Subject: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 10 Jan 2014 13:45:48 GMT
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As I reread through the Gospels I wanted to highlight different thoughts and events taking place in this portion of the Bible. Hopefully this will Bless you as it has me. I'm not going to cover every little detail but only things I find interesting and feel its noteworthy to share. This may include going back and forth from the NT to the OT highlighting scriptures.

Matthews Gospel:

Matthew starts out with a list of genealogies; (1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:).

While reading along I see he mentions Rahab and then Ruth. A few passages later we come upon the scriptures concerning David. What I find interesting here is that, Bathsheba is not mentioned at all by name.

Quote: 6 and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

It just says by "her", who had been Uriah's wife. The scripture does mention Rahab the harlot by name.

I want to point out I'm not trying to prove anything or make an issue or try to find some new secret unheard of doctrine. I'm just looking at the way the Bible it is presenting certain events.

Concerning David and Bathsheba in the OT we do find a passage that shows babies go to heaven.

Quote:22 And he said, â€œWhile the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, â€˜Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?â€™ 23 But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.â€•

I was wondering a while back about this "age of accountability teaching", that most hold to. I'm not saying yea or nay on any of the teaching but at this point I am wondering why they come up with the age of 12 being the age of accountability. In other words if children die before this age we are told they go to heaven. They say Jesus was twelve years old when he was in the temple talking with the scribes and lawyers.

Maybe this is true but I would like to see further evidence in the Bible that brings out this point.

Thinking of children in our day and time we do see kids under 12 who commit murder, sell drugs, commit fornication, etc. We see that some are given over to sin and wickedness.

If I was to rightly divide the Word of God I would think that when a child is completely innocent "not" knowing the way of good and evil would seem they would be in a situation to enter glory having no understanding of God or the way of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Only God knows for sure. I can see millions of innocent babies who have been murdered at the hands of medical science or those born and taken early going on, or even children that are totally innocent of good and evil, dying and going to be with the Lord.

Anyway as I was reading I find this is the first place in this genealogy that gives a brief history of an event that took place, and does not mention this woman by name. You might want to read II Samuel chapter 11 and chapter 12.

There is so much taking place, the Lord is displeased with David over Uriah's wife but Nathan the prophet tells him that the Lord gave you Saul's wives. That whole concept is interesting concerning many things that took place while they were under the law. I don't see where God is displeased over them having many wives for an example. In New Testament times before the Lord started teaching I don't see this practice being mentioned as taking place in Israel.

The whole Bible is fantastic. We have so much today to be Thankful for as the Lord has included us into His Plans. Hope to share later as the Lord leads. May the Lord Bless everyone here as they press forth into a higher calling in Jesus Christ. God has a plan for all of us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 11 Jan 2014 12:48:53 GMT
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It was 400 hundred years of silence from the time of Malachi to the time of Christ. Generations of people lived their lives with at least no mention of the Lord moving in their day and time.

Matthew tells us in the genealogies that; So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

When the appointed time arrived that Jesus would be born and live on the earth we see much activity taking place in the spirit realm, God was again speaking to men.

During this time its recorded in scripture that there was visions, dreams, angelic visits, to quit a large group of people. From shepherds in the field, wise men living in the east, prophets, widows, and the main characters involved.

I find it interesting that Joseph was called a just man and that when he found out Mary was with child, he did not want to make a public example of her but was willing to secretly put her away and not get married.

How many times do we see people when they think someone is in sin want to run and straighten them out or tell everyone what they know about a situation. There are times when men are called upon to rebuke sin and unrighteousness but also times when we consider what the Lord would have us do as every situation is different. We see a man in this case who is just, weighs out his decisions before the Lord.

Quote: 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

We see a number of things taking place, while he was thinking about all of this, 1. God spoke to him in a dream, 2. he obeyed the dream immediately.

Quote: 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, â€œJoseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.â€•

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 â€œBehold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,â€• which is translated, â€œGod with us.â€•

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

This also was the beginning of many major prophecies being fulfilled.

Many of the major denominations change portions of scripture to fit their denominational way of thinking, without considering the facts.

The wise men who we see Matthew mentions next, never came to the manger to see a little baby that was born, but they went to a "house" and saw a young child. There is no recorded information that they were at at the manger, so why does everyone assume things that the Bible does not say?

Quote:9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

One more thing I would like to point out, Herod and all those who were with him in Jerusalem was "troubled" over this information given by the wise men.

A definition of "troubled" is: 1.to disturb the mental calm and contentment of; worry; distress; agitate.

Quote: 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Roman leadership while they were very sophisticated, intellectual, cultured people, there is their other side, men who were greedy tyrants that would shed innocent blood at the drop of a hat.

Not only were many of God's people alerted to events that were to unfold, but we see the world and its political system were made aware that something was about to take place as well.

I would also like to point out these mysterious wise men who saw a "star" in the east. Were not really given much information on this, but did they see a star in the heavens?, and they knew the king of the Jews was to be born and they knew of the ancient prophecies given. However this star appeared to them they were able to travel and followed it and find where the young child lived.

Quote: 2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, â€œWhere is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.â€•

Quote: 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I think these men knew it was not just an earthly king that had been born but understood this to be the Christ as they fell down to worship Him.

It may appear to be silence from heaven in the world in which we find ourselves but be assured our God is ruling and reigning in the Heavens and at the appointed times all the pieces of the puzzle will fall in place.

Giving all to God has become a cliche in most modern churches, but to be able to hear, see, and understand is something God has allowed for His "elect". We can also be filled with exceeding joy as the wise men were and fall down and "Worship" the God we cannot see with the physical eyes but we can see with our spiritual eyes.

In Him,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Sat, 11 Jan 2014 16:09:45 GMT
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Great stuff, Gary!

I think that the method that you are using to explore the text is one that is often ignored but in reality is the most natural. I'm amazed at how often the Lord illuminates things to our mind as we ponder the things that have been written.

I hope you continue to give us things to think about.

Especially interesting is the statement about Joseph being a "just" man. The next phrase seems

almost contradictory to the normal idea of justice --"...and not willing to make her a publick example...".

Most of the time when we think of the idea of justice it is accompanied with the idea that the guilty person should bear the punishment for their sin. I think that the passage in a way combines the idea of justice with the idea of mercy.

To my mind, this highlights God's justice and His mercy. The two attributes are seemingly opposite to each other yet here we see them working together in Joseph just as they work together in God's nature.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sat, 11 Jan 2014 20:34:47 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sat, 11 January 2014 06:The wise men who we see Matthew mentions next, never came to the manger to see a little baby that was born, but they went to a "house" and saw a young child. There is no recorded information that they were at at the manger, so why does everyone assume things that the Bible does not say?

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This got me thinking where Jesus really was when the wise men visited him, how old He was by that time and why they(Joseph, Mary, and Jesus) was in a house there when they were from Nazareth. We know that He was born in Bethlehem in Judea(Matt.2:1), we also know that He was circumcised on the eight day; and we know that Mary had to go through the purification time; and we know that they (Joseph and Mary) took Jesus up to Jerusalem to the temple to present Him unto The Lord.(Luke 2:21-22) Then we're told they returned to Galilee and their own city, Nazareth.

So did the wise men visit Jesus in Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, or Nazareth? Was He a newborn baby or a young child (1-2 yrs.)? Joseph and Mary was only in Bethlehem a short period of time, if

I understand correctly (we do know the shepherds visited Him there)not much longer than forty days (time of purification according to the law of Moses). And I can't find where they rented/bought a 'house' in Jerusalem to stay there long enough for Jesus to get to be "a young child". Maybe they were still in Bethlehem and Matthew just used the term 'young child' and maybe they had found room in an inn and was no longer in the stable/manger but hadn't left yet for Jerusalem(within 40 days of His birth).

Any thoughts?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 12 Jan 2014 10:33:21 GMT
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Hi William and James,

Thanks for sharing here.

William I was thinking about what James said, and ran across some other passages that make this distinction of peoples character. Simeon in the temple was said to be a "just" man.

Quote: Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were both said to be righteous:

Quote: Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

This morning I was reminded of Jesus when He approached Nathanael He told him he was a man with no deceit, or guile if you read the KJV.

Quote: John 1: Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, â€œBehold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!â€•

It just seemed interesting that concerning all these people, the Spirit of God makes a point in the Word to show these characteristics about them. They were just, righteous, no guile, etc.

James after reading your post I was wondering about this as well. I went back and looked at all the passages and came across what looked like a contradiction.

Years ago a man set a Bible in front of me and said; "I can show you were that "Book" is full of contradictions." I personally don't believe there are any contradictions and everything is given by the Spirit of God. I don't think people realize that with God there is no "time" factor and that "time" was created for us. And as we all know you have to have ears to hear and eyes to see. It's Spiritual in nature and we are born of the Spirit.

I will try to make an attempt here to explain. The three wise men are only found in Matthews gospel. We know they came from the East and from another country.

Quote: Matthew 2:12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Here's what I believe took place James concerning what you shared and it hopefully will be clear at the end of this post.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth.

Quote: Luke 1:26-27 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virginâ€™s name was Mary.

Caesar Augustus said; the whole world needed to be registered. Joseph was of the lineage of David so he traveled back to his home town to register him and his new wife in this new governmental census.

There must of been thousands of people on foot traveling at this time who participated in this census. Bethlehem is five miles south of Jerusalem, while Nazareth is several hundred miles north.

This is all pertinent so bear with me.

When they get to Bethlehem Mary who is with child delivers her baby, there is no room at the inn and then we have this passage:

Quote: Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Next we see the shepherds being visited by a whole Angelic host, praising God for what has taken place.

I believe the three wise men possibly could be entering Jerusalem at this same time. At this point I

am assuming Joseph could of had relatives and they moved temporarily to a house. The wise men came to see Jesus at a "house" we know for sure, which possibly could of been relatives of Joseph. But we don't have all the information here so I would assume this, because you did mention renting or buying a place to stay in. It seems logical that he had relatives there.

The point is, I think it almost had to be close to the time Jesus was circumcised, eight days after He was born, Mary had to stay somewhere so when she went to the temple to be purified by her sacrifices. There is a number of events that take place at the same time. The known facts are intertwined in both books, Matthew and Luke.

The wise men show up and are warned in a dream, they leave by another route, Herod is angry and goes and murders thousands of children in Bethlehem and the surrounding districts, while Joseph who is warned in a dream, flees to Egypt. I believe they were only in Egypt a very short time and that Herod died within a month of killing all these children.

The problem I ran across in this event was that Luke says when the child was circumcised eight days later that Mary fulfilled her purification that they returned to their own city in Nazareth.

Quote: Luke 2:21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

In the temple Simeon prophesies and then it says:

Quote: Luke 2:39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

Between verse 21 and verse 22 is when Herod died and they returned. I looked up the passage in Leviticus about the circumcising of a boy and the purification time of a woman.

[quote] Leviticus 12:1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 â€œSpeak to the children of Israel, saying: â€˜If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean. 3 And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.
4 She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled.

Mary could not go into the Temple until this time period had ended, they very well could of learned at this time that Archelaus was ruling over Judea by what this passage in Matthew states:

Quote: Matthew 2:19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, â€œArise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Childâ€™s life are dead.â€• 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

I believe this is another gap that he learned this information below after they returned to the Temple for Mary's time of purification.

Quote: 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, â€œHe shall be called a Nazarene.â€•

Please read both accounts together and you'll see why it seems to be an apparent contradiction, and why I came to this conclusion here. Herod had to have died shortly after his killing spree and Joseph and Mary would of returned to the temple for her to be able to offer the sacrifices to fulfill the law for a woman's purification. I agree with what you shared Matthew used the term "young child" but he was speaking of Jesus as a baby.

I sure hoped this answered your question and I was able to make it plain enough to understand.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Mon, 13 Jan 2014 21:19:21 GMT
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I have been meditating on just how blessed we are to have been given 'eyes to see & ears to hear'. Throughout the NT these phrases are mentioned over and over, as you, Gary have mentioned several times. I was reading Matthew chapter 13 where Jesus gives 7 parables concerning The Kingdom of heaven and no one could understand the meanings except His

disciples and even then He had to explain the meaning to them. And they wondered and questioned Him why He spoke in parables to the multitudes...

"He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Therefore speak I to them in parables:because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not; neither do they understand.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." Matthew 13:11-17

Thank You Jesus, thank You!

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 14 Jan 2014 07:24:33 GMT
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Quote: I have been meditating on just how blessed we are to have been given 'eyes to see & ears to hear'. Throughout the NT these phrases are mentioned over and over, as you, Gary have mentioned several times. I was reading Matthew chapter 13 where Jesus gives 7 parables concerning The Kingdom of heaven and no one could understand the meanings except His disciples and even then He had to explain the meaning to them. And they wondered and questioned Him why He spoke in parables to the multitudes...

I don't understand it completely by any means. God has chosen some to see and hear. Even His disciples did not have full understanding at the beginning. The Pharisees and Sadducees were totally blinded to what was taking place.

Between Matthew 2:23 and Matthew 3:1 we see another time gap:

Quote: 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, â€œHe shall be called a Nazarene.â€•

3:1 3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

It sounds like when Mary and Joseph went to Nazareth, in those days John the Baptist came preaching. But as we all know there is a thirty year period in between these two verses.

From the beginning I don't know if they fully knew what was going on. Mary and Zacharias had a visitation from an Angel, Joseph had a number of dreams, the shepherds were visited by an Angelic choir, and many prophecies were being fulfilled. Hosea, Micah, Jeremiah, and Isaiah, their prophecies are quoted in just the first few chapters of Matthew and Luke.

God did nothing in secret. Right from the beginning the chief priests and scribes were called into Herod's presence to explain when the Christ was to be born. The Chief Priests and Scribes were there when the wise men came to see the King of the Jews. Were they excited over this news, no it looks like they were troubled:

Quote: 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, â€œIn Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6
â€˜But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.â€™â€•

The shepherds were telling everyone what took place out in the fields:

Quote:17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Thirty years later, John the Baptist comes with a message of repentance.

Most people today even government officials have a basic idea of what is about to happen. The return of Jesus, the mark of the beast, one world ruler.

When God starts moving by His Spirit and setting things into motion in these end times, many will be troubled. Maybe its true what they say, "History always repeats itself".

Jesus said; Let not your heart be troubled:

Quote: John 14:1
â€œLet not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:27
Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

If we believe there is a God, then He says, believe in "me".
We have nothing to fear its Gods good pleasure to give us the Kingdom.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Jan 2014 15:40:52 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sun, 12 January 2014 04:33

I will try to make an attempt here to explain. The three wise men are only found in Matthews gospel. We know they came from the East and from another country.

I have always thought there were three wise men, BUT, I can't find where The Bible records the number of wise men, not in Matthew or Luke (he doesn't mention the wise men at all.) It tells us that there were three 'gifts' brought unto Jesus, gold, frankincense, and myrrh...but not how 'many' wise men there were that came from the east.
I have never questioned it (the assumption that there were three) nor noticed it....but a brother who enjoys reading on OO (but not posting) noticed it and sent a gentle correction. So I guess this proves that, no, we sure don't know and understand everything. (just in case anyone thought we did.....think we knew and understood everything.)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 14 Jan 2014 16:29:51 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 14 January 2014 10:40Gary wrote on Sun, 12 January 2014 04:33
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Well another eye opener to say the least. I'll have to go back and look at that scripture but I'm not questioning what your saying but want to take a good look here. I realized they were not at the manger scene but assumed there was three, like everyone else I guess.

That brings up the thought again; How many things have we been taught that is ingrained in our thinking?
This is very good and was glad you shared it.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Jan 2014 17:06:03 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 13 January 2014 15:19I have been meditating on just how blessed we are to have been given 'eyes to see & ears to hear'. Throughout the NT these phrases are mentioned over and over, as you, Gary have mentioned several times. I was reading Matthew chapter 13 where Jesus gives 7 parables concerning The Kingdom of heaven and no one could understand the meanings except His disciples and even then He had to explain the meaning to them.

Here's another example of 'getting my eyes opened', I was reading Mark's account of the parable of the sower and in chapter four verse ten it says; "And when He was alone, they that were about Him with the twelve asked of Him the parable." I had assumed from Matthew's account (and Luke's)that it was just the 'twelve disciples' because they were chosen to have the mysteries of the kingdom revealed to them, but obviously from Mark there were other disciples (followers of Jesus) that He shared deeper truths with besides 'the twelve'. Ever noticed that besides reference to 'the shepherd and the sheep' (chapter 10) the book of John doesn't record any parables?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 15 Jan 2014 00:05:07 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 14 January 2014 12:06james wrote on Mon, 13 January 2014 15:19I have been meditating on just how blessed we are to have been given 'eyes to see & ears to hear'. Throughout the NT these phrases are mentioned over and over, as you, Gary have mentioned several times. I was reading Matthew chapter 13 where Jesus gives 7 parables concerning The Kingdom of heaven and no one could understand the meanings except His disciples and even then He had to explain the meaning to them.

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It's interesting that most of those disciples ended up forsaking the Lord when they did not understand His teaching.

Quote: 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, â€œThis is a hard saying; who can understand it?â€•

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, â€œDoes this offend you? 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.â€• For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, â€œTherefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.â€•

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, â€œDo you also want to go away?â€•

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, â€œLord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.â€•

"No one can come to Jesus unless it has been granted them by the Father." This is where Grace becomes "amazing". Peter said: Where will we go you have the words of eternal life, and we have come to "know" you are the Son of the Living God.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"

Quote: Matthew 3:3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, â€œRepent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!â€• 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

â€œThe voice of one crying in the wilderness:
â€˜Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.â€™â€•

What a contrast from what we see today. John comes preaching Repentance, and people respond. This is a true revival taking place. They start coming from miles away to hear what this man has to say and many confessed their sins, and were Baptized.

Quote: 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

There was no gimmicks, no advertising campaign. Just by Word of mouth people came from miles away. Its amazing we don't see John performing miracles, healings, or doing wonders but he is crying out for men to repent of their sins.

The Bible tells us who was ruling in the government and who the High Priests were in Jerusalem at that time period. The Word of God came to this man who dwelt in the Wilderness and all men were confronted with their sin:

Quote: Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

This Herod is a different person from the one we read about earlier, he is tetrarch of Galilee where Jesus was raised as a child. This is the same man who John told it was unlawful for him to be married to Phillip his brothers wife. John the Baptist never backed down from speaking out against "sin", whether it was a government official of Rome or to the Pharisees and Sadducees who were over the temple in Jerusalem.

Quote: 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, â€œBrood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

I honestly look for the two prophets who return to the earth, to be men who speak out against all

of the sin in men's lives. The difference between them and John is they will come with the power of God. John came preparing the way of the Lord for His ministry.

Today were all being told by the world and the media; everyone needs to be politically correct, let's not mention sin as it may offend someone.

John did not back down but spoke boldly in the name of the Lord. The Pharisees and Sadducees disliked John, as well as those in the world who loved their sins. The world will vehemently hate the two prophets as we see in God's Word.

Jesus said; They hated me without a cause.

[quote] John 15:23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, â€˜They hated Me without a cause. [/quote}

The creature does not want to hear what the Creator has to say to him. This is sad because God only wants what is best for mankind.

Even though John preached against sin there were those who heard the call and turned to the Lord. We find ourselves in the same place today, the world does not want to hear about sin, but there are some who will listen. Jesus warned us that they will hate us as they hated Him:

[quote]9 â€œThen they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My nameâ€™s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. [/quote]

John is a good example showing us we do not have to impress anyone with a miracle ministry as many try to do today, just preach the word and the Father will draw those that He has elected to Jesus. We are preparing the way of the Lord for His soon return.

Praise His Holy Name.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 16 Jan 2014 18:15:19 GMT
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John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah as the Angel told his father:

Quote: 13 But the angel said to him, â€œDo not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his motherâ€™s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, â€˜to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,â€™ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.â€•

What is interesting here again, is we do not see signs, wonders, and miracles but a man who preached repentance.

The Pharisees and Sadducee did not like John and his message. Repentance and being Baptized was the Will of the Father.

Quote: 29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

Shortly after the Lord came from the wilderness and His temptation, John was thrown in Prison. Its interesting that he had a special calling in life and then to see his ministry only taking place for a short time period.

Quote: 11 Then the devil left Him (in the wilderness), and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

I believe when the man child goes forth to minister before the tribulation, it will be for a very short time period, then "they" are caught up to the throne of God. Maybe its not in the scripture stating this, but by the fact that we see in Revelations it says; As soon as the woman brings forth a man child he is caught up to heaven. Implies they will not be here long.

Quote: And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness,

Quote:
18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

I don't think any of us should be discouraged if it seems like nothing is happening, we should continue to seek first His Kingdom and press on, for the prize that is set before us. God's Will and Word will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 17 Jan 2014 14:30:14 GMT
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I'm going to have to stop here for a while. Somehow I got out of sync and this turned into a "fact" finding mission which was never my initial attempt. I wanted to bring out the scriptures that make Jesus real to each of us in our daily walk, as an encouragement.

There is a huge volume of information in every chapter if you consider what all the writers had to say, plus there is a lot of Old Testament passages being quoted from the Prophets of the past.

Quote: 29 Jesus said to him, â€œThomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.â€•

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that believing you may have life in His name.

Men have distorted things in the Bible for centuries and it's good to see what really happened and then to understand it. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Quote: 2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Jan 2014 14:43:20 GMT
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Understood! It's easy to get bogged down or tend to lose focus when we try to say too much at one time. It's easier to keep things short and sweet, so to speak, and to the point. People get swamped with too much info and lose interest, as we've witnessed in the past. Even when one is passionate about a subject and The Lord is teaching and revealing truths to them, that doesn't always mean that everyone else is ready for it. And as I've also learned, sometimes The Lord is opening my eyes to something and I'm excited about it, but The Lord has already shown it to others and so the 'excitement' isn't so mutual.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 01 Feb 2014 12:19:21 GMT

Reading through the gospels its apparent the disciples saw many manifestations or should I say signs and wonders.

In the very beginning they saw and heard a voice speaking from heaven, water that was turned into wine, withered hands restored like new, blind eyes opened, the mute could speak and hearing restored. Jesus walking on the water, demons cast out of people, the storm stopping instantly and the sea becoming calm, the dead coming back to life, a tree withering away, and several disciples saw Jesus transformed before their eyes while talking to Moses and Elijah.

This is just to name a few that was recorded we can rest assured there was more then this from a statement made in Johns Gospel.

Quote: John 21:25
And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Even with all their struggles and not having full understanding they knew without a doubt this was the "Son of God".

When Jesus is crucified all hope was shattered and we find these same disciples hiding out and dealing with what took place. On the road to Emmaus the disciples made this statement:

Quote: 18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, â€œAre You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?â€•

19 And He said to them, â€œWhat things?â€•

So they said to Him, â€œThe things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

They were hoping He was the one who was to come to redeem Israel.

When the women went to the tomb and found it empty and Jesus appears to them, they rushed back to tell the disciples the good news.

The disciples thought this was just idle tales, what's going on here these women with their idle tales.

Quote:Luke 24:11
And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Here these men are frustrated and wondering what took place as they seen their hopes dashed and to top it off the women come in and start a bunch of idle tales and it says they did not believe them.

The emotions surly were running very high in this whole event. When Jesus was laid to rest in the tomb there was three days that everyone had time to think about what took place, and I sure many discussions were going on, and it appears all that they seen and heard for the last three years was forgotten.

All the many times Jesus told them, taught them, and showed them of things to come fell by the wayside. We see their struggles and having to work things out as the daily events unfolded.

Now two thousand years later we find ourselves having to take everything by "Faith". Faith as we all know; is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

We know that God is true and what He has said in His Word is true and will come to pass even if we do not believe it. God's Word will prevail.

I was thinking the disciples of Jesus had it so much better as they were there and could see all that took place and it was easier for them to believe. But when you look at the scriptures they still had to deal with learning what Faith was about while learning to walk with God.

The scriptures say:

Quote: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Quote: 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

The prophets of Old were looking ahead but could not see what the disciples saw, we today are looking in the past and see the things that they could not see taking place around them. From our viewpoint we get a glimpse of the whole picture.

We have all heard that Faith is a walk. We see and know God by our Faith, we have to choose to walk with God by Faith. Now that we know the Lord I cannot imagine going through life as we get older and not having Him to lean on.

All the worldly attractions and distractions are but dung compared to knowing and following the Lamb of God. While the world is falling apart around us, we can rest under the shadow of His wings. Faith knows; That He will take care of us and provide and He will never leave or forsake us.

Amen and Amen.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 02 Feb 2014 11:52:49 GMT
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With everything that takes place in life there is always the other side of the story, which in this case appears mind boggling.

The Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, Scribes, all saw many of the same miracles or wonders take place.

Take for instance the man with the withered hand. They saw this man on a regular basis, he came to their synagogue weekly, many might of knew him when he was younger. Many probably knew

when he had this condition of his hand withering up or could be he was born with this condition.

Jesus comes to the synagogue and heals this man right before their eyes. His withered hand is made new and the man has a hand that is like the other one right before their eyes. What takes place next?

They were filled with "rage"?

Quote:10 And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, â€œStretch out your hand.â€• And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 11 But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Jesus healed people daily while ministering, but it was when He healed people on the Sabbath, that it caused the greatest amount of hate and rage being manifested. Their are many events mentioned in the Gospels, which record what took place on the Sabbath day.

This happened on a number of occasions. A woman is bound by satan and is bowed over and cannot raise herself up. Jesus heals her and the rulers are offended.

Quote:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, â€œWoman, you are loosed from your infirmity.â€• 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, â€œThere are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.â€•

Its amazing that these men in leadership seen miracles right before their eyes, and then would be moved with indignation, rage, and would end up plotting to destroy someone who was only doing good.

Seeing they see but cannot see, and hearing they hear but cannot hear.

Their traditions blinded them from the truth. Is it any different today?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 03 Feb 2014 10:48:51 GMT
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One quick note this morning worth mentioning is:

I am very surprised how the Roman government could just have someone murdered at the drop of a hat. They suffered no consequences for their deeds.

When Jesus was born Herod has hundreds of children put to death in Bethlehem and the surrounding districts.

Later a different Herod trying to please his daughter and save face before the other Romans at his little party, had John the Baptist beheaded.

I had always thought the Roman government was a little more civilized but it appears they could do what ever they wanted.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Mon, 03 Feb 2014 14:46:30 GMT

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Gary wrote on Mon, 03 February 2014 04:48One quick note this morning worth mentioning is:

I am very surprised how the Roman government could just have someone murdered at the drop of a hat. They suffered no consequences for their deeds.

When Jesus was born Herod has hundreds of children put to death in Bethlehem and the surrounding districts.

Later a different Herod trying to please his daughter and save face before the other Romans at his little party, had John the Baptist beheaded.

I had always thought the Roman government was a little more civilized but it appears they could do what ever they wanted.

Remember Gary that Rome was the dominant power in the world at that time, they answered to no one. While they did invent/start/come up with many things still used by nations and peoples today, they were very blood thirsty and enjoyed allowing their senses to guide them. Feeding Christians to lions and having gluttonous feasts was common in their era.

We're much more civilized today, our society enjoys watching people try to hurt one another in 'sports' and killing unborn babies (50 million over the last 40 yrs.), while being the most obese people ever(which mostly comes from overeating<gluttony>).

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 04 Feb 2014 10:19:31 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 03 February 2014 09:46Gary wrote on Mon, 03 February 2014 04:48One quick note this morning worth mentioning is:

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We're much more civilized today, our society enjoys watching people try to hurt one another in 'sports' and killing unborn babies (50 million over the last 40 yrs.), while being the most obese people ever(which mostly comes from overeating<gluttony>).

Actually that's a very good point to make. After reading your comment, I thought about all their animated movies that are filled with brutality.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 04 Feb 2014 15:57:32 GMT
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Gary wrote on Tue, 04 February 2014 04:19After reading your comment, I thought about all their animated movies that are filled with brutality.

At first I thought you were saying that you've seen 'movies' discovered from the Roman empire, kinda like the Dead Sea Scrolls. That would make them antiquated instead of animated...Not to mention very valuable.lol

---

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 04 Feb 2014 21:33:20 GMT
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James,

It was very early in the morning when I wrote that, and as you can see it was my day to write the wrong things. LOL

Lord Bless,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 07 Feb 2014 04:10:36 GMT
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Hi Gary & James,

Quote:`it was my day to write the wrong things. LOL`

Sometimes it is not the day but the time of day for me now.

Well, it is a journey. I`ve so had a great time with my friend from early school days & if my strength improves as it is I will visit her next year when Trevor is on his fishing trip with the fellas. Sandy lives in Queensland, so that will be hot & humid. But she loves to play music & we had a great time playing - not piano duets as children but guitar duets as adults.

It is so important don`t you think to keep those relationships going as we travel life`s journey together.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 08 Feb 2014 12:42:19 GMT
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Quote: Marilyn Wrote: It is so important don`t you think to keep those relationships going as we travel life`s journey together.

Very Important! The Lord has been dealing with me about this. God has brought a man across my path who I do not believe will be on this earth long because of certain ailments unless God heals and restores him.

I appreciate it if you and your friends will remember to pray for this man's salvation. His name is Ralph.

Lord Bless,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 09 Feb 2014 05:39:45 GMT
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Hi Gary,

Trevor & I prayed for you & Ralph. Trevor prayed that God would give you wisdom & insight while for Ralph he prayed that he would come to a saving knowledge of our Lord.

We`ll keep this situation in our prayers, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 09 Feb 2014 09:37:10 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sun, 09 February 2014 00:39Hi Gary,

Trevor & I prayed for you & Ralph. Trevor prayed that God would give you wisdom & insight while for Ralph he prayed that he would come to a saving knowledge of our Lord.

We`ll keep this situation in our prayers, Marilyn.

Thank you very much, this man was raised in a Christian home, but I don't quite understand what

is holding him back.

I use to think it was strange in the Book of Kings and Chronicles that a king would serve the Lord, but then his son would be wicked before the Lord. You would think the son would follow in his fathers footsteps. Later the wicked King after taking the throne we see his son would turn to the Lord.

I have come to the conclusion each new generation needs a visitation from the Lord. Its not to much different today a lot of times the children turn from the Lord and follow the world.

Tell Trevor, Ay Mate appreciate the prayers.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 19 Feb 2014 11:01:51 GMT
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Is it I? Is it I?

The disciples were perplexed and in one place it says they were sorrowful.

Quote: Matthew 26:20-22

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21 Now as they were eating, He said, â€œAssuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.â€•

22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, â€œLord, is it I?â€•

John 13:21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said,

â€œMost assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.â€• 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

I find it interesting that the disciples would ask this question. Is it I Lord? That would be sad to think about, am I the one who is going to betray the Lord.

They were sorrowful and perplexed and no one knew who would betray Jesus. But each of them asked the question, "Is it I"?

In John's account above, we see even the Lord was troubled about this as well. Whether it was because He knew His time was drawing close or maybe because a man He was friends with all those years had chosen to become His enemy, and would turn Jesus in. For just 30 pieces of silver.

I'm sure this had every ones curiosity up, who in this group would betray the Lord.

I love this next passage of scripture, where we see John laying his head on the Lord like a pillow and then Peter trying to secretly get some information on who was the betrayer.

Quote: 23 Now there was leaning on Jesusâ€™ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

The rest of the story: Even Judas put on a pretense and tried to act like he was unaware who would do such a thing. He states; Is it I?

Quote: 25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, â€œRabbi, is it I?â€•

He said to him, â€œYou have said it.â€•

Jesus told him whatever you got to do, do it quickly.

Quote: 25 Then, leaning back on Jesusâ€™ breast, John said to Him, â€œLord, who is it?â€•

26 Jesus answered, â€œIt is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.â€• And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, â€œWhat you do, do quickly.â€• 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, â€œBuy those things we need for the feast,â€• or that he should give something to the poor.

30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

Its a blessing that we can look back and see all the events as they transpired, if anything this should give us a greater faith in the Lord, for allowing us to see what happened and to understand why it took place.

Quote:John 20:29 Jesus said to him, â€œThomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.â€•

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 19 Feb 2014 14:44:46 GMT
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When I began to get serious in my Christian walk I remember crying out unto The Lord when I would yield to temptation and sin; I'd ask for help in understanding and DOING that which He'd called me (and everyone who says they're followers of Him) to do which was take up my cross daily and follow Him. I have climbed down from the cross to "save myself" more times than I care

to remember, but for the salvation of all who would believe, He didn't. And He could have, just as easily as I've came down. I am SO thankful Jesus didn't come down and save Himself but rather suffered and died and rose again for our salvation.

"And they that passed by railed on Him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

Save thyself, and come down from the cross." Mark 15:29-30

"Likewise also the chief priests mocking Him, witht the scribes and elders, said,

He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross, and we will believe him." Matthew 27:41-42

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 22 Feb 2014 13:15:12 GMT
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Jesus said:

Quote: 27 â€œBut I say to you who hear:

Again those who come to Him and hears and does the Will of God:

Quote: 46 â€œBut why do you call Me â€˜Lord, Lord,â€™ and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

I'm amazed how many times the Word of God stresses "hearing" what is being said.

Quote:
James 1:21-23

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 â€œI am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,â€• says the Lord, â€œwho is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.â€•

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

From Matthew to Revelations its to those who hear. Thanks be to God who has given us ears to hear in this hour.

29 â€œHe who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.â€•â€™

I believe we have to go by the Word of God and what the Spirit says concerning His Word. As it says in the Book of James: "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 24 Feb 2014 08:33:53 GMT
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John 13:26 Jesus answered, â€œIt is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.â€• And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, â€œWhat you do, do quickly.â€• 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

The Lord probably realized that Satan had entered Judas while everyone else did not have a clue.

I find it interesting that the Chief Priests, Scribes, Lawyers and guards were waiting for information on the betrayal, and they did not realize that Satan himself showed up at their meeting through Judas.

It's hard to understand with all the miracles they saw, that they became filled with rage and were offended when they took place, especially if it was on the Sabbath.

Religious rules can blind men from the truth of God's Word.

I think men have this attitude that if they break a religious rule that they are offending God. But if they keep their rules and do not break them, they can live how they want and feel like they are pleasing God.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 05 Mar 2014 15:34:11 GMT
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Gary wrote on Fri, 17 January 2014 08:30 I wanted to bring out the scriptures that make Jesus real to each of us in our daily walk, as an encouragement.

Here's something (gleaned from the Gospels)that spoke to my heart this morning in my daily reading, it's found in Luke chapter 19, starting with verse 37...

"And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of The LORD: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, Master, rebuke Thy disciples.

And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:37-40

I choose to rejoice and praise Him today, I didn't see what 'they' saw, but I have been given the most precious gift ever given, salvation through Him. They didn't know what was about to happen shortly, but because of His sacrifice of Himself I have eternal life. He not only suffered on my behalf, He died on my behalf, and He arose from the grave conquering death forever on my behalf.(read I Corinthians 15 prayerfully and allow God's Word to strengthen and encourage you)

Once again I'm so moved by God's great Love revealed to us throughout scripture...Bless His Holy Name, thank You Father, thank You Jesus, thank You Holy Spirit

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 07 Mar 2014 12:12:50 GMT
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Luke 13 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus answered and said to them, â€œDo you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.â€•

Its interesting when a tragedy takes place people start saying its the judgement of God, assuming the people where more wicked then themselves. Insurance companies go so far as saying its an "act of God".

Jesus says to all, "but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

God allows things to take place on the Earth but it does not mean He is the one behind the destruction. If Job teaches us anything, it shows who is behind all of the chaos in the world.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 29 Mar 2014 13:47:26 GMT
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What an amazing situation the disciples and other followers of Jesus must of found themselves in. They personally were there and was able hear the Lord teach and to see all the works that He performed. Blind eyes opened, the deaf could hear, demons screaming out at His presence.

Then we see the story about Lazarus.

Mary and Martha sent word that their brother was sick, Jesus decided to stay where He was at for a couple more days.

Quote: 11 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair,

whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, â€œLord, behold, he whom You love is sick.â€•

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, â€œThis sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.â€•

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

When it was time to leave He tells his disciples that Lazarus is asleep, which they thought he was healed, but Jesus told them he was dead.

Quote: 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, â€œLet us go to Judea again.â€•

8 The disciples said to Him, â€œRabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?â€•

9 Jesus answered, â€œAre there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.â€• 11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, â€œOur friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.â€•

12 Then His disciples said, â€œLord, if he sleeps he will get well.â€• 13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, â€œLazarus is dead. 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.â€•

16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, â€œLet us also go, that we may die with Him.â€•

Jesus tells them I am glad He is dead and that He was not there to heal him so, They would "believe".[/quote]

To really know and believe that He was the "Son of God".

When they arrived, Martha runs out to meet the Lord and confesses, Lord I believe you are the Son of God, and one day Lazarus will arise in the resurrection, Mary being warned by Martha the Jesus had arrived and basically says the same thing. Many friends and family follow Mary out to Jesus was and hear the conversation taking place. They told Him to come to the grave and see for yourself.

Quote: 17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, â€œLord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.â€•

23 Jesus said to her, â€œYour brother will rise again.â€•

24 Martha said to Him, â€œI know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.â€•

25 Jesus said to her, â€œI am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?â€•

27 She said to Him, â€œYes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.â€•
Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy

28 And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, â€œThe Teacher has come and is calling for you.â€• 29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. 31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, â€œShe is going to the tomb to weep there.â€•

32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, â€œLord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.â€•

Even though everyone was saying Jesus is the Son of God, I don't know fully if they understood all that was taking place.

Jesus then raises a man from the dead who had been in the grave for four days.

Quote: 33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, â€œWhere have you laid him?â€•

They said to Him, â€œLord, come and see.â€•

35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, â€œSee how He loved him!â€•

37 And some of them said, â€œCould not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?â€•

38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, â€œTake away the stone.â€•

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, â€œLord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.â€•

40 Jesus said to her, â€œDid I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?â€• 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.[d] And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, â€œFather, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.â€• 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, â€œLazarus, come forth!â€• 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, â€œLoose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

Many of the Jews who witnessed this event believed Jesus was the Son of God from that point on.

What a wonderful time to have lived on the Earth, to actually know and see the Son of God and to see all the works that He did among them.

Shortly there after a horrible tragedy takes place. They come and take Jesus and crucified Him.

That must of been overwhelming for the disciples as well. All the teachings they heard, all the miracles they seen, and then have it all take away. Fear caused them to go into hiding. Peter who was part of the inner circle denies the Lord before everybody and then runs out weeping because he had remembered what the Lord told him. They probably at that time thought that the High priest or the Roman guards would be knocking at their door, or why else would they hide?

Many doubted that He was the Son of God and some even said; We thought this is the one who would redeem Israel.

Quote:21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.

Then to top it off the woman come running in to where they were hiding and said, we just saw

angels at the tomb and Mary spoke with Jesus.

Every one was so amazed they thought these women sounded like they were telling idle tales. What kind of gossip is this.

Quote: Luke 24:11
And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

When Jesus appeared to them they still did not believe.

Quote: 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, â€œHave you any food here?â€• 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

It wasn't until the Lord opened their "understanding" that they believed the scriptures.

Quote: 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Its amazing that we were not there personally but by being born again, we know that all these scriptures are true, and that all of this did take place. Faith is being convinced in your heart, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

Everything written in the Bible is true, every word has been inspired by the Spirit of God. His sheep can hear His voice and they follow Him wherever He goes.

No matter what the world is saying, and it does not matter if the whole world chooses the broad way, we know that what God has said is true and is for all of us today.

We can take comfort in God's Word and those who choose to follow His way, and will and word, He will in no way cast out. We know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that's all glory to God's name that we can know this.

Praise God the word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 30 Mar 2014 08:45:18 GMT
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Gary you said,

Quote:`What a wonderful time to have lived on the Earth, to actually know and see the Son of God and to see all the works that He did among them.`

That is so true, it would have been wonderful to have seen Jesus in the flesh & see the wonderful things He did.

And oh how wonderfully more are we blessed, to have Christ`s Holy Spirit given after He ascended to make in us His `divine nature.` (2 Peter 1: 4)

And as the Apostle Paul says,

`what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe... the Body of Christ.`(Eph. 1: 15 - 23)

And again we are the generation who will see Jesus face to face.

`we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself...` (1 John 3: 2 & 3)

Finally,

`Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.` (Eph. 1: 3)

Amen & amen, Lord.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 08 Apr 2014 07:42:56 GMT

Quote:
20 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, â€œThey have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.â€•

What a horrible tragedy this must of seemed like. The people who followed Jesus for three years have just found out the body of Jesus was missing. Having lived with Him and seen all He had done: healing, delivering people, kind and gentle, one who called them friends and then to see Him be taken by evil men as they crucified Him, must of been very traumatic.

Mary Magdalene goes down to the tomb early in the morning and finds the stone rolled away and the body has been taken. Who would of done such a thing?, was probably running through their minds.

Quote: 3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. 4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

John and Peter are seen running to the tomb, but it is empty. Can you imagine all the thoughts that crossed their minds? Its bad enough they crucified Him but to now take His body.

Mary stays behind and is found weeping outside the tomb and as she glances in she sees two angels who ask, Why are you weeping?

Why? She says; Because they have taken my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him.

Turning quickly she sees a man who she thinks is the gardener and He also asks the question, Woman, Why are you weeping?, Whom are you seeking?

Quote: 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, â€œWoman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?â€•

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him,

Here next is a very beautiful portion of scripture. Words could not describe the feelings and emotions behind this statement:

Quote:
â€œSir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.â€•

Sir, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away. Yes, I will take Him away where no one will hurt Him any more.

I hope this one small passage of scripture blesses you as it as always blessed me. It speaks volumes.

They truly loved the Lord and all He had stood for.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 09 Apr 2014 09:14:17 GMT
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Here's an interesting statement:

Are you the Prophet? Probably know one can answer this but who was this Prophet that they are asking about?

Quote:
John 1:20-22

20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, â€œI am not the Christ.â€•

21 And they asked him, â€œWhat then? Are you Elijah?â€•

He said, â€œI am not.â€•

â€œAre you the Prophet?â€•

And he answered, â€œNo.â€•

22 Then they said to him, â€œWho are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?â€•

We know its not the Christ, and we know its not Elijah, but John did not answer back; what prophet are you talking about. So he knew what they were asking and denied he was "the prophet".

Was Israel expecting a Prophet to arise on the scene, that was different from the Messiah?

John denies that he was the "Prophet".

I just kind of wondered who are they referring to.

Quote: Mark 6:14-16

14 Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, â€œJohn the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.â€•

15 Others said, â€œIt is Elijah.â€•

And others said, â€œIt is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.â€•

16 But when Herod heard, he said, â€œThis is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!â€•

Here again we see this distinction which says; "It is the Prophet".

What Prophet?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 09 Apr 2014 13:21:57 GMT
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When they asked John if he was Elijah that shows they were looking for him. I think Malachi 4:5 is where they got that from and the fact that Elijah didn't die, they expected him to return to usher in the coming Messiah. That's what comes to mind, maybe there's other scripture or prophecy that addresses it but right now I can't think of them. Maybe our resident theologian, William can offer some thoughts...when he gets time.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Wed, 09 Apr 2014 16:11:30 GMT
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james wrote on Wed, 09 April 2014 08:21Maybe our resident theologian, William can offer some thoughts...when he gets time.

I was once a theologian <grin> but as time goes by I realize just how far from that I am. The more you learn, the more you realize just how little you know!

Anyway, if I'm remembering correctly, I heard that this prophet was considered the one mentioned in Deut 18:15. He's also mentioned in Acts 3:22 and Acts 7:37.

I think the Jews considered this prophet to be someone other than the Messiah which is why they questioned John specifically on this point as well as to whether he was the Christ or Elijah.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 09 Apr 2014 23:06:32 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I was interested in your question, `What prophet?` It is as William said, the Jews were looking for a prophet who wasn`t the Messiah. They never realised the fullness of Christ, who He would be (Son of God) & His ministries (5 fold).

And Deut. 18: 18 & 19

`I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, & will put my words in his mouth, & he shall speak to them all that I command him.

And it shall be that whoever will not hear my words, which he speaks in my name, I will require it of him.`

Jesus, that Prophet, is the one that God `will require` `whoever,` to be accountable regarding His words.

Matt. 21: 11 tells us -

`So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."`

The Lord has the 5 ministries of - Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Shepherd, & Evangel. He is the One they were looking for as, Messiah, & He was also that specific Prophet that God would raise up from among them. They, however were looking for another person.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 11 Apr 2014 07:32:29 GMT
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I said that -

Quote:`The Lord has the 5 ministries of - Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Shepherd, & Evangel.`

& so I thought it would be good to follow that up.

APOSTLE - `Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly, consider the apostle & high priest of our confession. Christ Jesus.`(Heb. 3: 1)

PROPHET - `So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of galilee.`(Matt. 21: 11)

TEACHER - `This man came to Jesus by night & said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God;....`(John 3: 2)

SHEPHERD - Jesus said, `I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.` (John 10: 11)

EVANGELIST - Jesus said, `The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor....`(Luke 4: 18)

How wonderfully anointed is our precious Lord & Saviour.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 15 Apr 2014 10:52:39 GMT
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william wrote on Wed, 09 April 2014 11:11james wrote on Wed, 09 April 2014 08:21Maybe our resident theologian, William can offer some thoughts...when he gets time.

I was once a theologian <grin> but as time goes by I realize just how far from that I am. The more you learn, the more you realize just how little you know!

Anyway, if I'm remembering correctly, I heard that this prophet was considered the one mentioned in Deut 18:15. He's also mentioned in Acts 3:22 and Acts 7:37.

I think the Jews considered this prophet to be someone other than the Messiah which is why they questioned John specifically on this point as well as to whether he was the Christ or Elijah.

Blessings,
William

William,

Thanks for sharing these scriptures. I think after looking at everything in context the scriptures imply this Prophet is "Jesus".

At least that's my interpretation.

Quote: Acts 7:35-38

35 â€œThis Moses whom they rejected, saying, â€˜Who made you a ruler and a judge?â€™ [a] is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. 36 He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.
Israel Rebels Against God

37 â€œThis is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, â€˜The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.â€™

38 â€œThis is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,

In Him,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 30 Apr 2014 09:14:06 GMT
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Quote:
14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 â€œLord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.â€•

17 Then Jesus answered and said, â€œO faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.â€• 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, â€œWhy could we not cast it out?â€•

20 So Jesus said to them, â€œBecause of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, â€˜Move from here to there,â€™ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.â€•

What a powerful promise from God. Jesus says; "assuredly".

We can be assured that if Jesus tells us something it is for us as believers.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 24 Jun 2014 08:52:07 GMT
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The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.

In Him,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 24 Jun 2014 14:29:22 GMT
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Amen!(John 3:17)

I was reading in John chapter eight this morning where Jesus had told the woman to "...go, and sin no more", and as He spoke to them concerning who He was, many believed on Him (V30). Then He said this in verses thirty and thirty one..." If ye continue in My Word, then ye are My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Continuing in God's Word is vital, it's how He reveals Himself unto us and it's how we are set free, through the knowledge [of Him] found in His Word. My daily Bible reading has me in the Psalms and I'm at Psalms 119. I could copy the whole chapter because it's that good, but here are a few verses that reflect the importance of God's Word...and the importance of getting It into our hearts.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." V9

"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I may not sin against Thee." V11

"I will delight myself in Thy statues: I will not forget Thy Word." V16

I counted 15 times where we're told to seek/obey/follow this Word with our whole hearts/hearts ; then as I went through the chapter I decided to count the number of times 'The Word' is mentioned...Thy Word, Thy Law, Thy commandments, Thy statues, Thy precepts, Thy testimonies, Thy mercies, ect. were mentioned over 175 times. The importance of God's Word/Words cannot be stressed enough, it's the only way to know The Truth and the way God

has ordained for us to be set free. Faith to believe upon Jesus comes from God (Eph.2:8-9), we know it's a free gift(Grace), but in order for this to happen God has ordained the preaching of His Word...to reveal His plan of salvation, restoration, and reconcilation of man unto Him.

We, as followers of Christ(disciples) must have this Word in our hearts to be able to walk in freedom ourselves as well as to go and make disciples of others. It's through the power of God's spoken Word...we're to meditate upon It both day and night, It's our life, we're to follow It with our whole hearts, continually.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 25 Jun 2014 08:45:19 GMT
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Quote: James wrote: I was reading in John chapter eight this morning where Jesus had told the woman to "...go, and sin no more", and as He spoke to them concerning who He was, many believed on Him (V30). Then He said this in verses thirty and thirty one...

I was thinking recently about this woman here. An angry mob comes up ready to stone this gal and tells Jesus, she was caught in the very act of adultery. Jesus stoops to the ground and writes something in the dust.

If you picture this scenario, you can see the anger here, they wanted to deal with this sin in someones life.

My thought was, these guys were wanting to deal with this but then I realized, Where's the man? They bring the woman to Jesus but why not bring the man as well.

Either way they were ready to destroy someones life.

The best any of us can do is strive to personally follow and "continue" in what Jesus was trying to teach His followers by His example.

He did not come to the earth to destroy us but to save us. While its tempting to want to call down lighting at times on others, learning what spirit we are "of" is a constant challenge. That's why I think its expedient that we keep our minds and lives filled with His Words.

You made a good point there!

Lord Bless,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 08 Feb 2015 13:05:06 GMT
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Quote: Luke 13:22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, â€œLord, are there few who are saved?â€•

And He said to them, 24 â€œStrive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, â€˜Lord, Lord, open for us,â€™ and He will answer and say to you, â€˜I do not know you, where you are from,â€™ 26 then you will begin to say, â€˜We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.â€™ 27 But He will say, â€˜I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.â€™ 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.â€•

This sounds like a good question. Lord are there few who are saved? Jesus tells this man to Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Will this is interesting because "many people" will be seeking to enter but will not be able. Who is this many?

I think Jesus tells us in verse 27, when He states: Depart from me you workers of iniquity.

What is iniquity?

noun, plural iniquities.
1.
gross injustice or wickedness.
2.
a violation of right or duty; wicked act; sin.

Many today seek to enter in the narrow gate but justify sin and look the other way, Jesus will one

day say, Depart from me I never knew you. Many today are opening their doors to fornication, adultery, sodomy and then making excuses why they allow these people in their congregations.

One more thing Jesus told His disciple to "strive" to enter in.

What is it to strive?

Strive: verb (used without object),
1.
to exert oneself vigorously; try hard:
He strove to make himself understood.
2.
to make strenuous efforts toward any goal:
to strive for success.
3.
to contend in opposition, battle, or any conflict; compete.
4.
to struggle vigorously, as in opposition or resistance:
to strive against fate.

To Strive is to put forth an effort at the goal you have set before you.

I don't think Jesus minced words when talking about the Kingdom of God. With everything moving quickly on the world scene its easy to fall into the world's agenda and follow the crowds. Who wants to be different or the odd ball in the crowd?

Let us all, "always" remember that the day of the Lord is approaching quickly. Its closer then what we realize. Even so Come quickly Lord Jesus.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 19 Jun 2015 10:06:40 GMT
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I got off track when I set myself to sharing from the Gospels. First when I looked on the four different accounts of what took place it became harder to get some direction because I kept wanting to look at all the Gospels then compare it or blend it into one narrative. I'll at this point make a feeble attempt to resume where I left off hopefully avoiding the pitfall of straying away from the subject matter.

While reading the four gospels which I at this point in time persist on doing, I have found there are certain characters that leap out of the pages of history and leave a mark on the church from the beginning since they were first written down by the Apostles.

Right off the bat we are introduced to John who later is given the name of John the Baptist. At the beginning, before his birth his parents are given instructions concerning this child and the circumstances are given on how he was introduced to his future parents.

Quote: 5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, â€œDo not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his motherâ€™s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, â€˜to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,â€™ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.â€•

18 And Zacharias said to the angel, â€œHow shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.â€•

19 And the angel answered and said to him, â€œI am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.â€•

Zacharias and Elizabeth are said to be righteous people walking in the commandments of the Lord. The Angel goes on to tell Zacharias that John will be great in the sight of the Lord, he will not drink wine or strong drink, he will be filled with the Spirit even from the time he was in the womb and that he would turn the people to be ready and prepared for the Lord.

At the birth of John we see Zacharias prophecy that:

Quote:76
â€œAnd you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
77
To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
78
Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
79
To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.â€•

80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Were then told that John will go before the Lord to prepare His ways and give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

John grew and became strong in the spirit and was in the desert till the day of his manifestation.

What is amazing is that John spent 30 years preparing for a ministry that only lasted a few months. It would seem like a long time to wait and then when your ministry gets started your immediately put to death and it ends swiftly. Everyone heard about what was taking place from the common man, the religious leaders, and even the local government.

Most today spend very little time preparing (if your consider a few years in a seminary) and then go out and make a lifetime career of ministry. Without all the modern day technology John has quite an impact on a large number of people in this nation of Israel. Like the old saying goes: Word travels fast.

When John came forth and started baptizing people and telling people to repent, his ministry at that point did not set well with the established religious practices of that day and time.

Here was something new that had never taken place before a man in the wilderness baptizing people?

God can impact a people anyway He chooses and as it was discussed in another thread, It is possible for God to do a new work that most are unaware of. Mankind is very limited in our understanding of being able to see what our Creator can do. As created beings we have to let God be "God".

Here John was preparing in the wilderness all these years but one day the Word of the Lord came to John.

Quote: 3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

â€œThe voice of one crying in the wilderness:
â€˜Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.
5
Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
6
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.â€™â€•
John Preaches to the People

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, â€œBrood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, â€˜We have Abraham as our father.â€™ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.â€•

10 So the people asked him, saying, â€œWhat shall we do then?â€•

11 He answered and said to them, â€œHe who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.â€•

12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, â€œTeacher, what shall we do?â€•

13 And he said to them, â€œCollect no more than what is appointed for you.â€•

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, â€œAnd what shall we do?â€•

So he said to them, â€œDo not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.â€•

15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, â€œI indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.â€•

18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philipâ€™s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

John then goes forth and preaches repentance. We see in Luke's gospel that John calls the people a "brood of vipers", and warns them to repent from their sins and sinful lifestyle. John would not set very well in today's society. I cannot see him making excuses for peoples sins.

After being baptized several groups of people ask him the question; What shall we do?

He tells one group, share with the poor, or give of your clothes and food, second group, be honest or don't charge more then what you should charge, and to the third group, not to whine about your wages or don't intimidate others or accuse others falsely.

John is sharing knowledge on how they should conduct themselves in the present world.

Were not given all the details but somehow John comes in contact with Herod. He's on the banks of a river baptizing people and then somehow ends up talking with one of the local government leaders. His conversation ends up costing him life eventually.

Herod's wife becomes greatly offended at Johns statement that it was unlawful for Herod to be married to her because it was his brothers wife. Jesus said that she that is married and goes and marries another is living in adultery while she is alive and he that marries her is also living in adultery. The Lord may be referring to this situation but scripture does not go into detail in this

matter. Either way Herod's wife was offended and Herod was offended but because he feared the people he eventually put John in prison but was afraid to have him put to death.

The one thing about the Gospels is that we can see some behind the scenes situations and we can know what some are thinking and what their reaction is to the message being brought forth. Sin is offensive to those who choose to follow its path. They don't want to hear it and they don't even want anyone talking about it.

To be continued,
Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 20 Jun 2015 11:16:25 GMT
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When most in our modern day society think of the ministry of Prophet, a measure of grandeur comes to mind. Someone with the power and anointing, able to predict future events, coming with dreams and visions, etc. etc.. While there should be a measure of respect for all of the ministry, the ministry of the prophet was never to be put on a pedestal.

When we look in the Old Testament the worldly generally hated the appearance of the prophet. Even in the New Testament, when the two prophets are slain, what does the world do, they go on shopping sprees buying gifts and celebrating while the two bodies of the prophets are rotting in the streets. No one even takes the time to bury these men. This is outstanding that they would not even bury the dead.

There must of been a huge amount of animosity towards these men.

A lot of people desire the ministry of a prophet, because they look upon it as someone walking in power, while performing signs and wonders.

Jesus said: For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.â€•

John was a prophet and more then a prophet and we see him giving his life for the Kingdom.

John was not great because of some signs and wonder ministry. John did what God called him to do but even then the least person in the kingdom of God is greater then John.

The Kingdom of God is not about signs and wonders, because Jesus tells us that an adulterous generation seeks after signs and wonders.

When John baptized Jesus he saw the Spirit descending like a dove, a voice from heaven saying this is my beloved Son. Later in his ministry he must of been wrestling with thoughts in his mind because we see him sending his disciples wanting to know if Jesus was the coming one.

Quote: Luke 7:19-22

19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, â€œAre You the Coming One, or do we look for another?â€•

20 When the men had come to Him, they said, â€œJohn the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, â€˜Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?â€™â€• 21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

22 Jesus answered and said to them, â€œGo and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.â€•

This is an interesting statement; Why was John sending his disciples asking this type of question after all that he had seen?

One last thing, we can see the Pharisees who have rejected the "Will of God" and refused to be baptized with Johns baptism.

Quote:29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

In contrast God's sheep do hear His voice and are willing to go the route the Lord has ordained.

While the world sees Christianity as a foolish religion, God says that the fool has said in his heart there is no God. Straight is the gate and narrow is the way and few there be who find it.

Psalm 118:22
The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

23
This was the Lordâ€™s doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.
24
This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Luke 20:17
Then He looked at them and said, â€œWhat then is this that is written: â€˜The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstoneâ€™?

I Peter 2:7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, â€œThe stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,â€•

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sun, 21 Jun 2015 17:46:10 GMT
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Gary wrote on Fri, 19 June 2015 05:06I got off track when I set myself to sharing from the Gospels. First when I looked on the four different accounts of what took place it became harder to get some direction because I kept wanting to look at all the Gospels then compare it or blend it into one narrative. I'll at this point make a feeble attempt to resume where I left off hopefully avoiding the pitfall of straying away from the subject matter.

While reading the four gospels which I at this point in time persist on doing,

To be continued,
Gary

My daily reading has me starting the NT again, so today I am in Matthew chapter one. Maybe since I'm reading them through again I can give more time and thought to your thoughts on it...if we can get on the 'same page', so to speak. <grin>

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 22 Jun 2015 08:01:50 GMT
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Hi Gary & James,

I have been reading your interesting notes & wondered if I could join in & follow the readings too? These notes are from Charles J. Rolls a renowned Bible teacher for his encyclopedic knowledge of scripture & radiant devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

KING: Matthew

Matthew depicts Christ as the kinsman - king based on â€“

` God tells Moses, `You shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen....` (Deut.17:15)

Matthew 1:1 shows Christ`s genealogy from â€“

`son of Abraham` - therefore a countryman of Israel
`son of David` - therefore from the kingly tribe.

Matthew 2:6 quotes the prophet Micah confirming that Bethlehem is the town where â€“

`from you (Bethlehem) One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.` (Mic.5:2)

The wise men came to worship the `King of the Jews.` (Matt.2:1 & 2)

And God, Himself Anointed Him with the Spirit saying, `This is My Son, the Beloved.`
(Matt.3: 17)

When the High Priest asked Jesus â€“

`Tell us whether You are the Christ, (Messiah / King) the Son of God.`
Jesus says, `You have said it yourself..` (Matt. 26:63 & 64)

Then Jesus being Israel`s King, reminds the people that the kingdom which God promised them

is, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Messiah`s rule through Israel from the heavenlies. (Matt. 13)

Finally when Jesus, as King, commissions His disciples He says,

`All authority has been given to Me in heaven & on earth.` (Matt. 28: 18)

(These notes are from Charles J. Rolls a well renowned bible teacher from the last century. He is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture & his radiant devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.)

Blessings in Christ, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Mon, 22 Jun 2015 13:21:19 GMT
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Since you mention Christs' Kingship, Marilyn, I just finished Revelation and how much plainer could it be put than this?

"And He hath on His vesture and on His thing a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."Rev. 19:16

Yes, He is King over all the earth and Lord of all.....and that He would come as a humble servant and sacrifice His life so all that would believe upon Him might have life eternal, emptying Himself of all that He had with The Father to redeem fallen man? Humbling feeling...."Amazing Grace"....

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 23 Jun 2015 09:57:10 GMT
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Thanks everybody for sharing here.

Why is Jesus worthy to receive this title King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

Because He was willing to lay aside His divine attributes and let cruel and wicked men crucify Him so others could have a way into heaven. Think about it, what a situation that was, someone in their thirties who had the power to stop them from crucifying Him but allowed it because of His Love towards mankind. That was not an easy thing to do.

What a Blessing it is to know the Lord.

Would like to know every ones thoughts on a matter here. Someone stopped by Sunday and told me there is no where in scripture that says, Mary Magdalene was the one who washed Jesus feet with her tears and the expensive ointment. He went on to say that this is what is believed by most Christians but the Bible does not say this.

I'm in the process of looking into it and was wondering if there is specific scriptures that say this woman was Mary Magdalene. I was not planning on looking all this up but since this young man mentioned it I thought I would see if this was true, what he is stating. Does it specifically name Mary Magdalene as the woman or is this another woman that we have no name for?

I think if there is any confusion out there concerning Mary in the gospels its because of the fact that there was a lot of different Mary's mentioned. That must of been a very common name back in that time.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 23 Jun 2015 16:32:29 GMT
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Mary of Bethany (sister of Lazarus and Martha) anointed the feet of Jesus on one occasion in Bethany. John 12:3

There is in Luke a account of Jesus being anointed by a woman who wasn't named except to say she was a sinner and that this happened in the house of a Pharisee (Simon), which also was in Bethany(I think). Mary, like us all was a sinner, so maybe it was her in both accounts. But Mark

and Matthew says anointed the head, whereas Luke and John tell of His feet being anointed. So maybe it was two different women at two different times. [Luke 7:36-38] also see: Matt. 26:6-13 and Mk.14:3-9

I don't think it was Mary Magdalene, but it could have been...btw: Many think Mary Magdalene was a prostitute before meeting Jesus, I don't see that in scripture...either. Many false ideas came from Catholicism (remember the discussion about the <3> wise men? Never does it say there were only three. Also the nativity deal at Christmas with the wise men and shepherds gathered around in the barn looking at Jesus? They weren't there seeing him at the same time.)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 23 Jun 2015 23:49:52 GMT
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Hi James (& Gary),

Quote:Since you mention Christs' Kingship, Marilyn, I just finished Revelation and how much plainer could it be put than this?

"And He hath on His vesture and on His thing a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."Rev. 19:16

I have been meditating on Christ`s Kingship & remembered that He had many crowns. (Rev. 19: 12)Often we just think that the Lord Jesus Christ is only king over the earth, but He is sovereign in all realms & over all aspects. Christ was king even before He came to earth, as He told Pilate. He is the king of the regency of truth & that is a wonder to meditate on.

The Lord Jesus Christ is King over many realms.

King of Glory. (Ps. 24: 7)
King of heaven. (Dan. 4: 37)
King of the Ages. (1 Tim. 1: 17)
King of Righteousness. (Heb. 7: 1 â€“ 3)
King of Israel. (John 1 : 49)
King of the Jews. (Matt. 2: 2)

King of the Nations. (Rev. 15: 3)
King of Kings. (Rev. 19: 12)

What are your thoughts, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 24 Jun 2015 09:06:15 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 23 June 2015 12:32Mary of Bethany (sister of Lazarus and Martha) anointed the feet of Jesus on one occasion in Bethany. John 12:3

There is in Luke a account of Jesus being anointed by a woman who wasn't named except to say she was a sinner and that this happened in the house of a Pharisee (Simon), which also was in Bethany(I think). Mary, like us all was a sinner, so maybe it was her in both accounts. But Mark and Matthew says anointed the head, whereas Luke and John tell of His feet being anointed. So maybe it was two different women at two different times. [Luke 7:36-38] also see: Matt. 26:6-13 and Mk.14:3-9

I don't think it was Mary Magdalene, but it could have been...btw: Many think Mary Magdalene was a prostitute before meeting Jesus, I don't see that in scripture...either. Many false ideas came from Catholicism (remember the discussion about the <3> wise men? Never does it say there were only three. Also the nativity deal at Christmas with the wise men and shepherds gathered around in the barn looking at Jesus? They weren't there seeing him at the same time.)

This is good James. It's sometimes hard to believe what has been told us sometimes and its not even a part of scripture. Maybe your right it was all passed down from Catholicism.

It seems like there is more twisting of the New Testament then there is of the Old. Jesus said, to listen or hear, see, and watch, but it takes an effort on our part to pay attention (hear and see), to what the Bible is telling us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 24 Jun 2015 09:53:26 GMT
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James,

One more thing here. I looked at the scriptures you shared and also at some scriptures where Mary Magdalene was at the cross and then later at the tomb. Also I see where Simon is called the leper and in Luke's account it speaks of Simon the Pharisee. I had always assumed that when Jesus was speaking to Simon in Luke's gospel that it was Simon Peter, but it appears that He was speaking to this Simon the Pharisee, who may have been a leper at one time.

I'm going to look a little further here when I get the time tonight to see if more information is not given concerning Mary Magdalene and where she was at when the Lord ministered in Bethany.

Is Mary Magdalene the sister of Lazarus? The guy told me on Sunday that Mary was from a town called Magdalene and this is how she got her name.

Another question that comes to mind, Is Bethany close to Jerusalem where everything took place?

There's probably more information here then what I realized. At first when the guy told me this stuff last Sunday, I was thinking does it really matter in the whole scheme of things, but now I've become more interested to find out.

It seems like a lot of people had the name Mary or Simon during that time period.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Jun 2015 15:48:05 GMT
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Gary wrote on Wed, 24 June 2015 04:53
Is Mary Magdalene the sister of Lazarus? The guy told me on Sunday that Mary was from a town called Magdalene and this is how she got her name.

Another question that comes to mind, Is Bethany close to Jerusalem where everything took place?

No, Mary Magdalene is not Lazarus' sister. And yes, based on what I understand, Mary Magdalene was from a town called Magdala and Magdalene was used as as a surname.(Jesus of Nazareth) You'd be Gary of Indiana.....but not Gary, Indiana...lol)

Bethany is very close to Jerusalem, just a couple of miles.(2 I think.)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Jun 2015 16:09:37 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Tue, 23 June 2015 18:49Hi James (& Gary),

Quote:Since you mention Christs' Kingship, Marilyn, I just finished Revelation and how much plainer could it be put than this?

"And He hath on His vesture and on His thing a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."Rev. 19:16

I have been meditating on Christ`s Kingship & remembered that He had many crowns. (Rev. 19: 12)Often we just think that the Lord Jesus Christ is only king over the earth, but He is sovereign in all realms & over all aspects. Christ was king even before He came to earth, as He told Pilate. He

is the king of the regency of truth & that is a wonder to meditate on.

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King of Glory. (Ps. 24: 7)
King of heaven. (Dan. 4: 37)
King of the Ages. (1 Tim. 1: 17)
King of Righteousness. (Heb. 7: 1 â€“ 3)
King of Israel. (John 1 : 49)
King of the Jews. (Matt. 2: 2)
King of the Nations. (Rev. 15: 3)
King of Kings. (Rev. 19: 12)

What are your thoughts, Marilyn.

My thoughts are....yes, you're correct...He IS all this and more...KING OF KINGS...LORD OF ALL...And as I think about it, He was King before He even created those who would eventually make up His Kingdom...redeemed mankind....And while our knowledge is limited based on our understanding of kingship(revealed in scripture and observed in nations that have kings), I believe He is much more than our present understanding allows us to see. But there will be a time we'll see, and we'll understand and stand in awe and the praise and worship won't ever depart from our lips forever. Every tear will be wiped away, every disease will be healed, every broken heart will be mended, and every person who has put their trust in Him will NOT be ashamed.

Worthy is The Lamb who was slain, worthy is the Lamb who conquered the grave, Worthy... Worthy...Worthy

---

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 26 Jun 2015 09:33:13 GMT
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Quote:My thoughts are....yes, you're correct...He IS all this and more...KING OF KINGS...LORD OF ALL...And as I think about it, He was King before He even created those who would eventually make up His Kingdom...redeemed mankind....And while our knowledge is limited based on our understanding of kingship(revealed in scripture and observed in nations that have kings), I believe He is much more than our present understanding allows us to see. But there will be a time we'll see, and we'll understand and stand in awe and the praise and worship won't ever depart from our lips forever. Every tear will be wiped away, every disease will be healed, every broken heart will

be mended, and every person who has put their trust in Him will NOT be ashamed.

What a day that will be!

While this old world seems to be crumbling around our feet, as each new report sounds like the end is truly upon us, we can rest in the Lord that no matter what, He is true to His Word and is there for us.

If God be for us who can be against us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 28 Jun 2015 10:13:53 GMT
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Quote:49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, â€œRabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!â€•

50 Jesus answered and said to him, â€œBecause I said to you, â€˜I saw you under the fig tree,â€™ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.â€• 51 And He said to him, â€œMost assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.â€•

There was probably a lot more that took place when Jesus was on the earth, then what we realize. John ends his gospel with this statement:

Quote: 25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

That must of been a unique experience to see and hear and walk with the Lord while He was here on the earth. There was so much that took place that as John says, the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Anyway I find it interesting that Jesus told Nathanael that he would see angels ascending and descending.

Were told in one place in the New Testament:

Hebrews 13:2
Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Not trying to head anywhere specific with this train of thought just noting what Jesus shared with Nathanael.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 01 Jul 2015 08:40:27 GMT
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Quote:John 9:39 And Jesus said, â€œFor judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.â€•

40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, â€œAre we blind also?â€•

41 Jesus said to them, â€œIf you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, â€˜We see.â€™ Therefore your sin remains.

What Jesus said to the Pharisees is a profound statement and that is "if you were blind, you would have no sin". But because they said, "We see", then their sin remains.

Jesus went on to say that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

In America (as many have shared), we see everything is falling apart and what continues to go on? As in the days of Noah they keep eating and drinking, marrying and getting divorced, buying and selling as though there is no problem and life goes on.

The problem with sin is; that a little leaven, leavens the whole lump. Sin will continue to spread as a raging fire across the land. You know when someone throws more wood or fuel to a fire it rages with intensity.

Isaiah 46:9
Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,

Quote:Jude
3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, â€œThe Lord rebuke you!â€• 10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame;

wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, â€œBehold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.â€•

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. 17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 02 Jul 2015 10:00:59 GMT
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John's gospel is very unique in the fact it does not give a lot of parables nor show a lot of different characters being healed or ministered to by the Lord.

One of the main examples John brings out is the death of Lazarus. Raising Lazarus from the dead had a huge impact on those who were present and also those who heard of the account and later believed on Jesus.

At the cross we see Mary the mother of Jesus, her sister, and Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary

Magdalene. John we know was there but no other disciples are mentioned in Johns gospel but there could of been others there.

An interesting account stands out at what took place in the garden when they came to arrest Jesus:

Quote:
18 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. 2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, â€œWhom are you seeking?â€•

5 They answered Him, â€œJesus of Nazareth.â€•

Jesus said to them, â€œI am He.â€• And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, â€œI am He,â€• they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Then He asked them again, â€œWhom are you seeking?â€•

And they said, â€œJesus of Nazareth.â€•

8 Jesus answered, â€œI have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,â€• 9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, â€œOf those whom You gave Me I have lost none.â€•

What more could anyone say, Jesus was God but in His humanity His hour had finally come.

If you think about what took place and what His followers seen and felt it must of been quite traumatic and confusing, trying to sort out what was taking place.

Gary

Subject: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by Gary on Fri, 03 Jul 2015 09:48:40 GMT
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Quote:John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, â€œPeace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.â€• 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, â€œReceive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.â€•

Here's a good one for the theologians: What is meant by retaining the sins of others?

Definition of "retain":
retain
[ri-teyn]

verb (used with object)
1.to keep possession of.

2.to continue to use, practice, etc.:
to retain an old custom.

3.to continue to hold or have:
to retain a prisoner in custody; a cloth that retains its color.

4.to keep in mind; remember.

5.to hold in place or position.

6.to engage, especially by payment of a preliminary fee:

Don't know if anyone can tackle this one but it sounds like someone is not forgiving a sin but remembering what someone has done. I don't understand for what reason you would "retain" someones sin.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by james on Fri, 03 Jul 2015 11:25:26 GMT
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We all know that I'm no theologian but maybe remembering how He taught them(and us) to pray, asking forgiveness and forgiving others and being reminded that if they/we don't they/we can't expect to receive it ourselves I can't see a situation where a follower of Christ wouldn't forgive others...and certainly not verbalize that their sins are retained(kept possession of by the person or persons in question.)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by william on Fri, 03 Jul 2015 22:37:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Gary wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 04:48Quote:John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, â€œPeace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.â€• 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, â€œReceive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.â€•

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Gary

Yes Gary, this is a tough verse. I think it is one that the Roman Catholic's like to use to justify their confessional!

Personally you don't see explicit examples of the apostles using this 'power' but there are at least some indications that it might have been used in Church disipline cases. I'm thinking of Paul turning that fornicator over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1 Cor 5); Another time was when Paul cursed Elymas (Acts 13:8-12); then there was the time when Peter took on Simon for his sins (Acts 8:20-23); then there was Alexander the coppersmith that Paul mentioned in a very negative light (2 Tim 4:14); and then there was John who said that he would 'remember' Diotrephes who had caused some trouble in the Church (3 John 1:9-10).

I'm sure though that they would have followed Jesus' example in forgiving even these extreme cases if the offenders came forth with true repentance.

It's hard to have a specific explanation on these verses but it's sure something for us to think about.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by william on Fri, 03 Jul 2015 22:55:32 GMT
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james wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 06:25We all know that I'm no theologian...)

Ahh James, now you're just being modest! Here is the definition of a Theologian:

...one who is learned in theology.

1. (Theology) a person versed in or engaged in the study of theology, esp Christian theology

...a person versed in theology.

http://www.thefreedictionary.com/theologian

And what is "theology" but the study of God?

The absence of a trailing D.D. after your name doesn't phase me one bit!!! <grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by Gary on Sat, 04 Jul 2015 11:58:55 GMT
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william wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 18:55james wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 06:25We all know that I'm no theologian...)

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Blessings,
William

LOL

Well that's certainly true, I don't think he realizes he probably knows more then most with a D.D..

Acts 4:13
Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

John 14:17
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by Gary on Sat, 04 Jul 2015 12:01:14 GMT
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william wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 18:37Gary wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 04:48Quote:John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, â€œPeace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.â€• 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, â€œReceive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.â€•

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I'm sure though that they would have followed Jesus' example in forgiving even these extreme cases if the offenders came forth with true repentance.

It's hard to have a specific explanation on these verses but it's sure something for us to think about.

Blessings,
William

William,

The Scriptures you shared give a good explanation where it could be applied.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" Retaining Sins?
Posted by james on Sat, 04 Jul 2015 12:57:34 GMT
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william wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 17:55james wrote on Fri, 03 July 2015 06:25We all know that I'm no theologian...)

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And what is "theology" but the study of God?

The absence of a trailing D.D. after your name doesn't phase me one bit!!! <grin>

Blessings,
William

<GRIN> Yeah, titles given men don't impress me too much either...

In all seriousness all I ever hope to be is a man who gets to behold the Glory of God for all eternity. And that hope is realized through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the gift of righteousness imputed unto me because of His Righteousness, through faith (which also is a gift).

Isaiah 66:2

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels" The Centurion
Posted by Gary on Wed, 08 Jul 2015 10:03:04 GMT
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In Matthews gospel we find a man that is called the "Centurion". In the ancient Roman army this was a man who was in charge over a platoon of men called a "century".

He is mentioned in Matthew as well as Luke's gospel. When you look at both of the scenarios given we find one man with two different descriptions on what took place. I believe the Bible is totally accurate and that there is an explanation of what exactly took place or maybe there is no clear cut reason and just leave it at what it says.

Quote:
Matthew 8:5-13

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, â€œLord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.â€•

7 And Jesus said to him, â€œI will come and heal him.â€•

8 The centurion answered and said, â€œLord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, â€˜Go,â€™ and he goes; and to another, â€˜Come,â€™ and he comes; and to my servant, â€˜Do this,â€™ and he does it.â€•

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, â€œAssuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.â€• 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, â€œGo your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.â€• And his servant was healed that same hour.

In Luke's gospel we find:

Quote:

7:1 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurionâ€™s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. 3 So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, 5 â€œfor he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.â€•

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, â€œLord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, â€˜Go,â€™ and he goes; and to another, â€˜Come,â€™ and he comes; and to my servant, â€˜Do this,â€™ and he does it.â€•

9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, â€œI say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!â€• 10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Matthew who was probably there shows the centurion coming to Jesus, Luke on the other hand who gathered the information from others is telling us that the centurion sent his friends.

It appears this is the same man in each account and that he lived in Capernaum. The question is trying to find out why Luke is giving a different description of what took place or again is he giving more information and leaving out the fact that the centurion was there with his friends?

I am sure there is a plausible explanation on this. In Matthews gospel we see the servant is paralyzed and tormented, I would assume from the pain and sickness, in Luke we are told he is sick and on the verge of death.

Either way we know the man was healed, on just the fact that the Roman Centurion believed that Jesus would and could heal the man on just His spoken Word. One other thing, one would assume this Centurion was a gentile who believed Jesus was the Son of God.

Is there a solution to these verses?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 10 Jul 2015 09:55:42 GMT
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The Roman empire was very barbaric in their practices. The government officials could do whatever they wanted and they answered to no one.

Quote:
Matthew 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus 2 and said to his servants, â€œThis is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.â€• 3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philipâ€™s wife. 4 Because John had said to him, â€œIt is not lawful for you to have her.â€• 5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

6 But when Herodâ€™s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. 7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, â€œGive me John the Baptistâ€™s head here on a platter.â€•

9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

Herod has John's head cut off and then it is brought in on a platter and given to the daughter and she carries it to her mother.

Was her mother that offended that she would have someones head brought in on a platter. Herod could murder someone anytime he wanted and no one said a word.

A different man named Herod has hundreds of male children that were two years old and younger put to death. No one says a word. The Romans were barbaric and answered to no one.

Herods wife was highly offended because someone mentioned her sinful practices.

Makes you wonder if people today when they hear certain things are wrong or sinful if they have this same attitude in their hearts. Maybe this is why society as a whole keeps acting like there is nothing wrong with this sin or that sin.

The problem is Christians are not the ones who made the rules we just tell them what God thinks about their wickedness and that He will forgive and forget whatever sins they have been practicing.

All John said was: It is not lawful that you should have her. Herod's brothers wife, took great offense at these words.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 11 Jul 2015 11:55:01 GMT
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When you first become a Christian you readily accept what you are told concerning the Bible. Now that truth has become a part of your life, you believe the Bible is all true, and generally what you hear from others you accept as being true.

Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father except by me.

What this is saying is, He is the way into Heaven, the Truth and reality of God, and the Life we should live in Him. There could be other interpretations as well.

Even though we have heard a lot of things passed down from well meaning people, there has been a lot of information passed down after two thousand years that has been interwoven into

Christian thinking that is for the most part not even found in the Bible.

It appears the enemy has sown tares of information into the Christian world.

We've all been there to some degree, like one person told me one time, "if Grandma believed it then its good enough for me". Another lady comes to mind who I was showing her the scriptures on the Baptism, hands me back the Bible and says, "you need to talk to my Pastor". People tend not to question someone in authority or some loving family member nor do they look to see what they have been told is true. I'm not saying to question every little thing, but if someone tells you something about the Bible and you find later its not even in there you have to be honest enough to admit it. We've all traveled down this road, and we have to come to some conclusion on what does the Bible say.

It's the little foxes that spoil the vine. One little thing here and another there and before you know it you have a whole new gospel.

Okay maybe some things aren't a major deal, for instance; the three wise men at the manger. Were told every year that three wise men showed up at the manger. But in reality "some" wise men, we don't know how many showed up at a house not the manger, where Mary and Joseph was with the baby Jesus. This is one example among dozens, the church world then ends up having so many distortions that people come to the place that they cannot see the truth on water baptism, Baptism in the Spirit, etc., and are fearful of going forward in the Kingdom. With so many new additions it becomes a different gospel. When I first heard about the Baptism of the Spirit I was a little afraid and hesitant but because I saw it in the Bible I wanted it. If we see it in the Bible its there for us as believers.

Hearing they shall hear but not hear and seeing they shall see but not see.

Anyway with all that said, I wanted to look at many different characters in the Gospels and sort through what it says in relationship to these individuals. This may take some time on my part so I can only post off and on till I think I have it. If I overlook anything please let me know, I must admit I did not catch it concerning the wise men. It's easy to hold on to something and not realize its been changed by who knows who. Every bodies input is appreciated and no offense is taken if I have come to a wrong conclusion and need to change as well.

Concerning another individual, we have been told that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute, Does the scriptures teach this? This is just some of the people I will be looking at, but of course I will not cover every single individual. There is a lot of information in the New Testament that has been twisted over the centuries concerning certain individuals.

Jesus said, when He returns to the earth, will He find faith. God is eternal and always was here, man was created from dirt and with his finite mind it is hard to comprehend the fact that God is

who He says He is and that is "God".

The world or liberals and atheists say there is no God. The Christians believe there is a God who is invisible and we cannot see Him, only His handiwork. With are finite minds we can only understand this One who came from Eternity and created us, through Jesus and His Word revealed to us.

I have tried to think in my mind about the Lord from all of Eternity and it can only come to a blank, its beyond our scope of understanding Him. We just have to believe by "faith" that He is who He says He is, the Great "I Am".

Faith is the total reality of the invisible God and that God can do anything He wishes in His universe. This is a rest in the fact that He is our God, but there is also a measure of fear, that God is who He says He is and that is "God", do you understand this?

Thankfully we can approach the Father through Jesus Christ the Lamb who was slain on our behalf.

I think its good not to lose sight of who "God" really is, and that what His Word reveals is what He intended us to know about Him.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sat, 11 Jul 2015 16:09:14 GMT
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Gary,

Sometimes stopping to meditate on the surrounding scriptures and even chapters allow us to see

things differently and in an all together different light. I was thinking this morning as I read my daily reading, Matthew chapter twenty one about the question you asked concerning Bethany and it's location in relation to Jerusalem.

We're told near the end of chapter twenty that Jesus and His disciples were coming from Jericho towards Jerusalem(east to west) and came to the area known as Bethphage where Jesus sent the two ahead to get the ass (to fulfill the prophecy made in the OT concerning how He would enter the city of Jerusalem.)

After entering the city amid the praise and worship of the people lining the way and clearing out the temple He left Jerusalem and went to Bethany to spend the night.(Good chance He stayed with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, but it doesn't say that). The next morning He got up and returned to the city(as we know, Bethany is only a couple miles away...like the suburbs, and would take maybe only half an hour walking or less if by donkey.), this is where the fig tree was cursed for not having figs on it and the scripture that is/was so often quoted in the faithcamp about speaking to the mountain and casting it into the sea and not doubting.

Anyway, stopping and thinking about what we're reading and maybe going to the maps in the back of the Bible, <my antique Thompson Chain Reference> it can help us understand better. I seem to 'discover' things that I'd not seen previously each time I go through, as, I'm sure is true for all who approach God's Word seeking truth and understanding. (Praying and asking for wisdom and understanding certainly is not excluded, Duh!)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Sat, 11 Jul 2015 19:41:12 GMT
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There are two resources that I've found to be very helpful when doing the above:

The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament by Craig S. Keener
http://www.amazon.com/IVP-Bible-Background-Commentary-Testam
ent/dp/0830824782/ref=sr_1_fkmr2_2?ie=UTF8&qid=143664256
0&sr=8-2-fkmr2&keywords=Ivp+international+background
+commentary&pebp=1436642668721&perid=15JYD35KSNMTKTY ZQE9E

Hard Sayings of the Bible by Walter C. Kaiser Jr.and Peter H. Davids
http://www.amazon.com/Hard-Sayings-Bible-Walter-Kaiser/dp/0830815406/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1436642771&sr=8-1&keywords=hard+sayings+of+the+bible&pebp=1436642775900&perid=1K0KFMWTYFX5G340V51C

These two books provide excellent background information on the NT. The versions that I have are from 1995 and 1990 respectively but these later editions probably have even more useful information added. We used to get these offers to join different book clubs (I don't know if they even do that any more!) and oftentimes they would have a couple of freebees to get people interested so we took advantage of it and I got both in hardcover for free! After using them though, I'd gladly pay the retail price.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 12 Jul 2015 06:33:25 GMT
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Hi James,

I appreciated your narrative, connecting what Jesus did in that time frame. Also I have my father`s Thompson Chain Reference. It has so much detail & diagrams etc. A great resource.

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 12 Jul 2015 07:36:57 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 11 July 2015 12:09Gary,

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Anyway, stopping and thinking about what we're reading and maybe going to the maps in the back of the Bible, <my antique Thompson Chain Reference> it can help us understand better. I seem to 'discover' things that I'd not seen previously each time I go through, as, I'm sure is true for all who approach God's Word seeking truth and understanding. (Praying and asking for wisdom and understanding certainly is not excluded, Duh!)

James,

To be honest I mainly am trying to keep some type of dialogue going that may spark conversation. LOL I enjoy what small amount of fellowship we have here. There is something about those who have walked through what we experience I guess will never leave me. Some call it the good old days, and there was a lot of good and bad memories associated with the past, I realize.

Again I must say its a whole different world out there now. I work around 7 or 8 men who are christian heathen. What I mean by this is they are faithful church goers, all different backgrounds, who believe they can use every curse word you can think of, and two of them brag about their porn, I have even heard some curse God. Several of these men attend pentecostal style churches and I know the pastor of the one church.

I'm the odd ball who does not participate in their vile jokes and sensual rhetoric, I generally have to leave acting like I'm busy at work. Anything spiritual they mock and make fun at, there is a definite lack of understanding or maybe their not being taught much.

So its refreshing to know that on the board here, there is some still out there who hold to a higher standard. Some may call this legalism but I believe what Jesus said, that a man will be justified by his words, by our words we will be justified and by our words we will be condemned. Its appointed for men once to die and then the judgement. Who is His mother and brothers and

sisters?, its those who does His will and word and keeps it. I don't see in scripture that Christians can just do what they want when they want. So I may come up with stuff that sounds elementary sometimes just overlook what you can and bare with me.

I recently heard that there has been a discussion or sermon in some churches that says what makes a word a cuss word is only recognized by those who thinks its wrong. In other words, words are what we make them. If you think a cuss word is wrong then its wrong for you but if you think its okay to use then there is nothing wrong with using it. Like I said things have sure changed since I came into the walk. Now we see cocktail parties, people loving this old world, smoking and cussing all in the name of Christianity.

Another thing you mentioned about those in the "faith camp". I know there was a lot of extremes, but I have found every church for some reason or another falls into some type of pet peeve doctrine. I don't know why this is unless they think there is safety in staying with just certain concepts and ideas.

Why I am saying this is I still consider myself part of the faith camp. Not with all the extremes that we witnessed. But when I read where Jesus was constantly dealing with a persons faith in daily matters. Whether it was healing, walking on water, or casting trees in the ocean. He either rebuked them for a lack of faith, having little faith, or having great faith.

It sounds to me like Jesus is concerned on what a person believes in Him and His abilities as God. I believe if Jesus said we can cast a mountain in the ocean or a tree that the ability is there, whether I ever experience it or not.

While reading the gospels I cannot get away from the fact that the faith message originated with the Lord Himself. Maybe this is why He said when He returns will He find faith on the earth. I don't believe this is only concerning salvation but that is a part of it.

I've tried to look at the Bible and see if Jesus meant something else when He talks about faith, (maybe its just all about salvation), but I find that He is the One who confronts us concerning our lack of faith in His ability as the Living and only God.

God is God and is so much greater then us as created beings and it seems sometimes that everyone forgets who He really is, what He can do, and what He says to us.

I know that many have went to extremes concerning this teaching, and have tried to lord it over others. When its a reality we have to seek out on our own and to know Him, I guess the Bible calls it working out our own salvation.

Mainly I'm just sharing somethings here and know you were only making a statement not implying anything, but the thoughts crossed my mind to share what I thought about the Lord. I hope you

understand what I am saying in the right spirit of things concerning all of this. Jesus told His brothers one time that their time was anytime but His time had not yet come.

We all stand on the very edge of eternity and as Jesus said to His brothers can apply to us as well, our time is anytime, it is in His hands. If were given eighty years what is that in the light of eternity. There is an old song that goes, "Only whats done for Christ will last". Eighty years is nothing compared to eternity, were still and always will be little children compared to the Eternal One.

Anyway woke up at 1:30 thinking about all of this and thought I'd might write a quick note, Oh, I did look at the map later after you shared about it and there was Bethany it was very close, I don't know why I did not think to look first. Duh hopefully not a senior moment.

William
I will look for that book concerning the hard sayings it sounds like a good one to have. I recently was going through CBD's catalog wondering if there was any good books left out there.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 13 Jul 2015 07:27:44 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I encourage & commend you bro. for walking away from unrighteous talk. I have been praying for you & the situation as I know you have a `pastoral` heart for others. I do believe in the Lord that one man from that group will receive the conviction by the Holy Spirit & even come to you for prayer. Be strong, for God is with you.

As regards `faith,` as I see it -

1. The people of Israel were to have faith in that God promised that He would send them a Messiah & that they would rule the nations. Jesus in the gospels reminds them of what God has promised for them.

2. Then the Body of Christ (not known before that) are to have faith in that Jesus is our head & that we will be kingpriests with Him in the third heaven.

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 13 Jul 2015 10:06:32 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Mon, 13 July 2015 03:27Hi Gary,

I encourage & commend you bro. for walking away from unrighteous talk. I have been praying for you & the situation as I know you have a `pastoral` heart for others. I do believe in the Lord that one man from that group will receive the conviction by the Holy Spirit & even come to you for prayer. Be strong, for God is with you.

As regards `faith,` as I see it -

1. The people of Israel were to have faith in that God promised that He would send them a Messiah & that they would rule the nations. Jesus in the gospels reminds them of what God has promised for them.

2. Then the Body of Christ (not known before that) are to have faith in that Jesus is our head & that we will be kingpriests with Him in the third heaven.

Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

I'm thinking about what you said in the other post and will get to it later, concerning the bride of Christ.

This morning I was reading where Jesus said:

Quote:
18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, â€œLet no fruit grow on you ever again.â€• Immediately the fig tree withered away.

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, â€œHow did the fig tree wither away so soon?â€•

21 So Jesus answered and said to them, â€œAssuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, â€˜Be removed and be cast into the sea,â€™ it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.â€•

Jesus says that with faith we can command a mountain into the sea. I know many quote this as meaning mountains or problems we have to deal with in our lives. But He is talking about a literal mountain when He is speaking to His disciples.

Then He goes on to say, "whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

God is not a man that He should lie, so if God tells us this is what will happen then it is possible. I think we put the limits on ourselves by rationalizing what is taking place around us and what others think.

No matter what happens we cannot deny the fact that Jesus did say this. Let's not forget who we are dealing with and that is God Himself.

I choose to believe what Jesus says, contrary to what my mind or circumstances say is or is not possible. Jesus would not give us a rock if we ask for bread, right?

All I am saying is if Jesus Christ is telling us His people something then it has to be true. No matter what camp someone finds themselves setting in, the reality is that God is the one who spoke these words.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 13 Jul 2015 10:32:10 GMT
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One more quick thing here. I think men can distort a verse like this to consume upon their own lust for things. What do we see the disciples doing in the book of Acts with this verse?

Well we don't see Peter believing for a new shipping fleet, or Paul believing for the newest Roman chariot so he can go minister to the surrounding cities to get the word out.

Today people need $8000.00 penthouse rooms with a view, 60 million dollar jets, sporty cars, million dollar homes to work out of, so they are able to minister the gospel. We hear constant pitches concerning the needs of the ministry so they can preach and reach the masses.

Jesus, Paul, the Apostles chose to walk everywhere and to endure hardships in order to preach the gospel.

At least this is some of the things that should be considered when it comes to this verse. Where is the fine line and can it be distorted?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"

Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 14 Jul 2015 07:10:01 GMT
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Hi Gary,

Yes I agree people do like to twist & distort God`s word to their ideas & desires. That`s why it is good to share & discuss with you fellas here as you are serious about respecting God`s word. We may not always agree, but we are trying to understand each other & God`s word.

Now about that scripture -

`So Jesus answered & said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith & do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, "Be removed & be cast into the sea," then it will be done.` (Matt. 21: 21)

Trevor & I have been discussing it. So here is what we think - Obviously God is not telling us to rearrange His earth - put a mountain in the sea or over there etc.

Let`s look at the word `mountain` & then the context of what Jesus is talking about.

mountain - Gk word `oros` - meaning to rise or rear, akin to `airo` -meaning to lift, ...make to doubt, take away.

So we see that Jesus is talking to the disciples to have faith in what God has promised their nation & not to doubt. He then gives a pictorial illustration of `taking doubt away.`

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 14 Jul 2015 10:22:11 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Tue, 14 July 2015 03:10Hi Gary,

Yes I agree people do like to twist & distort God`s word to their ideas & desires. That`s why it is good to share & discuss with you fellas here as you are serious about respecting God`s word. We may not always agree, but we are trying to understand each other & God`s word.

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So we see that Jesus is talking to the disciples to have faith in what God has promised their nation & not to doubt. He then gives a pictorial illustration of `taking doubt away.`

Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

Tell Trevor I love that quote, that is: "God isn't telling us to rearrange the earth".

Like you said, look at the whole context. What started the whole conversation that Jesus had with His disciples. It was the fig tree being totally withered from the roots up. Obviously they saw leaves totally dried up and fallen to the ground because they could not see the actual roots.

Whatever happened the disciples were totally astounded at what took place.

Then Jesus goes on and talks about faith in God.

Quote:
17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, â€œLet no fruit grow on you ever again.â€• Immediately the fig tree withered away.
The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, â€œHow did the fig tree wither away so soon?â€•

21 So Jesus answered and said to them, â€œAssuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, â€˜Be removed and be cast into the sea,â€™ it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.â€•

We see further information in Mark's gospel:

Quote:
12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, â€œLet no one eat fruit from you ever again.â€•

And His disciples heard it.

15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, â€œIs it not written, â€˜My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nationsâ€™? But you have made it a â€˜den of thieves.â€™ â€•

18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. 19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, â€œRabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.â€•

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, â€œHave faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, â€˜Be removed and be cast into the sea,â€™ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Jesus curses the fig tree then the very next day as they are walking by it Peter remembering what took place is astounded and says, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

Its amazing what they saw took place in the three years they walked with Jesus. Here is one good example. They saw with their own eyes a tree totally withered away at just a spoken word from Jesus.

Jesus tells them to "Have faith in God". The word for mountain is "Oros" not like a small hill which the greek word is "bonnes", which I'm no greek scholar when it comes to different words.

The point is that Jesus is talking about a fig tree that has withered and mentions a mountain, but if you read here He goes on to explain, that if you believe that those things will be done,

that: he believes that the things he "says" will be done.

I think that the emphasis is on "believing" and "saying" concerning our praying. But Jesus is talking about a fig tree and a mountain using emphasis on believing for the impossible, with God all things are possible.

I believe if a Christians heart is towards the Lord and doing His Will that the very fact He is serving the Living God, that the Lord will move in his behalf when needed or even when we don't know it. Your right though we probably won't be throwing mountains around the earth.

Having faith towards God is a witness to the world that He is everything He says He is, were not powerless or helpless on this earth but we have confidence in Him. After all we are serving the Great God of the universe.

While everyone on this earth is worrying and fretting about life we can boldly claim that God is more then sufficient in time of need. Why? Because we know and believe that He is.

Jesus is our all in all.

While everyone was mocking Jesus, (Pharisees, scribes, etc.), the power of God was still manifesting to help others. A man with a withered arm stands up, everyone sees the withered arm and then they see it made totally whole. What was the reaction, they became indignant and angry. What a strange reaction, they see a miracle and then get mad about it.

Anyway not to stray off from what you said, But if Jesus says a fig tree or a literal mountain, we can know that He is telling us nothing is impossible when we pray. These are literal examples showing us that their is no limit with God and prayer.

One last thing we cannot deny the fact that Moses parted the red sea so they could go to safety, Joshua stopped the sun in the sky, Daniel spent the night in a lions den, Elijah stopped the rain, this is just a few names of men who walked with God and changed the course of nature, so why would it seem strange if we could curse a fig tree or move a mountain if we're in the Lords Will and needed a miracle. After all, we are citizens of the same Kingdom.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 15 Jul 2015 09:41:15 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Tue, 14 July 2015 03:10Hi Gary,

Yes I agree people do like to twist & distort God`s word to their ideas & desires. That`s why it is good to share & discuss with you fellas here as you are serious about respecting God`s word. We may not always agree, but we are trying to understand each other & God`s word.

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So we see that Jesus is talking to the disciples to have faith in what God has promised their nation & not to doubt. He then gives a pictorial illustration of `taking doubt away.`

Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

I highlighted the one quote because I think Jesus is talking to all of us and not just to the nation of Israel,

Have been considering further what you have said here. If we take this approach your using are we use this same word in other passages, for instance: Jesus went up on a mountain to pray or is it Jesus went up to take doubt away and then prayed?

Every other scripture where this word for mountain is used would have to be interpreted the same way.

I think we can take Jesus at His word for what it says, He is talking about a literal mountain and to all of His disciples throughout time, meaning even to this present time.

`So Jesus answered & said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith & do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, "Be removed & be cast into the sea," then it will be done.` (Matt. 21: 21)

Jesus is telling us you will not only do what was done to this fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain.

He is clearly telling us that its not only what we see done with this tree but also includes this mountain.

Can you see this? He is using the fig tree as a lesson that nothing is impossible to those who would have faith and most importantly they do not doubt. The emphasis is on having faith in God and not doubting that what He is saying is possible.

If this was not the case why would the Lord even mention concerning the mountain?

Mark 9:23
Jesus said to him, â€œIf you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.â€•

"All" things does not mean "some" things, but it is only to those who can believe. Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

I honestly don't think taking Jesus at His Word could mean anything but what He Himself tells us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 15 Jul 2015 23:59:34 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I certainly agree that what the Lord says is very important, words of eternal consequence. Even when He says things to others we should still take note. However I do not go as far as taking specific words to others to myself.

eg. When Christ rebukes Peter. I do learn from it, but know that Christ was talking specifically to Peter.

Also when the Lord is talking to the disciples regarding His purposes for Israel, I do learn of Christ & what He is doing, but I do not take them to myself.

So in this scripture, Matt. 21: 21, as I said I see that the Lord uses pictorial language to illustrate His lesson. I hear what you are saying about the `mountain,` & of course we do not use the figurative language for actual mountains. Just as we don`t look at every `Rock,` & say, "there is God," or every `Lion or Lamb,` & say there is Christ.

Actually I am reminded concerning `to rise, rear up,` of 2 Cor. 10 -

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments & every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, & being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.` (2 Cor. 10: 3 - 6)

I must say that you other post had a good flow of thoughts.
Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Thu, 16 Jul 2015 13:03:43 GMT
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Hi Marilyn,

I don't want to misunderstand you, so if I may, could I ask how you see the 'Sermon on the Mount' or John 3:16, was Jesus addressing only the hearers gathered on the mount/plain and Nicodemus or are we to take this literally as unto us as followers of Christ?

I'm not seeking contention or to put you down, just wondered how you received those teachings...to 'learn lessons' from them, or to follow.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 17 Jul 2015 07:17:05 GMT
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Hi james,

What a gentle man you are, & so graciously asked. God bless you bro. You have such a precious manner, especially at this time when I needed it. (Not all people on other forums are so mature, kind & gracious.)

So to your question â€“

`I don't want to misunderstand you, so if I may, could I ask how you see the 'Sermon on the Mount' or John 3:16, was Jesus addressing only the hearers gathered on the mount/plain and Nicodemus or are we to take this literally as unto us as followers of Christ?
I'm not seeking contention or to put you down, just wondered how you received those teachings...to 'learn lessons' from them, or to follow.`

Trevor & I have been talking regarding your question, so I`ll share what we think. Then if you have some enlightenment, we would be pleased to hear that also.

JOHN 3:16.

We looked at the whole passage & Trevor noted that Nicodemus was `a teacher of Israel,` as the Lord said. Jesus also pointed out to Nicodemus that â€“

`Are you a teacher in Israel, & do not know these things?` (John 3: 10)

Jesus was amazed that Nicodemus did not know about being born of the Spirit as it is in what God has told them in the Old Testament. (Ez. 36: 26 & 27, Ps. 51: 10 â€“ 13 & others)

So, although Jesus was talking specifically to Nicodemus, Jesus was referring to teaching by God, of being born of the Spirit of God. The people of Israel & especially its teachers should have known this.

Because Jesus is talking about a doctrine, a teaching of being a born of the Spirit, then we learn from that teaching also. Then we have the greater revelation by the Spirit through the Apostle Paul as to how the Spirit of God is building & maturing us into Christ`s Body & not into the nation of Israel.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

Matthew 5 & 6 is about Jesus telling Israel that they couldn`t fulfil the law. They had elevated the law to their own detriment, even trying to put it above Jesus.

When we read Matthew 5 & 6 the lesson is that we also can`t fulfil the law, especially from the heart. However since Christ fulfilled the law we can now continually look to Him to change our hearts. This focuses on Christ & His wonderful work, & not upon us.

When we try & do the activities of Matt. 5 & 6 we will fall under the law. However if we grow in knowing more of Christ, His character & sacrifice for us, then we will overcome & live by the Spirit. This further revelation was given to the Apostle Paul.

When we read Matt. 5 & 6, we should be saying â€“

How blessed are we in Christ, because of His great sacrifice I can now become merciful...
How blessed are we in Christ, because He fulfilled the law, I can now come to Him all the time with my offerings of praise & thanksgiving. I do not have to go through man or man`s organisations to do this.
How blessed are we in Christ, because of His holy Character, I can now be changed in my heart & do not have to `cut off my right hand,` etc.

We do not elevate the law, but exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

`Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.` (Gal. 3: 24)
`Therefore God also has highly exalted Him & given Him the name which is above every name.` (Phil. 2: 9)

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Jul 2015 14:10:10 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Fri, 17 July 2015 02:17
Jesus was amazed that Nicodemus did not know about being born of the Spirit as it is in what God has told them in the Old Testament. (Ez. 36: 26 & 27, Ps. 51: 10 â€“ 13 & others)

So, although Jesus was talking specifically to Nicodemus, Jesus was referring to teaching by God, of being born of the Spirit of God. The people of Israel & especially its teachers should have known this.

Because Jesus is talking about a doctrine, a teaching of being a born of the Spirit, then we learn from that teaching also. Then we have the greater revelation by the Spirit through the Apostle Paul as to how the Spirit of God is building & maturing us into Christ`s Body & not into the nation of Israel.
God .

OK, good, I was concerned that 'maybe' what you were saying was that it was only to the Jewish people Jesus was making this promise to..."...that whosoever believeth on Him..." I know of people who teach two Gospels and they disregard what Jesus said because they consider that it only applied to Israel. They center their teaching almost totally on Paul and his Epistles. There is bits and pieces of truth in their teachings but they've distorted the truth and are taking away from the four Gospels and what Jesus said.

Also concerning the Sermon on the Mount, I agree with you and Trevor as to Jesus explaining that it is by The Spirit we are to live and we can't keep the Law in our flesh and own strength. I do believe Jesus expects us to strive to live a holy and set apart life unto Him, but He knows that it's only by His Spirit working within us(sanctification) that this is remotely possible.(as do we if we are honest with ourselves) While we're 'justified'(made right with God) when we are saved (believed unto salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord), sanctification takes time.

But so many people today who profess Christ as Lord and Saviour don't believe Christians are called to literally turn the other cheek; or, rather than kill enemies, actually love them and pray for them; to forgive others their trespasses; to not swear; to give and expect nothing in return; ect. I think He is showing that it is possible to be 'pure in heart', 'meek', 'a peacemaker', ect. and that God expects us to come to that place in our spiritual walk...but he plainly teaches throughout that it's only by walking in the Spirit that it's possible. That's one reason the message of The Cross is unpopular, no one want to "...take up their cross daily and follow Jesus..."...putting to death the deeds of the flesh...ect.

So thanks for explaining...

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 18 Jul 2015 00:44:59 GMT
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Hi james,

And thank you for that great teaching, explaining in detail the walk of the Spirit. So glad we are `on the same page` with this.

Amen bro. Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 25 Jul 2015 09:26:25 GMT
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Quote:
3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, â€œWhy was this fragrant oil wasted? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.â€• And they criticized her sharply.

6 But Jesus said, â€œLet her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 9 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.â€•

Jesus goes to Bethany at the house of Simon the leper. Interesting title this man is called, Simon the leper but while they were there setting at the table a woman comes with expensive spikenard and anoints Jesus on the head.

Immediately the disciples become worked up and start criticizing the woman for what she is doing.

Why all the concern? They appear to be immediately concerned for the poor, and want to make an issue with this woman bringing in this expensive ointment.

Jesus then gives them a mild rebuke. Let her alone. Why do you trouble her?

Ever been in a situation where someone is being picked on and then someone stands up for the individual? Sometimes those criticizing turn on the one taking up for the individual or if its someone with authority speaking, some can become resentful because they have been called down in the crowd.

Either way the disciples are making all this commotion and Jesus tells them to, Let her alone.

I believe Judas was offended because of what took place. Why? Because he immediately went to the chief priests. Sometimes I think this man was offended because his motive was not concern for the poor, but wanting to seem spiritual he speaks out against this woman's actions. Then having been rebuked he goes out to betray Jesus.

Quote:
10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

There were other disciples who joined in with him but they received what the Lord was saying to them, even though they did not fully understand what was about to take place.

Either way if this was or was not his motive, Jesus said, It would be better if the man who betrayed Him was never born. The chief priests were "glad" at this news and promised, We can give you some money. "Money" the answer to everything. If you have plenty of money in these end times, you can get by with murder, rape, and you name it, and everyone turns their heads and looks the other way.

The message here still lives on, only it plays out in different scenarios. People become offended at what someone says and they try somehow to get back at the individual who made them appear foolish. It happens all the time. The "Love" of money allows people to submit and to make excuses to every kind of evil.

Looking at all the people's lives mentioned in the Gospels, we find were not to much different from them today. The difference we make is our reaction on how we deal with what we face each day.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sat, 25 Jul 2015 12:07:16 GMT
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Quote: title=Gary wrote on Sat, 25 July 2015 04:26

I believe Judas was offended because of what took place. Why? Because he immediately went to the chief priests. Sometimes I think this man was offended because his motive was not concern for the poor, but wanting to seem spiritual he speaks out against this woman's actions. Then having been rebuked he goes out to betray Jesus.

John 12:6

Judas controlled the funds for their daily needs and he was disappointed because he wouldn't get a chance to 'skim off' some of the proceeds from the sale of the valuable perfume....you know, administrative fees. What amazes me is that Jesus knew all long that Judas would do what he did, and that he was a thief; yet He taught him and showed him love...still.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 26 Jul 2015 11:11:41 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 25 July 2015 08:07Quote: title=Gary wrote on Sat, 25 July 2015 04:26

I believe Judas was offended because of what took place. Why? Because he immediately went to the chief priests. Sometimes I think this man was offended because his motive was not concern for the poor, but wanting to seem spiritual he speaks out against this woman's actions. Then having been rebuked he goes out to betray Jesus.

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So very true! As we both know stealing the money was just a part of the problem. Here was a man who saw the miracles, heard the Word, and enjoyed the fellowship with the Son of God. He betrayed Jesus but remember Peter denied even knowing Him. The difference was Peter turned back to the Lord and was very sorrowful for his actions.

I was reading in Mark concerning forgiveness. Jesus shares that without forgiveness it can hinder someone in praying.

Quote:
Mark 11:20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, â€œRabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.â€•

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, â€œHave faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, â€˜Be removed and be cast into the sea,â€™ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

25 â€œAnd whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.â€•

Well here we see a second witness in scripture concerning this mountain and fig tree. Let everything be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

Jesus is the one telling us about this mountain being removed and cast into the sea. He does stress that you should not doubt in your heart but "believes" that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. That sounds pretty all conclusive while the Lord goes on to say, "Therefore I say to you."

I heard a preacher say once that if you see the word "therefore" in scripture you should look and see what its "there for". In other words its for a reason, God is saying it. Jesus is saying, therefore whatever "things" you ask in prayer, believing you shall have them.

I for one choose to believe what Jesus Christ is saying since He is the the Son of God. I may not understand everything but if the Lord says something its good enough for me.

Quote:
Matthew 7:9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a

stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Every good gift comes down from our Father in heaven.

This message is woven throughout the four Gospels. Whenever Jesus dealt with individuals He almost always remarks concerning their faith in the situation.

Even when the Lord returned from the grave the first thing He did when he appears to His disciples is He rebuked them because of their unbelief in that they did not believe those who came to them and said we seen the Lord, He is Risen.

Quote:
14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

While searching the Gospels to see what did Jesus say concerning this subject I have to admit this is not some doctrine fabricated by men. While men have distorted some aspects of this teaching like they have done all the teachings of Jesus, we cannot deny the fact that Jesus did stress this in His Ministry.

What is the significance here? Where talking about a "God", who rules the universe. Someone who can create a man from dirt. We don't want to lose site that God is God. I think some people tend to put God in the past, or God in the future, and miss the point that He is here for us Today. Only men can put limits on God that He Himself has not put there, that is why it is important to know Him and what He says in His Word.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 26 Jul 2015 22:39:53 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I think you have said something very important there -

Quote:`I think some people tend to put God in the past, or God in the future, and miss the point that He is here for us Today. Only men can put limits on God that He Himself has not put there, that is why it is important to know Him and what He says in His Word.`

I fully agree & thus know I need to keep `fresh` in my walk with the Lord, so I can hear Him clearly.

Blessings. Have a good day, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 29 Jul 2015 09:16:18 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sun, 26 July 2015 18:39Hi Gary,

I think you have said something very important there -

Quote:`I think some people tend to put God in the past, or God in the future, and miss the point that He is here for us Today. Only men can put limits on God that He Himself has not put there, that is why it is important to know Him and what He says in His Word.`

I fully agree & thus know I need to keep `fresh` in my walk with the Lord, so I can hear Him clearly.

Blessings. Have a good day, Marilyn.

Thanks Marilyn,

You and Trevor are both a Blessing from the Lord. What I write is for me as well as anyone. I find its a daily process to strive to know the Lord and there are many distractions, if you know what I mean.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 29 Jul 2015 10:03:05 GMT
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Jesus started out His ministry with everyone getting in an uproar on what He had to say. One of His first recorded sermons when He did not speak in parables became very offensive to those setting there.

Starting out we see Jesus reading scripture in the synagogue and it tells us that this was His custom. So we can assume that He regularly read from the books of the OT scrolls:

Quote:
16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

18
â€œThe Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.â€•

20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, â€œToday this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.â€• 22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, â€œIs this not Josephâ€™s son?â€•

After sharing that this scripture was being fulfilled this day, we see those in the synagogue bore witness to Him and it says they "marveled" at the gracious words that proceeded from His mouth and they were thinking "Is this not Joseph's son?" While their trying to figure it all out Jesus goes on to tell them:

Quote:
23 He said to them, â€œYou will surely say this proverb to Me, â€˜Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.â€™â€• 24 Then He

said, â€œAssuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.â€•

28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

What a sight this is. Jesus shares a few details concerning the beginning of His ministry and everyone is filled with "wrath". They were so mad they were going to throw Him from the brow of the hill and possibly bring Him to an early death.

If you read the text of what He is saying it makes you wonder what would drive these men to come to this point.

Wrath:
noun
1.
strong, stern, or fierce anger; deeply resentful indignation; ire.
2.
vengeance or punishment as the consequence of anger.

They resented what the Lord shared with a passion.

Jesus silently passes through the crowd and continues with His ministry.

Quote:31 Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. 32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.

Jesus spoke with power and authority and it brought out a lot of emotions in men and where even the devils took note and would speak out.

Quote:
33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, â€œLet us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of

Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You areâ€”the Holy One of God!â€•

35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, â€œBe quiet, and come out of him!â€• And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. 36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, â€œWhat a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.â€• 37 And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

The demon cries out let us alone! Did you come to destroy us?

Obviously the powers of darkness did not fully understand why Jesus had come to the earth. Why is God showing up in a human body?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 17 Aug 2015 12:18:18 GMT
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Looking further into the woman that Jesus said, she would be given a memorial wherever the gospel is preached I have come to the conclusion that this is the same woman mentioned in Matthew, Mark, and John but there is a chance that the account in Luke may be a different account of another woman. But so many things are similar in the description that it could just be the same woman with some additional information given by Luke.

Let me explain why I think this. In Matthew and Mark the accounts seem almost word for word of what took place. They are in Bethany at the house of Simon the Leper. A woman comes in and anoints the head of Jesus and the disciples become indignant. Jesus says let her alone this will be a memorial to her because she did this for my burial.

Quote:
Matthew 26:6-16New King James Version

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, â€œWhy this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.â€•

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, â€œWhy do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.â€•

Looking up the word Memorial we find:
noun
1.
something designed to preserve the memory of a person, event, etc., as a monument or a holiday.
2.
a written statement of facts presented to a sovereign, a legislative body, etc., as the ground of, or expressed in the form of, a petition or remonstrance.
adjective
3.
preserving the memory of a person or thing; commemorative:
memorial services.
4.
of or relating to the memory.

Something to be remembered for what she had done.

Matthew and Mark were totally similar in content but then we come to John's account. John tells us that its the sister of Lazarus, Mary who anoints the feet of Jesus with the Oil. It does not say whose house they are in but it tells us Martha served the meal, while Lazarus set at the table with Jesus. Many people were drawn to Jesus because of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

John also tells us that Judas Iscariot was Simon's son? I wondered if this was Simon the leper in whose house they met for this meal. John also tells us that Judas spoke out concerning the use of this oil because it could be sold for money and then they could help the poor. Sounds spiritual we should be helping the poor, but then Jesus speaks up because of this and says, Let her alone.

Quote:
12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had

been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simonâ€™s son, who would betray Him, said, 5 â€œWhy was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?â€• 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, â€œLet her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.â€•

denarius
1.
a silver coin and monetary unit of ancient Rome, first issued in the latter part of the 3rd century b.c., that fluctuated in value and sometimes appeared as a bronze coin.
2.
a gold coin of ancient Rome equal to 25 silver denarii; aureus.

Three hundred denarii is a lot of money even by today's standard, but John tells us that Judas was stealing from the money box on a regular basis. The Love of money is the root of all evil. Either way I believe that Judas was offended at what took place and then were told in Matthew and Mark that he immediately went out to talk with the Chief Priests. They were plotting on putting Lazarus to death because many believed in Jesus because of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

Quote:

9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesusâ€™ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

All three accounts in Matthew, Mark, and John tell us what took place and compliment each other in their description.

Then we come to Luke's account. Could an event take place that has some similarities but be totally different?

The reason I say this is; we are told by Luke that Jesus and His disciples came to the city of Nain. Nain is up near Nazareth in the area of Galilee, while Bethany is south near Jerusalem in the area of Judea.

Quote:

11 Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him,

There are similarities to the account but Lazarus, Martha, a memorial to the woman, or the disciples being indignant are not mentioned. Luke tells us that they were invited to the house of "Simon the Pharisee". It then tells us that a woman in the city who was a sinner came with an alabaster flask of oil and is weeping and crying and wiping the feet of Jesus with her hair.

They are setting at the table thinking if this man was a prophet he would know that this woman is a sinner. This is when Jesus addresses Simon concerning those who sinned more then others.

From the time they entered the city of Nain until this event there is no mention that they returned to Bethany.

Quote:
Luke 7:36-50

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Phariseeâ€™s house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Phariseeâ€™s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, â€œThis Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.â€•

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, â€œSimon, I have something to say to you.â€•

So he said, â€œTeacher, say it.â€•

41 â€œThere was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?â€•

43 Simon answered and said, â€œI suppose the one whom he forgave more.â€•

And He said to him, â€œYou have rightly judged.â€• 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, â€œDo you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.â€•

48 Then He said to her, â€œYour sins are forgiven.â€•

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, â€œWho is this who even forgives sins?â€•

50 Then He said to the woman, â€œYour faith has saved you. Go in peace.â€•

It very well could be talking about Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Luke is giving out more information on what took place but leaves out concerning their return to Bethany and all the events that took place there.

Interesting enough is the fact that this memorial was mentioned in all four Gospels and even to this day is being proclaimed wherever the Gospel is being preached.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 18 Aug 2015 12:27:10 GMT

Quote:

Luke 8:1-10

8 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, 2 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmitiesâ€”Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herodâ€™s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

No where in scripture do we find that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. This is another one of those teachings that came out of Catholic Mysticism and has been passed down through the ages.

We do see that Mary had seven demons cast out of her, but its interesting to note that it says in this passage that certain women were "healed" of evil spirits and infirmities.

Never really thought of the concept of being "healed" of an evil spirit. Evidently there was some disease that bound them where they needed a healing.

When Jesus healed many we see a direct connection to some type of demonic activity. In situations of demonic activity there is no cure all drug that will magically make them leave.

Just saying a prayer will not necessarily remove an evil spirit, they must be cast out and told to leave. In some cases Jesus said that some spirits will not come out unless someone would fast and pray before ministering deliverance.

We have to realize that our adversary walks about like a roaring lion and is not scared off by some program derived by men. Here again we find it is through faith that a person will be delivered. Jesus made this quite clear in His approach to ministering to the lost.

Sin and the occult open the door to demonic possession which leads to oppression of the individual.

In Mary Magdalene's case there was seven demonic spirits that were cast out of her.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 21 Aug 2015 12:13:42 GMT
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How many times do we see in scripture a person needing healing and we find that demonic activity is behind the affliction?

Here is a picture of a woman who was bound for 18 years of her life was bent over and could not raise herself up. Such a horrible condition that she had to go through. If this same case was around today we would find there is nothing medical science could do except maybe give her some opiate type of medication to help with pain. In fact no matter what medical science would try would be to no avail, Why?, because their dealing with a "spirit of infirmity".

Evil Spirits can only be removed by faith in God, His word and by acknowledging our authority that was given at the cross through Jesus Christ.

Quote:

10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, â€œWoman, you are loosed from your infirmity.â€• 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, â€œThere are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.â€•

15 The Lord then answered him and said, â€œHypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has boundâ€”think of itâ€”for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?â€• 17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

What a response, the ruler of the synagogue became indignant.

If we see anything in the gospels it is the fact that the Pharisees had high regards for not breaking the Sabbath. It became a major sore spot for them whenever they see Jesus doing the works of God on this day.

What is interesting is, here is a man going around and performing obvious miracles right before their eyes, and they could not see or discern what was taking place.

In almost every case it was over breaking of the Sabbath that became the great stumbling block.

Again we see in scripture:

Quote:

14 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. 2 And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. 3 And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, â€œIs it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?â€•

4 But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. 5 Then He answered them, saying, â€œWhich of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?â€• 6 And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

They had no answer to give Him.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 25 Aug 2015 10:08:20 GMT
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Why would the apostles ask the question: Lord increase our faith?

They knew Jesus was the Son of God, they had seen Him walk on water, calm storms at sea, heal all manner of disease, set people free from demonic powers. The Apostles saw that each time Jesus ministered to someone, He would always make mention of their faith in the matter.

At this point when they ask the question, Jesus did not say you need more love rather then faith. But He goes on to say:

Quote:

5 And the apostles said to the Lord, â€œIncrease our faith.â€•

Again we see the Lord mentioning a different tree in scripture and saying, that just with a small amount of faith you can pluck up this mulberry tree, by the roots and cast it in the sea. Interesting that we would have two different trees and two different accounts basically, saying the same thing in the Gospels.

Quote:

6 So the Lord said, â€œIf you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, â€˜Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,â€™ and it would obey you. 7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, â€˜Come at once and sit down to eatâ€™? But will he not rather say to him, â€˜Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drinkâ€™? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, â€˜We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.â€™â€•

Here we have another tree in an entirely different location and Jesus is telling them with just a little faith what would take place. I think the Lord is making a point to His apostles that is meant for all who read His word.

"All things are possible" is just as true today as it was back then. We cannot lose sight of what God tells us in His Word. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

While reading over the Gospels wanting to know, what did Jesus tell us, it becomes very clear what He is saying in His Word.

The Son of God came that we can be set free.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 05 Sep 2015 09:58:16 GMT
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We can see in what everyone calls the Lords prayer only one change from the book of Matthew compared with the book of Luke:

Quote:
Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
10
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.
11
Give us this day our daily bread.
12
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
13
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew says forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, while Luke proclaims forgive us our sins as we forgive those indebted to us.

Quote:

Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, â€œLord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.â€•

2 So He said to them, â€œWhen you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
3
Give us day by day our daily bread.
4
And forgive us our sins,
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.â€•

Either way this is a good prayer to remember and to pray as often as the Spirit reminds us. God still forgives our sins as we forgive those who are indebted to us. Jesus said, "Offenses will come", and we know there is nothing we can do to stop them, they just happen sometimes when your dealing with your fellow man.

I like what Luke tells us after he gives this prayer:

Quote:

Luke 11:5 And He said to them, â€œWhich of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, â€˜Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before himâ€™; 7 and he will answer from within and say, â€˜Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to youâ€™? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Because of our persistence in this prayer God will take care of us.

Quote:

9 â€œSo I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!â€•

There's a lot of doctrines going around saying we should not ask God for anything. But to the contrary, the Lord is our helper and is there for us in time of need. The Bible clearly says those who "ask" "receives".

With this thought in mind we have to realize that a persons heart is towards the Lord and not using God for mere material things, because Jesus tells us, that those who seek First the Kingdom will know that our Heavenly Father provides what we need without us even asking. When we do ask we can know that the Lord is there for us.

God is for us and not against us. If God before us then who can be against us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sat, 05 Sep 2015 12:22:13 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sat, 05 September 2015 04:58
God is for us and not against us. If God before us then who can be against us.

Gary

Good stuff, Gary...you're right, there are a bunch of doctrines <of men> out there.

Reminds me of the song by Chris Tomlin: Our God, beautiful song, can be found on You Tube.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 06 Sep 2015 09:36:29 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 05 September 2015 08:22Gary wrote on Sat, 05 September 2015 04:58
God is for us and not against us. If God before us then who can be against us.

Gary

Good stuff, Gary...you're right, there are a bunch of doctrines <of men> out there.

Reminds me of the song by Chris Tomlin: Our God, beautiful song, can be found on You Tube.

The main thing I see is that the doctrines given by Jesus are clear if we look. If He did not want us to "ask in prayer", as some are saying, then He would of told us so.

Quote:
19 â€œAgain I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.â€•

Whenever we face something in this world and there seems to be no hope or answer and then we go to God and it comes to pass, our relationship is strengthened with the Lord. It always brings a measure of joy to see the Lord help us in our different situations.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 10 Sep 2015 09:07:43 GMT
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Woman in Adultery?

Quote:

8 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, â€œTeacher, this woman

was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?â€• 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, â€œHe who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.â€• 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, â€œWoman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?â€•

11 She said, â€œNo one, Lord.â€•

And Jesus said to her, â€œNeither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.â€•

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, â€œI am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.â€•

I might have pointed this out before, but its interesting they bring this woman to Jesus and said, she was caught in the very act of adultery.

Nothing seems out of place does it?

The question that arises in my mind is, Where is the man? You know, the man who was caught in the adultery with this woman. You would of thought they would of brought both guilty parties to the Lord, but for some reason it is only the woman who they felt they should bring to Jesus.

It may well be some part of their cultural upbringing that would think the woman has done evil and should be dealt with, but according to the scriptures this man was in the same "sin", and was not guiltless before God.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Thu, 10 Sep 2015 13:01:42 GMT
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There's several thoughts that come to mind as to 'where was the man', one was that it was 'men' that was behind this and their purpose wasn't to seek justice or righteousness concerning the act of adultery going on in their midst, it was to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him. Plus, remember this, society has always had a double standard in regard to moral issues, as we see today. More often than not women are blamed, although everyone knows it takes two to 'tango'. Then again, based on what's going on in our society today, I guess one could ask, 'where was the other woman'. Not trying to be cute, now days it could be a same sex situation.
Another thing, somewhere I once read that when Jesus was writing one the ground He was writing this question, "where is the man?" Could be, we aren't told, but I'm sure He wasn't playing tic-tat-toe in the sand.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Thu, 10 Sep 2015 23:32:02 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 10 September 2015 08:01There's several thoughts that come to mind as to 'where was the man', one was that it was 'men' that was behind this and their purpose wasn't to seek justice or righteousness concerning the act of adultery going on in their midst, it was to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him. Plus, remember this, society has always had a double standard in regard to moral issues, as we see today. More often than not women are blamed, although everyone knows it takes two to 'tango'. Then again, based on what's going on in our society today, I guess one could ask, 'where was the other woman'. Not trying to be cute, now days it could be a same sex situation.
Another thing, somewhere I once read that when Jesus was writing one the ground He was writing this question, "where is the man?" Could be, we aren't told, but I'm sure He wasn't playing tic-tat-toe in the sand.

<grin>

Or... "where are the others?" <grin>

"...Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev 22:20

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 19 Sep 2015 12:36:06 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sat, 05 September 2015 05:58We can see in what everyone calls the Lords prayer only one change from the book of Matthew compared with the book of Luke:

Quote:
Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
10
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
11
Give us this day our daily bread.
12
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
13
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew says forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, while Luke proclaims forgive us our sins as we forgive those indebted to us.

Quote:

Luke 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one

of His disciples said to Him, â€œLord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.â€•

2 So He said to them, â€œWhen you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
3
Give us day by day our daily bread.
4
And forgive us our sins,
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.â€•

Either way this is a good prayer to remember and to pray as often as the Spirit reminds us. God still forgives our sins as we forgive those who are indebted to us. Jesus said, "Offenses will come", and we know there is nothing we can do to stop them, they just happen sometimes when your dealing with your fellow man.

I like what Luke tells us after he gives this prayer:

Quote:

Luke 11:5 And He said to them, â€œWhich of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, â€˜Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before himâ€™; 7 and he will answer from within and say, â€˜Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to youâ€™? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Because of our persistence in this prayer God will take care of us.

Quote:

9 â€œSo I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!â€•

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With this thought in mind we have to realize that a persons heart is towards the Lord and not using God for mere material things, because Jesus tells us, that those who seek First the Kingdom will know that our Heavenly Father provides what we need without us even asking. When we do ask we can know that the Lord is there for us.

God is for us and not against us. If God before us then who can be against us.

Gary

I just wanted to make a few more comments concerning this prayer. I find its easy to read over scriptures and miss part of what is being said.

Anyway, I pointed out there was only one change from the book of Matthew compared with the book of Luke. Where Matthew says forgive us our debts, the verse in Luke says forgive us our sins. This prayer can be interchanged either way. If you haven't already committed these verses to memory it is an excellent prayer to remember and start your day out with.

While thinking about this, I realize that Luke leaves off the last verse as well. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory Forever.

I think its good to pray to have God to deliver us from the evil one, and that we be not lead into temptation. But that we also remember to acknowledge that God is in control of His Kingdom and is worthy of Our Praise to Him.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 20 Sep 2015 21:53:25 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I also love the Lord`s prayer that He gave to the disciples, however I note that it was for the people of Israel to pray concerning God`s rule to come on earth for them as a nation. We, have further revelation by the Apostle Paul, where we know that Christ`s rule is in our hearts & that our inheritance is with Him in the third heaven.

Now talking of prayers, do you know any that Paul gave to the Body of Christ?

Good topic, & blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 21 Sep 2015 10:20:32 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sun, 20 September 2015 17:53Hi Gary,

I also love the Lord`s prayer that He gave to the disciples, however I note that it was for the people of Israel to pray concerning God`s rule to come on earth for them as a nation. We, have further revelation by the Apostle Paul, where we know that Christ`s rule is in our hearts & that our inheritance is with Him in the third heaven.

Now talking of prayers, do you know any that Paul gave to the Body of Christ?

Good topic, & blessings, Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

Before I get into anything I want to make sure I am understanding what your saying here. Are you saying this is just for those disciples back then that He is talking to concerning Israel as a nation? Or, Is He talking to all disciples who follow His teaching down through time including us today?

Not quite understanding what your saying here.

Secondly, I don't know what you are saying in this statement:

Quote:

We, have further revelation by the Apostle Paul, where we know that Christ`s rule is in our hearts & that our inheritance is with Him in the third heaven.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 22 Sep 2015 00:36:18 GMT
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Hi Gary,

Hope I can be a bit clearer. I believe that what the Lord said to Israel, are many truths for us, however some things He said were specifically for them. eg. `the meek shall inherit the earth,` whereas the Body of Christ is told that our inheritance is in the third heaven with Christ on His own throne. (Rev. 3: 21)

Now regarding the Lord`s prayer, we know the it is a wondrous truth to be able to say, `Our Father who art in heaven,` & `hallowed be thy name.` What great truths to dwell on, learn of & really practice in our daily living `reverence of the Father. And really unless Christ came as heaven`s

messenger to tell us & teach us of the Father we really would not know what it is like in the heavenly realms.

Then we read, `Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.` Israel knew that God`s kingdom rule would come on the earth through them. However as Jesus told them they needed to do the commandments from their hearts & not just lip service like the Pharisees. They were to pray to the Father for His rule to come.

Remember the disciples thought that they would overthrown the Romans & bring in the kingdom rule. And again they asked the Lord just before He ascended, `Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom (rule) to Israel?` (Acts 1: 6)

So we can see that although we can pray those words, they really are specific to Israel to ask the Father for His rule to come through Israel then over the earth.

For the Body of Christ there are specific prayers that the Apostle Paul (by Christ`s Holy Spirit) has written for the Body of Christ. Can you find them?

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 22 Sep 2015 10:03:47 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Mon, 21 September 2015 20:36Hi Gary,

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So we can see that although we can pray those words, they really are specific to Israel to ask the Father for His rule to come through Israel then over the earth.

For the Body of Christ there are specific prayers that the Apostle Paul (by Christ`s Holy Spirit) has written for the Body of Christ. Can you find them?

Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

Obviously you cannot point out every single detail concerning every single thing in a verse.

My point is that Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples, (us) as an example to pray. This prayer is found in the beatitudes and is spoken to all who follow the Lord.

Right now I'm spending my time mainly in the Gospels and may look into Paul's prayers at a later date.

The problem I see in the body is that men try to add things to what Jesus said while He was on the earth. When Jesus makes a point concerning anything men will add to it to make it say what they want it to say.

I believe every word written in the Gospels are for us today as believers. Sure they can apply to others in their situation but Jesus is speaking to His sheep who hear His voice. While many claim to hear Him by their actions they do not really hear and believe what He said.

The man who builds his house on the rock (Jesus) and obeys His words is the man whose house will stand when the storms of life come.

Now men over the centuries had added to the words of Jesus, in fact they have added so many things that now we see they obey the things they have added and explain away what Jesus said, while following their own traditions and sayings. This is basically what the Talmud ended up doing, taking the collection of Jewish law and tradition consisting of the Mishnah and the Gemara and this became the guiding light for all Jews.

I recently heard a Rabbi who spent the better part of an hour explaining away their Bible. From the creation on he tried to explain in scientific terms what really happened.

Are we any different today? I read about a local church in our area who professes to be Christian, in the picture above the article there was maybe eight to ten local buddhist monks teaching them the way of peace. The article went on to say that this church had an open mind and of course it was implied they accepted everything that came down the pike.

Jesus tells us that strait is the gate and few there be who find it, not everyone who says to me Lord Lord will enter the kingdom. We know from scripture that the deception is going to be so bad at the end of time that if it were possible even the very elect of God would be deceived.

So this is why its so important to cling to every word that Jesus spoke in the Gospels, for us, for today. Adding nothing nor taking away what He has told us.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Sep 2015 13:20:07 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Mon, 21 September 2015 19:36For the Body of Christ there are specific

prayers that the Apostle Paul (by Christ`s Holy Spirit) has written for the Body of Christ. Can you find them?

Marilyn, I say this with a 'meek' and humble attitude, not wanting to be perceived as arrogant or prideful, but anyone who has followed Jesus for any length of time can quote several prayers Paul prayed for those he was addressing. I have quoted several of them as words of encouragement on the Bulletin Board over the years. I'd imagine one you'd use to go along with what you're presenting would be Ephesians 1:15-19 where he told them his prayer to God for them was that the eyes of their understanding be open <revelation> to understand the fullness of God's love, His calling, and inheritance.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 23 Sep 2015 07:14:10 GMT
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Hi Gary & James,

I apologize. Have just realised that I was digressing from your thread of the gospels. So please forgive me, & I look forward to your discussion of Christ`s writings through the Apostle Paul. That is if you do it some time.

Blessings, bros. Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 09:43:45 GMT
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After the forty day fast Jesus goes right into a ministry that spreads like a wildfire.

Quote:

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Great multitudes followed Himâ€”from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

This ministry spread clear up into Syria and then far into the southern part of the country.

Its amazing, with no radio, tv, or internet outreach, we see His ministry having a large influence over the multitudes. He didn't need a rock band to lead worship, nor a bulletin announcing the days activities.

Word spreads very rapidly by word of mouth. The ministry of healing and deliverance drew the crowds.

Sinful man has always been plagued with disease, torments, and as the Bible shows demon possession. Its interesting that those who were epileptics and paralytics are mentioned separately and are not mixed in with the statement concerning various diseases and torments.

So what happened that made the difference, it was the statement, "He healed them". When the power of God is manifested through healing, it has a huge impact on large numbers of people.

You know whats very interesting is that most true born again believers agree with what took place in Jesus ministry, there are some differences but for the most part those who have creeds concerning the works of Jesus, all seem to agree on what took place.

Even though I realize that Paul's letters were inspired by the Spirit and we find him dealing with issues in the church. Today many of those same issues have caused divisions in many churches. I think it has to do with incorrect doctrinal practices where everyone tries to interpret what everyone needs to do.

Its interesting how all of this has played out through history and now at the end of time we are dealing with many of the same issues, while the power of God is lacking in our midst. That's not to say we don't have some manifestations of the power of God. Part of the hindrance from its manifestation comes from misinterpreting Paul's letters to the churches which has caused strife and division between many believers.

Anyway just wanted to make a note again that while Paul's letters are inspired of God it has become a situation where men have read into the text and added what they think it says. Whether it is an official church doctrine or an unspoken rule held by any congregation of people.

While in the Gospels, we see Jesus laboring to bring the good news and was helping mankind through the message and the power of God.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Thu, 24 Sep 2015 11:49:11 GMT
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Gary wrote on Thu, 24 September 2015 04:43Anyway just wanted to make a note again that while Paul's letters are inspired of God it has become a situation where men have read into the text and added what they think it says. Whether it is an official church doctrine or an unspoken rule held by any congregation of people.

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Gary

Not to disagree, but also take into consideration that what Jesus said is left up to personal opinions by most. Look at the teachings by Jesus in Matthew 5-7, it seems no two 'groups'/denominations agree with what they think He meant; was it literally or figuratively? Was it for the Jews and not the Gentiles, or for both? Was it for that 'dispensation', or for all believers until His return? Was it to be only applied to 'their'(Jewish) kingdom, or was it unto the church (Body of Christ)?

I do see more and more well meaning people(followers of Christ) who have placed Paul above Jesus as to the writings of the NT... at least it looks that way in how they come across. Yes we know the revelation of the mystery of the Body of Christ was revealed to Paul and through him given unto The Body....but sometimes I wonder if kinda like the catholics putting Mary on a pedestal if some haven't elevated Paul above Jesus in so far as adherence to their teachings,(as if we'd forgotten that It's ALL God's inspired words.)

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 25 Sep 2015 08:41:23 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 24 September 2015 07:49Gary wrote on Thu, 24 September 2015 04:43Anyway just wanted to make a note again that while Paul's letters are inspired of God it has become a situation where men have read into the text and added what they think it says. Whether it is an official church doctrine or an unspoken rule held by any congregation of people.

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I think Paul was dealing with all the problems, sorting out OT doctrines that applied to the New Testament Church, along with everything they ran into as the church world was starting to form.

I see what you mean though its like sorting through a stack of information to find our "what does God want for our lives".

One good thing we can all rest in is the fact that the sheep will hear His voice and another they will not follow. What is it they will hear; he says here: the acknowledgement of the truth which accords with godliness.

Quote:
Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of Godâ€™s

elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

one meaning of the word "accord " is;

verb (used without object)
1.
to be in agreement or harmony; agree.

I guess if we take a good look, its the whole Bible that most can't agree on. In fact everyone does not even agree on which version to use. LOL

But on the other hand the Bible says this would happen. In the final analysis election comes to mind and it is who God choses.

Quote:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Forsaking the world and its lusts is something I would hope all could agree on.

Quote:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Making our election and calling sure. That's something we can only do as individuals.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 25 Sep 2015 09:10:00 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I really appreciated your comments, bro, they were so uplifting.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 26 Sep 2015 12:01:00 GMT
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Quote:

Not to disagree, but also take into consideration that what Jesus said is left up to personal opinions by most. Look at the teachings by Jesus in Matthew 5-7, it seems no two 'groups'/denominations agree with what they think He meant; was it literally or figuratively? Was it

for the Jews and not the Gentiles, or for both? Was it for that 'dispensation', or for all believers until His return? Was it to be only applied to 'their'(Jewish) kingdom, or was it unto the church (Body of Christ)?

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James,

You made some very good comments here and I was thinking about this whole idea of peoples personal opinions of what Jesus said.

The thing we must realize is that when Jesus came to this earth, He came with only "one message". That is: that He was the Son of God, who came to be sacrificed for the sins of mankind. Through His ministry He showed by many signs that God was with Him and that what He was saying was true.

Jesus died on a cross and if we believe His Words and follow Him that we have eternal life. At this point in time, when we repent and see Him as the Savior we are washed in the Blood of Christ and are born again into the Kingdom of God.

That is the message for the Jew and for all mankind. Even though He expounds on different subjects, His message is for those who hear His words and keep them, that they will spend eternity with God.

Martha was all worried about the meal and serving everyone but Mary chose to sit and hear His Words.

What we see take place in the New Testament is that immediately after Jesus ascended, people were constantly trying to add to or change the message. God then raises up Paul to deal with a lot of problems that were coming on the scene as soon as the new church world was being formed. Paul was laying ground work and setting things in order by the Spirit of God.

In our modern times men have been taking what Paul said; and creating more problems which was never Paul's intent. I think sometimes, its a great distraction brought by the flesh, because, do men really want to know what Jesus said. Many say they do, but do they really want to hear and apply it.

Our carnal flesh is very deceiving and can be used by the devil to influence our thinking. This is the warfare we find ourselves in daily.

Its a constant battle we go through, but we can always rely on the Mercy of God and His Grace to carry us through to the end.

This is why its important to keep Gods Words always before our eyes its the lamp for our feet and the light on the path of life. We have a new and better covenant and God wants us to keep it, and see it for what it says.

Quote:

II Kings 23:3 Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 30 Sep 2015 01:53:49 GMT
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Hi Gary,

Now you said -

Quote:The thing we must realize is that when Jesus came to this earth, He came with only "one

message". That is: that He was the Son of God, who came to be sacrificed for the sins of mankind. Through His ministry He showed by many signs that God was with Him and that what He was saying was true.

Yes, I believe Jesus had this message but He also had more to say to Israel. I do not want to derail your topic, so I have posted my thoughts on another thread - The difference between Israel & the Body of Christ.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 13 Oct 2015 09:53:44 GMT
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24 â€œTherefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

Jesus tells us quite clearly in His Word: That "Whoever" hears these saying of mine.

Whoever is for all for all times and this shows that the Beatitudes is not just for some isolated group on this earth. Its important in these end times that we stay with the clear teachings of our Lord and Savior. Jesus goes on to say; "whoever" hears them, and "does them", is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Many can hear what Jesus is saying but they cannot hear, and many see what Jesus is saying but they cannot see.

"Whoever" is all conclusive, and is for all Christians for all times. There is no hidden message in the Bible and the scriptures are of no private interpretation. Men limit the Living God by refusing to look at what He is clearly saying in His Word.

Jesus came to set men free and one day we will all spend eternity in heaven as one, whether it be Jews or Gentiles, He has made a way for all mankind to enter in and to dwell for all of eternity.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 16 Oct 2015 10:04:06 GMT
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Quote:
21 â€œNot everyone who says to Me, â€˜Lord, Lord,â€™ shall enter the kingdom of heaven,

Jesus tells us that not everyone who uses His name will enter the Kingdom of heaven. Who is He speaking of?

Quote:
but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, â€˜Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?â€™

It says here; people that prophesied in His name, cast out demons, and done many wonders. So what is it that separates these out from others?

Quote:
 23 And then I will declare to them, â€˜I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!â€™

Those without law who practice lawlessness in other words.

lawless

adjective
1.
contrary to or without regard for the law:
lawless violence.
2.
being without law; uncontrolled by a law; unbridled; unruly; unrestrained:

lawless passion.
3.
illegal:

Those without regard for the law or being without law. I know many will start thinking grace, were under grace and not under the law. But many don't quote; Grace is not a license to sin. Yes, Grace is a blessing from God, His unmerited favor towards us who believe, but it does not become a license to practice lawlessness.

Jesus went on to say: 24 â€œTherefore whoever "hears" these sayings of Mine, and does them,

Its important to not only hear the sayings of Jesus but to actually do them. Its one thing to quote the Bible its another thing to do it.

While many today want loopholes in the scriptures to make excuses for sin, and following the way of the world, Jesus tells us that the wise man is the one who hears His sayings and does them. Their not looking for loopholes so they can practice lawlessness.

Paul tells us in Corinthians:

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

â€œI will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.â€•

17 Therefore

â€œCome out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.â€•
18
â€œI will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.â€•

There is a separation that takes place and God says to come out from among them. The wise

man will hear the sayings and practice what Jesus tells us in His word. Many today will tell us that Jesus hung out with the sinners. How are we going to reach them if we don't hang out with them?

The difference is; Jesus was not there for fellowship and entertainment, but He was there ministering concerning the things of the Kingdom.

There are many churches now saying: "were an inclusive church", then they try telling everyone how Jesus loved the sinners. Another Jesus is being proclaimed in this country, that we don't find in the Bible. Many voices are saying many things but a lot of information is not found in God's Word.

The Gospels were written for believers who can hear His Words and are willing to lay down all to do them. A wise man will hear and understand in this hour.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Fri, 16 Oct 2015 22:14:56 GMT
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Gary wrote on Tue, 13 October 2015 04:5324 â€œTherefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

Jesus tells us quite clearly in His Word: That "Whoever" hears these saying of mine.

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Gary

Gary, in response to your last two posts here, I read this the other day on another forum and wrote it down, it really says it all...some might recognize it.

"Doctrinal agreement is best lived out, not recited.

People can say anything. What they believe in is demonstrated in their lives. Doctrine explains what someone believes to be true while faith demonstrates it.

Everyone believes in something, has faith in something, and that something is expressed in how they(we) live their lives.

Our faith comes by being both hearers and doers of The Word."

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 18 Oct 2015 12:06:10 GMT
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james wrote on Fri, 16 October 2015 18:14Gary wrote on Tue, 13 October 2015 04:5324 â€œTherefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

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Our faith comes by being both hearers and doers of The Word."

Hi James,

I don't know if I can say I agree with this writers statement in light of scripture and I will admit I don't know the full context this was shared in another forum.

The Bible says:

11 These things command and teach.
13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.

Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

So this individual is tell us that doctrine is not to be recited, I find that Paul tells us to command and teach and give attention to doctrine. The importance to giving heed to doctrine or "teachings" will both save us and "those who hear us", at least this is what the Apostle Paul is telling us.

Paul also states that were to:
15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

What I am trying to say is talking or discussing doctrine is part of the picture unless someone is trying to find a loop hole in scripture to justify disobedience.

In fact Paul says were to exhort one another with doctrine:

Teach and exhort these things.

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

To read this last statement it sounds like someone does not have "true love" (according to some in the church of these modern times) if they were to withdraw themselves from someone because of their unwholesome words.

What I shared was; that Jesus was going to say to a group of people depart from me you who work lawlessness. Today's church is full of lawlessness with every manner of sin and worldliness running rampant. Fornication, people living together out of wedlock, adultery, people getting divorced and remarried a half dozen times or more, and now homosexuals being allowed to take a seat in God's house and everyone accepts it as normal.

Now their promoting once saved always saved, saying you only lose a few rewards if you have a little sin in your life. Just a few rewards!, I would hope one of them isn't "salvation".

No I have to disagree with this guys statement as I don't know what he means by living it and not reciting it. It could be taken as; I don't want to hear it, you do it your way and I'll do it mine.

Don't forget I said, I don't know what context it was stated in another setting. But taking it at face

value can mean many different things.

Jesus said again: depart from me you who practice lawlessness. Very serious consequences for the one who is found in this group.

We who are walking in the Spirit are not under the law as we seek the things of the Spirit.

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who are lawless don't want to hear doctrine because it gets in their little neutral gray area and may make waves. In fact I believe the world is trying to influence Christians not to use the "S" word because its a form of judging and who are others to be judging us, we can live the way we want and its nobodies business, is the attitude of today. We don't need the Christians judging us.

The fact is we are not judging anyone, we're just quoting what God is saying in His Word and what it will take to get to heaven. They perceive it as judging or their conscience is pricked and they don't want to hear it.

4 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word!Quote: But don't recite any doctrine Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, Quote: that's why they don't want us reciting it. but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

When I speak of doctrines I'm talking about clear teachings in the Bible that say what they mean. If we all take a good look at the parable of the sower we will find at the very beginning of Jesus ministry He tells us that many will hear it but because of their different circumstances they will not hear it.

There was a well known evangelist who had a big TV ministry, he once made a statement

concerning doctrine; we can probably through out the whole Bible and just keep John 3:16 its all we need anyway.

If that's the case, Why did God go to great lengths to preserve His Word over the centuries if He did not want to let us know what was going on?

If we go through the Epistles we find Paul spent a lot of time talking about the importance of doctrine. He told us men would turn from it in the last days because they don't love the truth and don't want to hear it.

Not reciting it as this man stated does not seem like it goes hand in hand with what Paul tells us in the Bible. If we're walking in the Spirit any talk, debate, or discussion concerning doctrine should not be a cause for alarm its only those who are sensitive to what they are doing that become offended. Why would it be offensive to a man of God who wants to do only what pleases the Lord? Paul says we will save ourselves and those who hear us!!

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sun, 18 Oct 2015 12:41:30 GMT
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Sorry Gary, I guess I shouldn't have posted that since I wasn't willing to share the context of the conversation. The writer of that which I quoted wasn't speaking at all about doctrine of scripture as revealed by The Holy Spirit but rather 'pet doctrines' of various groups of believers(also known as denominations) that try to constantly push their 'doctrines' onto others, insisting that they alone 'have the truth'...Sound familiar?

He was gently rebuking someone and encouraging at the same time to not just 'talk' but 'do', by the example of our lives. Strong faith comes by not just reading The Bible but by living out what we're taught....that's the whole context of the admonition to be doers of The Word and not hearers only. It's a deception to believe that just by reading and hearing we're obeying The Lord; He tells us to apply it, live it, share it....and how we do that will be the example others will

see...Christ like actions and life or empty words without godly actions.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 18 Oct 2015 15:13:33 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 18 October 2015 08:41Sorry Gary, I guess I shouldn't have posted that since I wasn't willing to share the context of the conversation. The writer of that which I quoted wasn't speaking at all about doctrine of scripture as revealed by The Holy Spirit but rather 'pet doctrines' of various groups of believers(also known as denominations) that try to constantly push their 'doctrines' onto others, insisting that they alone 'have the truth'...Sound familiar?

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Hi James,

Your okay, don't feel like you have to apologize for things you post. Were only chatting here because we all love the Lord.

As for being doers of the word and not hearers, There's an old song by Keith Green, that goes, "you love My Word, but your avoiding Me". Just throwing out thoughts here thinking about what you wrote, I'm not trying to insinuate anything. I see what you were trying to say though. I think for the most part people (humanity) have good intentions. Once someone is saved there is so much zeal that a person wants to do anything to please the Lord. You know throw away the tennis shoes, logo shirts, and guns, etc.

If they would of told us, we all need to jump off a cliff we would of ran out and jumped. LOL Why? because we were so excited to find hope of a future and that God was there for us and we wanted to please Him for what He did.

All things work together for our good, including our past failures. If God be for us who can be against us.

I was thinking though, that the devil and the world are trying to silence Christians, and then those in the system (the liberal part of the system), are trying to silence Christians because were the only thing standing in their way. Its the Spirit in us that is preventing total chaos in this world.

When He, the Spirit of God is removed it will be a terrible time here.

The world is trying to make it look like they love all people and are here to protect their rights no matter what sin they choose to live in. Just because a Christian says that certain sins are against the Bible, the world is making it look like were uncaring or unloving towards others.

The point is God is the one who made the rules not us. In the garden it was just a simple do not eat of that one tree over there.

The fact is that as believers we are not under any law, were free in Christ. For example, smoking Cuban cigars, drinking in moderation, is not a sin, but it some situations it may not be expedient. My Mother would go ballistic on that concept but it was how she was taught. I thought that way one time also, but now I'm trying to see what the Bible does say and are we perceiving it correctly. They (my mom and aunts), tried to say one time that Jesus did not change the water into wine but it was grape juice. I "thought" everybody at the wedding must of been pretty wiped out, not to know the difference. Not trying to start a wine tasting club here but making a point about pet peeve doctrines.

If we're walking in the Spirit we will be striving for the things of the Spirit not of the things of the flesh.

I guess its easy to fall into the trap as we all know, of making pet doctrines that we feel if we obey these rules we can float along, and think were pleasing God. Maybe its the flesh wanting some easy route.

I don't have all the answers but I have been trying to see what Jesus said, and make sense of it all.

Guess what, I noticed Jesus when He ministered to large crowds would always set down to minister, while they were left standing. I don't know if that doctrine (teaching) would be received too well these days but hey, its something to think about. Let's get all the deacons together and let them know the new plans,

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 31 Oct 2015 10:25:12 GMT
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Quote:
21 Then Peter came to Him and said, â€œLord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?â€•

22 Jesus said to him, â€œI do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, â€˜Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.â€™ 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 â€œBut that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, â€˜Pay me what you owe!â€™ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet[d] and begged him, saying, â€˜Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.â€™ 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, â€˜You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?â€™ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 â€œSo My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.â€•

Jesus is clearly teaching here that if we don't forgive our brothers that our sins will not be forgiven either. "So will my heavenly Father do to you".

Read the parable in the context this is shared and its quite clear if we cannot forgive others for what they have done to us, we cannot be forgiven. It's easy to talk religion but putting Christianity into our daily lives is another ballgame.

Can we forgive others? Probably the hardest thing to deal with in life is people with their natural abrasive attitudes.

In spite of what many think, what Jesus the Son of God says; is the reality for the Christian who desires to do His Will.

The servant in this parable was forgiven his sin and excused from his debt but he could not forgive a man who owed him a lessor amount and he showed no mercy on this man. I'm sure the first servant felt justified in what he said and did to his fellow man. But the King who forgave his debt felt otherwise and so did all the other servants who saw him treat his brother with condemnation.

If we want Mercy and Grace in our lives then we are called to show it to others. For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 03 Nov 2015 09:26:10 GMT
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Its interesting that Jesus prays basically the same prayer three times. To know that they are getting ready to crucify you and that you had the power to stop it but knew it had to be done, caused great distress for the Lord.

Quote:

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, â€œSit here while I go and pray over there.â€• 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, â€œMy soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.â€•

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, â€œO My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.â€•

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, â€œWhat! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.â€•

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, â€œO My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.â€• 43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, â€œAre you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.â€•

I don't think the disciples had a clue what was taking place even after Jesus told them repeatedly what was going to happen.

Not my will but your will O Lord. Jesus asked, if it is possible let this cup pass from me, but your will be done and not mine. Again He adds in the second prayer, if this cup cannot pass from me, unless I drink it your will be done.

Very trying time I don't think any man would allow himself to go through this situation, if a man had the choice, he would of probably took the easy route. Do we choose the things of the Spirit or the things of the flesh? This life with its riches and its pleasures is alluring and deceitful. The Son of God chose and was willing to lay down His life for all mankind.

This is why in heaven we see:

Quote: Revelation 5:1-5

5 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, â€œWho is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?â€• 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

No one in heaven or earth or under the earth was worthy to open the scroll or even to look at it.

Quote:
4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, â€œDo not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.â€•

Jesus the Lamb of God prevailed and was worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.

Jesus prevailed in the Garden of Gethsemane, by praying not my will but Your will be done, giving Himself so others could enter in by the shedding of His precious blood.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 03 Nov 2015 15:11:11 GMT
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What wonderful news, good news, great news that Jesus gave up of Himself through more pain and suffering than we could ever know in order that we could be reconciled unto God. We have received this message(The Gospel) through God's Word. David spoke of hoping in His Word in Psalms 130:5. We're reminded by Paul in Romans 8:24-25 about our hope in Christ. We have been blessed more than we really know in being able to hear, read, and have the Gospel in our midst, many people don't.

The man over the largest missionary force in the world (International Mission Board, David Platt) Sunday shared what the mission and vision is for getting the Gospel unto those groups of people who have never even heard of Jesus Christ. He pointed out how many, many people are born, live, and die without ever hearing of God's love and plan of reconciliation through Christ. In sharing the call to go and make disciples of all nations, he also pointed out that if the 'good news' doesn't get there in time(before one passes from this life without ever hearing the gospel), then it's not good news for them.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 04 Nov 2015 10:42:36 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 03 November 2015 10:11What wonderful news, good news, great news that Jesus gave up of Himself through more pain and suffering than we could ever know in order that we could be reconciled unto God. We have received this message(The Gospel) through God's Word. David spoke of hoping in His Word in Psalms 130:5. We're reminded by Paul in Romans 8:24-25 about our hope in Christ. We have been blessed more than we really know in being able to hear, read, and have the Gospel in our midst, many people don't.

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I just heard the report that now in America there are more people who do not believe there is a God then in the last poll done over 10 years ago.

They went on to say that only 63% attend church regularly but believe you can reach God through other mediums, such as yoga, zen buddhism, and meditation. The truth is the church has denied the power of God and the Baptism of the Spirit and has resorted to other methods to reach the lost.

Most in this country are not drawn to the church's new form of entertainment so they follow the popular practices that the media promotes such as yoga, tai chi, etc.

Paul states:

Quote:
3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vainâ€”if indeed it was in vain?

5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?â€”

He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The truth is there are no miracles nor the power of God to draw people to Christ. The good news that most are preaching is that they have medical supplies, with their Christmas and Easter blessings, and they need money to keep themselves afloat. A distorted Gospel is being preached that does not reflect the Word of God.

Whenever you sign up for these peoples news letters you quickly find that you receive endless letters telling of their need for money to carry on the work. My mail box is flooded with letters telling of all kinds of gimmicks which they need money for.

Think about how many people set and listen to sermons each week, hear a few specials, throw some money in the basket as it passes by and then runs to a restaurant after the service to talk about sports.

How many are actively trying to reach the lost? or are they letting someone else do it and think its a nice sermon he gave?

This goes on more then what we would like to believe and that's why many in this country are turning from the church world and going after strange gods, through their yoga, and zen buddhism. I know quite a few individuals involved in yoga who profess to know Christ.

When you see them with their legs crossed and their hands in a certain pose, this is called "Mudras".

Quote:
A mudra (Listeni/muË•ËˆdrÉ‘Ë•/; Sanskrit mudrÄ•, "seal", "mark", or "gesture"; Tibetan: à½•à¾±à½,à¼‹à½¢à¾’à¾±à¼‹ THL chakgya) is a symbolic or ritual gesture in Hinduism and Buddhism. While some mudras involve the entire body, most are performed with the hands and fingers. A mudrÄ• is a spiritual gesture and an energetic seal of authenticity employed in the iconography and spiritual practice of Indian religions.

One hundred and eight mudras are used in regular Tantric rituals.

In yoga, mudras are used in conjunction with pranayama (yogic breathing exercises), generally while seated in Padmasana, Sukhasana or Vajrasana pose, to stimulate different parts of the body involved with breathing and to affect the flow of prana in the body.

The classical sources for the mudras in yoga are the Gheranda Samhita and the Hatha Yoga Pradipika.[7] The Hatha Yoga Pradipika states the importance of mudras in yoga practice:

Therefore the goddess sleeping at the entrance of Brahma's door should be constantly aroused with all effort, by performing mudra thoroughly.

The other problem is that David Platt is into Calvinism.

The thing with David Platt is that he as a Calvinist is known for promoting Calvinistic views:

Quote:
While some agreed with him,(speaking of David Platt and one of his recent controversies), others

couldn't avoid what they saw as the underpinnings of his remarks â€“ Calvinism. Some thought Platt voiced opposition to the "sinner's prayer" because as a Calvinist, he didn't want the hopeless unelect to think they are saved through a simple prayer.

The church is in a mess and as I said earlier has lost the Power of God and has resorted to any and every method to appear like something is happening, when the fact is that most in this country is turning away from Christ and are following strange doctrines.

Most are carrying their brand of doctrines to peoples in other lands and many never hear or know of the power of God is for today and not just something that happened a long time ago. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the one who says that those who believe will speak with new tongues. But because many reject what Jesus says and try to reinterpret it, we see a gospel being preached with no power to confirm the Word.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Nov 2015 16:01:58 GMT
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I'm not going to defend David Platt or Calvinism, but I'd just always assumed we were all pretty much in agreement on most of the teachings of John Calvin concerning the TULIP points. I thought outside of "Limited Atonement" (L) we believed his other points. Sometimes refered to as 4-point Calvinist.

I certainly believe Platt doesn't agree with 'limited atonement' or he wouldn't be so zealous to make known Jesus unto all nations and peoples.

So with what teachings of Calvin do you disagree?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"

Posted by william on Wed, 04 Nov 2015 16:17:20 GMT
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I looked up what you said about David Platt and while its not my job to defend him, the article I read made it seem like he was pretty accurate in what he said and I would agree with him.

Here is what I read:

http://www.christianpost.com/news/david-platt-still-addressi
ng-controversy-over-sinners-prayer-remarks-77462/

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 00:52:56 GMT
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william wrote on Wed, 04 November 2015 11:17I looked up what you said about David Platt and while its not my job to defend him, the article I read made it seem like he was pretty accurate in what he said and I would agree with him.

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http://www.christianpost.com/news/david-platt-still-addressi
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William

My apologies for jumping the gun, a number of articles I have read state Platt's view leans towards Calvinism, but trying to find where they are getting their information I am having trouble finding.

It does appear from what small amount of information I have found that he leans towards a legalistic view of evangelism. Most ministries tend to lock into some pet peeve doctrine and try to enforce the message in every sermon or at least most of the sermons they preach.

Then again all of this information I'm getting this from the internet as well, and it sounds like I've

heard it before somewhere. I need to look further into what this Brother is sharing here. On some of the subjects I read, that he quoted, I had thought the same thing concerning others salvation but thought who was I to question another persons experience. Can we judge others by how they carry themselves in this world? There must be some type of judging going on or how would you discern anything by their fruits?

For example, if they say they know the Lord, but have no fruit or any interest in spiritual things, are they just babes in Christ who have been taught incorrectly or have they just had some religious experience and never met the Lord, and maybe their not Christians except in name only.

Let's face it every ones experience is different in some respect when we come to the Lord. But somewhere down the road you'll be convicted of what you allow in your life and start changing. By this I mean salvation is a growing process, sin is no longer attractive in light of eternity.

I keep coming back to the parable of the sower but then all the parables are written to Christians, on what will happen for good or evil. I know were not saved by works but there will be works that are weighed out in the final analysis, if we go by what is said in the parables.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 01:11:44 GMT
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james wrote on Wed, 04 November 2015 11:01I'm not going to defend David Platt or Calvinism, but I'd just always assumed we were all pretty much in agreement on most of the teachings of John Calvin concerning the TULIP points. I thought outside of "Limited Atonement" (L) we believed his other points. Sometimes refered to as 4-point Calvinist.

I certainly believe Platt doesn't agree with 'limited atonement' or he wouldn't be so zealous to make known Jesus unto all nations and peoples.

So with what teachings of Calvin do you disagree?

Quote:
"God preordained...a part of the human race, without any merit of their own, to eternal salvation, and another part, in just punishment of their sin, to eternal damnation. " John Calvin

Why preach the gospel if some will be saved no matter what and some will be lost no matter what?

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Bible teaches that whoever believes. This is for all men that they may receive salvation.

If what Calvin says is true then why would we even be involved because it has already been settled in heaven. Those who are preordained will be saved no matter what happens and those preordained to eternal damnation will perish no matter what they do.

If men have a free will they can reject Christ because they have chosen to reject Him, otherwise is the will of man really free?

When the disciples of Jesus turned back away from His teaching, He asked the twelve will you leave me as well, and Peter stated; where would we go, You have the words of eternal life. They chose to stay while the others chose to leave. Can we then say as Calvin; they left because God ordained them to eternal damnation?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 03:15:25 GMT
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Quote:When the disciples of Jesus turned back away from His teaching, He asked the twelve will you leave me as well, and Peter stated; where would we go, You have the words of eternal life. They chose to stay while the others chose to leave. Can we then say as Calvin; they left because God ordained them to eternal damnation?

I think it is the last statement that makes people squeamish.

The Bible gives us a lot of evidence that it is God who chooses the elect but the converse of that statement is unpalatable to most Christians. Listen to how it sounds: "God chooses those who are to be damned by not choosing/electing them for eternal life."

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 10:42:00 GMT
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william wrote on Wed, 04 November 2015 22:15Quote:When the disciples of Jesus turned back away from His teaching, He asked the twelve will you leave me as well, and Peter stated; where would we go, You have the words of eternal life. They chose to stay while the others chose to leave. Can we then say as Calvin; they left because God ordained them to eternal damnation?

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Blessings,
William

Very well put, because its hard to say in words what is taking place with those who end up lost.

If the Lord loves all men then "He" as a just God extends salvation to everyone. Men make the choice through free will whether to reject God or to follow Him. Those who follow Him find out that He elected them to serve Him. There's a fine line there, how everyone could look at that scenario.

I think those scriptures I keep referring to implies men's choices, hearing they can hear but cannot understand,

Quote:
Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
15
For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And "their" eyes "they" have closed,

Maybe I'm stretching this scripture but it shows "they have closed "their" eyes", (Is this Willingly?), in other words they just don't want to hear what God has done for them.

Kind of like a rebellious teenager that hears what their parents say but they don't want to hear it because they want to do their own thing.

Concerning this thing about error or differences of opinions on scripture in the church world. The real issue is carnal/fleshly sin and disobedience, I think that if men are born again and they abstain from immorality (adultery, fornication, sodomy, etc.), and serve God in what capacity they choose to serve Him, that they will go to Heaven. I don't believe the Lord will cast out a man who loves the Lord and comes to Him. Come to think of it, there are a lot of other sins that will keep a man out of heaven as well:

Quote:
14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Jesus said; the last would be first and the first last. Some may come into the fields to work and not have the time on their side of getting to know God better, if they repent and turn to Jesus their sins are forgiven. He paid the price for all those who come to Him.

Anyway good point, I wished I would of thought of it. LOL

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 14:57:28 GMT
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Gary wrote on Wed, 04 November 2015 18:52william wrote on Wed, 04 November 2015 11:17I looked up what you said about David Platt and while its not my job to defend him, the article I read made it seem like he was pretty accurate in what he said and I would agree with him.

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they just babes in Christ who have been taught incorrectly or have they just had some religious experience and never met the Lord, and maybe their not Christians except in name only.

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Gary

Since this thread is centered on what we can glean from The Gospels I'm going to respect the subject and stay off 'rabbit trails'...except to say this, I attend worship where David Platt pastored for several years and I assure you that this brother is a fruit bearer. I learned my lesson concerning putting men on pedestals with Hobart Freeman, but let me remind you that what we read on the internet, especially negative about someone(example FA & HEF) isn't always the truth. His life reflects his words as much as anyone I've ever seen.

Back to the Gospels, Jesus said: "Be ye doers of The Word and not hearers only..."

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 06 Nov 2015 11:11:05 GMT
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Even though we have limited information concerning Jesus family we can look at the scriptures and have an idea what may have occurred during this time.

Jesus was starting out in His ministry and had immediate results with large crowds being ministered too. When a few people are healed or delivered, word gets out quick. Many came to hear what Jesus had to say and they brought the sick and diseased with them to be healed.

The Lord chooses the 12 and gives them the power to heal the sick and to set people free from demon depression.

Was the family of Jesus excited that He was now ministering and helping people, not really they thought that He had lost his mind:

Quote:
21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, â€œHe is out of His mind.â€•

Imagine this the family all thinks that Jesus has gone crazy and was out of His mind. Word was getting out and the family did not like what was taking place.

At the very beginning of His ministry His family thinks He's crazy, the Pharisees and Scribes start speaking out against Him. The Lord had opposition from every angle.

In fact a few scriptures later we see His brothers wanting to have a talk with Him.

Quote:

31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.

Whatever is taking place in the families mind we see His brothers and mother coming and they are calling Him to see what is going on, one would assume.

What is interesting is you would think that Mary would of called the family together and would tell them, Hey I got to let you all know something here that took place years ago. She knew in her heart what took place concerning the birth of Jesus. She was aware of the miracle that took place at the wedding feast.

At this point in time she appears to be silent on what took place in the past, and that shes oblivious in relating what she knows concerning information that may explain what is taking place with Jesus. Then again she may have told them and they thought she was losing it as well.

How would you like to have a ministry where the family, all the religious leaders, scribes, lawyers, and even some of your disciples thought you were a little out of your mind?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 18 Nov 2015 11:23:20 GMT
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Quote:

28 â€œNow learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is nearâ€”at the doors! 30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

I think there is more to this verse then what we understand it to mean.

In order to make this verse work in our line of thinking people try to keep working on a formula concerning how long a generation is, so they can calculate a date in the future.

This is an interesting document translated into English:

Quote:

Translation of the Declaration by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive

legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE

STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE "ROCK OF ISRAEL", WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE

SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY,1948).[33]

The question is what happens when a generation is stretched to its limit in order to make the parable of the fig tree fit most peoples calculations?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 18 Nov 2015 19:15:06 GMT
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Gary wrote on Wed, 18 November 2015 05:23
The question is what happens when a generation is stretched to its limit in order to make the parable of the fig tree fit most peoples calculations?

Gary

Nothing that I can see; just another miscalculation by finite man seeking to know and understand God's Word...Yet how many have said they were being lead of The Holy Spirit in understanding and "rightly dividing The Word of God" when they gave their 'revelation' of the time sequence of God's plan? Back to the 'drawing board' for many I suppose. HE didn't tell us to figure it out, HE told us to be ready at all times so not be caught unawares.

So many worries can be squelched with just faith in this scripture..."Trust in The LORD with all thy heart and lean not unto thy own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 19 Nov 2015 09:42:28 GMT
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james wrote on Wed, 18 November 2015 14:15Gary wrote on Wed, 18 November 2015 05:23
The question is what happens when a generation is stretched to its limit in order to make the parable of the fig tree fit most peoples calculations?

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So many worries can be squelched with just faith in this scripture..."Trust in The LORD with all thy heart and lean not unto thy own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

I'm not saying its wrong to be curious about the future and not saying your implying this either just making a point. It appears some scriptures are pulled out of context more then others to prove a point. The disciples asked this question because of what Jesus said that the stones of the temple area would be cast down.

In Israel to this day there is a huge pile of stones that the Romans cast down in 70 A.D., from the temple walls up high, and are piled up on one street outside the walls. The stones on the lower part are massive and they could not move them as easy as these are the stones from Solomon's Temple. The stones on the bottom section are like four feet wide, three feet tall, and over a hundred feet long, these stones made up the foundation of the temple.

Jesus is obviously speaking of stones where they were standing, when He made this statement. There was other buildings up around the temple area.

Quote:
13 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, â€œTeacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!â€•

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, â€œDo you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.â€•

Then we see later the disciples asking Him about this in private.

Quote:
3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, 4 â€œTell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?â€•

The disciples are asking a specific question and Jesus tells them what is to happen in the future, then He gives the parable of the fig tree. This parable is given in context with what He is saying to His disciples.

All I'm saying is that before the Balfour Declaration was even thought of these verses in the Gospel (parable of the fig tree) were not interpreted as they are today. I guess with each generation they try to make the Bible fit their circumstances. In Luke's Gospel its not just the fig tree but all the trees are mentioned.

Quote:

Luke Wrote:

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: â€œLook at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

Is this a future prophecy that was meant for another time? It will be interesting to see how it all pans out. For every prophecy concerning the future we can see dozens of views and interpretations explaining their meaning. For instance, Everyone now is convinced that the micro chip is the mark of the beast, while it may be a likely scenario, that could be possible, we don't know until it actually takes place. It could be a tattoo, the Bible just says its a "mark".

That's all it would take to get you into a place to be able to buy, sell, or trade.

Anyway while a lot of things are interesting to speculate on the most important thing is to "Watch and Pray", and as you said, or implied, Walking with the Lord and acknowledging Him in all our ways is all we need to get through this life.

I would like to look at some of the things that Jesus said, in the Gospels, concerning some future

events that we know are taking place. The first thing the Lord told them after they asked the question about the future was, "Take heed that no one deceives you". There's some things we can know and others we just have to take them at face value.

I don't know what some groups are thinking its not like were going to be given a test with one of the questions saying: What do you think will happen during the tribulation?. What I am implying is; I don't see how people can be dogmatic concerning certain future events. Its not a matter of salvation, having all your ducks in a row concerning the future.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Thu, 19 Nov 2015 15:05:11 GMT
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Gary, you mentioned about generations and the way they're calculated and I was reading in Luke chapter three the genealogies of Jesus and came up with 75 generations from Jesus back to Adam. I then read Matthew's record from Abraham to Jesus (14 from Abraham to David- 14 from David to the captivity- 14 from captivity to Jesus...that totals 42) and noticed that one, Matthew, follows the blood line through Solomon whereas Luke follows through Nathan. You ever noticed this difference?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 20 Nov 2015 13:15:10 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 19 November 2015 10:05Gary, you mentioned about generations and the

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James,

That sounds like the mathematician coming out in you. I do some math at work with reading blueprints but its minor in scope.

To be honest I was aware of the numbering of the genealogy's in the scripture but never paid much attention to the details. I know this is how they start with Adam and compare everything in the Bible and come up with a date showing how long man has been on the earth. I think its roughly 8000 to 10000 years, but I know some people will split hairs on the length of time.

I think if nothing else by having the genealogy's in the NT is a witness to Jewish people who come to know their Messiah, Jesus, they can trace His lineage.

But like I said; there are some groups that will argue concerning the dates showing how long that mankind has been on the earth. I think people can only get close to the date, and not know exactly. I think its kind of neat that someone can set for months and then come up with this information by comparing the scriptures to get this information. But Paul warns about people disputing over endless genealogy's.

Quote:

1 Timothy 1:3-5

3 As I urged you when I went into Macedoniaâ€”remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

Like any subject in the Bible it can be carried to an extreme.

Just sharing some thoughts here on what little I know about this subject. It is a blessing that some are people able to comprehend all that goes into knowing how to understand the numbers or records and share what information a person may come up with concerning the genealogies.

I did not do very good with algebra and geometry, my teacher had the gift to put people to sleep in class.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Fri, 20 Nov 2015 15:16:25 GMT
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I never finished my thoughts yesterday due to an interruption for business, then I edited my post to include more of what I was thinking of but got interrupted before I 'submitted' my reply and lost it all. It's not a 'math' problem, I don't care about the 'numbers' adding up I was just curious as to why names were different in the two Gospel accounts.

I wanted to include the question/thoughts to William as well because I know he always has the answers(or can find them quickly) <smile> we probably covered it in a study of The Gospels or NT Theology but I don't recall. I see that in Matthew Jesus' lineage is traced from Abraham to David (14 generations)and from David to the Babylonian captivity (14) and from there unto Christ (14) for a total of 42 generations. In Luke it is traced backward all the way to Adam (I get 75 generations). but my question or observation is, Luke used Nathan's name as the son of David and Matthew used Solomon. Also hardly any of the names are the same when comparing them. Is this because Matthew followed Joseph's lineage and Luke followed Mary's?

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Mark L on Mon, 23 Nov 2015 17:28:31 GMT
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Is this because Matthew followed Joseph's lineage and Luke followed Mary's?

That is what I've always thought. If Jesus is the natural born son of Joseph then it is impossible for him to be the messiah.

Jerimiah 22/22-30

Joseph descended through the line of David/Jeconiah. For Jesus to be his natural born son he would not be qualified for the Kingship.

Matthew really wrote his gospel with the Jews in mind. He gives the lineage of Joseph showing the problem then presents the answer. ie the virgin birth through Mary.

Also without going into a lot of detail it is obvious in Lukes account because of the way the greek is constructed that it is not Joseph he is descended from but Mary.
In the greek the definite article is used in front of every name except Joseph. This was jewish procedure to trace a womens line.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 26 Nov 2015 15:00:02 GMT
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Quote:

36 â€œBut of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Jesus said: For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them away.

In other words life went on as always, people eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, but He goes on to say; they did not know until the flood came and took them away.

When the Son of Man comes this is what He will find, nothing has changed since the days of Noah.

Looking back to the time of Noah we find:

Quote:

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, â€œI will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.â€• 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

God was sorry that He had even made man and it grieved His heart.

God went on to tell Noah:

13 And God said to Noah, â€œThe end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

We see further that not only was everyone continually eating and drinking and marrying but they were given over to violence. Sound familiar, life is filled with violence in our society and in the world there is continual blood shed.

Before Noah we have a man who walked with God, his name was Enoch. Thousands of years later we see a small prophesy of Enoch who was there and witnessed the ungodliness.

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, â€œBehold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.â€•

A powerful prophesy proclaiming God will come to execute judgement on all for their ungodly deeds which they commit and all that the ungodly have spoken against the Lord.

Jude goes on to tell us that these people are:

Quote:
16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. 17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

He says the Apostles warned them that mockers would come in the last time who would walk

according to their own ungodly lusts.

All of this takes place as "life goes on", people eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, while violence sweeps across the face of the earth. There is a certain amount of enjoyment that men derive from violence.

32 â€œBut of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is comingâ€”in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morningâ€” 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!â€•

Paul tells us:

Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

But the time will come and is upon us when men will follow their own "desires". Its interesting that Paul points out that they will "heap up teachers". Then they will turn their "ears" from the truth and turn aside to fables.

Hearing they will hear but not hear.

32 â€œBut of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is comingâ€”in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morningâ€” 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!â€•

2 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Paul along with Jesus stressed the need not to neglect salvation, its all through the New Testament. The world goes on with its continual party, but Jesus is the same Yesterday, Today and Forever and He watches over His Word to perform it. Not one jot or tittle will pass away until all is fulfilled.

What a blessing it is to be partakers of the inheritance with the saints in light.

Jesus tells us to:

â€œStrive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

"Many" will seek to enter? Who is the many? Could it be those who seek to follow their own desires because seeking their own desires they turn their ears from the truth. Its always important to look at Gods truth and to make sure its not man's thinking, because God's truth, is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto the path that were walking on, leading us, in His Will.

Striving for something that is worth going after ends up being a pearl of great price.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 27 Nov 2015 11:29:42 GMT
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The disciples wanted to know when would the time of the end come and what would be the signs. They came to Him privately asking for this information.

Quote:
3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, â€œTell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?â€•

We have to realize that Jesus is talking to His disciples and we can realize that as His disciples today He is telling us what will take place. The ones He is confiding this information to will not be present when it takes place as it is all future so this information is for all His disciples for all times.

What is interesting is the very first thing Jesus tells us:

Quote:

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: â€œTake heed that no one deceives you.

Take heed that no one deceives you.

If there is any message that is all through the Gospels and the Epistles is that men will come as ravenous wolves with new doctrines that are not in the scripture.

Who is behind this twisting of Scripture? Its none other then satan who from the very beginning deceived Eve in the garden of Eden.

In Genesis we see:

Quote:

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, â€œHas God indeed said, â€˜You shall not eat of every tree of the gardenâ€™?â€•

2 And the woman said to the serpent, â€œWe may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, â€˜You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.â€™â€•

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, â€œYou will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.â€•

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

The devil will always come with some small portion of scripture and twist it to mean something it does not say. That's why its important to look at the Bible and understand its plain meaning because we are told; "the Bible is of no private interpretation".

People in these end times will come with strange new doctrines and you'll always find that if you get in a discourse concerning what they are proclaiming, they tend to change the subject. If you cannot prove something with scripture then it all becomes mere speculation. Every Biblical doctrine will be plain for all to see and understand, and if the subject is getting constantly changed there is a direct influence of a spirit of confusion. Remember God is not the Author of Confusion.

The Spirit of God in these end times is not redefining what Jesus plainly tells us, the Spirit of God will always be in agreement with what Jesus has told us as His disciples.

When you become born again, you become a disciple of Jesus and what He says to one He says to all.

From the very beginning the devil has led men down the road of deception, Jesus had to deal with this when He was fasting in the desert for forty days. The devil would quote scripture out of context and Jesus would always give the clear meaning with scripture to refute the devil.

The Whole Bible is for us today as His disciples, and we can rest in the fact that God is not a man that He should lie nor the son of man that He should repent. The devil questioned what God said in the garden while talking to Eve and he questions what Jesus tells us in His word today.

John 10:13-15

13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Jesus laid down His life for us, His sheep and He gave us His warnings in His word for us to keep and remember.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 02 Dec 2015 11:32:46 GMT
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Its interesting to note that Jesus the Son of God would spend a lot of time alone praying to the Father. Its a good chance that maybe He was in fellowship and communion with Him.

Quote:

15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.

16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Again we see this lady in scripture spending her time in fasting and prayer.

Quote:

36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

So the Bible says she "served" God with fasting and prayers. This lady was not born again nor had the Baptism but spent her days serving God with prayer and fasting. Interesting!

You would think Jesus would not have a need for constant prayer since He was and is God. But something drew Him into this realm of communion.

And we ask the question: Why no revival?

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 02 Dec 2015 14:16:34 GMT
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Gary wrote on Wed, 02 December 2015 05:32 Its a good chance that maybe He was in fellowship and communion with Him.

You would think Jesus would not have a need for constant prayer since He was and is God. But something drew Him into this realm of communion.

That's an understatement, I think scripture reveals that He was always in fellowship with His Father...but sometimes He went alone/apart so they could commune in private.

Also He was setting an example, both to those following Him then as well as those to follow in the future, the value of prayer. Once He had restored fellowship between God and man and ,(as we're taught...let us come boldly before the throne of Grace...,) access to God was made to all who believes. No more relying upon priest and rituals/sacrifices with outward actions, now believers could talk with their Father in an intimate, personal way.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 03 Dec 2015 10:14:55 GMT
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james wrote on Wed, 02 December 2015 09:16Gary wrote on Wed, 02 December 2015 05:32 Its a good chance that maybe He was in fellowship and communion with Him.

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That's an understatement, I think scripture reveals that He was always in fellowship with His Father...but sometimes He went alone/apart so they could commune in private.

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Well at least you know what I meant, I didn't phrase out the words correctly. It's more important now to understand then any other time in the history of man concerning drawing close to God.

As I shared recently, it is as in the days of Noah, when violence filled the Earth. God regretted that He had made man but there was those who found Grace in His eyes. Enoch walked with God and the Lord took him out of here.

It seems anymore that a week doesn't go by that we hear that something major takes place with senseless violence. I see people constantly talking at work about buying up more guns. People are not content anymore.

It may be closer to the end then what we can even imagine.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 12 Dec 2015 13:32:08 GMT
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There's quite a contrast; what we see supposedly done in the name of Christ in our modern times and what took place back when Jesus was born. Today people are spending multi millions of dollars buying cheap material goods all in the guise of celebrating the birth of Christ. When in reality the minds of most are centered on what they can get versus the fact that God has come to deliver men from their sins.

The Lord never intended that men would rush out to buy each other gifts concerning His birth.

God has made a way for men to have eternal life through repentance and turning to Him.

After the birth of Christ, tragedy struck quickly in the land of Israel. As I had mentioned before Herod destroyed hundreds of young children over the birth of Christ. Its surprising that a man in the Roman government could commit such an atrocity and no one in the government raised a voice.

The Bible only tells us that he had fulfilled a prophecy given by Jeremiah and we see in scripture where he lies to the wise men because he has ulterior motives.

Quote:

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, â€œGo and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.â€•

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

God who knows all things warned Joseph in a dream to take the child and leave and to go to Egypt.

Shortly thereafter Herod dies and his son rules in his place. What we don't see in scripture is the horrible death that Herod went through shortly after murdering the children.

Josephus tells us that: Herod heard his first son was plotting to have him poisoned so he changed his will and made his youngest son Archelaus ruler in his place. He gave millions of dollars to various relatives and even sent valuable items to Caesar and his wife Julia.

Herod was also troubled because he thought the Jews would rejoice after he was dead. Herod in his last days took a large number of prominent Jewish men and had them locked up in a building under a Roman guard. He then left instructions telling others to execute the Jews upon his death so that they would be mourning the loss of their family members when he died and they would not feel like rejoicing over his death because of their own loss.

What happened after Herod killed all the innocent children? Josephus tells us that he suffered because of Gods swift vengeance.

Josephus wrote:

Quote:

But now Herod's distemper greatly increased upon him after a severe manner, and this by God's judgement upon him for his sins: for a fire glowed in him slowly, which did not so much appear outwardly; for it brought upon him a vehement appetite to eating, which he could not avoid to supply with one sort of food or other. His entrails were also exulcerated, and the chief violence of his pain lay on his colon; an aqueous and transparent liquor also had settled itself about his feet, and a like matter afflicted him at the bottom of his belly. Nay, further, his privy-member was putrified, and produced worms; and when he sat upright he had a difficulty breathing, which was very loathsome, on account of the stench of his breath and the quickness of the returns; he had also convulsions in all parts of his body, which increased his strength to an insufferable degree. It was said by those who pretended to divine, and who were endued with wisdom to foretell such things, that God inflicted this punishment on the king on account of his great impiety: yet was he still in hope of recovering, though his afflictions seemed greater then anyone could bear.

The Jewish men were later released without Herod's knowledge a few days before he died.

Shortly before Herod had this horrible disease come upon him we see him having innocent children put to death in his quest to destroy God's Son:

Quote:

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18
â€œA voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.â€•

After the birth of Christ families were weeping and crying over the loss of their children, and later picking up the pieces and going on with their lives.

But God did not allow Herod to continue in his evil arrogant ways. In Matthew it only tells us he died.

Quote:

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, â€œArise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Childâ€™s life are dead.â€• 21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, â€œHe shall be called a Nazarene.â€•

Joseph was afraid when he heard Archelaus (Herod's son), was reigning in Herod's place so being warned in a dream he went to dwell in a city called Nazareth.

Even though the Roman government turned a blind eye to Herod's atrocities, his sin did not go unpunished.

God's Son coming to the earth was never intended for the purpose of men striving to give gifts with a party atmosphere going on under the guise of celebrating Christ's birth, but that men would turn from their sins and accept the work provided at the cross.

Gary

Gods in sovereign control, even though the Pharisees thought they had the upper hand when Jesus walked on the earth, and they crucified Him with no remorse. The Pharisees turned a blind eye to the truth and in their minds they thought they were serving God.

Josephus even records the calamities that came upon the Pharisees after the crucifixion. Remember them crying out we have no king but Caesar. Shortly after this Josephus tells us that Pilate erected a statue in Jerusalem that was an abomination to the Jews. Then many rebelled at what the government was doing and tried to take matters in their own hands. This stirred up Rome who was swift to retaliate.

We read in the book of Acts that there was also a famine in the land.

According to Josephus many of the Jews starved to death during this time and there is one account of a woman who ate her new born child.

Josephus wrote:

Quote:

"For the Wealthy," he says, it was equally dangerous to remain in Jerusalem. For under pretense they were going to desert, men were put to death for their wealth. The madness of the seditions increased with the famine and both the miseries were inflamed more and more day by day. No were was food to be seen; but, bursting into the houses men searched them thoroughly, and whenever they found anything to eat they tormented the owners on the ground that they had denied anything; but if they found nothing, they tortured them on the ground that they had more carefully concealed it.

Of all evils, indeed, famine is the worst, and it destroys nothing so effectively as shame.

Josephus goes on to say: Such was the reward which the Jews received for their wickedness and impiety, against the Christ of God.

It was only a matter of time before the world went into what is called the "dark ages".

Quote:
Eusebius tells us that Jesus predicted this time when He states: "Woe unto them that are with suck in those days! But pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day. For there shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world, no, nor ever

shall be."

There is only one true God and not many paths into heaven. Jesus said, "strait is the gate, narrow is the way, and few there be that find it."

Its interesting to see the viewpoint of someone who lived back in that time, 2000 years ago and get a perspective on what they saw taking place before their very eyes.

In reality with all out modern day inventions, we find were not too different from the people who walked on the earth back then. Violence, rebellion towards the authorities, distrust of the government, seems like a modern day scenario.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Mon, 14 Dec 2015 11:00:51 GMT
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Quote:
Hegesippus once wrote:

When the sacred college of the apostles had suffered death in various forms, and the generations of those that had been deemed worthy to hear the inspired wisdom with their own ears had passed away, the the league of godless error took its rise as a result of the folly of heretical teachers, who, because none of the apostles was still living, attempted with a bold face, to proclaim, in opposition to the preaching of the truth, the "knowledge which is falsely so-called".

In church history we see "immediately" after the death of the generation that heard the wisdom of the apostles passed away, heretical teachers came with godless error which swept through the churches.

Since the reformation we have seen men rise up with understanding of what the Bible was proclaiming and some understanding has returned to the body of Christ. With that we also see where Jesus, Paul, and some of the Apostles have warned us that in the end of time men would turn from the truth.

Jesus tells us plainly:

Quote:46 â€œBut why do you call Me â€˜Lord, Lord,â€™ and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.â€•

Many today try to explain away the clear sayings of Jesus, telling us; "this scripture is not for today, that scripture was for the apostles, that saying was for another time, etc.." It doesn't matter if its concerning speaking in tongues, following holiness, or whatever the subject its being explained away.

Jesus tells us that; "whoever comes to me", and "hears my sayings and does them", is like a man who built his house on the rock.

In today's world we are told some of the things Jesus said, is not for us but for those of another time. They leave out the part that Jesus is the one who says them.

Well, who are we going to believe?

God says what He means and means what He says.

The problem is that godless error is still running rampant in these end times. Men fashion God to fit into their program.

No matter what, godless error and heretical teachings will be prevalent in these endtimes and what is important is that those who can hear will listen to what the Son of God says over what

men may tell us what he is saying or not saying.

The man that can "hear and does" the Word, Jesus tells us that He is building his house on the Rock and the storms of life will not prevail over him.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Fri, 18 Dec 2015 10:53:02 GMT
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In reading the church fathers its interesting to note that; after the apostles went on to be with the Lord, people in their churches had the Baptism and spoke with tongues, that the churches still practiced divine healing, raising of the dead, and people had demonic spirits cast out of them.

They also write that the gifts were practiced in the church on a regular basis, with God speaking directly to them through prophecy, and other gifts.

The church fathers had to constantly deal with a number of sects who twisted what the Apostles had proclaimed. Various sects arose preaching heresies, and erroneous doctrines that strayed from the truth. Papias wrote that he was very careful to write everything down that he had heard from the Apostles to preserve what was taught.

Everything in the Old Testament and the New Testament centers around Christ. In the Book of Revelation we see in Heaven, that the Son of God is glorified before all because of what took place at the cross.

Jesus is the Son of God, and He is faithful to fulfill His Word to those who listen and believe, and are doers and not just hearers.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 13 Jan 2016 11:16:04 GMT
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Quote:

13 â€œEnter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 â€œBeware of false prophets, who come to you in sheepâ€™s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21 â€œNot everyone who says to Me, â€˜Lord, Lord,â€™ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, â€˜Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?â€™ 23 And then I will declare to them, â€˜I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!â€™
Build on the Rock

24 â€œTherefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 â€œBut everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.â€•

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Building our house on these "sayings", how clear can the Word of God be. What is interesting here is that they were astonished at His teaching for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sun, 04 Dec 2016 15:53:06 GMT
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It appears Mark 16: poses a dilemma when witnessing to born again Christians who have been indoctrinated into the present day system of Christianity, "concerning" the Baptism of the Spirit!

Quote:
14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, â€œGo into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; [b]18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.â€•

There it is in plain English. When sharing with someone concerning the Baptism, it says: And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Invariably the person points out that: 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; these people (that were witnessing to), tell us; do we take up serpents?

Recently when this event took place while sharing with someone, I thought of Paul who picked up a pile of wood and a serpent comes out and bites him, and this poisonous snakes venom did him no harm.

But upon further evaluation(while setting there thinking), I realized what took place with Paul left a lame argument to tell this person concerning what this verse was referring to.

I don't know if anyone can completely understand what is written here in this portion of scripture when it comes to "they will take up serpents", as it is written in the Book of Mark. I tried to rationalize in my mind maybe this has something to do with the demonic realm involving deliverance, but the Bible goes on to say if they drink any deadly poison.

We do have groups who physically take up rattle snakes in their meetings, they believe their obeying these scriptures. But with that in mind I don't believe the Lord wants us to bring serpents to the weekly meeting to prove we have faith. I can just picture the scenario: who has the anointing to handle the "black Mamba" tonight? If they did not have a back door in the church I would be making one.

What does God mean here, when it comes to taking up serpents and drinking poison?

At face value I could justify drinking deadly poison if we as Christians were forced to drink it, I believe God would protect us as He has promised. But your still faced with the fact that says; "they" will take up serpents. There has never been an situation throughout history involving Christians taking up serpents. It says those who believe that "they", will take them up.

Let every word be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. We don't find this message contained in the rest of the New Testament or mentioned as a practice in the book of Acts.

In the margin in my Bible it states: Verses 9-20 are bracketed in NU-Text as not original. They are lacking in Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus, although other manuscripts of Mark contain them.

That sounds like a plausible simple answer, remove them; there not in certain original manuscripts, but we find not only is taking up serpents removed, and drinking any deadly poison, but the entire last portion of Mark's gospel is removed. "The great commission, speaking in tongues, laying hands on the sick, etc,".

It's interesting that the great commission is a regular teaching at most churches, but speaking in tongues in not accepted because its included in the sentence concerning taking up serpents. These verses were all given at the same time before Jesus ascended up into Heaven.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

At this point I have been unable to come to a clear understanding, I have to just accept these verses exist in Mark's gospel. I'm glad at this point that when someone came to me and told me about receiving the Baptism of the Spirit, that I had no knowledge that these other verses existed, I had not been indoctrinated at this point in time.

When we look through scripture on how the Apostles ministered we find a pattern. Paul made it clear when he said; Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? They replied we have only been baptised with John's baptism. Just like Mark 16 we see a group of born again believers who just had not heard about the baptism. These men were saved, followers of Jesus and His teaching.

Quote:
19 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, â€œDid you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?â€•

So they said to him, â€œWe have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.â€•

3 And he said to them, â€œInto what then were you baptized?â€•

So they said, â€œInto Johnâ€™s baptism.â€•

4 Then Paul said, â€œJohn indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.â€•

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

Twelve men willingly received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

For some reason people because of doctrines or traditions feel that your questioning their salvation experience when you tell them about this experience.

Note: 17 And these signs will follow those who believe:

There's nothing in this statement concerning their salvation. In fact the very verse before this is

quite clear.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

If someone believes that Jesus is Lord and He died for their sins, and their baptised,(in water), they shall be saved. but he who does not believe Jesus died for their sins will be condemned.

I think this is emphatic concerning ones salvation. It goes on to say if they believe they will speak with new tongues. Paul when he met the men in Acts 19;, did not question their salvation but he went on to minister a further blessing for believers.

So were left with questions here; Is there a deeper meaning in these verses, like a hidden parable? Whatever the reason these verses are found in Mark, I find it harder to minister to someone who has held to certain doctrines concerning the Baptism. Maybe one day the Lord will give us understanding concerning what is meant here.

Until then, I have decided only to take people to the book of Acts 19:, when asking them if they received the Holy Spirit since they believed.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Mon, 05 Dec 2016 04:23:48 GMT
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Hi Gary,

You might be interested in an article my brother did on the subject of snake handling. Here is the link:

https://dawgdriver.tumblr.com/post/93273221948/mark-1618-pic k-up-snakes

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Tue, 06 Dec 2016 02:19:21 GMT
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william wrote on Sun, 04 December 2016 23:23Hi Gary,

You might be interested in an article my brother did on the subject of snake handling. Here is the link:

https://dawgdriver.tumblr.com/post/93273221948/mark-1618-pic k-up-snakes

Blessings,
William

William,

I think that's probably the best interpretation anyone could come up with to fit that verse, I thought it was a very interesting concept. The thought had crossed my mind that it could pertain to the future, but I was too locked into the present trying to apply it to people receiving the Baptism with the evidence of tongues, that I ruled that option out.

How would that sound anyway; when they point out the verse that "they will pick up serpents", we could reply; oh, that verse is in the future. It doesn't sound convincing unless you already speak in tongues, then it makes sense.

From what I see unless the Lord opens someones eyes how could anyone understand any of scripture. His disciples walked with Him and heard the Word preached, and saw all the signs but they still did not understand.

Quote:44 Then He said to them, â€œThese are the words which I spoke to you while I was still

with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.â€• 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, â€œThus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.â€•

BTW is that photo your real blood brother, there was not a whole lot of family resemblance.

Not to change the subject but This brother made the statement:

Quote:The woman or we can say, the church is left behind and has to flee from the face (or out of the sight) of the Dragon which is a government ruled by the Antichrist in the area of the Middle east stretching from North Africa to modern day Turkey and bordering China to the east. This is an Islamic government consisting geographically of all the former kingdoms spoken of in the book of Daniel and in the Revelation of John.

I'm leaning more towards an Islamic Antichrist during the tribulation. For now I think it makes sense.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Tue, 06 Dec 2016 05:25:28 GMT
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Gary wrote on Mon, 05 December 2016 20:19

From what I see unless the Lord opens someones eyes how could anyone understand any of scripture. His disciples walked with Him and heard the Word preached, and saw all the signs but

they still did not understand.

When I went back to read the Mark 16 passage I was struck with verse that preceded the commandment to go into the world and preach the gospel and that those who 'believe' will be saved and those that do not 'believe' will be damned. These words are right on the heels of Jesus rebuking THEM for their unbelief for not believing those who had brought them the good news!!!

Talk about grace!

Quote:
BTW is that photo your real blood brother, there was not a whole lot of family resemblance.

HA! He's gotten great mileage from that photo. I tried to do a similar one that came close but I've never let my beard get that long so I had to abandon the effort!

Quote:
Not to change the subject but This brother made the statement:

Quote:The woman or we can say, the church is left behind and has to flee from the face (or out of the sight) of the Dragon which is a government ruled by the Antichrist in the area of the Middle east stretching from North Africa to modern day Turkey and bordering China to the east. This is an Islamic government consisting geographically of all the former kingdoms spoken of in the book of Daniel and in the Revelation of John.

I'm leaning more towards an Islamic Antichrist during the tribulation. For now I think it makes sense.

Gary

Yes, me too. Just watching the news makes it seem ever so likely.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Dec 2016 20:09:02 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sun, 04 December 2016 09:53
There it is in plain English. When sharing with someone concerning the Baptism, it says: And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Is it possible that the problem with certain scriptures which we can't seem to fully grasp is because the translators in translating from the available Greek/Aramaic manuscripts didn't translate it correctly? I'm sure not a scholar, nor have I had the opportunity to see the documents used, but I've been told that the available writings used by Wycliffe and Tyndale weren't as complete as that available 400 years later.(Dead Sea Scrolls hadn't been discovered yet) Some scholars today say that certain of the Dead Sea Scrolls are much older that what Tyndale used to complete the first English Bible. Several translations state that Mark 16:9-20 isn't found in those older copies of manuscripts, along with other passages.

I don't know, but if it's true that the English translation by Tyndale, which is from 65% to 90% word for word found in the King James, and the manuscripts he had available were several hundred years newer than the Dead Sea Scrolls, then it just seems like the older manuscripts would be closer to the original language used and translated, and thereby more accurate.

Just something to think about, not trying to be labeled a heretic or come against the KJV (which is the bible I use).

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"

Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 00:44:49 GMT
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Hi James & Gary,

Have been following your interesting topic & comments. Thought I`d add mine.

`And these signs will follow those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up deadly serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.` (Mark 16: 17 & 18)

Now I don`t read that as a list that I would have to do to prove I am a believer. I read it as the Lord saying that believers will have these signs. However I don`t read everyone has to perform every sign.

What say you? Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 01:10:08 GMT
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Right Marilyn, but it does seem to indicate that wherever Christians are found these signs would be there as well. Why? because the Lord is in their midst!

I don't see Mark 16 as a 'litmus test' per se but if a group of people have these signs following them around AND meet the real 'litmus tests' found in 1 John, then it is a pretty good indication that you've got a bunch of Christians!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 02:08:52 GMT
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And Hi to you William,

Yes I agree with you too. And the signs we commonly see are -

- speaking in other tongues,
- healing the sick,
- casting out of demons.

On that note, have you seen `The Last Reformation,` video on Utube by Torbein?

It shows what God is doing out in the `streets & lanes,` much of the above.

regards, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 04:45:49 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Tue, 06 December 2016 20:08And Hi to you William,

Yes I agree with you too. And the signs we commonly see are -

- speaking in other tongues,
- healing the sick,
- casting out of demons.

On that note, have you seen `The Last Reformation,` video on Utube by Torbein?

It shows what God is doing out in the `streets & lanes,` much of the above.

regards, Marilyn.

Yes! I watched The Last Reformation - The beginning (2016) Full Movie and it was AWESOME!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zka4DUYeJ5g

Thank you so much for pointing it out. I'm going to look at the other two you mentioned next but that one was a big WOW!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 05:07:54 GMT
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Hi William,

So glad you have been encouraged too. Wow & more wow.

Did I mention this great video which teaches discernment concerning these things. The speaker shows a video clip & then teaches how what was seen is not scriptural. I knew it, but he gives clarity to our understanding.

It is `A Kundalini spirit in church leaders,` by Brian Young.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 11:41:41 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 06 December 2016 15:09Gary wrote on Sun, 04 December 2016 09:53
There it is in plain English. When sharing with someone concerning the Baptism, it says: And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Is it possible that the problem with certain scriptures which we can't seem to fully grasp is because the translators in translating from the available Greek/Aramaic manuscripts didn't translate it correctly? I'm sure not a scholar, nor have I had the opportunity to see the documents used, but I've been told that the available writings used by Wycliffe and Tyndale weren't as complete as that available 400 years later.(Dead Sea Scrolls hadn't been discovered yet) Some scholars today say that certain of the Dead Sea Scrolls are much older that what Tyndale used to complete the first English Bible. Several translations state that Mark 16:9-20 isn't found in those older copies of manuscripts, along with other passages.

I don't know, but if it's true that the English translation by Tyndale, which is from 65% to 90% word for word found in the King James, and the manuscripts he had available were several hundred years newer than the Dead Sea Scrolls, then it just seems like the older manuscripts would be closer to the original language used and translated, and thereby more accurate.

Just something to think about, not trying to be labeled a heretic or come against the KJV (which is

the bible I use).

James,

I don't know much concerning the original translations, but it would appear they would be the most accurate. It's hard to believe that someone down through history just decided to add verses to Mark 16:, but you never know.

The other gospels don't give this information (taking up serpents and drinking poison), that Jesus quoted before He ascended. You would think if anyone was there present whatever His parting words were, that they would accurately record them.

Those verses are a bit of a mystery for sure.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Wed, 07 Dec 2016 21:00:49 GMT
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Quote:The other gospels don't give this information (taking up serpents and drinking poison), that Jesus quoted before He ascended. You would think if anyone was there present whatever His parting words were, that they would accurately record them.

Remember there are several things that are only written about by one of the writers. Matthew is the only one who mentioned Jesus being taken to Egypt until Herod had died. One traced Jesus' genealogy from Abraham forward unto Jesus (Matthew) and another went from Jesus backwards to Adam (Luke). Mark has accounts of Jesus mentioned by none of the other three. John delivers unto us the 'meat' of the message, not even going into the birth and early years of Jesus. But reading all four together gives us exactly what knowledge and information God wants us to have and everything necessary unto salvation and a relationship with Him through Jesus. He gives good news, The Gospel.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Mark L on Thu, 08 Dec 2016 16:34:29 GMT
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james wrote on Wed, 07 December 2016 16:00
Remember there are several things that are only written about by one of the writers. . . But reading all four together gives us exactly what knowledge and information God wants us to have . . .

Thats a good point James.

I bookmarked that Last Reformation movie & the Kundalini one. I'll catch them later when I have time.

William that is quite q pic of your brother. I should look for something like that for a profile pic here.

My take on serpents and poison is this. I think it is just the KJV way of saying God will protect us. There was a bro from FA (can't remember his name) who ministered in Belize. He was up in our church here once and told of one of his kids there stepping right on a poisonous snake. The snake didn't do anything. Another situation of a minister I know on his way up here once someone put poison in his food. He had to overcome it a bit but came to no harm.

I think it means God will simply protect us. It says that everywhere else in the word. In this passage it is just a little more specific.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 17 Dec 2016 13:47:53 GMT
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Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.â€•

I ran across an interesting statement in Luke's gospel, it made me think maybe there is more here then what anyone has realized.

In Luke's gospel we find Jesus telling us:

Luke 10:18-20

18 And He said to them, â€œI saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.â€•

This verse sheds a little light concerning having authority to trample on serpents and scorpions. He is referring to the comment made by the disciples returning from going out into the world around them to minister:

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, â€œLord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.â€•

Jesus is clearly tying in deliverance to this statement; I give you authority to trample on serpents. In Mark's gospel were told they will take up serpents, but it does say before this that they will cast out demons. Somehow I believe taking up serpents and casting out demons are tied together.

The people in this world are bound with sin, involved in the occult and because of this have open doors to the powers of darkness. All mankind is plagued with the demonic realm working against them. In Christ we are delivered from sin by the shedding of His Blood at Calvary and we have been given authority over the demonic realm, but there is still a war going on in the heavenlies.

In this modern world of technology in which we find ourselves we must not forget that there are entities trying to destroy what God has done. There is a war being waged in the spirit realm.

Ephesians 6:12
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

It says; the rulers of the "darkness" of this age, against spiritual "hosts" of wickedness etc.

I'm not ruling out anything anyone shared here concerning this subject, but trying to make some clear sense of the statement given in Mark's gospel. In other words; taking up serpents may be dealing with deliverance and the demonic realm. I also think that the drinking any deadly thing in Mark and the reference in Luke concerning with "nothing shall by any means hurt you", has something to do with this same line of thinking.

I realize DawgDriver mentions this is all yet future to be fulfilled and I believe what he said, is possible. But this verse, in the context it was written, says; 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: Believers in our present time are told this will follow their ministries.

In order to come to some conclusion with being able to witness to believers, who do not have the Baptism with speaking with tongues, I don't know if we tell them that this verse is for the future, will win them over to wanting to receive this experience. This would be the perfect division of interpretation (for them), tongues is for the past, taking up serpents is for the future.

I'm sure all scripture was given so those who have eyes to see and hears to hear can understand what the Lord intended for His people. There may be hidden mysteries in scriptures that will be revealed as the end times unfolds, concerning Revelations, some prophecies and parables. But God has told us that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into all truth.

While Jesus walked on the earth, in a number of places in scripture we see where, He is talking with His disciples and it says; they did not understand, it wasn't till the Lord opened their understanding was they able to perceive what He meant.

Luke 24:45
And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

John 14:22-24

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, â€œLord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?â€•

23 Jesus answered and said to him, â€œIf anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Fatherâ€™s who sent Me.

Proverbs 7:1
My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

So we find that in Mark's gospel the statement:

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.â€•

What a wonderful treasure, we have in Gods Word.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Sat, 21 Jan 2017 11:19:33 GMT
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We cannot over stress the importance of what Jesus said in His Word.

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges himâ€”the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

The Words Jesus spoke will judge men in the last day.

Modern man questions that Jesus is God or that there is a God, making it convenient not to obey what Jesus has clearly taught in His Word. They then excuse themselves from having to acknowledge their sins. But no matter what men say they will give account one day to God the Father for why they rejected His Words.

In light of what we see with all the turmoil across this land, one may ask the question is everyone protesting just because of a political divide? I have never seen a generation of people so vocal against a new administration as we see today.

Maybe it has gone on before but never surfaced on the level that we see today. I believe people feel threatened in their sin and they want a government telling them that what they are doing is okay. Murdering helpless babies by the thousands, accepting sodomite marriages, living in open

fornication, etc.

John the Baptist did not hesitate to tell Herod what he thought about his sinful marriage relationship.

I always did not know if revival would come again to this country but I feel now that the possibility is at hand and that Christians may have a small opening in time to pray in the next great revival that we have been told will come.

Gary

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by james on Sat, 21 Jan 2017 16:43:31 GMT
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With the 24/7 coverage by all types media outlets available today, anyone with almost any type of communication device can be exposed to what seems like more, but I don't think what's going on today is that much more than the late 60's and early 70's. People still wanting to live like they want without any regards to God's Word. Boycotts and protests were popular back then (remember the Montgomery bus boycotts of the late 50's <Rosa Parks>?); and the left wing activist, Hollywood liberals, and politicians who boycotted the Presidential inauguration yesterday remind me of the same.

It does seem like one 'side' is much more active in rebelling against the elected officials. I don't recall the 'conservatives' knocking out windows and burning stuff when the other party was elected for 8 years.

Anyway, back to what the Gospel say, we've all got to answer for our decisions in life...praise God for His Grace and Mercy.

Subject: Re: Gleanings from the "Gospels"
Posted by Gary on Thu, 09 Jan 2020 13:54:42 GMT
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I wanted to share here about the Memorial mentioned by Jesus who said wherever the gospel would be preached that this woman would be mentioned.

Someone asked me a while back about these passages so I started to looking at all four accounts and it was like a puzzle I had to piece together. In the process I came up with some information that I never really heard anyone out there preach on, at least I had never considered it.

Anyway I'm going to share the four accounts and then come to my conclusions of what I think happened here. Hopefully this won't sound to far fetched.

We start off with Matthews gospel:

Mat 26:6Â Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,Â
Mat 26:7Â There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.Â
Mat 26:8Â But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?Â
Mat 26:9Â For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.Â
Mat 26:10Â When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.Â
Mat 26:11Â For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.Â
Mat 26:12Â For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.Â
Mat 26:13Â Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.Â

Mat 26:14Â Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,Â
Mat 26:15Â And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.Â
Mat 26:16Â And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.Â

We start off and find that they were at the house of Simon the Leper. These passages shows that the disciples were indignant, and it tells us that Judas went out at that point to betray the Lord.

In Mark's gospel the account seems similar with some additional details:

Mar 14:3Â And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.Â

Mar 14:4Â And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?Â
Mar 14:5Â For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given

to the poor. And they murmured against her.
Â
Mar 14:6Â And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.Â
Mar 14:7Â For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.Â
Mar 14:8Â She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.Â
Mar 14:9Â Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.Â

Mar 14:10Â And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.Â
Mar 14:11Â And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.Â

Some were indignant, but we see someone was quite vocal to the Lord, saying that they could of made some money here and given it to the poor. Obviously this would appear as being spiritual having concern for the poor.

The gospel of Luke we are given further details on this event:

I was confused a little here because in Luke 7:11 it shows they were entering the city of Nain. Nain is roughly 20 miles away from Bethany, so I thought that maybe this could of been a different account with another woman anointing Jesus with the fragrant oil. Just a casual reading of the account it shows the Lord went into Nain then shortly after He ministered to some people, He was invited to eat at one of the Pharisees home. We find out here that this was Simon the Pharisee. Another reason to think this was a different woman that was anointing Jesus with the fragrant oil. Then after comparing all the accounts concerning locations; that in this gospel Luke did not show that the Lord went back to Bethany.

Luke 7:11 and Luke 7:36-50

Luke 7:11Â And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.Â

Luke 7:36Â And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.Â
Luke 7:37Â And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,Â
Luke 7:38Â And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the

ointment.Â
Luke 7:39Â Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.Â
Luke 7:40Â And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.Â
Luke 7:41Â There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.Â
Luke 7:42Â And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?Â
Luke 7:43Â Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.Â
Luke 7:44Â And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.Â
Luke 7:45Â Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.Â
Luke 7:46Â My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.Â
Luke 7:47Â Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.Â
Luke 7:48Â And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.Â
Luke 7:49Â And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?Â
Luke 7:50Â And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.Â

It's interesting to note that Jesus by the Spirit knew the thoughts of the Pharisee.

Finally we have John's gospel in John 12:1-7 we see further revelation of what took place:

John 12:1Â Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.Â
John 12:2Â There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.Â
John 12:3Â Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.Â
John 12:4Â Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,Â
John 12:5Â Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?Â
John 12:6Â This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.Â

John 12:7Â Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.Â
John 12:8Â For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.Â

John tells us that Judas was the one who was vocal and complained, the reason; because he was stealing from the money box not because he was concerned about the poor.

In Conclusion, here is what took place:

Simon the leper and Simon the Pharisee were the same person that invited Jesus to his house. We are also told "Simon" was the father of Judas Iscariot, who we would assume was raised in the Pharisee sect. Judas who was trying to appear spiritual before everybody, acted like he was wanting to help the poor, but he was offended when Jesus said: Let her alone she is doing this for my burial, the poor you have with you always. All along he was taking money from the money box and was stealing the offerings. Then we see he immediately goes to the chief priests to betray the Lord. This is; more background on why he chose to betray the Lord, he did not just decide one day out of the blue, that he would go to the chief priests. He was living a double standard all along.

No matter how we appear to others, what is important, in the final analysis is how do we appear in our hearts before the Lord. It's amazing that God knows all our thoughts there is nothing hidden from the Lord. We are an open book to the Lord. Why then should we love our neighbors, and forgive everybody as we have been forgiven, it's because this is how God is all merciful and forgiving. I once heard a minister from our group say that he thought in heaven we would all be one and would know each others thoughts. I believe that as well but we will find out that when we get there.

The disciples of Jesus came down to the very end and did not know what was going on in their small group, when Jesus said, someone tonight is going to betray me, each disciple said, "Is it I". They must of been totally shocked at the outcome, when Jesus was crucified and betrayed by one of their own.

In Him,
Gary