

Gospel of Matthew, Book Study, Fr. Evan Armatas, Fall 2006

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Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

-Psalm 119.105

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also deep reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

-Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Course Objectives:

To study and become familiar with the basic concepts and themes contained within the Gospel of Matthew. To become familiar with elements of Church teaching and doctrine related to the Gospel of Matthew. To recognize and understand some of the teachings of the fathers related to the Gospel of Matthew.

Calendar:

Introduction, initial thoughts & methodology

New Testament canon, patristic witness & formation of canon

Gospel of Matthew, Outline, Themes, Initial Thoughts

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 1 – 4

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5 – 7

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 8 – 10

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 11 – 15

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 16 – 20

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 21 – 24

Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 25 – 28

Bibliography:

Orthodox Study Bible

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha, expanded edition Sola Scriptura, by Fr. John Whiteford, Conciliar Press, Ben Lomond, CA.

The Bread of Life, Theodore Stylianopoulos, Holy Cross Seminary Press, Brookline, MA.

Early Christian Fathers by Cyril Richardson, (New York, NY: Touchstone, 1996).

The New Testament: A Thematic Introduction by J. Christiaan Beker, (Minneapolis, MN, Fortress, 1994).

Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers by Christopher A. Hall, (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1998). A basic introduction to the world of the Church Fathers and a critique on modern exegesis.

An Introduction to the New Testament, by Raymond E. Brown, (New York, NY, Doubleday, 1997). A standard and reliable introduction to the New Testament, and excellent reference guide.

Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First and Second Series, see volumes on Matthew by St. John Chrysostom

The Early Christian Fathers, edited and translated by Henry Bettenson, (Oxford, UK, Oxford University Press, 1956).

The Later Christian Fathers, edited and translated by Henry Bettenson, (Oxford, UK, Oxford University Press, 1970).

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, edited by Thomas C. Oden, (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2002), see volumes on Matthew

The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the quest for holiness in early Christian Monasticism, by Douglas Burton-Christie, Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 1993

Sacra Pagina The Gospel of Matthew, by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., volume 1, A Michael Glazier Book, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1991.