

Introduction to Scripture I (THEO 100)

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Study Questions for the Reading Assignment for Week 1

Session 1:

Who was Jesus? / What the Church teaches about on Scripture / Background to Synoptic Gospels

For this class read: *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, xv–xxiii, 3–5; 61–63; 99–100

Questions:

On *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, xv–xxiii

1. What are the foundational documents of historic Christianity?
2. Why the four canonical gospels unlike the many apocryphal gospels?
3. Give three reasons why it is likely the titles of the Gospels were not added later. Why are “Matthew,” “Mark,” and “Luke” unlikely figures to be associated with these works?
4. The evidence of early Christian writings suggests that the authority of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John was widely known by when?
5. Why are the figures of the man, eagle, ox and lion associated with the four Gospels?
6. What are the three stages of the historical process out of which the Gospels come to us?
7. What is the likely genre of the Gospels? What is implied by the genre about the Gospels?
8. What does the Church say about the historicity of the Gospels? What difference is there between what a historian might say about the Gospels and what the Church teaches?
9. What are we to make of apparent mistakes or contradictions in the Gospels? Know the gist of the six considerations covered?
10. What are the *Augustinian Hypothesis*, the *Two-Gospel Hypothesis*, and the *Two-Source Hypothesis*?

On *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, 3–5 (Introduction to the Gospel According to Matthew)

1. Who was Matthew?
2. What manuscript evidence is there to support the idea that Matthew wrote the Gospel attributed to him? Who did all the early Church fathers think wrote this Gospel?
3. Most scholars today think that Mark wrote the first Gospel. How does that affect the view of Matthew’s authorship of the book attributed to him?
4. Why aren’t arguments against Matthean authorship compelling?
5. What are, roughly, the two periods scholars assign as the date for the composition of the Gospel according to Matthew? Why is the earlier date more likely?
6. What happened in the year A.D. 70?
7. Who was Matthew’s likely original audience (i.e., what was the destination of the Gospel)?
8. How is Matthew’s Gospel divided up?
9. What is the central theme of Matthew’s Gospel? What are the three dimensions of this message?

On *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, 61–63 (Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark)

1. Who was Mark? What was his relationship to Peter?
2. What two key factors suggest the Gospel According to Mark was written prior to A.D. 70?
3. Who was the Gospel of Mark most likely written to? What evidence is there for this conclusion?
4. What are the two major divisions of Mark’s Gospel?
5. What are the two major themes in Mark?

On *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, 99–100 (Introduction to the Gospel According to Luke)

1. Why is there no reason to doubt that the Gospel according to Luke was actually written by Luke?
2. Who was Luke? What other New Testament book did he write?

3. What are the two dates assigned to the Gospel According to Luke by scholars? Why is the earlier date more likely (three reasons)?
4. Who is the Gospel addressed to? Who is it likely intended for?
5. What are the three major themes in Luke's Gospel? What are some other memorable unique contributions?