



VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ~ CHALMERS INSTITUTE

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Sorrento Centre / VST Summer School 2008

Syllabus - Course Outline

Matthew's Gospel

Steve D. Black

Pre-summer June 9-13; 9:30am-12:30pm

Course Description

This course will look at several important issues related to the Gospel of Matthew. Included themes will be Matthew's use of earlier texts ("Q" and the Gospel of Mark); Matthew's representation of Peter and the disciples; the social location of the Matthean community, and; the possible anti-Judaic tendencies of Matthew and his interpreters. The goal is a greater appreciation of Matthew's gospel, as well as a better understanding of how it should (and should not) influence the church and culture.

This course will start with some important preliminary issues relating to the interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew, and will then explore the text itself, starting from the beginning.

Course Format

This course will cover the full range of issues related to the interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew. Class participation and personal study will make this class successful for all its participants.

Class Outline

***Sunday* June 8**

Introduction to the course. We will look at the syllabus, get to know each other a little but, and ask some initial questions relating to the gospel of Matthew.

***Monday* June 9**

Introductory matters (including questions about where, when the gospel was written, followed by ones relating to the Gospel's structure, genre, occasion, and what sources it used). We will then begin to look at the Gospel chapter by chapter. This session will look at Matthew 1.1-4.25. We will spend some time looking at Matthew's genealogy, his infancy narrative, and the baptism and temptation of Jesus

***Tuesday* June 10**

We will continue to work through the Gospel chapter by chapter. This session explore Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (4.23-7.29), as well as 8.1-11.1.

***Wednesday* June 11**

We will continue to work through the Gospel chapter by chapter. This session will begin to look at Matthew 11.2-17.21. This session will spend some time look at Jesus' defense of John, the parables (ch. 13), and Peter's confession.

Thursday June 12

We will continue to work through the Gospel chapter by chapter. This session finish looking at Matthew 11.2-17.21, and will begin to explore 13.54-25.46. We will look at the conflict that awaits Jesus in Jerusalem. We will also spend some time thinking about the issue of anti-Judaism in the Gospel of Matthew.

Friday June 13

We will continue to work through the Gospel chapter by chapter. This session finish looking at Matthew 13.54-25.46, and will look at 26.1-28.20. This session will explore the death and resurrection of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Required Course Texts: (Students expected to read this text prior to course)

NEW: Please make your own arrangements for acquisition of these titles through your local bookstores. Online bookstores such as Indigo.ca or Amazon.ca have competitive prices with fast shipping to your neighbourhood.

VST's Chalmers Institute will NOT be pre-ordering titles.

1. Carter, Warren. *Matthew: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*. Revised ed. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2004.

Recommended Resources: (It would be helpful for every student to have a good commentary available to them for the duration of the course. It does not need to be one of the ones listed below, although these are all fine examples, especially the ones by Luz and Davies and Allison.)

Davies, W.D. and Dale C. Allison. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary of the Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. Vol. I. *The International Critical Commentary*, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1988.

_____. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary of the Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. Vol. II. *The International Critical Commentary*, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991.

_____. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary of the Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. Vol. III. *The International Critical Commentary*, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1997.

_____. *Matthew: A Shorter Commentary*. ed. Dale C. Allison. London: T&T Clark, 2004.

Gundry, Robert H. *Matthew: A Commentary on His Literary and Theological Art*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

Luz, Ulrich. *Matthew 8-20: A Commentary*. *Hermeneia – a Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

_____. *Matthew 21-28: A Commentary*. Translated by James E. Crouch. Vol. III. *Hermeneia - a Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

_____. *Studies in Matthew*. Translated by Rosemary Selle. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

_____. *Matthew 1-7: A Commentary*. *Hermeneia – a Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible*, Augsburg: Fortress Press, 1989.

Schnackenburg, Rudolf. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Senior, Donald. *Matthew*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Sim, David C. *The Gospel of Matthew and Christian Judaism: The History and Social Setting of the Matthean Community*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1998.

Course Requirements

1. All participants are required to attend daily and engage the learning process for classroom lectures and seminars.
2. Students must have a Bible with them in every class. Gospel Parallels are also suggested, but not required.
3. All students will be expected to read through the Gospel of Matthew twice shortly before the commencement of the course. All students should read Warren Carter's *Matthew: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist* before the beginning of the class.
4. Attendance is mandatory and class participation is expected.
5. For those taking the course for degree credit, (Diploma, M.Div., M.A.T.S., M.A.R.E., Th.M., or D.Min.), see "**Summer School Degree Credit Evaluation Information**" handout for paper requirements.
6. For those taking the course for Chalmers Institute Summer School Continuing Education credit, see handout, "**Summer School Continuing Education Credit Information,**" for requirements.
7. For all credit students there will be an extra one-hour meeting with the course instructor, additional to class time, for each course, to review credit requirements and decide on an appropriate research topic.

Steve D. Black.

Steve is an alumnus of Vancouver School of Theology (ThM) and a current doctoral candidate in the Toronto School of Theology. His focus is on the New Testament, although he is also very concerned regarding the art of hermeneutics. He has taught as guest lecturer at the Vancouver School of Theology, and is now working on his dissertation.