

Assignment Sheet: Feb. 28 – Mar. 9

Assignment 1: Introduction to Jesus' Teachings – The Sermon on the Mount
Handout, "Matthew 5-6"

- What is Jesus most concerned about? What do his main values seem to be?
- Which teachings are the most striking to you?
- What strategies does Jesus use to teach (i.e., how does he make his points)?

Assignment 2: Jesus' Life and Teachings

pp. 223-227 (up to "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection")

- What is apocalypticism?
- What actions and teachings of Jesus attracted crowds? Critics?

Assignment 3: The Gospel(s) of Jesus

pp. 227-230 (up to "Creed: What Christians Believe")

- What events mark the beginning of Christianity as a religion?
- What different answers do the New Testament writers give about how humans can reach spiritual maturity?

Assignment 4: Christian Beliefs and Beginnings

pp. 230-235 (up to "Worship, Leadership, and Scripture")

Assignment 5: Christianity in the Roman Empire & into the Middle Ages

pp. 235-239 (up to "The Protestant Reformation" ...skip "The Fall of Rome")

- What issues divided Eastern and Western Christians?
- In what ways was monasticism an "imitation of Christ"?

Assignment 6: The Protestant Reformation

pp. 239-240 (up to "Christian Divisions")

- What practices in the Catholic Church did Martin Luther reject and why?
- What were some of the consequences of Martin Luther's protest, as seen in other parts of Europe?