**Lesson 9- Synoptic Gospels**

1. Synoptic
2. The word synoptic comes from two Greek words meaning “together” and “seeing.” Different perspectives from similar stories.
3. John is an eyewitness testimony, but He focuses on completely different events than the synoptic gospels.
4. Synoptic gospels pull from one another as sources, and thus have many similar stories.
5. The overwhelming amount of scholars, even those hostile to Christianity, admit admit these are the best sources for the life of Jesus.
6. Main themes
7. Matthew presents Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.
8. Mark presents Jesus as the suffering servant.
9. Luke presents Jesus as the true Son of Man.
10. The Ministry of Christ
11. Matthew 1:21- “To save His people from their sins.”
12. John the Baptist’s ministry.
13. Christ’s baptism and temptation.
14. Luke 4:18-19 a key verse for His ministry.
15. Many signs that testified of who He is.
16. Interactions with demons, or “unclean spirits.”
17. Parables.
18. Jesus is God
19. Matthew 1:23- “God with us.”
20. Matthew 9:6- Forgives sins
21. Matthew 12:8- Greater than the temple and the Sabbath.
22. Matthew 28- Pairs Himself with the Father and claims omnipresence.
23. Mark 14:61-62- Claims to be the Son of Man of Daniel 7 and the God who rides on clouds.
24. John the Baptist prepared the way of the LORD (YHWH)
25. Matthew 14:33 and 28:9 Jesus is worshiped as the Son of God
26. Matthew 25:31-46- judgment is based on man’s relationship to Christ
27. Matthew 13:41, 16:27, and 24:31, Christ refers to the angels as “His angels.”
28. To be the only begotten Son of God means that Christ shares the same nature as the Father.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions:**

* + - 1. How does Luke 4:18-19 reflect Jesus' understanding of His mission on earth?
      2. Discuss the connection between Jesus' authority to forgive sins in Matthew 9:6 and His divinity. (**Only God can forgive sins. Jesus not only forgives sins, but shows He has authority to forgive sins even while on the earth in submission to the Father as truly man)**
      3. In Mark 14:61-62, what does Jesus' reference to Himself as the "Son of Man" reveal about His identity when you consider Daniel 7:13-14? **(This is far from just saying He is a human. He is saying that He is the coming powerful savior who will rule the entire world)**
      4. Discuss the significance of Jesus' baptism and temptation in His earthly ministry, as described in Luke 3:21-22 and 4:1-13.
      5. How does Jesus' authority over the Sabbath, as depicted in Matthew 12:8, affirm His divine identity? **(Remember that the Sabbath goes all the way back to creation. Jesus is Lord over what was instituted on day 7!)**
      6. Discuss the implications of Jesus' statement in Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."
      7. Look through the section IV verses and discuss how you can use these to prove that Jesus is truly God.