

VV STUDY NOTES: 2nd April 2022

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The Life of Jesus - The Story So Far

Preamble

Just over a year ago (March 2021) we began to study and consider what Jesus did and said to others and what was said and done to Jesus by others as reported in the Gospel record. For the past three months we have considered who Jesus was/is and the implications thereof. We now return to the Gospels, hopefully with a greater understanding and appreciation of who Jesus was/is together with what he said and did for humanity whilst on earth and now in his current ministry in the heavenly sanctuary.

Background

As we left Jesus and his disciples at Caesarea Philippi we read of Peter's "Great Confession" (Matt 16:16). Next week we will pick up the story as Jesus tells his disciples about his impending journey to the cross and suffering. This point in time is often referred to as "The Great Turning Point" in Jesus' ministry. The second half (approximately) of each gospel is devoted to the events which follow. The writers must have considered it the most important time of Jesus' life on earth to be passed on to their readers. However, before we get into the details of Jesus' last weeks on earth we will think about how fortunate we are to have access to both the Gospels and Hebrews - something the very earliest Christians did not have. If there is time (!) we might think about how we can apply what we learnt from Hebrews to the more historical accounts of the Gospels.

Texts

Please read as much of the following as possible: Matthew 1-16:20; Luke 1:1-2:52; John 1:1-4:45; 5:1-47

Areas for Thought and Discussion

1. How important is it that both the book of Hebrews *and* the Gospels are included in the New Testament? What might we learn from one that we could not have learnt from the other?
2. The book of Hebrews and the Gospels are radically different in both style and content. How might our studies in the Gospels (as far as we got) have influenced our thoughts and beliefs as we studied Hebrews? You might wish to jog your memories by referring to the relevant study notes on [the first part of The Story of Jesus series](#)¹ and our [Hebrews study](#)² (Feb and March 2022).
3. There are very few references in which people state that Jesus is the "Son of God" in the Gospels (Mt 14:33; 16:15; Mk 1:1; Jn 1:34; 1:49; 11:27; 20:31). Check out these incidents. Do you think Jesus' disciples and audiences had any inkling about Jesus being "superior" to angels, Moses, Melchizedek or his imminent becoming The Heavenly High Priest?
4. In Hebrews we read about Jesus' "superiority", his High-Priesthood and ultimate entry into the heavenly sanctuary. How might our discussions over the past few weeks on those topics influence our studies in the second halves of the Gospels where we will journey with Jesus, his disciples and the people around them to Jerusalem, the cross, the resurrection and his ascension?

¹ <https://www.virtualvestry.com/study/thestoryofjesus01/>

² <https://www.virtualvestry.com/study/hebrews/>