

St. Andrew Center for Christian Learning
Bible Academy

MEETING JESUS: HIS LIFE & TIMES
Winter 2005
Monday Evenings

Class Times: Monday evenings
6:45 - 7:00, gathering time
7:00 - 8:30, class time

Class Dates: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28

Instructor: Scott L. Engle, Ph.D.

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You can find the syllabus and other course materials at website for the St. Andrew Center for Christian Learning, www.standrewccl.org. Simply go to the Bible Academy page and you'll find the link to the materials for this class.

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, CHECK THE CENTER'S WEBSITE, WHERE I'LL POST ANY CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS. If we have to cancel a class, we'll simply reduce the class to seven weeks and I'll modify the lectures so we can get back on schedule. If we have to cancel two or more classes, then we'll extend the class further into March.

Course materials:

Weekly worksheets

- The daily Bible readings are an integral part of the class. The Gospels provide much of the "raw material" for this class. Most of the daily readings will be taken from the four Gospels.

The set of overhead handouts for each week

A study Bible

Highly recommended:

Walker, Peter. 2003. **Jesus and His World**. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press

This is an excellent introduction to the life, the time, and the world of Jesus. Walker is obviously a student of Nt. T. Wright. Consequently, you'll find that this book talks about many of the things we'll talk about in class. And it has lots of great maps and photos.

Much of the material for this class, even its general structure, is taken from the work of N.T. Wright, currently the Bishop of Durham in the Church of England. Dr. Wright is one of the foremost New Testament scholars and probably the most respected first century biblical historian working today. He is currently working on the fourth volume of a projected six volume work titled, *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. This is a monumental work and an extraordinary gift to the church.

Course Description

The UMC Book of Discipline reminds us that *“We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”*

We are Christians. We place our faith in Jesus. By doing so, we are adopted into the family that is God’s people and we are restored to a right relationship with God.

But . . . who really is this person Jesus? We proclaim that he lives now, having been resurrected nearly 2000 years ago. Yet, he lived an earthly life for more than 30 years. He laughed. He loved. He taught. He healed. He lived life with a deep understanding of his mission, a mission that would lead him to death on a Roman cross. We claim him as our Lord, our master, as the center of our lives. In this class, we will come to grips with what Jesus really meant to his world and means to ours.

Learning Objectives

Those who complete this course should be able to:

1. Outline the key events in Jesus’ life.
2. Better appreciate the historical, geographical, and cultural contexts in which Jesus lived.
3. Explain Jesus’ mission or vocation.
4. See how Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is the climax of the entire biblical story.
5. Better appreciate Jesus’ Jewishness and how it affected all that he said and did.
6. Describe how the Jesus of history is the Jesus of our faith.
7. Gain a deeper understanding of how the Gospel accounts of Jesus life further our discipleship.

Expectations

To get the most out of this class, you should attend every meeting and be prepared to devote at least a couple of hours each week to the weekly worksheet and bible readings. My suggestion would be that you devote a half-hour each day, rather than do all the reading at one sitting. This class can be a good means of building a daily “Bible habit” that can sustain and enrich our lives and our congregation.

I hope that you will bring to the class all the questions and uncertainties about Jesus Christ that have puzzled you. We won’t be able to answer them all, but we want the class to be responsive to your needs, while still ensuring that we cover most of the material in the syllabus.

We expect you to enjoy the class and we will do all we can to exceed your expectations!

Meeting Jesus: His Life & Times
 Schedule of Class Activities – Winter 2005

Class Date	Topic	Assignments
1/10 (#1)	Introduction to the class Our goals for the class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are we going to do what we do? Jesus of faith and history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the Gospels Timelines and geography N.T. Wright - <i>Jesus & the New Way</i>	
1/17 (#2)	Getting the Kingdom Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for God • Keeping the hope alive • The wild prophet • The revolutionary announcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 2 – <i>Israel and the Romans</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Introduction and chapters 1 - 3
1/24 (#3)	Some Startling Surprises! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to celebrate! • Who’s invited? • The shocking welcome • The new challenge • The startling summons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 3 – <i>The Pharisees</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 4 - 5
1/31 (#4)	Longing for a King <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Messiah • Revolutionaries in Palestine • How will Jesus be vindicated? • Jesus on trial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 4 – <i>Jewish Revolution</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 6 - 7
2/7 (#5)	Why did Jesus Die? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The charges • What was Jesus up to? • Riddles of the cross • Deliverance through suffering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 5 – <i>Passover and the Jewish Festivals</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 8 & 9
2/14 (#6)	Who was Jesus? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coming of God • Sharing God’s throne • Jesus and the God of Israel • Jesus’ hidden vocation • Early Christians’ view of Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 6 – <i>Covenants</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 10
2/21 (#7)	The New Claim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning of “resurrection” • Answering the skeptics • The transformed body of Jesus • What Jesus’ resurrection means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 7 – <i>Resurrection</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 11
2/28 (#8)	What Jesus means to us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living by faith • Living by hope • Living by love • Living in the real world! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 8 – <i>Meeting the Jesus We Never Knew</i> • <i>Jesus and His World</i> – Chapter 12