

The events from all four gospels in chronological order of occurrence

Questions

1. If God knew the law wasn't good enough, then why have it in the beginning?
2. Do you physically believe all the miracles that take place over the gospels?
3. What makes a Christian?
4. Do you believe anything that goes against the Bible?

Week 1

- The word became flesh (John 1: 1-18)
 - The only way to start with the story of Jesus is to start with the beginning (John 1: 1)
 - The entire story of the Bible points to Jesus
 - By examining the prophets, we see multiple instances that indicate a need for something more
 - The people of God fell short time and time again, and we will come to know that this is because the law wasn't meant to be permanent
 - We no longer live under the law, but instead we are alive through Christ (Romans 6: 14)
 - Jesus has been there since the beginning (John 1: 2)
 - God always intended life to happen the way it did (Psalm 147: 4-5)
 - Actions of man do not surprise God
 - He doesn't like our sin, but it is of no surprise to him
 - He knew that Adam would eat the fruit
 - From the beginning, God knew the law wasn't good enough
 - Then why have the law across the OT?
 - To convict us
 - To understand the grace of God, that no one is faultless (John 1: 16)
 - To understand the significance of Jesus's sacrifice
 - Christ's sacrifice is timeless, and necessary for anyone, whether of old or of new (Ephesians 1: 5-10)
 - Christ is a light for us amongst the darkness we live in (John 1: 4)

- We are given purpose from God to live out his will and serve as messengers for him (John 1: 6-8)
 - We alone are not lights, but through us, the light may shine (John 1: 8)
 - God can speak through us and our actions
 - This doesn't have to just be preaching
 - Simply loving can often be the best way to testify
 - We have shunned God, but need to invite him in (John 1: 9-13)
 - Jesus will go on to give his all for us, and in return, we ought to give him our whole hearts
 - Sometimes it is hard to immediately give him everything, but if you give him a little and let him in, he can let you learn how to love (1 John 4: 19)
 - Jesus came to bring the glory of God to earth (John 1: 14)
 - Jesus made God known to us through genuine love and service (John 1: 18)
 - Therefore, love is such an important thing
 - We are called to be like Jesus, thus others can come to know God
- Lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1: 1-17, Luke 3: 23-38)
 - Jesus comes from David
 - God loved David
 - He chose him as his king and blessed him (1 Samuel 16: 12-13)
 - David wasn't perfect, but his throne would go on to be established forever (2 Samuel 7: 16)
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of this
 - The lineage leads to Joseph, not Mary (Matthew 1: 16)
 - Importance on Joseph
 - This is why it mattered so much that he stayed with Mary
- Foretelling of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 1-25)
 - It is actually unknown who Theophilus is, but was probably not fully on board with Christianity (Luke 1: 1-4)
 - Zechariah (a minor prophet) fathers John the Baptist (Luke 1: 14)
 - This was prophesized by Gabriel, the angel that came to Mary (Luke 1: 19)
 - The birth of a son was a blessing in and of itself (Luke 1: 25)
 - This comes from Rachel's inability to give birth (Genesis 30: 23)
 - Elijah was often renowned as one of the greatest prophets, so to say John will be like him is a big deal (Luke 1: 17)

- Jesus goes on to say John is the best among man
- His purpose is to “make ready for the Lord a people prepared”
 - This is an awesome ideal to live by
 - We should constantly be striving to share the love of God to an extent that shows everyone of what is to come
- John is the first instance to have the Holy spirit inside of him (Luke 1: 15)

Week 2

- Foretelling of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1: 26-38)
 - Mary accepts her role from God willingly (Luke 1: 38)
 - Stop and think: how would you be upset if you were told that you were going to bear a son, when you were a virgin?
 - You’re about to start a new family, where most people don’t immediately want a kid
 - There’s no way that this could have been expected, but Mary still trusted in God and found peace in the situation
 - God is capable of anything (Luke 1: 37)
 - Do you believe he is capable of anything?
 - Do you believe that a virgin Mary was truly pregnant and bore Jesus?
 - We should trust in God’s miracles
 - This is why the power of prayer is so impressive
 - If it is God’s will, he can make anything happen with pure faith
 - This is something we will come to see again and again in the gospels
 - Jesus and John the Baptist are cousins (Luke 1: 36)
 - Mary visits Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-45)
 - Mary immediately goes to talk to Elizabeth, as God told her to (Luke 1: 39)
 - We are rewarded by our faith (Luke 1: 45)
 - Mary trusted that the word of God had meaning behind it
 - This is an incredible thing, and it happens just because God said to “go” and Mary listened
 - This is a recurring theme of the gospels
 - Canticle of Mary (Luke 1: 46-56)
 - Mary gives the glory to God
 - Immediately after hearing of the holy spirit in John, Mary sings out a song of praise
 - She recognizes God fulfilling his covenant to Abraham (Luke 1: 54-55)
 - Still, you can see that Mary has no idea what is to come
 - She speaks of God saving Israel

- Obviously, she has no idea of the tragedy that will happen with Jesus dying for us
 - One of the core features she does note is God's grace for the humble (Luke 1: 52)
 - It's interesting that one of her key characteristics that she describes will depict the death of Jesus
- Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 57-66)
 - Elizabeth listened to the Lord, naming her son John (Luke 1: 50)
 - It was Jewish custom to name children after relatives
 - Despite this, the will of God was supreme to tradition
 - This is another recurring theme throughout the gospels
 - Jesus teaches us a new life, free from the tradition of the law through Christianity
 - Zechariah gets his voice back (Luke 1: 64)
- Zechariah's Prophecy (Luke 1: 67-80)
 - Jesus is the culmination of all of God's promises in the OT (Luke 1: 68-75)
 - By Jesus, we are all saved (Luke 1: 71)
 - John will be the prophet which paves the way for Jesus (Luke 1: 76-80)
 - By God's grace, John could share salvation (Luke 1: 77)
 - Remember, we as believers are not lights ourselves, but merely testify the light (John 1)
 - John faithfully awaits his calling (Luke 1: 80)
- Foretelling of Jesus to Joseph (Matthew 1: 18-25)
 - God had a very specific purpose for Joseph in order to fulfill the prophecies (Matthew 1: 22)
 - We discussed that Jesus needed to come from Joseph (from the line of David), but here we see that he also had to come from Mary (Matthew 1: 23)
 - Joseph was righteous in that he put aside his old plans of divorce to fulfill God's will (Matthew 1:19, 24)
 - Even after marriage, Joseph had self-control to live according to God's commands

Week 3

- Luke 2: 1-7 (Birth of Christ)
 - Born in a manger (Luke 2: 7)
 - This is something we've heard many times, but take some time to think about it
 - There was no room in the inn for the savior of the universe, so he slept in a stable
 - We often imagine a glorious scene, but the birth of Christ was very humble

- Luke 2: 8-21 (Shepherds and Angels)
 - The shepherds were quick to be faithful (Luke 2: 15)
 - They didn't hesitate or question the angel, even though nothing happening made any sense
 - They went to Jesus, even though it was out of their way
 - Multitude of heavenly hosts is convincing too (Luke 2: 14)
 - What was the point in them going?
 - To see a sign of the coming messiah (Luke 1: 12)
 - Get people to go, spread word possibly
 - To be a sign to Mary (Luke 1: 19)
 - Validated what the angels said
 - For the glory of God (Luke 1: 20)
 - God chose shepherds as the first to praise Jesus
 - Social setting doesn't matter
 - Shepherds were poor
- Luke 2: 22-38 (Jesus presented at the temple)
 - Sacrifices are made for Jesus (Luke 2: 24)
 - It was important that Jesus was born into a law-abiding family
 - How else could he live a perfect life if he didn't fulfill the traditions required by the law?
 - The sacrifice of turtledoves or pigeon indicates they were not wealthy (Leviticus 12: 6-8)
 - Another example of Jesus in a lowly status
 - Mary and Joseph don't understand all of what's happening (Luke 2: 33)
 - God doesn't give us every detail ever
 - We take one step at a time, walking according to his will, and his plan unfolds around us as we go (Proverbs 16: 9)
 - It'd be so easy to get overwhelmed, but we should take things as they come, trusting that God will take care of it
 - Note: we should still do our best to do our part to prepare for things, but need to prepare according to where God leads us (Proverbs 16: 3)
 - Foreshadowing of Jesus's death (Luke 2: 35)
- Matthew 2: 1-12 (Wise Men)
 - Herod
 - We see an important figure(s) in the story of Jesus come into play; Herod (Matthew 2: 3)
 - Herod was the Roman-appointed king of Judea
 - We see multiple Herods in the story of Jesus in the lineage
 - This one is Herod The Great
 - He can often be viewed as a force of the world, looking for selfish gain throughout the gospel

- The wise men inform Herod of Jesus (not meaning to start anything) (Matthew 2: 7-8)
 - God warns them, and they leave, but Herod still knows of Jesus (and feels threatened) (Matthew 2: 12)
 - The wise men
 - Similarly to the shepherds, these wise men come from far away, showing their great faith (Matthew 2: 1)
 - They give away riches of the world as gifts, they place their value in spirituality instead (Matthew 2: 11)
- Matthew 2: 13-15 (Flight to Egypt)
 - God warns Joseph of Herod, coming to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:13)
 - God protects his children
 - Again, we see that the story of Jesus is happening a certain way to satisfy prophecy (Matthew 2: 15)
- Matthew 2: 16-18 (Herod kills the children)
 - Herod, a force of the world, kills children, often associated with innocence (Matthew 2: 16)
 - This can symbolize some level of wickedness in the world
 - This also shows God being in control of the world
 - He knew Herod's actions before he took them (Matthew 2: 18)
- Matthew 2: 19-23, Luke 2: 39-40 (Back to Nazareth)
 - Herod is dead, and now his son, Herod Archelaus is ruling (Matthew 2: 20, 22)
 - Furthermore, Jesus was planned to be raised in Nazareth (Matthew 2: 23)
 - Note: Luke never mentions the Herod plot, instead, it is just generally said they go to Nazareth (Where Mary and Joseph were before travelling to Bethlehem) (Luke 2: 39-40)
- Luke 2: 41-52 (Jesus in the temple)
 - Instead of goofing off, Jesus spends time in scripture and prayer when left alone (Luke 2: 46)
 - How often, when we get to catch a breath, do we go right to God?
 - Imagine hanging out with friends all day, do you take your first free moment to read the Bible, or to read Reddit?
 - This was all at twelve years old... an astounding amount of wisdom!
 - Jesus obeys his parents (Luke 2: 51)
 - This is important... remember the 10 commandments? (Exodus 20: 12)
 - God and man alike value wisdom (Luke 2:52)
 - We should be seeking to get closer to God, not to impress man (1 Thessalonians 2: 4)
 - That said, if we do seek God fully, not just for the approval of man, then we will be a great example to man
 - It's important that we strive to be better Christians with a gracious heart, remembering where we came from, not just using this for pride

Week 4

- Matthew 3: 1-12, Mark 1: 1-8, Luke 3: 1-18 (John the Baptist Prepares the Way)
 - First real occurrence of baptism in the Bible
 - Although, there may be traditional roots of a Jewish purification bath (Leviticus 16: 23-24)
 - Differences
 - Isaiah quote
 - Going to focus on Luke since it is the most detailed account
 - The different details actually assert stronger evidence in the validity of the Bible
 - Independently, they all reached the same meaning
 - People interpret events differently
 - John disses the pharisees (Luke 3: 7-9, Matthew 3: 7-10)
 - The pharisees rest on their dependency with Abraham
 - John warns here that everyone must have borne good fruits
 - No one is entitled to heaven
 - Lessons
 - Give to the poor (Luke 3: 11)
 - Don't take a surplus (Luke 3: 13)
 - Be content with what you are given (Luke 3: 14)
 - Jesus > John (Matthew 3: 11-12, Mark 1: 7-8, Luke 3: 16-17)
 - John isn't even good enough to remove Jesus's sandal
 - Yet Jesus cleans our feet
 - Baptized with fire?
 - Pentecost (Acts 2: 3)
 - Oil?
 - Cleansing flame
 - Strengthened in fire
 - Harvesting
 - Jesus cuts the wheat
 - What is left he burns in an unquenchable fire
- Matthew 3: 13-17, Mark 1: 9-11, Luke 3: 21-23a (Baptism of Jesus)
 - Jesus claimed by God
 - Clouds part and heavens open up moment
 - Let it be to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew)
 - Jesus understood his high place in the world, yet he still allowed (and pushed) John to baptize him
 - Yet we are quick to defend our own self-righteousness over others when we're wrong
 - Jesus 30 years old (Luke 3: 23a)
 - Brain develops at 25
 - No shame in waiting to be baptized

- Many today are quick to be baptized or embarrassed later, thinking it's for younger kids
 - In reality, it's a huge decision to follow God and to purify your heart
- Matthew 4: 1-11, Mark 1: 12-13, Luke 4: 1-13 (Temptation in the Desert)
 - Jesus is quick to reject temptation
 - We see that when Satan tempts Jesus, he doesn't dwell on these thoughts, he turns from him
 - Jesus uses scripture to combat Satan
 - Lessons from Jesus's responses
 - Don't test God
 - It's easy to ask God for our own unique sign for our lives
 - God doesn't have to prove himself
 - We must remember we live by faith
 - We don't make the rules, God does
 - Only worship God
 - It's easy to pick our own idols (even ourselves)
 - If Jesus, son of God, didn't choose to be worshipped, we definitely don't deserve to
 - God is enough for us
 - Trying to break fast
 - Stay true to what you do
 - Bread is an example here
 - Don't actually starve yourself to death please
 - God blesses us with bread to sustain us
 - But bread isn't enough, we need God to truly supplement our desires and needs
 - Differences in story
 - Worshiping only God and not testing God are switched in Luke
 - Mark doesn't share any details
 - Temptation strikes when it will most effect you (Luke 4: 13)
 - It's not during the church high you must worry about
 - If you're tired, apathetic, confused, or otherwise not ready, you're more vulnerable to temptation to sin
 - As Christians, we must constantly guard our heart to be ready for temptation
 - Different levels of temptation
 - Even Jesus had to be ministered (Matthew 4: 11)
 - It's ignorant to think we are above teachings from others
 - Satan uses scripture against Jesus
 - It's possible for unbelievers to misrepresent scripture against us
 - We must know what the Bible says and means to know the context of the verses, lest we misunderstand the meaning

- Could justify your own desires falsely
- Immediately Jesus goes (Mark)
 - He doesn't pack a bag before leaving for the desert
 - When called, we are to go
 - Sense of urgency

Week 5

- John 1: 19-28 (Testimony of John the Baptist)
 - This is not the same account as before (we see, reading on this is 2 days before Jesus starts calling disciples to ministry)
 - John didn't claim to be more than he was (John 1: 19-23)
- John 1: 29-34 (John declares Jesus)
 - Before God declared Jesus as his son, now John is the one proclaiming him (John 1: 29)
 - John did not know Jesus (despite his family connection), but God made known to him who he was (John 1: 33)
- John 1: 35-42 (Jesus calls the first disciples)
 - Two of John's disciples overhear John proclaiming Jesus (John 1: 35)
 - One of these was Andrew
 - Andrew goes and tells Peter about Jesus
 - Jesus tells them to come and see where he is staying (John 1: 39)
 - We don't know all our faith has in store
 - We are just told to follow and see where it takes us
 - We trust that we will ultimately be led to a good place
 - We also know the only way to experience and see what's in store is to have faith and follow
 - Jesus gives the name Peter (Cephas) to Simon
 - This isn't their official call to ministry
 - They don't leave to follow Jesus until later
- John 1: 43-51 (Philip & Nathanael)
 - Jesus travels to Galilee (John 1: 43)
 - Simply says "Follow me" to Philip
 - Philip is quick to believe
 - Nathanael has his doubts
 - Philip tells Nathanael of Jesus (John 1: 45-46)
 - Nathanael immediately judges Jesus by the world
 - Jesus noticed him under a fig tree, which brings belief to Nathanael (John 1: 47-51)
 - Although this was a miracle, it was small in scope compared to what's to come
 - The little things make a difference

- Nathanael saw the genuine nature of Jesus, who picked him out and gave him attention
 - Aside from this, he appeared either sneaky or a psychic
- Potentially Nathanael received some sort of sign under a fig tree
 - We really don't know, either way, we know there was some sort of significance to him of this symbol
 - Jesus knows us for who we are and what matters to us
 - Similarly, we should reach out to people where they're at, trying to make a connection to what they care for
- John 2: 1-12 (The wedding)
 - Mary asked Jesus to get wine
 - Did she mean just fetch it?
 - Did Mary really know he was capable of that?
 - Jesus's response indicates he did
 - "Woman my time has not come"
 - Doesn't want to expose himself yet
 - Slowly works miracles in groups
 - Hasn't officially called all disciples
 - Big wedding
 - Jesus brings disciples
 - Lots of wine
 - Jesus turns water to wine
 - Why wine? Drunkenness?
 - Nope!
 - Wine was in some ways healthier than water, due to contamination in the waters
 - First miracle of Jesus
 - Manifest his glory
 - Jesus provides the good wine (John 2: 10)
 - If they went to get wine it wouldn't be bad
 - Existing wine was good, but it didn't last
 - When the good fades, Jesus had better to offer
- John 2: 13-25 (Jesus cleanses the temple)
 - It's not a bad thing to get fired up
 - Jesus saw merchants selling inside the temple of God and made a literal whip (John 2: 15-17)
 - Shows God's value of his temple
 - We are going to face adversity as Christians
 - It may or may not be directly contesting us
 - Not everyone will listen the same way, some require action, while others require words

- There's nothing wrong with acting out on others for your faith, so long that it comes from a place of love and it comes to further your faith
 - If we are to believe wholeheartedly in God, it makes sense to defend him to others
 - Doing so can be terrifying, but isn't that literally what we're called to do?
- Jesus's body as the temple
 - He carried the holy spirit; thus his body was a temple to the spirit (1 Corinthians 6: 19)

Week 6

- John 3: 1-21 (Must be born again)
 - Nicodemus
 - Pharisee (John 3: 1)
 - But he's a little different
 - See, most pharisees saw themselves as pure in their own ways, but Nicodemus was looking to learn from Jesus
 - We see him taking things very literally (John 3: 4)
 - Nicodemus is a master teacher, but still knows little (John 3: 10)
 - God needs more than just a theology-based religion: that's too shallow for him
 - Understanding of heavenly things takes a real relationship with God (John 3: 12)
 - A lot of pharisees seem really close minded
 - We should put knowledge to the test according to God's teachings (1 Thess. 5: 21)
 - True faith
 - Born again (John 3: 6)
 - Put aside your flesh to live in spirit
 - Something has changed (John 3: 8)
 - You may not notice a crazy physical change in someone born again, but there is definitely a change, like how you don't see the wind, just feel it
 - Jesus as our medic (Numbers 21: 8-9)
 - God's love
 - Yeah, the typical verse (John 3: 16)
 - But take time to think about it, God sent a perfect human to live out a life here, one capable of judgement for us all, but instead he sent him to love us, not to judge us (John 3: 17)
 - Despite this love, people will still reject Jesus (John 3: 20)

- Also, Jesus is literally spilling out everything that will happen right now
 - Similar analogies here to John 1
- Discussion: What makes a Christian a Christian?
 - Christians need to and should want to act like Christians (John 3: 21)
 - But this isn't what makes a Christian a Christian, it is what happens from being a Christian
 - Faith and Works
 - Faith is believing even though you don't fully know
 - Works is fueled by faith to show our love
 - Love is why we have faith
 - Seeking after God and striving to walk in step with him
 - By doing this, you will end up serving him and following his word
- John 3: 23-36 (John the Baptist exalts Jesus)
 - John's disciples seem to be asking if he's jealous (John 3: 26)
 - John says that he is rejoicing in Jesus's ministry (John 3: 29)
 - It's easy to get jealous over little things that don't matter
 - Moreover, we need to remember we are all working towards the same goals (and if we aren't, we need to check ourselves), so there's no reason to compete
 - Maybe awe and surprise
 - No one really baptized before John
 - Jesus greater than John (John 3: 31)
 - Heaven is our lifeline
 - Everything we receive comes from above (John 3: 27)
 - All good knowledge comes from above (John 3: 31)
 - We are of the earth, therefore our views on life are distorted
 - Discussion: Have you ever or do you still believe anything (personally or politically) that goes against the Bible at all? How do you react to that?
 - Similarly to Jesus's teaching, John shares that Jesus is our path to God (John 3: 33-36)
- Luke 3: 19-20 (John locked up)
 - Herod puts John the Baptist into prison
 - Basically, he's jealous of John
 - We'll talk more about all this down the line next time John is mentioned in more detail in Mark
- Luke 4: 14-15, John 4: 1-3 (Jesus to Galilee)
 - Jesus leaves for Galilee
 - He was getting too popular (John 4: 1-3)

- We see his ministry is really starting to kick off, with him teaching more and making a name for himself

Week 7

- John 4: 4-45 (Woman of Samaria)
 - Jews hated Samaritans (John 4: 9)
 - The Samaritan was alone... Seen as an outcast seen by time of day
 - Jesus's water is more than enough (John 4: 13)
 - Jesus sees everyone for who they are (John 4: 18)
 - Woman doesn't necessarily lie but isn't forthcoming with information
 - Sometimes we try to do this with God to excuse sin, but that's not good enough
 - We can't trick God
 - Worship in spirit and truth (John 4: 19-26)
 - It's not about a specific place or a specific status when living with Christ
 - The true worshippers are not deserving of salvation by a birthright
 - Everyone has been given salvation, no one earned it
 - Salvation to gentiles
 - Worshipping through the spirit given to us
 - Inward sign
 - Truth is living out our faith
 - Outward sign
 - The Samaritan was quick to have faith (John 4: 29)
 - Jesus's interactions similar to sharing Holy Spirit
 - Because of her faith, many believed (John 4: 39)
 - Our testimonies are really powerful
 - The Bible is really crazy and doesn't make sense
 - We can share our stories with others
 - These are personal and real
 - This belief opened up to their faith (John 4: 41)
 - Jesus put aside eating in order to focus on doing God's will (John 4: 34-38)
 - Sow and Reap (John 4: 37-38)
 - The world has been setup for this moment
 - The disciples were not a part of setting this up, but now it's their job to reap
 - December/January, lots of crops planted
 - Jesus uses his situation to preach
 - Depart to Galilee (John 4: 44)
 - "No honor in hometown"
 - Generally, people would think of him as being a youth, since they grew up with him, or watched him grow
 - John 4: 46-54 (Jesus heals an official's son)

- Biggest miracle of Jesus up to this point
 - Previously was water -> wine
- Signs and wonders (John 4: 48)
 - Having faith in what you don't see is hard
 - You have to trust it
- Son on his deathbed
 - The official asks for him to be healed and Jesus says "go" (John 4: 50)
 - The official believed him and left, even though nothing seemed to have changed and Jesus didn't seem to do anything
 - Again... do *you* believe that Jesus can perform these miracles?
 - The power of them lies in the pure belief
- Matthew 4: 13-16, Mark 1: 14-15 (Beginning of ministry)
 - Jesus settles in Capernaum
 - Jesus called for repentance (Mark 1: 15)
- Luke 4: 16-30 (Jesus rejected at Nazareth)
 - The words used to say they were astonished translate closer to amazed or overwhelmed (Luke 4: 22)
 - The first time they heard Jesus speak
 - But they couldn't get him only being Joseph's son out of their head
 - We do this too, looking down on those who are younger than us
 - Jesus describes times of God blessing non-Jews, and ignoring Jews (Luke 4: 26-27)
 - A commentary on the current state?
 - The Jews weren't deserving of God's blessings, even though they viewed themselves as entitled to it
 - Cannot stress this enough... No one is entitled!!!
 - This angered the Jews to the point of trying to kill Jesus (Luke 4: 27-30)
 - What hypocrisy!
 - This proves the unbelief and undeserving
 - How quick are we to turn when we don't get our way?
 - How much do we listen to Jesus (or others) when they tell us something we don't want to hear?
 - Not the last time this happens
 - Very purposeful he didn't die here
- Matthew 4: 18-22, Mark 1: 16-20, Luke 5: 1-11 (Official call of the fishermen)
 - Even if what you do doesn't have any effect and you're weary from it, if God tells you to do something, you best do it (Luke 5: 5-6)
 - Peter was told to put down his net after trying all night
 - Even though he had doubts he trusted and put it out and caught a ton of fish
 - It's easy to get beaten down by failure, but we have to trust in God
 - Jericho

- Peter humbled himself (Luke 5: 8)
 - Peter knew he didn't catch them by himself and he wasn't deserving
 - He immediately gave the glory to Christ
- Fish for men (Luke 5: 10-11)
 - They left everything and followed him by his telling them to come
 - Very similar from the earlier account when Jesus told Philip to come
 - Jesus didn't fill in all the details, he just said come and learn to fish for men
 - They left immediately (Matthew 4: 21)
 - They trusted in Jesus as their teacher, so much they left everything they knew
 - This was their entire life... this is all they knew

Week 8

- Matthew 8: 14-15, Mark 1: 21-39, Luke 4: 31-44, Matthew 4: 23-25 (Ministry in Capernaum)
 - Unclean Spirit
 - Jesus has all authority given to him by God (Matthew 28: 18)
 - But this comes later... how does Jesus have authority now?
 - In general, if you speak according to God, you are speaking with authority
 - Jesus has the authority, but had to hide it from word spreading
 - Must have been hard for Jesus to do
 - What about us?
 - Easily unmotivated at times
 - Then there's Jesus who wants to heal everyone but physically can't
 - Might have been temptations from Jesus to want to not perform miracles, but he stuck to what he was led to do
 - Truth is truth, Jesus is speaking with wisdom given by God
 - Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1: 7)
 - Jesus speaks truth, refusing to speak wickedness (Proverbs 8: 6-7)
 - This has been spoken before here, but the differentiating factor is Jesus believed in the authority given to him (Mark 1: 27)
 - People were amazed at Jesus's authority, which caused them to be more receptive to what he said (Luke 4: 31-32)

- We need to be careful to ensure that when someone speaks, they are speaking of authority from God and not themselves
 - This is a reason it is important to know the Bible and what it says
 - For us, if we feel led to speak and are given authority by God, our words will hold weight
 - Jesus Heals Many
 - Jesus performs miracles on people's bodies and people's hearts (Mark 1: 31)
 - Not only did Jesus heal the woman, but he saved her
 - God needs only to touch us in order to cure us of our sickness (Matthew 8: 15)
 - Jesus looks to serve many
 - At sundown, he continues to cast demons out of *all* oppressed by them
 - The demons tried to speak out against Jesus, but it was not yet time, so he silenced them (Luke 4: 41)
 - Galilee
 - Jesus made time to be alone in prayer (Mark 1: 35)
 - It's easy to forget, but its so important for us
 - Our personal spiritual growth takes precedence over endless service
 - We have to be poured into in order to pour out to others
 - The gang heads out into the rest of Galilee (Mark 1: 39)
 - Jesus has to continue his mission, he strives to not get bogged down, but fulfill his purpose (Luke 4: 43-44)
 - Jesus's acts spread the glory of God through Syria and bring great crowds following him from far (Matthew 4: 24-25)
- Matthew 8: 1-4, Mark 1: 40-45, Luke 5: 12-16 (Cleansing a leper)
 - What is leprosy?
 - Modern Leprosy
 - A bad disease that leads to inability to feel pain, often leading to loss of extremities
 - Contagious among people
 - Cure developed in 1973
 - OT Leprosy
 - Different than modern leprosy (potentially)
 - A form of being "unclean" (infection, fungus, boils, etc.)
 - Regardless, interaction with lepers was looked down upon
 - Considered a physical sign of an inward sin

- Touching a leper made someone unclean (Leviticus 5: 3)
- Jesus touched the leper and made him clean (Mark 1: 41)
 - Hold up.... WHAT????
 - He touched a leper? Doesn't that make him unclean?
 - Law for the wellbeing
 - Healed by faith
 - Jesus was willing to meet people in their sin and uncleanness to bring them out
- Jesus commands the man not to share of the healing (Mark 1: 44)
 - He says to follow the tradition, because it was still relevant
 - The man disobeys, and word spreads of Jesus
 - This goes along with Jesus working on the Sabbath... He is going against traditional Jewish law and that draws a lot of negative attention which ultimately gets him killed
 - Also... more attention just generally made things hard for him
 - Man falling short to promises

Week 9

- Matthew 9: 1-8, Mark 2: 1-12, Luke 5: 17-26 (Healing a paralytic)
 - Jesus heals the man... and forgives his sins
 - He himself says this isn't necessary, so why do it? (Matthew 9: 5)
 - Because his miracle gives credit to his claim to be able to forgive sins (Matthew 9: 6)
 - Another instance of Jesus using his miracles to teach more about himself
 - He can only do this because he was given the power to do so (Luke 6: 17b)
 - Jesus was back at Capernaum, and he had gained so much attention he had people spilling out of his house (Mark 2: 1-2)
 - This paralytic man was literally lowered down from above
 - Crazy faith in order to reach Jesus
 - We have tons more access today to Jesus, yet we choose to sit on our faith rather than chase after him all the more
 - One more thing... these people who had their hearts transformed... they were Pharisees and teachers of the law that came from far and wide to, presumably, find fault in Jesus
- Matthew 9: 9-17, Mark 2: 13-22, Luke 5: 27-39 (Jesus calls Matthew)
 - The call
 - He was a tax collector
 - Jesus didn't look for the perfect disciples, he looked for a group he could teach and pour into
 - This included all sorts of types... religious zealots, tax collectors, and fishermen!

- Imagine how they all interacted!
 - Matthew served Jesus
 - He did not only follow Jesus for his miracles, but he wanted to serve and give back to him
 - Jesus among tax collectors
 - Jesus chose to meet the broken inside of their brokenness to make them whole
 - The Pharisees can't see their own brokenness
 - "I require mercy, not sacrifice" (Hosea 6: 6)
- Fasting
 - References church/Christ as the groom/bride
 - While Christ is here, it is time for celebration, but there will be a time to fast and spend time focused on him
 - As is, enjoying a meal together was often (and still is) a way to spend time together in unity
 - The new wine is not put with the old, and new cloth is not added to an old dress
 - The disciples will fast... but for different reasons than the Pharisees
 - For now, it doesn't make sense for them to, since they are not living under the same religious rituals
 - Today we fast as a means to focus and devote ourselves to Christ
 - Note: This is not a command, but an outward symbol of devotion to God
 - Paul, nor Peter, nor John ever *command* us to fast in our faith
- John 5: 1-18 (Healing on the Sabbath)
 - (Note, it's been weeks since we read in John, and a lot has happened since we last were here. For context, this is right after the official's son was healed and he trusted in Jesus.)
 - The invalids
 - Many went their whole lives with their disabilities
 - It's all they know, and they struggle daily
 - Jesus brings us out of the darkness to a new light we've never experienced before
 - Jesus uses his healing to save the man's spirit as well as his body (John 5: 14)
 - This particular one was paralyzed (John 5: 7)
 - Healing on the Sabbath
 - Unlawful (John 5: 10)
 - Draws attention to Jesus, so he leaves (John 5: 13)
 - This is the cause of the Jews persecution of him (John 5: 16)

- Jesus has a purpose he is called to, and though spiritual rest is important, he follows God and takes opportunities as they are given to serve him
 - This is Jesus claiming sonship (John 5: 18)
 - Blasphemy!
- John 5: 19-29 (Equal with God)
 - Jesus follows God
 - He has seen God, and therefore lives as he knows to from him (John 6: 46)
 - For us, we have not seen God, so we are to live off the teachings and example of Jesus
 - Jesus's miracles come from God (John 5: 20-21)
 - And there are greater miracles to come!
 - Jesus given all judgement (John 5: 22)
 - This is in our favor!
 - Jesus can relate to us, he knows what it is like to live among brokenness (Hebrews 4: 15)
 - He intercedes on our behalf
 - God sent Jesus (John 5: 24)
 - Because of that, to reject Jesus is to reject God
 - Because God sent Jesus and gave him the right to judgement, he has authority over us
 - Keep in mind as we read, Jesus has authority, yet he remains humble
- John 5: 30-47 (Witnesses to Jesus)
 - Living according to God's will (John 5: 30)
 - Despite having authority, Jesus still serves God, and judges according to God's will
 - Moreover, this is why Jesus is just, because his eyes aren't to man, but to God
 - Example of walking in a straight line, looking to the side
 - John bore witness to Jesus (John 5: 33)
 - This testimony is from God, delivered through man (John 5: 34)
 - Jesus's works bear witness to him (John 5: 36)
 - These works are from God to show man his righteousness
 - God himself bore witness to Jesus (John 5: 37)
 - By not believing Jesus, God's word does not abide, as this means refuting God's testimony (John 5: 38)
 - The scriptures all are the living word of God, and they point towards Jesus (John 5: 49)
 - The pharisees pride their knowledge of scripture, but still miss this
 - Even Moses points towards Jesus (John 5: 46)
 - Refusal to come to Jesus (John 5: 40)
 - Refusing Jesus leads to refusing God (John 5: 43)