

Life of Christ
Fall 2011
Projects and Due Dates

Assignment 1
100 Points
Due October 7th at the beginning of class

Read the gospel of Matthew, then write a paper on how Matthew develops the theme of Jesus as Messiah. It is due **Friday, October 7** at the beginning of class.

You should start by doing a bit of research on the concept of “Messiah.” What did Jewish people living in Jesus’ time think about the “Messiah?” This understanding will give you “glasses” as you read through Matthew (you might want to go back and check some of your notes from Freshman Bible).

Read or listen to Matthew in one or two sittings. Don’t take notes. Just get a “feel for it.” Don’t bypass this step. It will save you time in the long run.

Then read Matthew again. This time jot down verses and passages that seem to point develop Matthew’s thesis that Jesus is the messiah. Record your data using a 2-column format. Column 1 should be labeled “Passage” and Column 2 should be labeled “Teaching of the Passage.” (Your data sheets will be turned in with the paper.) You might need to check a commentary to help you make sense of difficult passages. Be sure to cite the commentary on your data sheet, and also in your paper if you use the information.

Develop your paper from your data sheets.

Your paper should employ the 5-Paragraph Essay format, though you will no doubt have more than 5 paragraphs. Your thesis statement will be something like “Matthew presents Jesus as the Jew’s messiah or king.”

Your paper should be more than three pages and less than four. It should be typed, double spaced and use Times-New Roman font. It should follow the guidelines that appear on www.drbuzz.org. Staple your data sheet to your paper. Provide a Works Cited page that reflects anything you might have cited in the data sheets or the paper.

You must select one minor project and one major project. The minor project will be due Monday, December 14. The major project will be due Friday, January 8. You must select projects from **two different gospels**.

Assignment 2
50 Points
Due December 5 at the beginning of class

Select one, it is due **Monday, December 5th** at the beginning of class. Five (5) point bonus for projects turned in on or before December 1th.

1. Read the book of Mark and do a chapter by chapter analysis of the book. Go to www.drbuzz.org (Christian Life page) and download and print 8 copies of "Reading the Gospels Worksheet." Complete a worksheet for each chapter. The size of the space to write provides a subliminal message as to how deep your analysis should go. **I am most interested in the last section of the sheet "What are the lessons you should apply to how you live today"**. You will turn in those 8 sheets. Each sheet has room for two chapters. You will be graded on the completeness and thoughtfulness of your analysis.

2. Read either the book of Mark or Luke and 1) create a *Facebook* profile for four different people in that book (Not Jesus). Make sure you include a picture of each person (use Google images and find some art – like the pictures I show in class). 2) Invent a quiz for all four of them to take, and make sure they each take it! 3) Create a wall for one of them and have an imaginary conversation between the four of them about their experiences with Jesus and what they think about him. In a not-so-Facebook-way, be sure to include references (chapter and verse) to back up the things that have in their profile, the answers to their quizzes and what they write on the wall. Your conversations should draw on other material about Jesus found in either Mark or Luke – not just things from the pericopes containing those four people. This needs to be typed and neatly presented either on paper or in a webpage format (email it to me or put it on a cd). Have fun with this, but it must be tied to the text. Get into the gospel, relive the experiences, and relate those experiences in a way that would make sense to people today.

Assignment 3
100 Points
Due January 6th at the beginning of class

This is due **Friday, January 6th** at the beginning of class.

Read the entire Gospel of Luke, looking for how Jesus interacted with those who are outsiders, small, poor, marginalized, outcasts, looked down upon, limited, etc. Record your findings on a data sheet. Set up your data sheet like you did for the Matthew paper where you list the reference and the teaching of the passage. The quality and completeness of your data sheet will constitute 50% of your grade. Then, using your data selectively, write a paper no shorter than three pages and no longer than four, on what WCHS students can learn from Jesus about the lost, the least and the last. How does what we learn affect our goals, values and lifestyles? You may **ONLY** use your data sheet and study Bible. Please do not use any other sources. I want you to think through these issues on your own! Feel free to discuss this with friends, but you must all write your own papers. Be sure to cite contributions made by your friends.

This is probably obvious, but your data sheets should have much more information than is contained in your paper. You are being selective in what you write about. Remember, 50% of the grade is based on the data sheet.

It must be typed, 12 pt, Times-New Roman font, white paper, proper margins, and completely documented (follow the guidelines on www.drbuzz.org.) Scripture must be cited using chapter and verse. All thoughts not original to you (from your parents, pastor, or study Bible) **MUST** be documented, no matter how much you paraphrase them. **WARNING:** Failure to document ideas **OR** verses will be grounds for instant failure of the project. Ten (10) point bonus for all papers turned in on or before January 3.