

Gospel Appreciation Month: For Your Consideration
By Mark R Worden

For the past few years I have read through the Gospels reading rather slowly—one chapter a day, taking time to focus on the details. However, for this month of April we are responding to the challenge of Brandon Reeves to read all the Gospels in one month.

We, who take up this challenge, are embarking on a quick read which will give us an overview and saturation into discovering, or rediscovering, who Jesus really is. I would like to encourage us all to ask some questions as we read:

- Who is Jesus?
- How can I know Jesus more intimately?
- How does Jesus teach me to pray?
- How is Jesus to be worshiped?

This may be too much for you to keep in your mind all at once. So, please try to keep at least one or two questions in your mind that you believe would be most meaningful to you as you read.

I find it helpful to read with a few color pencils at hand to underline the answers to each question I find as I read. For example, I always use **red for Jesus** in answer to the question, “Who is Jesus?”

At the end of the month, you can scan through the Gospels and see very easily who you discovered Jesus to be through your personal reading. If you do this with the questions you choose to answer, you may be amazed to see what you learn. May the Lord bless your reading of the Gospels in April, 2024!

Here is an example from Day 4 (Matthew 16-20) when reading to answer the question, “Who is Jesus?”

- Chapter 16: Jesus is recognized by Peter for who He really is: “Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God** (Mt.16:16).
- Chapter 17: Jesus is transfigured into light and God the Father speaks from heaven: “This is **my beloved Son**, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him**” (Mt.17:5). As I read this the Holy Spirit prompts me to do some heart searching, I hear “How well are you doing at listening to Jesus in your life, Mark?” This leads to prayer, “Lord, help me to listen to you on a moment-by-moment basis as I make choices in life. Help me to hear your voice; reveal yourself to me.” Will you pray this prayer for yourself as you read this month?
- Chapter 18: Jesus is with us when we gather to pray: “For where two or three are gathered **in my name**, there am **I among them**” (Mt. 18:20).
- Chapter 19: Jesus is able to see into hearts and deal with hard questions and actions: “But **Jesus looked at them and said**, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mt.19:26).
- Chapter 20: Jesus has a servant’s heart: “even as the **Son of Man came not be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many**” (Mt. 20:28).

Jesus truly is a different kind of King as we will be learning about each Sunday in April and May of 2024 from our planned messages from the book of Mark. Your payers are welcome and appreciated as we together seek to know Jesus more intimately.