

The Hebrew Roots of Christianity

Class Syllabus

4/13/2010

- 1. Seeing Jesus as a 1st century Jew/Judean**
 - a. Why important?
 - b. Has Christianity lost its balance?

- 2. The original emphasis of Jesus' teaching**
 - a. Jesus teaching and Hebrew worldview
 - b. The understanding of first Jewish followers
 - c. Recreating Jesus in our own image—ethnocentricity

- 3. Proving Jesus' Jewishness**
 - a. Jesus' life details in Gospels
 - b. Jesus as a follower of the Law
 - c. Jesus use of Old Testament scripture
 - d. Jesus' knowledge of Torah, Prophets, Writings
 - e. Jesus in light of Jewish sources
 - f. Jesus and ancient Jewish prayer forms
 - g. Jesus and the Aramaic language

- 4. Entering the Hebrew Worldview**
 - a. Church and Synagogue: Parting of the Way
 - b. Understanding Hebrew Thought
 - c. Key Hebrew concepts
 - i. Afterlife
 - ii. Emphasis on here and now
 - iii. Evolution of Jewish thought
 - iv. Social concepts
 - d. Hebrew concepts of the Law
 - i. Purpose—salvation vs. sanctification
 - ii. Interpretation—prescription vs. description
 - iii. Context—micro vs. macro
 - e. Apocalypticism
 - f. Messianism

- 5. The Teachings of Jesus**
 - a. Understanding the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke
 - i. The 2 and 4 source theories
 - ii. The sayings Gospel "Q"
 - b. The Kingdom of God—central theme
 - i. The meaning of the Kingdom
 - ii. The importance of here and now
 - c. Heaven and Hell—looking at meanings of words
 - i. how concepts of heaven/hell affect teachings
 - d. The Beatitudes
 - e. The Sermon on the Mount
 - f. The Parables