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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

26 Topic: "Authority as Jesus the Christ" – with commentary.

Luke 19: 28 – 20: 47 The scripture periscopes (or sub-titles) covered are: **Luke 19: 28 – 44**, "The Triumphal Entry;" **Luke 19: 45 – 48**, "Jesus at the Temple;" **Luke 20: 1 – 8**, "The Authority of Jesus Questioned;" **Luke 20: 9 – 19**, "The Parable of the Tenants;" **Luke 20: 20 – 26**, "Paying Taxes to Caesar;" **Luke 20: 27 – 40**, "The Resurrection and Marriage;" and **Luke 20: 41 – 47**, "Whose Son is the Christ?"

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 26 of 29.

NOTE: As of the last session, we completed the 14 themes of Jesus' Message. Six of these themes supported "The Essence of the Message." Eight of these themes supported "The Message at Work." (See the updated Luke chart for this information.) In this session, we start the last of four sessions that "**Affirm the Transparent Christ**," and "The fulfillment of The Message." These final four sets of scriptures report the "Transparent Events in the Death of Jesus as The Christ."

Read the assigned THEME at one time.

WS: *At the IHOP conversation prior to our scripture study, this question was raised, "What does an authentic human being look like? After considerable discussion, the answer is it is difficult to tell, because an authentic human being is no different on the outside, but is different on the inside; there is a peace and a sense of wholeness.*

From my perspective, an authentic human being is at peace with him or herself, with God as Perfect At-One-Ment, and with neighbors. In this way he/she fulfills the Great Commandment, and finds meaning and purpose in fulfilling the 10 Commandments as well. There is a sense of wholeness about her/him. In Gut Trip language, the outer human/natural body is living at-one with the inner spiritual body. Being in touch with the inner resources result is living as a humane human being.

If such a person is walking down the street you can see them doing good things for others while bearing an expression of joy and peace that can be seen and sensed as well.

The rationale for this conversation is that it sets the stage to understand Jesus as the authentic one. This is Jesus as Authority; i.e., when we see Jesus we see authenticity; when we experience authenticity, we experience Jesus!

NOTE: Each of the following sub-sections of the assigned reading has something to do with the "authority" of Jesus Christ. Read each set of scriptures, and report how different people and circumstances experience Jesus as authority. It is important to remember that Luke is out to demonstrate that Jesus—as the messenger, and Jesus' message of the Good News, are one and

the same. That is, you see Jesus and you see Jesus' message.

1. Luke 19: 28 – 44, "The Triumphal Entry"

Observe that the minor miracle of finding an unbroken colt ready for the Lord's use is not difficult to understand *when you know the end of the story: the resurrection*. "The Lord has need of it," because it fulfills the Messianic expectations described in 2 Kings 9:13 (Palm Sunday events). Luke quotes Psalm 118:26 as proof text for the event. Combine this event with the two famous quotations in this scripture "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet the stones will cry out" (vs. 19:40), and "he wept over it [Jerusalem]" (vs. 41).

Now, what does this story reveal about Jesus as Authority? Observe that the statement is not, "Jesus has authority." Rather, it is "Jesus as Authority."

WS: Jesus is the authentic human/humane individual. He is not living out of material expectations but is in touch with the Deeps of life. This is what the people intuited about the man Jesus.

2. Luke 19: 45 – 48, "Jesus at the Temple"

The situation here is that Jesus cleans house, and creates a new consensus among the people ("the people hung on his words"). What's going on here? What does this say about Jesus as authority?

WS: In the activity of "cleaning house," the people understood this was the right thing to do; this is consistent with wholeness, health and healing. The authentic human being understands how to demonstrate what authentic living looks like. Jesus is our example of living the authentic life. The authentic life takes on unpopular activities out of a sense of justice and right-living (righteousness).

3. Luke 20: 1 – 8, "The Authority of Jesus Questioned"

In this section, Luke uses an old debater's trick of entrapment. What going on? What does this say about Jesus as authority?

WS: Vss. 5 and 6 illustrates the debater's trap. Again, the point is that the authentic life can not be tricked into making false and condemning statements. The authentic life sees through to living in At-One-Ment with everything. Jesus is our example of living the authentic life.

4. Luke 20: 9 – 19, "The Parable of the Tenants"

In this section, Jesus uses a Socratic trick to "set up" his listeners. At the moment, for me, this parable is the most poignant among those in this lesson. We experience the foretelling, and Jesus' own anticipation, of the Holy Week events. Explain the "set up" and describe the lesson "the people" learned. What does this say about Jesus as authority?

WS: It is helpful to remember that the "vineyard" always represents the Jewish nation. In the parable, God is the owner, and God's son is Jesus as the Christ. Further, it is important to remember that the Jewish Nation were representatives of those who are the AWAKENED. However, just like the Christian Church, we tend to go to sleep and can not function as the enlightened in society. In other words, we are the ones to kill God's Son again and again.

Concerning God's punishment, my axiom that "The reward for the deed is found in the deed itself" can be applied. God is not in the business of punishment because the deed itself carries its own reward. God only loves us, and as bad thing happen to good people, God's spirit moves to transform every event into something meaningful and good for us.

5. Luke 20: 20 – 26, "Paying Taxes to Caesar"

Once again, Jesus demonstrates his debating skills. For the reaction of the *pretending spies* read

vs. 26. How does Luke use this parable to illuminate Jesus as Authority?

WS: Again, we see a demonstration of living the authentic life. For the Awakened, we commit ourselves to be the intentionally obedient ones to both the human/political relationships, as well as to the spiritual relationships. Only in this way can we demonstrate the humane life.

6. Luke 30: 27 – 40, “The Resurrection and Marriage”

Do you remember why the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection? “This is why they were ‘sad-you-see!’” Again, Jesus uses his debating skills to entrap his questioners. **The point Jesus makes is that when you’ve experienced resurrection you can’t die, “. . .for they are like angels. They are God’s children.”** (My emphasis!)

If you consider that there are many ways to die, and that those who experience life as hopeless experience a kind of death, then what is the hope that Jesus has to offer? Don’t make this too hard. Think ahead to the end of the story and remember that Jesus is the message; he is authority.

So, what is the hope that Jesus has to offer?

WS: The meaning of Awakening is the experience of dying to our spiritual sleep. This is the significance of the resurrection! This is our experience of baptism: when we were baptized we died to being asleep. The Awakened Life is the life lived in Perfect At-One-Ment, and this is the authentic life. This is the life that Jesus has to offer, the life he demonstrates for us. This is Jesus as Authority.

7. Luke 20: 41 – 47, “Whose Son is the Christ?”

Again, like all of the previous scriptures in this study, Luke uses this scripture to describe who Jesus is. To appreciate this effort, it is necessary *to see through Jesus*, that is, to experience the *transparent Jesus*. In the process of answering this question, Jesus clearly identifies the problem of the “teachers of the law:” they bear no fruit. Ask yourself the question why? Then, answer the question, “Whose son is Christ?”

WS: The Teachers of the Law bear no fruit because they are spiritually asleep. This condition is revealed in the question, “Whose son is Christ?” If they were spiritual awake, after all they are “teachers of the Law,” the question would never be raised. Jesus’ scorn is evident in vss. 45 through 47. These lawyers are stuck in their worldly pride rather than in the authenticity of being fully human and humane.

“Christ” is the son of Perfect At-One-Ment. A Gut Trip word for Christ is The Awakened One.

Alright, folks, talk to me.