The Gospel of  Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

 “The Council [of Vatican II] promoted a move to a homiletic mode of preaching which would, like the Fathers, expound the biblical text in a way which opens its inexhaustible riches to the faithful.”

 - Pope John Paul II, *Ad limina visit, October 9, 1998* (Bishops of the U.S. Northwest including the Bishop of Boise).

 *Summer Bible Study*

*June 19, 2000*

*First Session*

*-Second Session will be next Monday, June 26, 2000.*

I.                     Introduction to the Gospel of St. Matthew.

a.       Dedicated to St. Dominic, in that he carried the Gospel of St. Matthew wherever he went (and that was in the early 13th Century)

b.       The attitude we should have when studying the Holy Writ:  “With the help of God we are going to enter a golden city, more precious than all the gold the world contains.  Let us notice what its foundations are made of, and find its gates to be composed of sapphires and precious stones.  In Matthew we are the best of guides.  Matthew is the door by which we enter, and we must enter eagerly, for if the guide notices that someone is distracted, he will exclude him from the city.  What a magnificent and truly stately city it is; not like our cities, which are a mixture of streets and palaces.  Here all are palaces.  Let us, then, open the gates of our souls, let us open our ears, and as we prepare reverently to cross its threshold, let us adore the King who holds sway therein.  What immense splendour shall we not find when we enter.”  St. John Chrysostom, *Homily on St. Matthew,* 1,8.

c.        St. Matthew:  the human author.  One of the first Apostles, chosen by Christ himself, when Matthew was working as a tax collector.

i.                     Christ called him, affectionately yet imperatively.  (9,9).

ii.                    Matthew had immense joy at being called and held a great feast.  (9,10-13)

iii.                  He was called as one of the Apostles.  (10,1-14)

iv.                  Matthew was a Levi, son of Alphaeus  (Mark 2,14 and Luke 2,27).

v.                    Tradition tells us that Matthew stayed in Palestine after the Pentecost, preaching and ministering, and later moved to Persia.

vi.                  The date, place, and facts surrounding his martyrdom remains unclear.

d.       God as the author.  He created the scrivener of the book, He equipped him with the intelligence and ability to write, as well as the grace-filled words, but in a true sense, God cooperated with the sacred writer, but He is the Divine Author.

e.       The Gospel

i.                     Highly likely the original text was in Aramaic as it was written to the Hebrews.  It was the Greek language version that was canonical.  It was widely used, including in the Didache, written around 80 to 100 AD, the Letter of Pope St. Clement of Rome to the Corinthians around 90 AD.

ii.                    Written before other gospels, around 50 AD.

iii.                  Purpose: To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, and the Life in Him.

A.       Jesus is the Christ as prophesied in the O.T.

B.       To provide a rich rendition of Our Lord’s teaching.  (Five Discourses of Our Lord)

i.                     Discourse on the Mount (5-7)

ii.                    Apostolic discourse (10)

iii.                  Parabolic discourse (13)

iv.                  On the church (18)

v.                    Eschatological discourse (24-25)

C.       The Kingdom of God that is predicted in the LT, has come to pass in the Church—which I perfecting the ancient people of God

iv.                  Outline of the Gospel:

A.       Birth and infancy of Jesus (1,2)

B.       Immediate preparation of Jesus for his public ministry (3,1 – 4,11)

C.       Jesus’ messianic minstry in Galilee (4,12 – 9, 38)\

D.       From the Old to the New People of God (10, 11, 12)

E.       Parables of the Kingdom (13)

F.       Jesus retires to the regions on the periphery of Israel (14-28)

G.       Towards Judea and Jerusalem (17020)

H.       Jesus Ministry in Jerusalem (21-25)

I.         Passion and Death of Our Lord (26-27)

J.         Resurrection (28).

v.                    Audience: written suited to Christians of Jewish background: to show that the Word of God in the OT had been fulfilled.

vi.                  It shows that Christ was rejected.

vii.                 It is the Gospel of the Kingdom.

viii.               Explains the Divinity of Jesus.

ix.                  Gospel of the Church (16, 18; 18,17)

A.  Primacy of Peter.

II.                    Chapter One

a.       Genealogy

i.                     blood line, promise of David

ii.                    four women mentioned

iii.                  foreigners, sinners

**To Praise \* to Bless \* to Preach**
