

Summer Assignment 2011

Second Year

Jesus: A Gospel Portrait

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Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and bring your written answers with you to your **first class the week of September 11, 2011.**

1. Based on your reading of chapter 1, what do you think is meant by saying the gospels are not “biographies” of Jesus but *something more*?
2. Based on your reading of chapter 2:
 - a. Briefly describe the following groups:
 - Pharisees
 - Sadducees
 - Samaritans
 - Zealots
 - Essenes
 - b. Read the following articles in Eerdmans *Dictionary of the Bible*: “Pharisees”, “Sadducees”, “Samaritans”, “Zeal, Zealot”, and “Essenes”. Based on your reading, what additional point about each group do you find most helpful for your understanding of these groups?
3. In the Introduction, Senior indicates that one of the questions his book attempts to answer is: “What are some of the things we should know if we want to read the gospels intelligently?” Describe one thing that you learn from chapter 3, one thing that you learn from chapter 4, and one thing that you learn from chapter 5 that you consider important for reading the gospels intelligently.
4. Chapter 6 begins with the question, “Why would a person like Jesus be put to death?” Based on your reading of this chapter, how would you answer this question?
5. What is the most meaningful thing you learn about the church from reading chapter 7? Why is it meaningful?
6. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?