**Lectio Jesus Session Two: Commit Summary**

**Day 1 – Witness of the Early Church Fathers**

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| **Ancient Witness** | **Location** | **Significance** | **Time of Writing** |
| Papias | Asia Minor Hierapolis | Disciple of apostle John | Around AD 130 |
| Justin Martyr | Palestine (Nablus) | Former philosopher turned Christian apologist | Around AD 140-165 |
| Irenaeus | France (Lyons) | Disciple of Polycarp, disciple of apostle John | Around AD 180 |
| Muratorian Canon | Italy (Rome) | Fragment of authoritative list of Scriptures | Around AD 180 |
| Clement | Egypt (Alexandria) | Disciple of elders who knew the apostles | Around AD 200 |
| Tertullian | North Africa Carthage | Latin Christian apologist | Around AD 200-225 |

(Q) When did Papias write & under whom did he study? How does Papias’s ………. (A) Papias wrote around 130 AD. He studied under Apostle John. John knew Matthew personally. John communicated information about Matthew to his student Papias that described the truth of his gospels.

(Q) How do their diverse locations strengthen the case that the gospel titles are authentic? (A) The geographic diversity means that all the various Christian communities received the same information, giving great credibility on the authorship of the Gospels.

(Q) If the Gospels were written anonymously & the titles added later, how would the heretics …… (A) The heretics would have told everyone. They realized the disciples wrote the gospel stories.

**Day 2 – Gospel Writers – Matthew & John**

(Q) What two key pieces of information is Irenaeus providing about Matthew’s Gospel? (A) Matthew wrote in Hebrew & he describes Matthew wrote while Peter/Paul were preaching in Rome

(Q) Why is it likely that Irenaeus would have reliable information about Matthews Gospel? Study under (A) Irenaeus studied under Polycarp, who studied under John the Apostle. John knew Matthew, source

(Q) What was the order of the Gospels within the New Testament? (A) The New Testament compiled the Gospels in the order they were written. Gospel of John written last

(Q) What was the specific problem John wanted to address in his Gospel? (A) Some questioned the divinity of Jesus. John’s Gospel addresses that Jesus was the “Word made flesh” and the “Word was God”

**Day 3 – Lectio: Trained in the Words of the Faith**

(Q) How many times does Paul speak of “training.” (A) Paul mentions training twice – “train yourself in godliness” & “bodily training is of some value”

(Q) How many times does Paul use words of perseverance & practice. What effort is Timothy to use (A) Paul uses words “devote’ & “practice” once. Timothy is encouraged to “toil & strive”, “command & teach”, “take heed,” & to “hold to” what he is teaching

(Q) What does Paul want Timothy to attend to? (A) Paul wants Timothy to “attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching

(Q) In what areas is Timothy to “set the believers an example?” (A) Timothy is to set an example “in speech & conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” His whole life, words & actions, is to be an example of the godliness to which each Christian is called.

(Q) How do these passages compare the pursuit of righteousness with physical training? (A) Corinthians 9: 24-26 - Paul speaks about runners striving to win the race, exercising self-control to win a perishable prize. Timothy 2:5 – Paul says “an athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.” As Christians we must follow God’s rules, commands and his will for our lives.

(Q) What spiritual goals can we set for ourselves to “train in godliness.” (A) daily prayers, charity to others in need, fasting, other

(Q) Clement of Alexandria see’s Scripture as a key part of our training. How does God’s word guide us (A) Clement describes Scripture is like having a bit in our mouth or like a bull being guided by a yoke. It directs us and guides us to follow God’s will & go where he is leading. God’s word teaches, trains & transforms us so we can receive the Father in heaven

(Q) How does listening to God’s Word help us to encounter the Father who “meets his children with great love and speaks with them.” (A) In God’s Word we engage in a conversation with the Father, through his Son. God’s Word, especially the Gospels, makes an appeal to our mind & heart. It also deepens our love for God. Jesus was sent to reveal the Father who we learn about in God’s Word.

**Day 4 – Gospel Writers – Mark & Luke**

(Q) According to these early Church Fathers, who was Mark’s source for his knowledge about Jesus? How does this make Mark’s testimony reliable? (A) The Church Fathers certify that Mark received his information from Peter. Peter was part of Jesus’s inner circle along with James & John. Peter gave Mark detailed accounts of Jesus’s life & teaching.

(Q) What motivated Mark to write his Gospel? (A) The community to whom Peter preached persisted in requests to Mark that he wrote down Peter’s teaching and oral accounts as a record. They did not stop until Mark wrote his gospel of Peter’s witness.

(Q) Look up the following passages and note how Peter is in each: Matthew 16: 15-20 – Peter confesses that Jesus is the “Son of the living God”. Jesus gives Peter the “keys to the kingdom” and the authority to “bind and loose.” The name Simon is changed by Jesus to Peter which in Greek means “rock” and then states that on “this rock” Jesus will build his Church. Mark 8: 27-30 – Peter says that he believes Jesus is the Christ.

(Q) How do these narratives differ in their portrayal of Peter? Why do you think Peter, in telling this story to Mark simplifies the details? (A) Mark’s version does not include anything about Peter being renamed, given keys, given authority or called “the rock.” It is much simpler and shorter. Peter, out of humility, uses simple terms to describe.

**Day 5 – Truth & Beauty**

Reflect upon Saint Ambrose