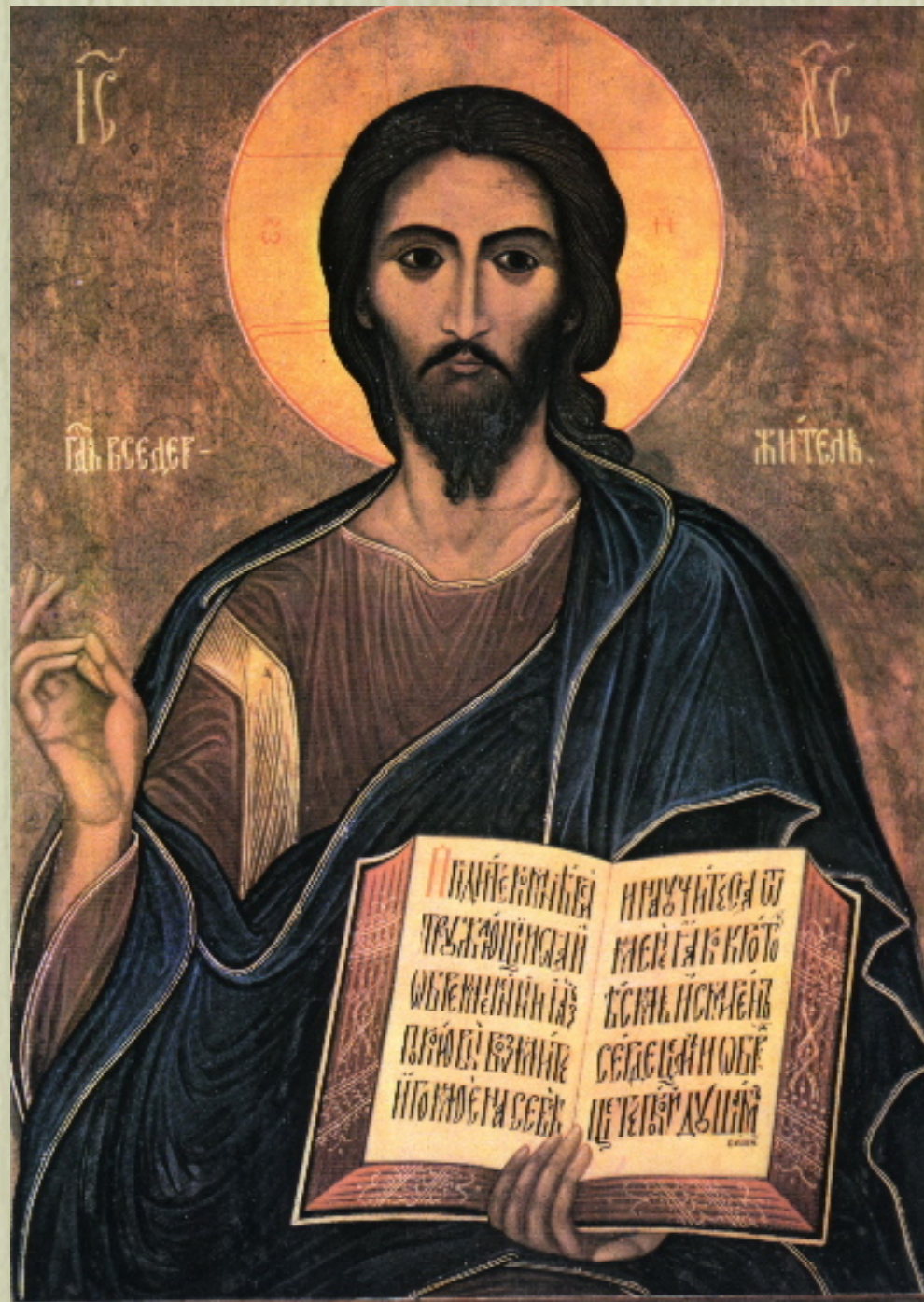
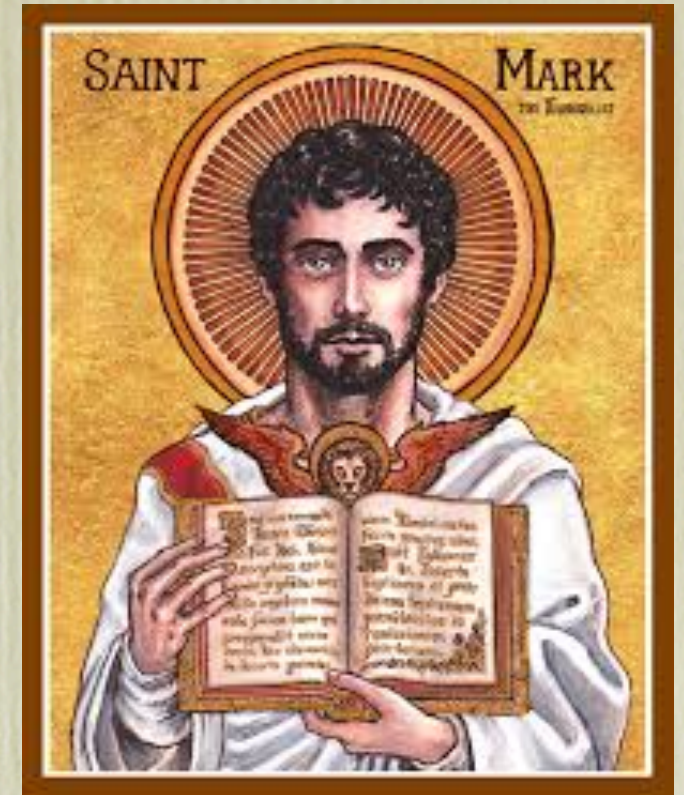


1. How to read a Gospel

The Literary Genre



2. Pondering, Sharing



3. Sharing with people who had never met Jesus!



1. Pondering, Sharing

The Importance of Knowing the Real Jesus



‘We declare to you what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with
our hands, concerning the word of life —
this life was revealed, and we have seen it
and testify to it, and declare to you the
eternal life that was with the Father and
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and
heard so that you may have communion
with us;

and truly our communion is with the
Father and with his Son Jesus the Messiah.’

1John 1:1-3

Each Gospel presents its own , necessarily limited, portrait of Jesus, and its own interpretive commentary.

The aim of each Gospel is to communicate the significance of the real Jesus to the communities for which it was composed.

The fact that the four Gospels were treasured, copied, and read in the Christian assemblies in the East, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Rome, is the source of our confidence that in each of the Gospels and in the four together we are seeing and hearing the real Jesus.

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.

Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’

Pontifical Biblical Commission 1984

Theological Interpretations in the Gospel Traditions

Scripture and Christology (2.2.2.2 b)

‘The Gospel traditions were gathered and gradually committed to writing in the light of Easter, until at length they took a fixed form in four booklets. These booklets do not simply contain things ‘that Jesus began to do and teach’(Acts 1:1); they also present theological interpretations of such things. In these booklets, then, one must learn to look for the Christology of each evangelist. This is especially true of John, who in the Patristic period, would receive the title ‘Theologian’. Similarly, other authors whose writings are preserved in the New Testament have interpreted the deeds and sayings of Jesus in diverse ways, and even more so his death and resurrection.’

I

‘In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning till the day he was taken up into heaven’(Acts 1:1-2)



‘In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan’(Mark 1:9).

Mark 8:27-30

40ks north of Lake

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he was asking his disciples,
“Who do people say that I am?”

Leaders want to destroy him (3:6)
Family want to restrain him (3:21)
Hometown scandalised at him (6:3)
Disciples fail to understand him (8:21)

And they answered him, “John the Baptist; (see Herod 6:14-15)
and others, Elijah;
and still others, one of the prophets.”

He was asking them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter says to him, “You are the Messiah.” (see Mark 1:1)

(see 1:25; 1:44; 3:12; 7:36)

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Mark 11:15

Then they come to Jerusalem. And entering the temple Jesus began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

Mark 14:22-25

(see 1Corinthians 11:23-26)

While they were eating,
taking a loaf of bread, and blessing
he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”



Mark 14:22-24

(see 1Corinthians 11:23-26)

Then taking a cup, and giving thanks
he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

He said to them,

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

(see Exodus 24:3-11)

(New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34)

‘Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed’(Mark 14:35).



‘The chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council’(Mark 15:1).



‘One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear’(John 19:34).



Mark 15:42-47

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus ...

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.



Mark 16:9-11

see John 20:1,11-18

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week,
he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, (15:40,47; 16:1)
from whom he had cast out seven demons. (see Luke 8:12)

She went out and told those who had been with him,
while they were mourning and weeping.
But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her,
they would not believe it.

Mark 16:12-13

see Luke 24:13-35

After this he appeared in another form to two of them,
as they were walking into the country.
And they went back and told the rest,
but they did not believe them.

Mark 16:14-16

see Luke 24:36-53

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

II



The Evangelists want to take us more deeply into what they learned was really going on - whether learned not by looking and listening but by on-going reflection.

Often they chose to do this by echoing texts familiar to their readers from their sacred scriptures.

Mark 1:9-11

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit descending on him
like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”



Isaiah 64:1-12

Genesis 1:1-2 New Adam

Genesis 7:10-12; Song 2:8-14

Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 42:1

Next page

Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one, in whom my soul delights.
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will establish for the nations an order based on justice.
He will not shout or raise his voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.
He will establish an order based on justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established in the earth an order based on justice;
and the coastlands wait for his law [= Torah].

[Continued next page]

Isaiah 42:5-7

Thus says God, YHWH,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I, YHWH, have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

John 2:1-5

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what
concern is that to you and to me?

Has not my hour now come.”

οὐπω ἤκει ἡ ὥρα μου.

His mother said to the servants,
“Do whatever he tells you.”



Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ...

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Mark 4:35-36

On that day, when evening had come, he says to them,
“Let us go across to the other side.” (Gentile region: ‘unclean!’)
And leaving the crowd behind, they take him with them
in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

Mark 4:37-41

A great windstorm arises, (Chaos Genesis 1:2; Genesis 6-9)
and the waves were hurling themselves upon the boat,
so that the boat was already being swamped. (Roman persecution!)

But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
and they wake him up and say to him,
“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up and rebuked the wind, (Psalm 104:7; 106:9 - rebuked the Red Sea)
and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” (see 1:25 in the synagogue)

Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

2. Mark 5:1-8

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” For he had said to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

Mark 5:9-16

Then Jesus asks him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine (unclean, Leviticus 11:7) was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, “Send us into the swine; let us enter them.” So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They come to Jesus and see the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it.

Mark 5:17-20

They began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbourhood.

As he was getting into the boat,
the man who had been possessed by demons
begged him that he might be with him. (compare 3:17)

But Jesus refused, and says to him,
“Go home to your friends, and tell them how much
the LORD (compare 1:3; 2:28) has done for you,
and what mercy he has shown you.”

And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis
how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

3. Mark 5:21-24

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea.

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus comes and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begs him repeatedly,

“My little daughter is at the point of death.

Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well (‘saved’), and live.”

So he went with him.

Mark 5:35-37

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus says to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." (see 5:34)

He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. (Transfiguration, 9:22; Agony 14:33)

Mark 5:38-40

When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue,
he sees a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.
When he had entered, he says to them,
“Why do you make a commotion and weep?
The child is not dead but sleeping.”
And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside,
and took the child’s father and mother
and those who were with him, and goes in where the child was.

Mark 5:41-43

Taking her by the hand he says to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, rise up!” (same verb used for the resurrection, 16:6)
And immediately the girl rose up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age).
At this they were overcome with amazement. (see 16:8)
He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Rejected by the Jewish Leaders

Mark 6:1-3

Jesus left that place and comes to his hometown,
and his disciples follow him.

On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded. They said,
“Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary (? - illegitimate?)
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?”

And they took offence at him.

Mark 6:4-6

Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR UNBELIEF.

Mark 6:30-34

The apostles (see 6:7 'sent' apostellô) gather around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

He says to them, "Come away ('with him' see 3:14) to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat (compare 3:20).

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd (compare Numbers 27:17); and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:35-38

When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said,
“This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late;
send them away so that they may go into
the surrounding country and villages
and buy something for themselves to eat.”

But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.”

They say to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii
worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?”

And he says to them, “How many loaves have you?
Go and see.”

When they had found out, they say, “Five, and two fish.”

Mark 6:39-44

Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties (see Exodus 18:21).

Mark 14:22

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,

he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and broke the loaves,

and gave them to his disciples

to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Taking a loaf of bread,

and blessing,

he broke it,
gave it to them, and said,
“Take; this is my body.”

Isaiah 55:2-3

‘Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant.’

2Corinthians 9:8

‘God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
you may share abundantly in every good work.’

John 15:5

‘Apart from me you can do nothing.’

Mark 6:45-50

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. (see 1:35 and 14:32-39)

When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he comes towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea (Psalm 77:19; Job 9:8; 38:16)

He intended to pass them by. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified.

Mark 6:50-53

But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, **I AM** (Exodus 3:14 *egô eimi*). **Do not be afraid.**”

Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

Isaiah 43:1-2

‘Thus says YHWH,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.’

Isaiah 51:10

‘Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep;
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to cross over?’

Exodus 15:19

‘The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.’

Psalms 77:16,19

When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.

Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.

Job 9:8

You stretched out the heavens
and trampled the waves of the Sea

Mark 9:2-4

Six days later, Jesus takes with him Peter and James and John, (5:37; 14:33)
and leads them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white, (16:5)
such as no one on earth could bleach them.
And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses,
who were talking with Jesus.

Exodus 24:16, 29

The glory of YHWH settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for **six days**; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

Exodus 34:30

The Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining,
and they were afraid to come near him.

Mark 9:5-8

Then Peter says to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, (‘tents’, ‘tabernacles’) one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Raphael



they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

2Corinthians 3:15-18

Whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds;
but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.
Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord
as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed
into the same image from one degree of glory to another;
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.



Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
The temple curtain was rent. Yom Kippur
When the centurion, who stood facing him,
saw how he died, he said:
“Truly, this man was God’s Son!”(15:37-39).

‘The beginning of the gospel of Jesus
the Christ, the Son of God’(1:1).

‘The heavens were rent’(1:10; Isaiah 64:1).

‘You are my Beloved Son’(1:11).

‘This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him’(9:7).

Yom Kippur



To whole world