blessings from God to us.

The priest must speak the language of both humans and of God. Who can do this better than Jesus?

Even before the incarnation, Jesus spoke the language of God perfectly, as he is the Son of God.

But when he came and “lived for a while among us” (John 1:14), he learned our language. He understands us perfectly.

Hebrews 4:15 empathize Greek: *sympatheo* lit. touched with the same feeling.

This is why we can “approach God’s throne with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. (Heb 4:16)

How much better is the high priesthood of Jesus!

Jesus takes the place of this imperfect high priest.

Jesus is not up in an air conditioned office. He knows the language of God perfectly and, because he came here, he knows the language of humans perfectly as well.

Like Moses who was living in great comfort in Pharaoh’s palace, but saw God’s people suffering as slaves, so he walked out of the palace to live like a slave so he could save the slaves.

Jesus is like the earthly High Priest in several ways:

a. Human, can relate. Can empathize with us. (Greek: *sympatheo*) Tempted like us in every way (Heb 4:15).

b. Makes intercession for us. Offers mercy, grace. (Hebrews 4:16)

c. Selected by God from among men (Heb 5:1,4-5 v. 5 Jesus did not appoint himself)

d. Represents man to God (Heb 5:1)

e. Offered gifts (sweet smelling offerings) and sacrifices (sin and guilt offering) 5:1

But Jesus is much greater than the High Priest:

a. In the heavenly tabernacle, not the earthly one. “Has gone through the heavens” (v. 14)

b. Was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

c. Did not have to offer sacrifices for his own sin (Heb 5:3)

d. A priest forever (Heb 5:6).

e. Of the order of Melchizedek. Heb 5:6,9 Ps 110:4) (d and e will be emphasized more later)

Hebrews 5:2 He can deal gently *metriopatheia* we get the word empathy Sympathetic feeling. Bear with us without becoming irritated. A good high priest cannot be too sympathetic/overwhelmed, but not apathetic either.

Not like a rich person telling someone on the street, “I can relate.” No you cannot dude!

Have you ever felt that God is too far off—too distant to relate to you. Think about Jesus.

Feeling lonely? He has that one covered.

Tempted to lash out at someone hurting you? That one too.

Tired, want to rest, pull back from the spiritual battle. Jesus can relate. And he can explain you to the Father.

What a great gift we have as Christians—a High Priest who can sympathize with us in the deepest possible way!

What a concept. Unknown in the ancient world.

Hebrews: God has empathy, fellow-feeling with us.

No one would have made up a religion like this!

Hebrews 5:7-10

Heb 5:8 In what sense did Jesus “learn” through obedience? He **learned** in the sense of **experiencing** the suffering which we faithful Christians know comes with obedience.

He did not sin, but he experienced the things which humans experience because of their sin, and disobedience and for this reason and in this sense he was “numbered with the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12).

Aside: Heb 5:9 Made perfect (*telios*) means mature, completing the task. Jesus’ suffering completed his preparation to be our High Priest.

Look how humble Jesus is.

Greeks (stoics) God cannot experience any feeling, or he is somehow superior to us.

Heb 5:10 briefly mentions Melchizedek, but goes into an aside and returns to him in 7:1.