

# **Four Faces of Christ**

*Ray Stedman*

## **I. Introduction.**

A. Text: Matthew-Acts.

B. The first five books of the New Testament have been called the Pentateuch of the New Testament.

C. The Four Gospels are four pictures of Christ: the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle from the cherubim of Ezekiel.

1. The lion is the symbol of Christ the king (Matthew).

2. The ox is the symbol of Christ the servant (Mark).

3. The man is the symbol of Christ the man (Luke).

4. The eagle is the symbol of Christ the deity (John).

D. Jeremiah, Zechariah, and Isaiah all testify to these fourfold presentations of Christ.

E. The Gospels are also geared towards the First Century world—the Jew (Matthew), the Roman (Mark), the Greek (Luke) and the Christian (John).

F. The Gospels are portraits and not complete biographies written to bring before us the Person of Jesus Christ.

## **II. Matthew is the Gospel of the King.**

A. There is a genealogy that takes us back to Abraham—genealogies are important matters for those who are king to establish the throne.

B. There are several discourses in Matthew.

1. The Sermon on the Mount showing the great purpose of the King.

2. The Olivet Discourse shows the great perils to come.

C. Matthew closes without record of the ascension because the King belongs on earth.

## **III. Mark is the Gospel of the Servant.**

A. It begins with an abrupt beginning because being a servant does not have to do with ancestry.

B. Christ was continually engaged as the Servant of God.

C. Christ as a servant went outside the camp and died as an untouchable.

IV. Luke is the Gospel of the Son of Man.

- A. The genealogy goes back to Adam because He is the Son of Man.
- B. Prayer is the key to Luke because this Gospel sets forth man as God intended Him to be—prayer is the lost art of being fully human.
- C. Jesus is presented as a man dying on the cross.

V. John is the Gospel of Jesus as God.

- A. There is no genealogy because it goes to the back of creation.
- B. The key to John is the word “I am.”
- C. The great message is the Upper Room Discourse.
- D. The message of John is that Jesus is Lord and God.

VI. Acts is the book of the acts of the Body of Christ.

- A. It is the great, unfinished book of the Bible.
- B. We are still engaged in the great mission of God today.

VII. The world needs to see Christ as presented in the Gospels today.

**Application questions:**

1. Who is Christ as presented in the Gospels?

---

---

2. What contribution does Acts have in the first five books of the New Testament?

---

---

3. Why is having a full understanding of Christ important in our theology? Explain.

---

---