

LET'S REVIEW — Holding phrases for the four Gospels. Memorize the following four statements! These hold the key to understanding the four Gospels.

MATTHEW: Jesus' Teaching Manual for living the deeply satisfied life;

MARK: Our mission is to awaken those spiritually asleep;

LUKE: Jesus and Jesus' message is the same;

JOHN: The meaning of our baptismal experience.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

22 Topic: "Transparent Relationships" - with commentary

Luke 8: 22 – 25, "Jesus Calms the Storm;" **Luke 9: 18 – 27**, "Peter's Confession of Christ;" **Luke 9: 28 – 36**, "The Transfiguration."

The purpose of the Gospel of Luke is told in the opening verses in the first chapter, ". . . it seemed good to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." It is this "orderly account" that provides the organization of our study material. This is lesson number 21 of 29.

Read the assigned THEME at one time.

NOTE CONCERNING TRANSPARENT RELATIONSHIPS.

It is helpful to remember that the purpose of the Gospel of Luke is to expose Jesus, and Jesus' message, as one piece; that is, Jesus has integrity. What he says, and who he is reveals Jesus to be of one piece.

Recently, the phrase "turned inside out" helps me to conceptualize this phrase. Gut Trip Analysis treats the word "transparent" like the old slide-film. In the development process, the camera "negative" is exposed to light and it becomes a "transparency." The image is on the film, and when a projector is used, the image is greatly enlarged to be viewed on a screen. These same values are illuminated in our lives. To be human, or natural, is to live without the "light of Christ" to transform our negative posture into something positive. Then, the light of Christ exposes the positive image in which we were created as creatures of God, and brothers with Christ.

The moment of our conversion is like being turned inside out to reveal our positive posture that is always with us, and to which we are blind. When the light of Christ exposes the real image of what it means to be human and humane.

The following theme supports this Gut Trip Analysis of "who Jesus is."

I. Luke 8: 22 – 25, "Jesus Calms the Storm"

WS: Vs. 25b sets the context for this theme of "transparent relationships." It asks the question, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"

Vs. 22 uses the familiar phrase "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." Gut Trip Analysis establishes this familiar scriptural phrase as a metaphor of passing over from the negative worldly side on the way to the positive spiritually awake side of things. Of course, the reverse also is possible. The context reveals the direction.

What is it the disciples encounter, and what is its relationship to either the world or the spirit?

WS: Vs. 23b - The disciples were in "great danger" The danger is best understood as being spiritually asleep. They were asleep to who this Jesus really represents. It is an interesting speculation to find that Jesus is in the same boat with the disciples. The IHOP'ers believed that the wind and the waves were metaphors for the things that life presents to us.

Where is Jesus during all of this? Why? (Keep it Gut Trip, please.)

WS: Vs. 23a - Jesus is "asleep" in the bottom of the boat. It may seem that Luke is playing a

joke on us. The underlying danger is being "asleep." Yet, Jesus is "asleep" representing the calmness of the life of being "spiritually awake." Wonderful.

What is the missing ingredient in the lives of his boat-mates that Jesus identifies?

WS: Vs. 25 - "Surrender/faith." To paraphrase Luke, "Where is your surrender?" Luke uses the word "faith," yet faith always points to surrendering ourselves to God who is Perfect At-One-Ment.

What does this scripture reveal about who Jesus is?

WS: The Awakened Jesus is the one whose life demonstrates living our spiritual resources.

II. **Luke 9: 18 – 27, "Peter's Confession of Christ."**

There are four parts to these few verses. I found it helped to clarify the underlying message by taking them in reverse order. See what you think.

Vss. 9:25 – 27: What is the context Jesus sets here?

WS: the basic question is to ask is, "What is the sign of our spiritual awakening?"

Vs. 27 - We'll not see our physical death before we see our spiritual awakening. The implication is that our spiritual awakening does not depend on our actually dieing.

Vs. 25 – The question Luke asks is, what good does it do to gain everything in the world and forfeit the significance of what it means to be a "self?" The "self" is that which we were created to be.

Vs. 26b – A Gut Trip Analysis of "glory of the Father's angels" means to live awakened.

Vss. 9: 23 – 24: In light of the above context, why are the instructions of Jesus relevant?

WS: The basic question to ask is, "What happens when we surrender our lives to Christ?"

Vs. 23 - "Deny yourself" means to surrender. What happens when a person surrenders their life to Christ? They awaken and accept themselves as whole, healthy human and humane beings.

"Take up your cross" means to live with what you've got. This is Lucy's point in the "Peanuts" comic strip when Charlie Brown is depressed. Lucy takes him out to a hill, and asks him, "Do you see any other worlds in which to live." "No," Charlie Brown replies. "Is this the only world you can live in," she asks. "Yes," Charlie Browns says. Then Lucy yells, "LIVE IN IT THEN!" As painful as this world is, it's all we've got.

"Follow me." It is vitally important for Christians to awaken to the Good News that we are not victims of the pain of the world. **Vss. 9: 21 – 22: This is the first time in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus clearly states why he must be "killed." In light of Jesus instructions to his disciples, what is the message here?**

WS: The basic question to ask is, "Why must Jesus suffer, be rejected, killed and raised?"

Vs. 22: The significance of Jesus' death and resurrection represents the defeat of the things that victimize us. The end result is we are victors.

NOTE: In Luke's gospel, this is the first of four times that Jesus predicts his death. Remember that Luke's purpose is to prove that the man Jesus and Jesus' message are of one piece. We hear Jesus' message, we see the messenger. We see the messenger demonstrate the message.

Also, each of the gospel writers writes his own information knowing the end of the They look back through the cross and resurrection, and then tell the story from the beginning to the end.

Vs. 21: Jesus' admonition "not to tell this to anyone," implies that when the end of the story is known, then Peter's confession that Jesus is "the Christ," will make sense.

Vss. 9:18 – 20: Now, read this conversation between Jesus and Peter and report Peter's stunning ascertain about Jesus. What does this say about Jesus' understanding of his transparent relationship to his purpose?

WS: The basic question to ask is, "Who do the disciples say Jesus is? The disciples associate Jesus with the greatest Awakened Ones.

The basic question to ask is, "Who does Peter say Jesus is? "The Christ of God." No association is made. Just, the plain statement - You are pure Awakening!

Again, this fulfills Luke's purpose to clearly associate Jesus and Jesus' message as being of one cloth.

II. Luke 9: 28 – 36, "The Transfiguration."

The transfiguration is the clearest testimony to our theme of "transparent relationships." Read these scripture verses while thinking of my phrase "being turned inside out." Here nothing is hidden, and even God gets a speaking part!

BE CAREFUL! THERE'S A TRAP HERE. Push yourself to translate these scripture through Gut Trip Analysis. Give it the ol' college try!

WS: Vs. 32a – Why are the disciples sleepy? Here sleepy disciples represent what it means to be human beings that are spiritually asleep.

Vs. 32b - Why are the disciples then fully awake? The disciples now see God's glory standing in the presence of two of the most traditionally spiritually awake people in Moses and Elijah.

Vs. 34 - When, in our own lives, are we enveloped in clouds? The IHOP'ers suggested "cloudy thinking," "when life overwhelms us," and "living in the dark." HOWEVER, it is important to note that it is in our clouds of life that we discover where God lives! God lives smack dab in the middle of our cloudy human experiences. We have no need to fear the clouds. If we do, we are victims to them, rather than being victors with them.

Vs. 35 – What is the message of God? "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." In Gut Trip Analysis, this can be transliterated as, "What you are looking at in Perfect At-One-Ment. He is the best reflection of God as Perfect At-One-Ment. Put into practice whatever he tells you."

Again, in light of Luke's purpose what better example to prove that the man Jesus and the message of Jesus are one and the same thing.

Alright, folks, Talk to me!