

JOHN'S GOSPEL

THE AUTHORSHIP OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

The authorship of John's gospel is unique since it does not use the other synoptic gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke.

The author/writer of John's gospel was a Palestinian Jew because of his knowledge about the geographical location and features of Palestine for example Bethany, Kidron and Bethzatha.

According to evidence both internally and externally the author was an eye witness of Jesus Christ.

The author was also the disciple whom Jesus loved.

Bishop Irenaeus also testified that the gospel was written by John the beloved disciple.

The author was the disciple who was present and lay close to the breast of Jesus at the last supper.

Justin the martyr and proselytes also attribute the authorship to John the disciple because of his long stay in Ephesus where the gospel was written.

The discovery of Ryland fragments of John in 1918 is a clear manifestation that the gospel was written by John the beloved. The fragments are dated 135AD.

The author was present at the crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:35).

The author of John's gospel witnessed the empty tomb where Jesus' body had been buried. John 20:2-5.

The author was John the beloved disciple who ran to the tomb faster than Peter after receiving the news of Jesus' resurrection from Mary Magdalene.

John the disciple was a fisherman at the time when Jesus called him.

The author was one of the three disciples in the inner circle that is Peter, James and John and he witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus.

John the author was among the seven disciples who went fishing on Lake Tiberias where the risen lord appeared to them.

John the author was the one who reminded Peter that the man who had instructed them to throw the net into the water in order to catch fish was Jesus Christ.

According to Mark's gospel, John the disciple was a son of Zebedee and was a brother to James.

The author was the disciple whom Jesus requested to take care of his mother while at the cross.

John the author was a disciple whom Peter requested to ask for the name of the betrayer from Jesus during the last supper.

John the author was the disciple who went to Jesus together with his brother James to request for special seats in the kingdom of God.

DATE OF WRITING JOHN'S GOSPEL

The discovery of the papyrus fragment of the gospel belonging to the first half of the second century proves that the gospel was circulating in Egypt by 130AD.

It is also suggested that the gospel might have been written about 80AD or even earlier.

The gospel is also believed to have been written after the synoptic gospels.

The gospel must have been written long enough before 130AD to allow copies to be made and circulated around the church.

Brown of the early church points out that between 90-100AD it was in circulation.

DESTINATION/AUDIENCE

The gospel was written for the Jews and others who wanted to know the relationship of Jesus to the Old Testament.

It was also written for educated Christians.

It was written for the non-Jews who lived in Ephesus and would have been interested in his work. John's audience were Jewish and gentile Christians since his gospel has a universal message for example Jesus' use of 'I am the light of the world'

John's gospel was written to those the title Christ was important that is by 'you' he meant the believers of Christ.

PURPOSE/AIMS OF WRITING JOHN'S GOSPEL

John's gospel was written so that people may believe that Jesus is the Christ.

The gospel was written in order to refute some Gnostic and Docetism theories which have been confusing the early believers for example the claim that Jesus had not come in the flesh.

John's gospel was written to confirm that Jesus was indeed the true son of God. This is seen when he often refers to God as his father.

The gospel was written to prove Jesus' humanity for example he had friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

The gospel was written to prove Jesus' divinity for example he had supernatural powers to heal the sick like the crippled man at the pool.

John's gospel was written to confirm the messiah ship of Jesus Christ for example he could foretell things that would happen in future like his denial by Peter.

The gospel was written so that people would believe in Jesus Christ and in doing so they would receive eternal life.

The gospel was written to show God's love towards mankind for example Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

It was written to strengthen the faith of the suffering Christians.

John wanted to show that Jesus' work was a continuation of God's creative work.

John wanted to supplement the synoptic gospels which were lacking the emphasis of Jesus' Judean ministry.

He wanted to show that John the Baptist was a subordinate to Jesus Christ.

The gospel was written to show that the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ for example Ezekiel 34 which corresponds with John 10.

John's gospel was written to present Jesus' message in a more philosophical and theological approach for example the term being born again in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

The gospel was written to show that Jesus' ministry was universal in nature that is it was both for Jews and gentiles for example Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman who was a gentile.

The gospel was written for purposes of evangelism that is to proclaim the gospel about Christ.

The gospel was written for catechetical purposes that is to say, help in giving oral instructions to the new converts.

The gospel was written for apologetic reasons that is to say, to prove to the Roman political leaders that Christianity was not anti-government.

The gospel was written for liturgical purposes that is to say, to help Christians on how to carry out private and public worship.

The gospel was written to affirm the pre-existence of Jesus Christ for example John 1:1 “in the beginning there was a word...”

The gospel was written in order to respond to the Holy Spirit so as to discern deep meaning in the life of Jesus.

He wanted to correct the misconception that John the Baptist was greater than Jesus.

It was written to prove that Jesus died and resurrected for example he appeared to seven disciples along Lake Tiberias and enabled them to catch fish.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE AIMS OF THE GOSPELS OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

Both wanted to show that Jesus was the promised messiah who had come into the world to save the sinful mankind.

Both wanted to show the humanity of Jesus because he died like any other human being.

Both wanted to show the divinity of Jesus like he walked on water and fed the 5000 people using 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

Both wanted to present Jesus as the son of God.

Both wanted to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ to the people.

Both wanted to organize the Kerygma in written form since the eyewitnesses of Jesus were dying.

Both wanted to preserve the true teaching of Jesus Christ in written form.

Both wanted to prevent the distortion of the gospel that was being spread orally.

Both wanted to show that Jesus was a universal messiah for both Jews and gentiles.

Both authors wanted to show that Jesus Christ really died and resurrected from death as foretold by prophets.

Both wrote for catechetical reasons that is to be used when giving oral instructions to the new converts.

Both wrote for liturgical purpose that is to be used for both private and public worship of God.

Both wanted to show that Old Testament scriptures had been fulfilled in Jesus' ministry.

Differences

John wanted to reveal that Jesus existed before the creation of the world while Mark wanted to remind his readers that the coming of Jesus fulfilled the words of Isaiah 40:3.

John wanted the Jewish Christians to believe in Jesus Christ while Mark wanted the gentile Christians to endure suffering.

John wanted to remind the Jewish Christians that through believing they may have eternal life while Mark wanted to remind the gentile Christians that the kingdom of God has come.

John wanted to supplement the synoptic gospels while Mark wanted to put all collections of Jesus in a written form.

John wrote to fight the emerging heresies while Mark wanted to encourage suffering Christians to endure all forms of persecution.

John wanted to present the message about the messiah in a more philosophical and theological manner while Mark wanted to interpret to the gentiles what was meant by calling Jesus messiah.

John wanted to show that Jesus' work was a continuation of God's creative work while Mark wrote to show that Jesus' work was a battle against evil and satanic forces.

John wanted to emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit while Mark wanted to emphasize the role of faith.

CHARACTERISTICS/FEATURES OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

The gospel is characterized by seven I am statements for example I am the true vine, I am the bread of life.

The author of the gospel uses words with double meaning for example the temple is not a mere building but the body of Christ as well.

The gospel is full of symbolism for example bread of life, life giving water.

John's gospel is characterized by a strong element of witnessing for example there are seven witnesses to Jesus as the son of God.

The word truth is commonly used in the gospel instead of good news.

The gospel openly reveals the messiah ship of Jesus Christ for example the seven signs he performed.

The gospel presents Jesus as one who regularly refers to God as his father. This is shown 120 times.

John uses the word signs to refer to the extra-ordinary works of Jesus and presents seven of them for example turning water into wine, feeding the 5000 people.

Jesus always takes time and is not taken off guard. He takes his initiative to do things for example turning water in to wine at the wedding at Cana.

John presents the teachings of Jesus in form of discourses or dialogues for example the conversation with the Samaritan woman.

John's gospel shows that judgment is instant that is it is here and now.

The author of the gospel is well versed with the geography of Palestine for example he mentions places like Bethany, Bethzartha.

The writer uses the term eternal life instead of kingdom of God.

The gospel presents a theological and philosophical approach than more narration of events.

The time frame of Jesus' ministry took three years.

The gospel presents John the Baptist as a subordinate to Jesus Christ.

The gospel of John is characterized by figures or numbers for example the seven signs, seven lambs, and five husbands of the Samaritan woman.

The gospel concentrates much on Jesus' ministry in Judea and Jerusalem instead of Galilee as it is the case in the synoptic gospels.

The gospel presents Jesus as being both a human and divine being.

It contains many conflicts between Jesus and the Pharisees for example the issue of healing the crippled man on the Sabbath.

COMPARISON OF JOHN'S GOSPEL AND MARK'S GOSPEL

Similarities

Both gospels show the divinity of Jesus like when he fed the 5000 people and walked on water.

Both gospels show the humanity of Jesus like he died and had pity towards the hungry people.

Both gospels show Jesus as the promised messiah who came to bring salvation to the sinful mankind.

Both gospels show the importance of faith in the salvation of mankind.

Both gospels show God's love for mankind revealed through Jesus Christ.

Both gospels show Jesus as a son of God.

Both gospels show the disciples' lack of understanding of Jesus when they doubted Jesus' capacity to feed the 5000 people on five loaves of bread and two fish.

Both gospels show that the Jewish leaders were hostile towards Jesus especially on the issue of healing the sick on the Sabbath.

Both gospels show that Jesus' coming was a fulfillment of Old Testament scriptures like Isaiah 53 about the suffering servant of God

Both gospels contain the message of the Kerygma like Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

Both gospels show Jesus as the central figure in the gospel message which was one of the criteria for their approval by the church fathers.

Both gospels show John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus' coming and show John confessing the greatness of Jesus.

Both gospels show Jesus as a prophet as well as a miracle worker for example he walked on water and fed the 5000 people.

Both gospels present similar events in Jesus' ministry like the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, Jesus' cleansing of the Jerusalem temple and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Both gospels have the same order of presenting Jesus' ministry. They start with the ministry of John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, performance of miracles, preaching the gospel, suffering, death and resurrection.

Differences

Mark's gospel is short and brief with 16 chapters while John's gospel is more detailed with 21 chapters.

Mark hides the messiahship of Jesus in the first chapters while John openly reveals the messiahship of Jesus from the beginning to the end.

Mark presents Jesus' ministry to be more concentrated in Galilee and later in Jerusalem while John presents Jesus' ministry in Judea and later in Jerusalem.

Mark uses parables as the main form of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God while John uses discourses as the main form of Jesus' teaching.

Mark calls Jesus' extra ordinary performances as miracles while John refers to them as signs.

Mark presents Jesus' teachings in a narrative form while John presents Jesus' teaching in a theological and philosophical style.

In Mark Jesus is anointed with an expensive perfume on the head by a woman while in John's gospel Jesus is anointed on the feet by Mary.

Mark's gospel uses the phrase kingdom of God while John's gospel uses the phrase eternal life to mean the same.

In mark's gospel, the disciples of Jesus were unique to him while in John's gospel some of the disciples of Jesus originally belonged to John the Baptist.

In Mark's gospel Jesus' cleansing of the temple is placed after Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem while in John's gospel its placed before Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Mark's gospel presents God's judgment of mankind as a future reality while John's gospel presents God's judgment to be here and now.

In Mark, John baptizes Jesus physically by immersion in river Jordan while in John's gospel the baptism of Jesus seems to be spiritual in nature.

In Mark, Jesus is seen going to Jerusalem once in his ministry while in John Jesus visits Jerusalem three times.

Mark presents personalities like Jairus, the rich young man and the Roman centurion while John presents personalities like Nathanael, Nicodemus and Lazarus.

Mark presents events like Jesus' temptation, Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi and the transfiguration of Jesus while John presents events like Jesus' changing water into wine, Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet.

Mark's gospel refers to Jesus with titles like teacher, Lord of the Sabbath and son of man while John's gospel refers to Jesus with titles like I am the true vine, I am the bread of life and I am the good shepherd.

Mark's gospel was written around 64 AD while John's gospel was written much later around 90 AD.

Mark's audience were basically the gentile Christians while John's audience were basically Jewish Christians.

In Mark's gospel Jesus fed the 5000 people and the 4000 people while in John's gospel he fed only the 5000 people.

In Mark's gospel the Lord's Supper coincided with the Passover while in John it took place a day before the Passover.

Mark's gospel ends abruptly while in John's gospel Jesus ends with a long farewell message to his disciples.

In Mark's gospel when Jesus walked on water the disciples called him a ghost while in John the disciples just got terrified when they saw Jesus walking on water.

In Mark's gospel Jesus instructed the two disciples to go and bring the colt which he used to enter Jerusalem while in John's gospel Jesus just found the colt and rode on it.

In Mark Jesus' ministry began after the death of John the Baptist while in John their ministry overlapped.

In Mark Judas kissed Jesus as he betrayed him to show the arrestors that he was the one they were looking for while in John's gospel Judas just led the arrestors to where Jesus was.

In Mark Jesus was crucified at 9:00am while in John he was crucified at noon.

In Mark Jesus was helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross to Golgotha while in John He carried his own cross to Golgotha.

In Mark's gospel Jesus' cry was of despair saying "my God my God why have you forsaken me" while in John's gospel he said that it's "finished."

In Mark's gospel Jesus was offered wine but he refused to drink it while in John's gospel Jesus was forced to drink wine.

In Mark when Jesus died darkness appeared all over the world and lasted for three hours while in John's gospel the weather seemed to have remained normal.

PROLOGUE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL 1:1-18

The word prologue comes from two Greek words meaning a passage which goes in front to introduce an important event. The prologue of John works as a summary of the entire gospel.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

The prologue signified Jesus' divinity for example He was the same as God.

The prologue signified Jesus' humanity that is the word became flesh and lived among human beings.

It showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah since he had come to bring light to the world.

The prologue meant Jesus is the reflection of the truth, grace and glory of his father.

It also signified that Jesus Christ pre-existed creation. He is older than the universe itself.
It meant that God brought salvation to the world through his son Jesus Christ.
It showed the part played by Jesus in the creation of the world. It is the word that directed the creation of the world.
The term truth meant the saving revelation of God in his son Jesus Christ.
The term truth in the Old Testament meant God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promises.
The prologue signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in the book of Genesis concerning the creation of the world.
The prologue meant that Jesus is the light that is he is the revealer who had come to overcome all sources of darkness in the world.
It meant that Jesus is the source of eternal life hence the saviour of the world.
The term darkness symbolized evil and sin.
The word was with God shows that Jesus is the incarnation of God.
The terms; life, truth, darkness, glory, the world are used to show the nature of Jesus and how he had come to overcome the evil forces.
It meant that John the Baptist was sent to bear witness to the light.
It signified that John the Baptist is subordinate to Jesus Christ.
The prologue showed how the sinful world rejected the incarnate world that is Jesus Christ.
The e prologue meant that accepting Christianity and receiving salvation is by God's grace not the law.
The prologue signified the intimate relationship that existed between God and Jesus Christ for example the word was with God.
The prologue showed the invisible nature of God that is no one has ever seen God except the son.
It meant that all believers became children of God by accepting the word of God and believing in Jesus Christ as his son.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL TO THE REST OF THE GOSPEL

The prologue shows that the word became flesh as the gospel shows that Jesus became thirsty at Jacob's well and also cried when his friend Lazarus died.
The prologue shows Jesus as a divine being as indicated in the rest of the gospel like the signs he performed for example healing of the roman official's son.
The prologue shows that Jesus was the source of life which is reflected in the rest of the gospel in Jesus' miracles of healing, feeding and turning water into wine.
It shows that the word was full of grace and truth which are revealed in Jesus' miracles and teachings like the woman caught in adultery.
The prologue shows that although Jesus came to the world. People rejected him which is clearly shown in the conflict stories for example his pronouncement of 'lams' like bread of life.
Prologue shows Jesus as the truth of God. This is shown when he refers to himself as the way, the truth and life.
The prologue shows that all who accepted Jesus were given right to become children of God. This is seen in the story of the Samaritan woman.
It shows that the darkness has not overcome the light as the gospel of john shows Jesus healing the man born blind.
The prologue contrasts Moses the giver of the law and Jesus the source of the grace as shown by the gospel in the story of the woman caught in adultery and the story of the Samaritan woman.

The prologue shows that the word was with God and is God. John's gospel reveals this in the various "I AM" statements of Jesus.

The prologue shows that the eternal father is made known to the world by the son who is the light shining in the darkness. This is reflected in the story of Nicodemus.

In the prologue Jesus is seen as the expected messiah, which is reflected in the story of the Samaritan woman who recognized Jesus as the messiah.

In the prologue Jesus is the wisdom of God. The Pharisees wondered where he got his wisdom from.

The prologue shows Jesus as the manifestation of God's love. This is seen during the feeding of the 5,000 people by Jesus.

The prologue shows that those who accept the word shall be blessed for example the Roman official accepted the word and his son was healed.

According to the prologue, it's only in Jesus Christ that believers find liberation from sin. This is in the miracles for example the healing of the crippled man.

It also shows God's glory which is seen only by those who have faith in Jesus. This is reflected in the seven signs and Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman.

In the prologue John appears as the world's witness which is reflected in the gospel where John the Baptist is shown as a subordinate to Jesus.

The prologue shows God's faithfulness to His promises. This is seen when Jesus dies on the cross.

In the prologue Jesus is the truth of God. This is revealed in John 14:6 where he says "I am the way, the truth and the life."

The prologue shows that the word according to God's will gives light and life as the gospel shows the conflict between light and darkness, the devil and the world.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS FROM THE PROLOGUE TO THE CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should accept and honour Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

Christians should accept the word of God as spoken by God to the world.

They should obey Jesus as the son of God.

Christians should believe in Jesus Christ since he is the same as God.

Christians should stand firm to defeat the devil.

Christians should be the light to others as Jesus was the light to the world.

They should fulfill their promises as Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ so as to become God's children.

They should welcome and embrace Jesus Christ as a source of blessing instead of rejecting him.

Christians should be humble like John the Baptist humbled himself before Jesus.

Christians should be good witnesses of Jesus and messengers of God's word.

Christians should seek for God's wisdom which is in Jesus Christ.

Christians should trust in God's love for them and also extend love to one another.

Christians should preach about the greatness of Jesus Christ as John the Baptist did.

Christians should save others especially the needy by doing works of charity since the prologue shows Jesus as a saviour.

They should emulate the example of Jesus who was obedient to the will of his father who sent him.

Christians should be united as one since God and Jesus were also united.

Christians should seek for Jesus Christ so as to receive eternal life.

HOW THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN FULFILLS THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

In the prologue, John begins by saying “in the beginning was the word” which fulfills Genesis 1. In Genesis 1 God created by a command that is word and the prologue shows Jesus as the word. In the Old Testament God frequently spoke to prophets and gave them his word, Jesus is a prophet like the Old Testament prophets.

In the prologue there is reference to the Law of Moses which is an important component in the Old Testament.

The prologue shows the idea of the light that came to the world which reflects the idea of light in the Old Testament for example the burning bush incident.

The prologue shows the word who is Jesus was rejected by his own people reflecting how the Old Testament prophets were rejected.

In the prologue the word is God’s wisdom which is reflected in proverbs 8:21-31 which speaks of God’s wisdom as being the first of God’s created works.

The prologue shows the invisible nature of God hence no one has ever seen God. This fulfills the Old Testament scriptures of no images of God.

In the prologue Jesus is pictured as the God which is reflected in Isaiah 9:6 that the son will be called a mighty God.

In the prologue it is through Jesus that one finds salvation. This reflects the invisible nature of God in the Old Testament.

God’s word in the Old Testament had come light into human life so this is expressed in the prologue when Jesus becomes flesh.

In the Old Testament God’s glory was made visible through the pillars of fire in Isaiah 24:6-17 likewise in the prologue Jesus is the light made visible to the world.

In the Old Testament the law taught the Jews what sin was but did not have power to save them from sin. Likewise in the prologue Jesus fulfills and replaces the law because he is the grace and truth that saves mankind.

In the prologue God is shown as the father which reflects the words of Isaiah where he refers to God as the father. Isaiah 9; 6.

THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST 1:6-9, 15, 19-38

John the Baptist is presented as a messenger who was sent by God as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him all men might believe.

John the Baptist said that he himself was not the light but he came only as a witness to the light.

John the Baptist confessed that the true light (Jesus Christ) who gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John the Baptist confessed that the one who was coming after him was greater than him because he lived before him.

When the priests and Levites asked John the Baptist about who he was, he freely confessed that he was not the Christ.

John the Baptist said that he was the voice of one calling in the desert hence a messenger who had come to announce the coming of Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist said that he baptized with water but among them stood a person who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist said that he was unfit to untie the sandals of the one who was coming after him.

All this happened at Bethany on the other side of R. Jordan where John was baptizing.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him he said that there comes the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

John the Baptist said that, this is the one he meant when he said “a man who comes after me is greater than me because he was before me.”

John the Baptist said that he himself did not know him but he was baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.

John the Baptist bore witness that he saw the spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

John the Baptist said that he would not have known him except that the one who sent him to baptize with water told him.

John the Baptist bore witness that Jesus is the son of God after witnessing the Holy Spirit coming upon him.

As John the Baptist was with two of his disciples he saw Jesus passing by and he identified him as the Lamb of God to his disciples who instantly followed him.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST'S WITNESS

John's witness of Jesus Christ was vital in that he identified to his disciples Jesus as a messiah.

John the Baptist differentiated himself as not being the messiah as people thought but a fore runner.

In his witness, John the Baptist showed that he was not more important than Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist humbled himself before Jesus the messiah.

He prepared people for the coming of Jesus therefore made them ready for the coming of Jesus.

His witness for Christ is important in that he identified him as the son of God.

John's witness provided ground for Jesus' ministry for example four of his disciples became the first disciples of Jesus Christ.

It was through John's witness for Jesus Christ that the Old Testament scriptures had been fulfilled.

Jesus came as messiah that had been spoken of before for example Isaiah 40:3.

John's witness for Jesus Christ openly revealed the messiah ship of Christ when he saw heaven opening the spirit descending on Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist talks about the Lamb of God which reflects the Passover lamb in Exodus 12.

The baptism of John with water suggests the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

THE ROLE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

John the Baptist announced the coming of the messiah, so he was a messenger sent by God.

John made a clear difference between himself and Christ for example he taught that he was not the light but had come to teach about the light.

He taught people about the light that was about to come into the world.

John bore witness to Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

He baptized people in river Jordan preparing them for the coming of the messiah.

He introduced the crowd to Jesus as the person he had been talking about saying he came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.

John the Baptist was the voice of someone shouting in the desert hence fulfilling Isaiah 40:3.

John the Baptist played the role of a fore runner that is he cleared ground for Jesus Christ to come.

He bore witness to Jesus as the son of God when he saw the spirit of God come down from heaven as a dove and remained on him.

John the Baptist showed Jesus' greatness over him when he said Jesus existed before he was born.

John the Baptist emphasized to the crowd that he was baptizing with water but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John handed over some of his disciples to Jesus Christ when he identified to them Jesus as the Lamb of God.

John the Baptist made a prophetic announcement about the coming of the messiah.

He told people about the message of Jesus and they believed.

John the Baptist revealed that Jesus was a spiritual king from heaven greater than all.

He covered the role of Elijah as expected by the Jews.

John the Baptist set the stage fully for the entry of the messiah.

He came to prepare the way for God's saving activity.

HOW THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SHOWS THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST IS SUBORDINATE TO JESUS

John the Baptist spoke openly and clearly saying "I am not the messiah" hence being a subordinate to Jesus.

John said quoting in Isaiah "I am a voice of someone shouting in the desert. Make a straight path for the lord to travel".

John said that he was not good enough to even untie the sandals of the one who was coming.

He said that he baptizes with water but among you stands the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

He clarified that Jesus existed before John the Baptist was born.

He identified Jesus and said "there is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

He said this is the one I was talking about when I said "a man is coming after me but he is greater than i am".

He identified Jesus to his disciples saying "there is the lamb of God".

John is too subordinate that even two of his disciples decided to follow Jesus for example Andrew and Simon Peter.

John said "I did not know who he would be but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel.

John the Baptist gave his testimony "i saw that spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stayed on him".

Jesus is so superior that we are not told that John physically baptized him.

John refers to Jesus as the bridegroom and he is the best man.

John said that as Jesus was increasing he was decreasing hence subordinate.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ACCOUNTS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MINISTRY IN THE GOSPELS OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

Both gospels show John the Baptist as a messenger of God.

Both gospels present John the Baptist as one who had a mission to baptize people and encourage them to repent their sins.

Both gospels present John the Baptist as Elijah who had come to fulfill the prophesy of Malachi 4:5.

Both gospels show that John the Baptist demanded from his followers to turn away from their sins.

In both gospels John the Baptist wanted his hearers to have total obedience to God so that they may be forgiven of their sins on the Day of Judgment.
Both gospels show that John's baptism was by immersion.
Both gospels show that John the Baptist carried out his baptism in river Jordan.
In both gospels there is a voice of God during John the Baptist ministry.
Both gospels show that John the Baptist told the people about the day of the Lord being near.
Both gospels show that it was Jesus Christ who went to John the Baptist to be baptized.
Both gospels show that John the Baptist identified Jesus.
Both gospels claim that John the Baptist had disciples in his ministry.
Both gospels show John the Baptist announcing the expected arrival of God's anointed one.
Both gospels show that John the Baptist taught that Jesus would baptize with Holy Spirit.
Both show that John the Baptist announced that Jesus was much greater than him that he was not even fit to untie his sandals.

Differences

The account of John the Baptist's ministry is brief while in John's gospel it's detailed.
In John's gospel John the Baptist is seen being cautioned by the Jewish religious leaders as to whether he was the messiah, Elijah or a prophet while in Mark people seem to have mistaken him as the messiah without asking him any question about it.
In John's gospel John the Baptist describes himself as God's messenger who brought the news of the Lord's coming while in Mark's gospel John the Baptist is presented as a messenger who had come to clear the way for Jesus.
In John's gospel Jesus was already among the crowd when John the Baptist talked to him while in Mark's gospel Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee.
In John's gospel, when John the Baptist saw Jesus he told his disciples that there is the Lamb of God while in Mark John the Baptist just preached his gospel about the coming messiah.
In John's gospel John the Baptist recognized the voice of God while in Mark's gospel it was Jesus who recognized the voice of God.
In John's gospel, Jesus' baptism seems to have been spiritual while in Mark's gospel Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in river Jordan.
In John's gospel John the Baptist is more hesitant to baptize Jesus while in Mark he baptized him straight away.
In John's gospel John the Baptist is seen handing over some of his disciples to Jesus while in Mark Jesus chose his own disciples.
Mark's gospel reports about the death of John the Baptist before the beginning of Jesus' ministry while John's gospel shows that the ministry of John the Baptist and that of Jesus overlapped.

SIGNS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Jesus' turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana 2:1-12
Jesus' healing of the Roman officer's son 4:43-54.
Jesus' healing of the crippled man at the pool 5:1-47
Jesus' feeding of 5000 people 6:1-15.
Jesus' walking on water 6:16-21.
Jesus' healing of a man born blind 9:1-41
Jesus' raising of Lazarus to life 11:1-57.

SIGNIFICANCE/ MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF SIGNS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Signs signified that Jesus was the promised messiah for example the healing of the crippled man and raising of Lazarus to life.

The signs showed Jesus' divinity when he used supernatural powers to walk on water, feed the 5,000 people on five loaves of bread and two fish.

Signs showed Jesus' humanity for example he felt pity for the hungry crowd and fed them and also wept when his friend Lazarus died.

They showed the love of God towards mankind which was manifested through his son Jesus Christ for example healing the man born blind.

Signs signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example the feeding of the 5000 people reflected the quails and manna that God gave the Israelites while in the desert.

They revealed the glory of God and his power to mankind for example the feeding of the 5000 people and the raising of Lazarus to life.

Signs showed the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ for example the Roman officer expressed his faith in Jesus Christ and his son was healed.

They signified that Jesus' ministry was universal that is he had come for both Jews and gentiles like when he healed the Roman officer's son who was a gentile.

They signified the importance of prayer for example Jesus first prayed to God before he raised Lazarus to life.

Signs showed that Jesus is the Lord of Sabbath like when he healed the crippled man and the man born blind on Sabbath.

They showed that Jesus was a servant of mankind for example when he fed the 5000 people on five loaves of bread and two fish.

They signified Jesus' power over nature for example when he walked on water.

Signs showed that Jesus takes initiative as logos/word that is he does things out of his own will for example when turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

They showed the disciple's lack of understanding towards Jesus for example when he walked on water they were all terrified.

Signs were meant to increase the faith of the disciples in Jesus for example when Jesus fed the 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

They signified that Jesus was the source of life for example when he raised Lazarus to life.

They signified that Jesus was the good shepherd for example when fed the 5000 people on five loaves of bread and two fish.

They showed that Jesus was the source of bread for example the feeding of the 5000 people.

Signs were a way of spreading the gospel for example those who witnessed the raising of Lazarus believed.

Signs showed that with God everything is possible for example healing of the Roman official's son and the crippled man.

They showed that Jesus was the source of light for example when he healed the man born blind.

Signs showed the abundance and satisfaction got in Jesus Christ for example turning water into wine and feeding the 5000 people.

Signs showed that Jesus came to offer both physical and spiritual healing for example he healed the crippled man and forgave him of his sins.

They signified Jesus' power to heal all kinds of diseases for example he healed the man born blind, the crippled man and the Roman officer's son.

They pointed towards the heavenly feast which all the followers of Jesus would enjoy in the life to come for example the feeding of the 5000 people and turning water into wine.

JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE AT THE WEDDING IN CANA 2:1-12

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE AT THE WEDDING IN CANA

The sign happened at a wedding ceremony in the town of Cana in Galilee.

Jesus' mother had attended the wedding.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

In the course of the ceremony wine got finished.

Jesus' mother raised concern to him that "they have no wine left."

Jesus replied to his mother that "you must not tell me what to do."

Jesus then told his mother that "my time has not yet come."

Jesus' mother then told the servants to obey whatever instructions that Jesus would tell them.

Nearby stood six stone jars in fulfillment of the Jewish ritual of washing.

Jesus then told the servants to fill the jars with water.

The servants followed Jesus' instructions and they filled the jars to the brim.

Jesus then told them to draw some water and take it to the master of the wedding feast.

When the master in charge of the ceremony tasted the water it had turned into wine.

The master in charge of the ceremony didn't know where the wine had come from but the servants knew.

He called the bridegroom aside and challenged him why he had brought the best wine towards the end and had started with cheap wine.

He made a key note that everyone serves the best wine first then the cheaper wine later when the guests have had plenty to drink.

SIGNIFICANCE/ MEANING/ IMPORTANCE OF TURNING WATER INTO WINE

The sign showed Jesus' messiah ship for example he just told the servants to fill the jars with water and it turned into wine.

The sign showed Jesus' divine nature for example he had supernatural powers to turn water into wine.

The sign showed God's glory, power and authority to those who witnessed it.

It showed Jesus' humanity when he was invited and attended the wedding like other people.

The sign showed the strong faith which Jesus' mother had for example she told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do.

The sign showed Jesus' recognition of marriage as a divine institution.

The old wine which got finished symbolized Judaism which had become outdated.

The new wine which Jesus made signified the good news of Jesus' gospel.

New wine also signified Christianity being a better religion than Judaism.

Wine symbolized the blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist sacrament.

The sign showed God's love towards mankind which was manifested through Jesus Christ.

The wedding at Cana symbolized marriage between Jesus and the church.

It showed the importance of obedience to Jesus. The servants obeyed Jesus' instructions as Mary had told them.

The sign strengthened the faith of the disciples in Jesus Christ because they witnessed it.

It signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word/logos. He turned water into wine when his right time came.

The sign showed the great intimacy between Jesus and his mother for example Mary told Jesus that wine was over.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Isaiah that the messianic days will be characterized by plenty of wine.

The sign signified abundance of satisfaction got in Jesus Christ.

It showed that the presence of Jesus can cause joy and happiness for the people.

The sign pointed towards the future messianic banquet that will be enjoyed by all believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

The sign was a way of spreading the gospel in the town of Cana in Galilee.

It showed that with God everything is possible.

It showed that Jesus rewards those who come to him in faith for example Mary raised concern that there was no wine and eventually Jesus turned water into wine.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS CHRISTIANS TODAY LEARN FROM JESUS' TURNING OF WATER INTO WINE

Christians should honour and respect Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

Christians should attend social functions like weddings when invited like Jesus did.

Christians should have strong faith in Jesus Christ like Mary the mother expressed her faith in him when she raised concern that the wine was over.

Christians should have respect for holy marriage since it is a divine institution of God.

Christians should extend love to one another as God's love was revealed to mankind through Jesus Christ.

Christians should be obedient to God's servants just like the servants at the wedding obeyed Jesus' instructions of filling the jars with water.

Christians should trust in God since with him everything is possible.

They should seek for Jesus Christ so as to receive physical and spiritual satisfaction.

Christians should refer and believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christians should patiently wait for God's power to be revealed to them like Mary patiently waited for Jesus' time to perform the sign.

Christians should accept and believe in Jesus Christ since he is the son of God.

Christians should have hope for the heavenly feast where there will be plenty of wine.

Christians should seek for the joy and happiness from Jesus Christ.

Christians should spread the gospel to others since the sign was a way of spreading the gospel.

They should proclaim Christianity as a better religion than others.

They should aim towards doing good things that reveal god's power and glory to mankind.

DIVINE SIGNS EXPERIENCED AMONG CHRISTIANS TODAY

Some people have testified that Mary the mother of Jesus has appeared to them.

Some Christians have survived fatal accidents as a result of divine providence.

Some people receive visions and dreams that come to reality.

Some Christians have been miraculously cured from diseases after praying to God.

Some people have been blessed with children after praying to God.

Some have prophesied and their prophecies have come true.

Some Christians speak in tongues as a sign of the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians have been delivered from demonic powers.

Some Christians have received academic achievements through prayers.

Christians with stronger faith can interpret many incidents for example dreams.

In the Catholic Church sacraments like baptism, Holy Eucharist are signs which signify heavenly grace.

In the midst of problems like poverty, natural disasters like floods people have seen Jesus coming to their rescue.

The rapid expansion of the church is a sign of God existing in our midst.

Some people have prayed to God for spiritual and material needs and their prayers have been answered.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF JESUS' HEALING OF THE ROMAN OFFICER'S SON 4:43-54

The sign showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah since the healing was a messianic act.

The healing signified Jesus' divinity that is he used supernatural powers when he told the noble man that his son would live and the boy was healed.

The sign signified Jesus' humanity when he felt pity for the Roman officer and healed his son.

The sign showed the love of God for mankind which was revealed through Jesus Christ.

It showed that Jesus' ministry was universal in nature that is it was both for Jews and gentiles since the noble man was a gentile.

The healing showed God's power, glory and authority towards mankind.

The sign showed the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ for example the Roman officer believed in Jesus and his son was healed.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures that the messiah would perform miracles. Isaiah 35:5-6

The sign was away of spreading the gospel since the whole family of the noble man believed in Jesus after the healing.

It showed that Jesus takes initiative as the word of God for example he told the man to go his way that his son will live.

The healing showed importance of obeying Jesus' words as the Roman official did.

The sign showed the importance of believing without seeing. The Roman officer believed the words that Jesus had spoken unto him.

The sign showed that Jesus is the giver of life. He told the Roman officer that his son would live and he was healed.

The healing showed that with God everything is possible for example Jesus healed the boy from a distance.

It showed that Jesus came to give life to those who yearn for it hence one's determination leads to receive a miracle.

The sign showed Jesus' power over evil forces since such illnesses were attributed to evil powers. The healing showed that Jesus was a servant to mankind.

It showed the faithfulness of Jesus as the word of God for example he told the Roman officer that his son would live and his words came to reality.

It showed that Jesus was a source of joy and happiness to those who seemed to be troubled.

It showed the importance of humility in God's kingdom to get salvation as shown by the Roman officer.

It signified that Jesus was a good shepherd who takes care of his sheep.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF THE SIGNS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ in order to receive healings.

Christians should be obedient to Jesus' words so as to get healed.

They should extend love to others since Jesus is full of love.

Christians should treat all people equally regardless of race or status like Jesus healed the Roman officer's son who was a gentile.

Christians should believe without seeing like the Roman officer did.

Christians should accept Jesus Christ since he is the son of God.

Christians should seek for Jesus for whatever problems that they have.

Christians should believe and refer to the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christians should extend sympathy to those who are suffering and help them to overcome problems.

They should spread the gospel of Christ to people in other areas.

Christians should respond to people's problems without delay as Jesus did with the Roman officer.

Christians should trust in God since with him everything is possible.

Christians should be servants of others.

Christians should be responsible parents to their children like the Roman officer who was concerned about the wellbeing of his son.

Christians who have the gift of healing should use it to heal the sick like Jesus did.

Christians who are troubled should seek for joy and happiness from Jesus Christ.

Christians should exercise humility before Jesus Christ.

Christians should believe without seeing that God's power can still reach them in a distance.

MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE/IMPORTANCE OF THE CRIPPLED MAN AT THE POOL 5:1-18

The sign showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah whom the prophets had talked about. The healing showed God's glory, authority and power to those who witnessed it.

It signified the divinity of Jesus for example he used supernatural powers when he told the man to pick up his mat and go and he was healed.

The sign showed Jesus' humanity that is he felt pity for the crippled man and healed him.

It showed the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example Isaiah 35:5-6 that the lame will leap.

The sign revealed God's love and grace towards mankind which was manifested through Jesus Christ.

It signified that Jesus was the source of life. He ordered the man to pick his mat and go and he was healed.

The five entrances at the pool symbolized the five law books of the Old Testament.

The 38 years the crippled man had suffered reflected the long time the Jews suffered in the wilderness.

The sign showed that Jesus was the son of God because he referred to him as a father.

It showed that Jesus came to perfect the law concerning Sabbath that is why he healed the man on a Sabbath.

The sign showed that Jesus was the lord of Sabbath because he performed the sign on Sabbath.

It increased hostility towards Jesus from the Pharisees because he disagreed with the teachers of the law concerning Sabbath healing.

It meant that Jesus is a forgiver of sins when he forgave the sins of the man.

It meant that suffering at times is caused by sin. Jesus told the man to sin no more, lest a worst thing would happen to him.

The healing was a way of training the disciples for their future task of spreading the gospel.

It signified that Jesus takes initiative as logos to do things for example he asked the man if we wanted to be healed.

It showed the importance of faith in Jesus which the crippled man had.

It showed that with God everything is possible.

The healing was a way of spreading the gospel and many who saw and heard about the man were converted to Christianity.

WHY DID THE MAN'S HEALING RAISE CONCERN AMONG THE JEWS?

There was concern among the Jews because the healing took place on Sabbath.

It was because the Jews were jealousy of Jesus because he could perform such a healing yet they could not.

It was also because the Jews lacked understanding of the true identity of Jesus.

The Jews thought that people could easily desert them and follow Jesus because of his miraculous signs.

They thought that this was a new teaching where the hopeless sick could be healed.

It was because the Jews were enemies of Jesus.

It was because the Jews did not know by what means and powers Jesus performed such a healing.

Because of this sign, Jesus was going to become more famous than the teachers of the law.

The Jews wondered how a mere man like Jesus could perform such a sign.

The Jews feared that people would soon worship Jesus as the messiah which they did not believe.

They were surprised to see the man who had been in a sorry state for 38 years walking.

They raised concern because Jesus referred to God as his father making himself equal to God which to them was blasphemy.

It was because finding a man carrying a mat on Sabbath day was unlawful.

It was because Jesus assured them that he had power to raise the dead.

RELEVANCE/APPLICATON/LESSONS OF THE SIGN TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should have faith in Jesus in order to attain salvation.

Christians should use the Sabbath for doing good to others for the glory of God.

Christians should love one another as God showed his love to mankind through Jesus Christ.

Christians should trust in God since with him everything is possible.

Christians should honour and respect Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

Christians should be obedient to the commands of Jesus in order to be healed.

Christians should seek help from Jesus who has authority and power over sin.

Christians should always depend on Jesus who is above the traditions and customs of the world.

They should accept and believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God.

Christians should repent in case of sin and always live a righteous life as Jesus warned the crippled man to sin no more.

They should keep struggling and waiting on for God's healing during times of suffering and harassment.

Christians should have hope in Jesus Christ since he is the healer of all infirmities.

They should help others physically and spiritually as Jesus did to the crippled man.

Christians should run to God so as to attain salvation.

Christians should believe and refer to the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christians should set themselves free from the restrictions of the law which may hinder their service of God as Jesus did when he healed the man on a Sabbath.

Christians should stand firm during times of suffering and wait upon God's healing towards them.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF JESUS' FEEDING OF THE 5000 PEOPLE 6: 1-15

The sign showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah.

It signified Jesus' divinity when he multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed the hungry crowd.

The sign showed Jesus' humanity like he had compassion and pity for the hungry crowd.

The sign pointed towards the idea of Lord's Supper which Jesus was about to institute to his followers.

It showed that Jesus was indeed the bread of life that came down from heaven.

It showed the love of God towards mankind which was reflected in Jesus Christ.

The sign showed the disciples' lack of understanding towards Jesus for example Phillip and Andrew doubted Jesus' capacity to feed the crowd with only five loaves of bread and two fish.

The five loaves of bread that Jesus multiplied symbolized the five law books of the Old Testament.

The twelve baskets of leftovers represented the twelve tribes of Israel.

The sign showed the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example in Exodus 16 God fed the Israelites on quails and manna.

The feeding of the 5000 people foreshadowed the heavenly feast that would be enjoyed by all believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

The sign showed that Jesus was a servant to mankind as served people on loaves of bread and fish.

It signified that Jesus was a good shepherd who takes care of his sheep.

It showed the importance of prayer for example Jesus gave thanks to God before multiplying the bread and fish.

The sign was a manifestation of God's glory, power and authority on earth.

It signified that Jesus caters for both spiritual and physical needs of his followers for example he preached to them and also fed them.

The sign increased the faith of the disciples in Christ as the messiah as well as the son of God.

It showed that Jesus takes initiative as the word for example he asked his disciples where to buy enough food to feed the crowd.

It showed that with God everything is possible.

The sign was a way of spreading the gospel hence many people got converted to Christianity.

RELEVANCE OF THE SIGN TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should pray to God for miracles to happen as Jesus prayed to God before feeding the crowd.

Christians should be partakers of the holy Eucharist which was instituted by Jesus.

They should trust in Jesus for both physical and spiritual feeding.

Christians should always depend on God's power as Jesus did by praying and giving thanks to him before feeding the crowd.

They should have love for one another the way Jesus showed love to the crowd.

Christians should endeavour to understand Jesus Christ at all times unlike Phillip and Andrew who showed lack of understanding for him.

Christians should always have faith in Jesus so as to receive miracles in their lives.

They should go to Jesus since he solves people's problems whenever in need.

Christians should trust in God since with him everything is possible.

Christians should work hard for the heavenly feast to be enjoyed in future.

They should honour and respect Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

Christians should be servants of others the way Jesus was a servant of mankind.

Christians should follow Jesus for the truth just as the crowd did.

They should share the little they have with others as a sign of Christian brotherhood.

They should believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FEEDING OF THE 5000 PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

In both incidents, the setting was across Lake Galilee.

In both there was green grass where people sat.

In both incidents, it was the same menu bread and fish.

In both Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish.

In both a multitude of people just followed Jesus and his disciples.

In both incidents, Jesus fed 5000 men.

In both incidents Jesus had compassion for the people and that is why he fed them.

In both incidents, people were made to sit down before they were fed with fish and bread.

In both, the disciples showed lack of understanding of what Jesus was capable of doing.

In both 200 silver coins would not be enough to buy food to feed the hungry crowd.

In both Jesus gave thanks for the bread and fish before it was distributed to the people.

In both incidents, people ate to their fill (all were satisfied).

In both incidents, Jesus' messiah ship was revealed because he was a solution provider.

Both incidents are recorded in the same chapter which is six.

In both gospels twelve baskets of leftovers were collected.

Differences

In Mark's gospel the disciples had been for a mission while in John's gospel Jesus and the disciples had been together.

In Mark the crowd got where Jesus and the disciples were ahead of them while in John the crowd just followed them.

In Mark the disciples requested Jesus to send the people away while in John Jesus asked Phillip to provide for the crowd.

In Mark Jesus first taught the crowd many things before feeding them while in John, he fed them straight away.

In Mark the disciples made the people to sit down in groups of 50s and 100s while in John the disciples just made the people to sit down altogether.

In Mark, the feeding was at a lake shore while in John Jesus and the disciples were on a hill or mountain.

In Mark Jesus saw the crowd like sheep without shepherd while in John he simply saw a crowd.

In Mark all the disciples showed lack of understanding during the feeding of the 5000 people while in John it was Phillip and Andrew who showed lack of understanding.

In Mark Jesus gave the bread to his disciple to distribute while in John, he distributed the bread and fish himself.

In Mark it was Jesus who asked how many loaves of bread the disciples had while in John Andrew volunteered the information.

In Mark it were the disciples who had the five loaves of bread and two fish while in John it was a boy who had them.

In Mark, Jesus broke the bread before distributing it while in John; the bread was distributed without breaking it.

In Mark the disciples collected the leftovers on their own initiative while in John Jesus instructed them to collect the leftovers.

In Mark Jesus sent the people away peacefully while in John Jesus escaped because the people wanted to crown him as king.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF JESUS' WALKING ON WATER 6:16-21

The sign showed the disciples lack of understanding of Jesus for example they were terrified when they saw him walking on water.

It signified Jesus' divinity that is he had supernatural powers to walk on water without drowning.

The sign signified Jesus' humanity that is he had love and compassion for the disciples who had been attacked by a strong wind and so came to help them.

It showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who had come to save people from all troubles.

The sign showed Jesus' power over nature.

It showed the love of God towards mankind through Jesus Christ his son.

The sign increased the faith of the disciples in Jesus Christ as the messiah after witnessing it.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example Jesus spoke to the disciples at once and said courage. It is "I" reflecting God's name in Exodus 3:14 "I am who I am".

The sign showed God's glory, power and authority to the disciples who witnessed it.

It signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word for example he was concerned about the strong wind that attacked the disciples so he went to rescue them.

The strong storm symbolized satanic forces which were causing suffering to mankind.

It was a moment for the disciples to endure and be firm in times of dangers and darkness because Jesus will be with them.

The sign pointed towards the challenges that the disciples would face while spreading the gospel.

It signified that with God everything is possible.

It meant that despite the dangers and challenges that the disciples would encounter in their ministry Jesus would always be there for them.

The sign was a way of training the disciples for the future role they would play after Jesus' departure.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ who can save them from all troubles of the world.

Christians should depend on God's providence.

They should accept Jesus Christ who saves both physically and spiritually.

Christians should extend love to one another as Jesus did to the disciples.

They should endeavour to understand Jesus in all circumstances unlike the disciples who showed lack of understanding towards Jesus.

They should honour and respect Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

They should trust in God since with him everything is possible.

They should seek for help from Jesus in case of challenging situations.

Christians should guard against evil forces of the world.

They should believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christians should take care of those in need and difficult situations as Jesus did.

Christians should be prepared for challenging situations in life and find means of overcoming them.

They should accept Jesus Christ as the son of God.

They should stand firm and endure all kinds of suffering and troubles in life.

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND 9:1-41

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE MAN BORN BLIND WAS HEALED

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man blind from birth.

Jesus' disciples asked him whose sins caused the man to be blind wondering whether it was his sins or his parents' sins.

Jesus said that neither the man nor his parents sinned.

Jesus also said that the man had been born blind so that God's power might be displayed in his life.

Jesus said that as long as it is day "we must do the work of him who sent me".

Jesus said that "I am the light of the world.

Jesus then spat on the ground and made some mud with the saliva.

He rubbed the mud on the man's eyes.

Jesus ordered the man to go and wash his face in the pool of Siloam.

Symbolically, Siloam meant sent.

The man went and washed his face and came back seeing.

The neighbours of the man and those who had seen him begging asked whether he was the man who used to beg.

Some claimed that he was the man while others said that he just looked like him.

The man insisted that he was the one and told them how Jesus had healed him.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HEALING THE MAN BORN BLIND BY JESUS

The healing signified Jesus' divinity for example he used mud and saliva to restore the sight of the man.

The sign showed the importance of having faith in Jesus for example when Jesus told the man to go and wash his face in the pool of Siloam, he obeyed.

It signified that Jesus was the promised messiah who had power to heal the blind.

The healing signified Jesus' humanity when he felt pity for the man and healed him.

It showed the disciple's lack of understanding towards Jesus when they asked Jesus whose sins had caused the man's blindness.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example Isaiah 35:5-6 that the blind will be able to see.

The sign revealed the love of God for mankind through Jesus Christ.

The sign confirmed Jesus' statement that he was the light of the world.
It showed that Jesus takes initiative as the word of God. He saw the man born blind and went ahead to heal him.
It signified that Jesus is the Lord of Sabbath since he restored the sight of the man on Sabbath.
It revealed that Jesus was a true prophet as the man born blind confessed to the Pharisees who were asking him about the man who had healed him.
The sign increased the faith of the disciples in Jesus after witnessing it.
The healing revealed the power and glory of God on earth.
The sign showed the lack of understanding of the Pharisees towards Jesus that is they were blind to recognize Jesus as the messiah and the Lord of the Sabbath.
The sign increased hostility towards Jesus from the Pharisees since he healed the man on Sabbath.
It showed that Jesus had come to offer both physical and spiritual needs that is he restored the sight of the man and called upon him to believe in the son of man.
The healing signified that with God everything is possible.
The sign was a way of spreading the gospel for example the man believed Jesus and worshipped him as Lord.
It signified the importance of obedience for example the blind man obeyed Jesus' instructions to go to the pool of Siloam to wash his face.
It signified that the man's blindness was not a result of anyone's sin but his sickness was to reveal God's glory.
Jesus sending the man to wash his face in the pool of Siloam meant that Jesus is sent.
The blindness of the man implied that the Jews, disciples and the man had been living not only in physical blindness but also spiritual blindness.
Water in the pool of Siloam symbolized the idea of baptism.

RESPONSE OF THE CROWD TOWARDS THE HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

The disciples asked Jesus whose sin had caused the man's blindness, whether his own sin or his parents' sins.
After the man was healed, his neighbours wondered whether he was the man who used to beg.
Some people said he was the man.
Some other people said that he just looked like him.
The people demanded the man to tell them how his eyes were opened.
The people took the man to the Pharisees since the day he was healed on was Sabbath.
The Pharisees asked the man how he had received his sight.
Some Pharisees claimed that, the man who had healed the man born blind was not God.
Others wondered how a sinner could do such miraculous things and they were divided up.
The Pharisees sent for the parents of the man who had been healed to find out from them what had happened.
The parents of the man said they did not know how he was healed but what they knew was that he was born blind but now he could see.
The parents told the Pharisees to ask the man himself since he was old enough to speak for himself.
The Pharisees asked the man to tell them how Jesus had opened his eyes but he said, i have already told you but you don't listen.
The Pharisees hurled insults at the man and accused him of being Jesus' disciple.
The Pharisees told the man that he was born and brought up in sin and threw him out.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS/APPLICATION OF THE SIGN TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should have faith in Jesus to receive healing like the man born blind did.

Christians should accept Jesus Christ since he offers both spiritual and physical healing.

Christians should always understand Jesus Christ unlike the disciples and Pharisees who expressed their lack of faith in him.

Christians should extend love to one another especially those who are in need like Jesus expressed love to the man and healed him.

They should honour and respect Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

They should use the Sabbath well by doing good to others as Jesus healed the man on Sabbath.

Christians should defend Jesus Christ against those who oppose him like the man confessed that Jesus was a prophet.

They should believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christians should trust in God since with him all things are possible.

Christians should depend on the providence of God since the man's blindness was to reveal God's glory in his life.

Christians should take care and help those in need as Jesus extended help to the blind man whom he met.

Christians should be servants others.

Christians should seek for light from Jesus Christ since he is the light of the world.

Christians should accept any form of opposition and rejection for the sake of Jesus Christ as the man who was healed accepted insults from the Pharisees.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF JESUS' RAISING OF LAZARUS TO LIFE 11:1-53

The sign revealed the open messiah ship of Jesus Christ when he told Lazarus to come out and he did.

It signified Jesus' divinity when he restored the life of Lazarus who had been buried four days back.

The sign showed the glory given to God by Jesus to the people who witnessed it.

It showed the disciples' lack of faith and understanding toward Jesus for example they thought that Lazarus was enjoying a natural sleep.

It showed Jesus' humanity when he wept for Lazarus his friend.

It showed the faith that Mary and Martha had in Jesus when they confessed that Jesus was the messiah.

It signified that Jesus was the resurrection and life as he confessed to Martha.

It showed that Jesus was the source of eternal life for all believers.

The sign signified that Jesus was the son of God when looked up in heaven and said, "father, i thank you that you have heard me".

The sign pointed towards Jesus' coming death and resurrection.

It showed Jesus' love to Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary.

The sign showed the importance of prayer for example Jesus gave thanks to God to raise Lazarus.

It showed that Jesus is the source of hope in times of sorrow. He restored hope to the two sisters who had become hopeless.

It signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word of God for he took the initiative to raise Lazarus.

The four days Lazarus spent in the tomb signified nearly the three days Jesus would spend in the tomb and be raised.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example Prophet Elijah raised the widow's son.

The sign increased the faith of the disciples in Jesus Christ after witnessing it.

The sign was a way of spreading the gospel. Those who witnessed it believed in Jesus Christ as the messiah.

It showed that Jesus deals with all people including the women like He comforted Martha and Mary.

The sign raised hostility of the Pharisees towards Jesus because he was performing many miraculous signs and so they planned to kill him.

The sign challenged the Sadducees who opposed resurrection of the dead.

The sign increased hostility towards Lazarus from the Pharisees.

It showed Jesus' power over death.

It signified that with God everything is possible.

MEANING OF JESUS' CONVERSATION WITH MARTHA AND MARY ABOUT LAZARUS IN JOHN 11:1-53

Martha practically went out to meet Jesus showing the hope she had in the master.

Martha met Jesus with regrets that Lazarus was dead and there was nothing else one could do meaning she had lost hope.

Jesus' answer to Martha that her brother would raise to life meant that there's life after death.

Martha's answer that he would raise to life on the last day meant her limited faith.

It meant that Jesus is the resurrection and life and those who believe in him will never die but live.

The conversation meant Jesus' intention to make people believe. Martha said 'i do believe that you are the messiah, the son of God who was to come into the world.'

Martha calling her sister Mary that the teacher is looking for you meant that Jesus is a family friend who is concerned with the loss.

Mary hurried out to meet Jesus showing her faith in Jesus.

Mary wept in front of Jesus meaning that death was still seen as the final destroyer of life.

Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled which meant the agony he was about to go through himself.

Jesus reached the tomb where Lazarus had been buried and wept showing his humanity.

Martha mentioned of a bad smell when Jesus told them to take away the stone meaning that she had lost all hope of her brother having life again.

Jesus gave thanks to his father showing the trust he had in God.

The four days Lazarus had spent in the tomb nearly corresponded to the three days Jesus would spend in the tomb.

When Jesus received the news of Lazarus' illness, he took his time meaning that he does things when he wants but not due to human demand.

Jesus called Lazarus to come out and he came out meaning that he had divine powers.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus increased the faith of the mourners who witnessed it.

THE RESPONSE/ATTITUDE OF THE AUDIENCE TOWARDS THE RAISING OF LAZARUS TO LIFE

The people who witnessed this sign believed in Jesus Christ as the promised messiah.

Some people who witnessed the sign went and told the Pharisees what Jesus had done.

The chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin to decide what to do for Jesus.

Caiaphas who was the high priest said that it was better for one man to die for the people than the whole nation to perish.

There was envy and jealousy to Jesus by the religious leaders.

The sign made the Sanhedrin to plot for Jesus' death.

The sign increased the hostility of the religious leaders towards Jesus because of his growing popularity every time.

There was uncontrollable influence or popularity of Jesus among the ordinary people.

The sign caused fear among the religious leaders because the Romans would destroy their temple if they had not stopped Jesus from performing miracles.

The faith of the disciples in Jesus Christ as the promised messiah increased greatly.

After the raising of Lazarus, Martha and Mary believed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah.

Some Jews wondered how Jesus who had healed the blind could not stop Lazarus from dying.

The chief priests gave orders to the people to inform them about the whereabouts of Jesus so that they could arrest him.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should turn to Jesus Christ in whatever situation they are since he turns people's sorrow into joy.

Christians should depend on Jesus Christ since he has power over death.

They should always pray to God as Jesus gave thanks to God before raising Lazarus.

They should have strong hope in Jesus during challenging moments like Martha and Mary did.

Christians should have hope for life after death.

They should approach Jesus Christ in times of problems for solutions.

Christians should have strong faith in Jesus Christ like Mary and Martha did.

Christians should embrace the salvation brought by Jesus both physically and spiritually.

They should understand Jesus at all times unlike the disciples who expressed lack of understanding of Jesus.

Christians should endure any kind of persecution that comes to them because of doing good.

Christians should accept death since it is the way to eternal life.

Christians should welcome all people including women to the kingdom of God.

Christians should give women respect and status in society instead of undermining them.

Christians should be emotionally involved with other people suffering as Jesus showed concern to Martha and Mary for the death of their brother.

Christians should proclaim and honour Jesus as the messiah that came to the world to bring salvation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RAISING OF LAZARUS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

The sign confirms Jesus' divinity to Christians today.

It shows Christians that Jesus is the resurrection and life.

The sign confirms to Christian Jesus being the promised messiah.

It teaches Christians to pray to God in case of challenging situations.

It teaches Christians to place their hope in Jesus during times of sorrow.

The sign reveals to Christians the glory God deserves.

It teaches Christians the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ.

It assures Christians of their future resurrection.

It teaches Christians to take Jesus as being God's word among them.
It teaches Christian women to have faith strong faith in Jesus like Martha and Mary.
It teaches Christians of Jesus' love for them during times of sorrow.
It encourages Christians to stand firm against any hostility towards them by those who oppose Christianity.
It confirms to Christians that Jesus' deeds were in fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures.
It encourages Christians to preach the gospel even during funerals.
It teaches to Christians of Jesus' power over death.
It confirms to Christians today that with God everything is possible.
It encourages Christians to treat all people equally.

SIGNIFICANCE/IMPORTANCE/MEANING JESUS' CLEANSING OF THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE 2:13-25

The cleansing of the temple by Jesus showed his divine powers. Jesus used supernatural powers to cleanse the temple and no one fought back.
The event signified Jesus' humanity because he lost his temper, got angry and overturned the temples of the money changers.
Jesus' cleansing of the temple signified his messiah ship because it was a messianic act.
It signified that Jesus was the true son of God because he referred to the temple as his father's house.
Jesus' cleansing of the temple revealed the holiness of the temple of God as a house of prayer.
It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Malachi 3:1 and Jeremiah 7.
The event increased hostility towards Jesus from his enemies because they wondered where he got the authority to cleanse it.
It showed the lack of understanding of the religious leaders towards Jesus. They were ignorant of Jesus' identity and therefore demanded for a sign from him to prove his authority.
The purging of the temple revealed hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders because they were cheating and exploiting people in God's temple.
The cleansing of the temple symbolically meant destruction of the order of worship in the temple. It meant the ineffectiveness of the Jewish sacrifice. That is why Jesus drove away all animals and birds from the temple.
Jesus' cleansing of the temple meant that his teaching was more important than the law and the Jewish worship where things were controlled by the law.
Jesus' cleansing of the temple revealed God's power and glory to those who witnessed it.
The purging of the temple pointed towards the death of Jesus as the last sacrifice when he talked about destroying the temple.
It pointed towards Jesus' resurrection when he said that he would rebuild the temple in three days.
The cleansing of the temple increased the faith of Jesus' disciples since they witnessed it.
It revealed the love of God towards mankind since Jesus cleansed the temple to allow all people to come and worship in it.
It meant that Jesus was inaugurating a new order of worship where animal sacrifices were no longer needed in the forgiveness of sins but only faith in Jesus was required for salvation.
The cleansing of the temple was meant to restore the love and respect accorded to the temple as a house of God for prayer.
It signified that Jesus' ministry was universal because it was the gentile area which was cleansed.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF JESUS' CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should believe in Jesus as the son of God.

Christians should respect the house of God as a place of prayer and worship.

Christians should repent their sins and live a purified life free from bad acts like stealing, cheating, murder since they are the temple of God.

Christians should work for spiritual cleansing of their bodies so that they are free from sin.

Christians should live a changed life after conversion and stick to the new order of worship.

Christians should follow Jesus Christ not their traditional customs.

Christians should worship God in spirit and truth other than of worshiping material things.

Christians should have hope for their own resurrection or life after death.

Christians should be united as one body of Christ instead of discriminating others basing on race.

Christians should be sincere in whatever they do instead of being hypocrites.

Christians should depend on Jesus Christ as their guide.

Christians should have continuous renewal of faith in God so as to remain upright.

Christians are called upon to build the kingdom of God.

Christians should teach about the resurrection of Jesus Christ because it's the basis of our faith.

WRONG THINGS IN CHURCH THAT MAY REQUIRE CLEANSING

Some Christians have divorced their wives.

Divisions amongst Christians based on different religious denominations.

Sexual immorality among Christians for example adultery, prostitution and homo sexuality.

Embezzlement of funds by church leaders.

Discrimination and sectarianism in churches and church organizations where appointments and promotions are based on tribe.

Some church leaders and Christians are too proud and show off in churches.

Some Christians practice witchcraft as an immediate solution to their problems.

Some Christians are hypocrites and envious.

Some church leaders misinterpret the gospel for their selfish interests for example Pastor Yiga commonly known as "Abizzaayo" who preaches a gospel of revenge.

Indecent dressing among some Christians for example women putting on short and tight clothes.

Power struggles in church between different church leaders for example pastor Joseph Sserwanda versus Pastor Aloysius Bujingo.

Some church leaders have commercialized church services where they demand for money from Christians to be prayed for.

Some Christians misuse worshipping places by making noise, receiving phone calls, reading newspapers.

Some church leaders forge miracles to gain popularity from Christians for example the use of electric shock to make people fall down.

Some preachers preach their own gospel for selfish interests for example Kibwetere of Kanungu incident where thousands were killed.

Some Christians forge tongues while praying claiming that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes night fellowships have been abused by some Christians where they end up taking drugs and involving in sexual immorality.

Some Christians partake of Holy Communion before repentance of their sins to God.

COMPARISON BETWEEN JESUS' CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

In both gospels the cleansing of the temple took place in Jerusalem where the temple was located.

In both gospels it was Jesus himself who cleansed the temple.

In both gospels Jesus drove out the people who were buying and selling from the temple area.

In both gospels Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers.

In both gospels the temple of God had been turned into a market place for selling and buying animals and birds for sacrifice.

In both gospels the temple had been turned into a place of exchanging money.

In both the gospels Jesus referred to the temple as his father's house.

In both gospels the Pharisees and the teachers of law were both present during the cleansing of the temple.

In both gospels when Jesus cleansed the temple no one fought back or dared to stop Jesus for his act.

In both gospels there is reference to the Old Testament scriptures by Jesus and his disciples.

In both gospels Jesus' disciples were present during the cleansing of the temple.

In both gospels Jesus taught the people the right purpose of the temple.

In both gospels, Jesus' divine authority was revealed during the cleansing of the temple and that it is nobody dared to stop him.

In both gospels the Pharisees showed lack of understanding towards Jesus when they wondered about the origin of his authority.

Differences

In John's gospel Jesus made a whip out of cords and drove out all the sheep and cattle from the temple area while in Mark, Jesus used mere words to drive out people who were buying and selling things in the temple.

In the gospel of John, Jesus drove out cattle and sheep out of the temple while in Mark, Jesus drove out the people who were buying and selling commodities from the temple.

In John's gospel, Jesus scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables while in Mark's gospel, he only overturned the tables of the money changers.

In John's gospel, Jesus only overturned the tables of the money changers while in Mark's gospel Jesus overturned both the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

In John's gospel, Jesus ordered those who sold doves to take them out of the temple while in Mark, Jesus overturned the benches of those who sold doves.

In John's gospel, people were selling cattle, sheep and doves while in Mark's gospel only doves are mentioned.

In John's gospel, Jesus was concerned that his father's house had been turned into a market while in Mark, he refers to the temple as his father's house of prayer for people of all nations.

In the gospel of John, the Pharisees challenged Jesus about his authority in cleansing the temple and asked him for a miraculous sign while in Mark, when the chief priests and Pharisees heard what Jesus said they began looking for a way to kill him because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

In John's gospel, Jesus made remarks of destroying the temple and he would rebuild it in three days while in Mark's gospel, Jesus told the Jews that they had turned the temple into a den of robbers.

In John's gospel, the cleansing of the temple is recorded in chapter two while in Mark's gospel, it is recorded in chapter eleven.

In John's gospel, Jesus is presented to have been in the temple once during the cleansing while in Mark, Jesus had been to the temple the previous day after the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and came back to the temple the next day.

In the gospel of John, the cleansing of the temple is presented at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry after he had turned water into wine at Cana while in Mark's gospel, it is presented almost at the end of Jesus' public ministry.

DISCOURSES/DIALOGUES/CONVERSATIONS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

REASONS FOR JESUS' USE OF DISCOURSES IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Jesus used discourses because they were the commonest method of teaching at that time.

Jesus wanted to challenge his opponent's for example during the feast of dedication of the temple. He used discourses in order to expose what was happening in society at that time for example the boundary that existed between the Jews and the gentiles, males and females, in the discourse of the Samaritan woman.

Jesus wanted to create personal relationship between him and the people involved for example his conversation with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

Jesus wanted to reveal his divinity for example he told the Samaritan woman that he was the life giving water.

He wanted to reveal his messiah ship to the people involved for example in the discourse of "I am the bread of life".

Discourses were effective in making disciples for Jesus unlike parables for example in the story of the Samaritan woman, many Samaritans became followers of Jesus.

Discourses helped Jesus to take initiative as the word of God for example he attended the feast of tabernacles out of his personal initiative.

He used discourses in order to liberate sinners for example the Samaritan woman had been married to five men but Jesus promised to give her life giving water and she believed.

He used discourses to preach the good news to different categories of people for example he preached to Nicodemus about the need to be born again.

He used discourses to show the lack of understanding of his disciples and some people who were involved for example when Jesus said "I am the bread of life" the Jews began to grumble about him.

Jesus used discourses in order to have conversations with all categories of people for example the conversation with the Samaritan woman who was a gentile.

Jesus used discourses in order to show God's glory for example at the feast of tabernacles he told the Jews that his teaching was from the one who sent him.

He used discourses in order to introduce new sacraments to the people involved for example being born again in the story with Nicodemus meant baptism.

He used discourses to show the love of God for mankind which was revealed through Jesus Christ for example the story of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

Jesus wanted to enable the people involved to ask for clarification from him for example Jesus' story with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

He used discourses to show the difference between heavenly things and earthly things for example life giving water and water in Jacob's well in the conversation with the Samaritan woman.

Jesus used discourses in order to show that he was a servant of mankind for example “I am the bread of life.”

MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE OF DISCOURSES IN JOHN’S GOSPEL

(Advantages)

Discourses revealed the messiah ship of Jesus Christ for example the Samaritan woman confessed that Jesus was the messiah.

They showed Jesus’ divinity when Jesus said that he was that real bread that came down from heaven.

They revealed Jesus’ humanity when Jesus was tired and thirsty at Jacob’s well and therefore asked for water from the Samaritan woman.

They signified the love of God for mankind which was revealed through Jesus Christ when he conversed with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

Discourses showed that Jesus’ ministry was universal in nature for example he had a conversation with a Samaritan woman who was a gentile.

They showed the lack of understanding of Jesus’ disciples and the audience for example the disciples were surprised when they met Jesus conversing with the Samaritan woman.

Discourses signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word for example he asked the Samaritan woman for water to drink.

They signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example in the story of the Samaritan woman, water in Jacob’s well reflected the book of exodus about Jacob.

Discourses helped Jesus to introduce important sacraments to the people involved for example the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper in the discourse “I am the bread of life” and the sacrament of baptism in the story of the Samaritan woman.

Discourses were more effective in making disciples for Jesus Christ since they involved questions from the audience and clarification from Jesus for example the story of Nicodemus.

They helped Jesus to expose what was happening in the society at that time for example the boundary between the Jews and the gentile like the conversation with the Samaritan woman.

Discourses created a personal relationship between Jesus and the people involved for example the conversation with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

Discourses were meant to challenge the opponents of Jesus Christ for example the discourse of bread of life and Feast of Dedication.

They showed the difference between heavenly things and earthly things for example the idea of being born again by water and spirit in the story of Nicodemus.

Discourses were a way of preaching the good news for example Jesus told the Samaritan woman that he was the life giving water which made her go and inform other Samaritans about the messiah and they believed.

They contained a lot of symbolism for example water in Jacob’s well in the conversation with the Samaritan woman meant the idea of baptism.

They showed that Jesus was a servant of mankind for example in the discourse of bread and life. His body was the bread that he was willing to sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

Disadvantages of Discourses

Discourses were lengthy in nature and therefore required a lot of patience from the listeners.

They were dominated by Jesus Christ with little input from the audience.

They involved a lot of symbolism hence making it hard for the audience to understand e.g. “i am the bread of life”.

Only one person or few people were involved in conversation with Jesus hence limiting many from receiving the word.

Discourses were a slower method of preaching the message about the kingdom of God.

They were theological and philosophical in nature so they required deep thinking from those involved e.g. being born again the conversation of Nicodemus.

They could easily bring hostility towards Jesus from his opponents for example in the discourse of the bread of life people misunderstood him when he advised them to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN JESUS AND NICODEMUS 3:1-21

REASONS WHY NICODEMUS MET JESUS AT NIGHT

Nicodemus could have feared to be publically noticed by fellow Pharisees and teachers of law.

Both Nicodemus and Jesus had been busy during day and therefore had no time.

Nicodemus must have been a secret follower of Jesus Christ.

Nicodemus wanted his visit to Jesus to be private so that the crowd could not notice it.

Nicodemus met Jesus at night so as to get deeper explanation from him without any interruption.

Nicodemus wanted to know how one could enter the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus feared being interrogated by fellow Pharisees and teachers of law hence preferred meeting Jesus at night.

During the day, Jesus was very busy preaching the gospel from one place to another so Nicodemus preferred meeting him at night.

Nicodemus could have been an intimate friend of Jesus.

Nicodemus was still spiritually blind hence meeting Jesus at night.

Nicodemus' meeting Jesus at night was to represent moving from Judaism to Christianity.

It also had an element of symbolism of moving from darkness to light.

Nicodemus' meeting of Jesus at night was to show that God's call can be received anytime.

It was according to God's divine plan for the salvation of mankind.

It was to show that not all Pharisees were against Jesus.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN JESUS AND NICODEMUS

The conversation showed Jesus' humanity when he used the title son of man and physically conversed with Nicodemus.

The discourse signified that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who had been sent to the world to bring salvation to mankind.

The conversation showed that Jesus had come for all categories of people e.g. Nicodemus was a Pharisee yet Pharisees were against Jesus.

The conversation portrayed Jesus Christ as a teacher sent by God as Nicodemus confessed.

It signified the divinity of Jesus Christ and that is why he was able to attract influential people like Nicodemus.

The conversation showed the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ as a means of receiving eternal life.

It showed the spiritual immaturity of Nicodemus when he failed to understand what Jesus meant by being born again.

Being born again meant the importance of baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

It also showed the importance of the Holy Spirit when Jesus said that one must be born of water and the Holy Spirit.

The conversation signified that Jesus was indeed the son of God.

It showed that Jesus is the source of eternal life that is whoever believed in him would have eternal life.

The conversation showed the love of God towards mankind which was revealed through his son Jesus Christ.

It signified that Jesus is the light of the world when he said that life has come into the world but men loved darkness instead of light.

It showed the lack of understanding of Nicodemus towards Jesus when he thought of going back to his mother's womb when Jesus told him to be born again.

It signified that Jesus is the source of wisdom.

It signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word of God when he involved Nicodemus into a theological discussion.

The conversation pointed towards Jesus' death and resurrection when he quoted the bronze snake which Moses had lifted.

It also pointed towards judgment awaiting mankind.

It signified that becoming a Christian is by God's grace because the wind blows where it wills.

Nicodemus represented Judaism which was outdated while Jesus represented Christianity.

Nicodemus coming out at night symbolized that he was moving from darkness to light.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN JESUS AND NICODEMUS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should accept to be born again in order to receive the kingdom of God.

They should draw all people to the kingdom of God like Jesus told Nicodemus about the need to be born again.

Christians should love one another as God loved mankind by sending his son Jesus Christ.

They should accept Jesus Christ as the lord and savior who brought salvation to mankind.

Christians should attend to the needs of other people especially those who want knowledge about Jesus Christ.

Christians should respond positively towards God's call which might come at any time.

Christians should receive Jesus with open hearts since he existed before the creation of the universe.

Christians should be patient since undertaking God's ways is a gradual process.

Christians should seek for the kingdom of God like Nicodemus sought to know what to do to enter the kingdom of God from Jesus.

Christians should accept and follow Jesus Christ as the son of God.

They should work for spiritual gifts which Jesus gives.

They should live holy lives in preparation for the Day of Judgment.

They should live a life of self-sacrifice for the service of the Lord.

They should honor and respect Jesus as the promised messiah.

They should have hope in life after death.

They should accept and receive the light that Jesus brings to mankind.

Christians should ask for forgiveness from God and also forgive one another.

Christians should embrace the free gifts of salvation which is by God's grace since the wind blows where it wills.

THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN 4:1-42 NARRATION/AN ACCOUNT OF JESUS' DIALOGUE WITH THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

When Jesus left Judea, he went back once more to Galilee.

He had to go through Samaria, so he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar.

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus being tired from his journey, sat down by the well.

When the Samaritan woman said to him, "you are a Jew and I am Samaritan".

She further said, "How can you ask me for a drink for Jews don't associate with Samaritans".

Jesus said to her "if you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water".

The woman said, "Sir you have nothing to draw water with and the well is deep".

The woman asked Jesus "where can you get this living water?"

She also asked Jesus, "are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank from it himself..."

Jesus answered "everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst".

The woman told Jesus, "Give me that water so that I won't get thirsty and keep coming here to draw water.

Jesus told the woman to go and call her husband.

The woman said, "I have no husband".

Jesus said to the woman, "you are right when you say so because you have had five husbands and the man you have now is not yours".

The woman said to Jesus, "sir you are a prophet".

The woman told Jesus that their ancestors worshipped God on that very mountain but wondered why the Jews claimed that Jerusalem was the place to worship God from.

Jesus told her that time was coming when people will not worship God either on the mountain or Jerusalem.

The woman confessed that she knew that the messiah was to come and when he would come he would tell them everything.

Jesus then confessed that he was the messiah.

The disciples returned and were surprised to find Jesus talking with the woman.

The woman left her jar of water behind and went back to her town and told the people to come and see a man who told her everything she did.

Many Samaritans from the town believed in him because of the woman's testimony.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF THE DISCOURSE BETWEEN JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

The conversation signified that Jesus was divine when he revealed to the woman that she had been married to five men.

The conversation showed Jesus' humanity that is he was tired and thirsty and so asked for a drink from the woman.

It signified that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who had brought salvation to mankind for example he promised life giving water to the woman.

The conversation showed that Jesus' ministry was universal in nature for example the Samaritan woman was a gentile.

It showed the disciples lack of understanding towards Jesus that is they were surprised when they found Jesus conversing with the woman and wondered about who had given him what to eat.

It showed the love of God to mankind when Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman who was a gentile.

It signified that Jesus' ministry was for all people both men and women. Jews despised woman yet Jesus respected the Samaritan woman.

It signified Jesus is the source of eternal life when he promised the woman life giving water.

Water in Jacob's well symbolized the idea of baptism.

The five husbands of the Samaritan woman had meant that woman was immoral and also the different gods whom the Samaritans worshipped.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in the book of Exodus about Jacob.

It showed that Jesus was a prophet as the Samaritan woman confessed after Jesus had told her about her past.

The conversation showed that Jesus was greater than Jacob for example those who drank water from Jacob's well would be thirsty but Jesus was the source of life giving water.

It showed that heavenly things are better than earthly things as the woman left behind the water jar.

The conversation was a way of spreading the gospel for example the woman became a disciple of Jesus and preached to fellow Samaritans about the messiah.

The conversation showed Jesus' humble mission that is dealing with a woman was a sign of humility.

The signified the need to change one's heart like the Samaritan woman did.

The conversation showed the need to worship one true God instead of worshipping many gods.

The conversation showed the strong faith the Samaritan woman had at a later stage for example she left everything to follow Jesus.

It signified that obeying God's will is more satisfying than physical food as Jesus told his disciples that his food was to do the will of God and finish it.

It showed that Jesus takes initiative as the word that is he asked for water from the woman.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS OF THE CONVERSATION TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should treat all people equally whether male or female.

They should worship one true God in spirit and in truth.

Christians should have strong faith in Jesus Christ so as to receive eternal life.

Christians should be ready to receive God's message at any time and in any place.

Christians should seek for Jesus for spiritual satisfaction from him.

Christians should live holy lives instead of immoral lives like the Samaritan woman who had been married to five men.

Christians should extend love to one another like God's love was seen when Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman.

Christians should confess their sins to others.

Christians should depend on God as the provider as Jesus depended on God for spiritual food.

Christians should respect and associate with all categories of people irrespective of their race like Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman.

They should worship God in any place because he is not confined to a particular place.

They should initiate to tell others about the spiritual things like Jesus did to the Samaritan woman. Christians should accept Jesus as the giver of eternal life for whoever needs it goes to him. Christians should change both externally and spiritually through change of behavior. Christians should become disciples of Jesus by telling the good news about him to others like the Samaritan woman did. Christians should believe in Jesus Christ who reveals himself to us by his divine grace.

THE 'I AM' SAYINGS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

I am the bread of life. (6:22-59)
I am the light of the world. (8:12-20)
I am the gate of the sheep (10:7)
I am the good shepherd (10:11)
I am resurrection and life (11:25)
I am the way, the truth and the life (14:6)
I am the true vine (15:1-16).

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF I AM STATEMENTS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

I am statements signified Jesus' messiah ship for example the bread of life that would bring salvation to mankind.
They signified Jesus' divinity for example the resurrection and life was followed by the raising of Lazarus to life.
They signified that Jesus was the true son of God for example in I am the bread of life, he referred to God as his father.
They signified Jesus' humanity for example he used the title the son of man in the discourse of I am the bread of life.
They showed the importance of having faith in Jesus as a means to eternal life.
They signified that Jesus' ministry was universal for example "I am the light of the world".
They signified that Jesus was the source of bread like "I am the bread of life".
I am statements signified the love of God towards mankind for example I am the good shepherd who is willing to die for the sheep.
They signified that Jesus' origin was from God his father.
I am statements signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example God told Moses "I am who I am" during the burning bush incident.
They signified that Jesus was the source of judgment to the world for example I am the true vine.
They signified that Jesus existed before the creation of the world for example before Abraham was born I am.
They signified that Jesus was the source of life for example I am the resurrection and life.
They signified that there is life after death for example I am the resurrection and life.
They showed the lack of understanding of the Pharisees towards Jesus for example they failed to understand Jesus' teaching on I am the bread of life.
They signified that Jesus is the way to the kingdom of God for example 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.
They pointed towards the Lord's Supper which Jesus was to institute for example the bread of life.
They signified Jesus' oneness with God for example he referred to himself as 'I am who I am' before his disciples.
They signified that Jesus Christ was equal to God and that he cares for all people.

They signified that Jesus was greater than Abraham one of the ancestors of the Jews for example before Abraham was born I am.

They showed the lack of understanding of Jesus' disciples for example in "I am the way, the truth and the life" Philip asked Jesus to show them the way to the father.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE" 6:22-59

The statement signified Jesus' messiah ship. He was the real bread that came down from heaven.

It signified Jesus' divinity for example on him God the father had placed his seal of approval.

It signified Jesus' humanity for example he used the title son of man.

The 'I am' showed that Jesus was the true son of God that is referred to God as his father.

It showed the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ for example whoever believed in the son would receive eternal life.

It meant that Jesus was the source of eternal life therefore whoever will believe him would get it.

It showed the love of God towards mankind which was revealed through his son Jesus Christ for example he was to give his flesh for the life of the world.

It showed the lack of understanding of the crowd towards Jesus for example they failed to understand what Jesus meant by eating his flesh and drinking his blood.

It pointed towards the idea of the Lord's Supper that Jesus was about to institute for his followers.

It pointed towards the heavenly banquet that the followers of Jesus would enjoy in future.

It showed Jesus' obedience to the will of God for example he came from heaven to do the will of the one who sent him.

It signified that Jesus was greater than the Jewish ancestors like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They ate the manna in the desert but died but whoever would eat his bread would live.

I am statement reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Exodus 3 'I am who I am' during the story of the burning bush.

It pointed towards the death of Jesus Christ for example he said that the bread was his flesh which he would give for the life of the world.

It pointed towards the death and resurrection of the believers when he said that whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day.

It showed the need for spiritual food which endures to eternal life than the physical food that spoils.

It signified that Jesus was the living bread that came down from heaven and whoever would eat it was to live forever.

It showed the spiritual satisfaction that would be got from Jesus when he said that, he who comes to me will never go hungry and one who believes in me will never be thirsty.

It signified that eternal life only comes by receiving God's own life given by the blood and body of Jesus.

It showed the work of God in drawing people to Jesus Christ for example he told the crowd that no one can come to him unless the father draws that person to him.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should honor and respect Jesus as the promised messiah.

They should accept Jesus Christ as the son of God.

Christians should have strong faith in Jesus Christ so as receive eternal life.

They should seek for Jesus Christ since he is the bread of life that leads to eternal life.

Christians should extend love to one another as God revealed his love to us through his son Jesus Christ.

Christians should understand the true identity of Jesus Christ unlike the people who failed to understand him as the bread of life.

They should celebrate the Lord's Supper in order to partake of Jesus' body and blood.

They should live holy lives in preparation for the heavenly feast that will be enjoyed by all believers of Jesus Christ.

Christians should be obedient to the will of God as Jesus was obedient to the will of the one who sent him.

They should accept death and look forward to the resurrection of all believers.

They should seek for spiritual satisfaction which can only be got in Jesus Christ.

They should accept the word of God that comes through Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life.

They should yearn for spiritual food from Jesus Christ instead of physical food that is temporal.

They should believe and exalt Jesus Christ since he is greater than the Old Testament prophets like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

They should believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

They should wait patiently for the second coming of Jesus since he will come back to raise whoever believed in him.

They should depend on Jesus Christ since he is the living bread that came down from heaven.

They should preach the gospel to all categories of people including those who oppose them.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" 8:12-20

The statement signified Jesus' divinity. He was the light and whoever followed him would never walk in darkness.

It signified that Jesus was the promised messiah who had brought light into the world.

It signified that Jesus' ministry was universal that is he was the light of the world.

It signified the need to have faith in Jesus Christ so as to receive the light.

The term light signified the true wisdom and spiritual understanding of God.

It signified that Jesus was the source of Joy and happiness to the world since he brings the light of life.

It showed the lack of understanding of Pharisees towards Jesus for example they did not understand what Jesus meant by saying, where I go you cannot come.

It reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Exodus 3 'I am who I am'.

It showed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees for example they judged using human standards.

It meant that whoever believes in Jesus will have the light of the world and will never walk again in darkness.

The statement showed the relationship that existed between Jesus and the father for example he said, I stand with my father who sent me.

It showed the sinful nature of the Pharisees when Jesus said, you will die in your sin.

It pointed towards the death of Jesus when he said that, he was going away and they will look for him.

It signified that Jesus was the revelation of God on earth as light of the world.

It signified that righteousness of all mankind can be got through Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

It meant that Jesus as the light of the world would give sight to those who are physically and spiritually blind.

It showed that Jesus and the father are one which confirms the oneness of God.

It signified the holiness of Jesus because he is the light of the world.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" 10:1-21

Jesus' use of 'I am the good shepherd' signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Ezekiel 34 about the shepherd and sheep.

The statement signified that Jesus is the promised messiah who had earlier been pronounced by the Old Testament prophets.

It signified that Jesus loves and cares for his people for example he calls his sheep by name and leads them out.

The sheep referred to the new people of God.

The statement signified Jesus' divinity for example he said that whoever would enter through him as the gate will be saved.

It showed the readiness of Jesus Christ as the shepherd to die for his sheep.

It signified that Jesus knows his sheep and the sheep also know him.

The statement signified that Jesus is the source of eternal life to mankind.

It signified that through Jesus Christ mankind can attain salvation.

The term robbers refer to the Pharisees and teachers of the law who had misled God's people.

It signified that Jesus is the way to the father since he is the gate.

It showed that Jesus defends the sheep against Satan's attack.

It showed that Jesus as the shepherd gives his followers perfect rest and peace.

It signified that Jesus as the good shepherd knows his followers by name.

It signified that Jesus is the source of unity that is he brings all his sheep together.

The other sheep that are not of this sheep pen refer to the gentiles.

It signified that the sheep listen to Jesus' voice.

It signified Jesus' faithfulness to his father and submission to his will.

The statement was a warning to the followers of Jesus to be aware of the false teachers.

The statement also fulfills "I am who I am" in Exodus 3, as used by God in the burning bush incident.

The feeding of the sheep on good pasture is related to the idea of Eucharist.

The statement pointed towards Jesus' death on the cross when he said 'I lay down my life'.

It also pointed towards Jesus' resurrection when he said that he had authority to take it up again.

It showed that Jesus looks for other sheep not in this sheepfold.

It signified that Jesus heals the sick.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should accept and honour Jesus as the promised messiah.

They should practice equality of all men in the church since we are all equal.

Christians should love and care for others as the shepherd cares for the sheep.

Christians should accept to die for the gospel and Christ's sake.

Christians should be aware of false preachers and keep on guard so that they are not deceived.

Christians should seek for salvation from Jesus Christ because through him they can attain it.

Christians should go to Jesus in order to receive eternal life.

Christians should believe in Jesus Christ since he is the way to the father.

Christians should be united as one since Jesus is the source of unity.

Christians should always listen to God's call.

Christians should be faithful to God and submit to his will as Jesus did.

They should defend and protect fellow believers against Satan's attack.
Christians should always follow Jesus since he is the good shepherd.
Christians should seek for peace and rest in Jesus Christ.
Christians who are sick should go to Jesus since he heals the sick.
Christians should encourage and bring back fellow Christians who go astray to the right path.
Christians should have hope in life after death.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" 1:17-27

The statement signified Jesus' divinity for example being the resurrection and life he restored the life of Lazarus who had been buried for four days.
It meant that Jesus was the source of life for example he raised Lazarus from death.
The statement was a source of encouragement and assurance to Martha that his brother would live again.
It signified that Jesus was the source of eternal life that is those who believe in Jesus would never die.
It signified the importance of having faith in Jesus that is those who believe in Jesus even when they die, they will live.
The statement pointed towards the death of Jesus Christ.
It pointed towards the resurrection of Jesus Christ since he was the resurrection and life.
It reflected the Old Testament scriptures in the book of Exodus 3 "I am who I am."
It signified that Jesus was indeed the son of God as Martha confessed.
It pointed towards the resurrection of all believers when Martha said that she knew Lazarus would resurrect at the last day.
It signified Jesus' humanity that is this I am was a source of comfort to Martha and Mary by Jesus.
It signified Jesus' power over death for example after the 'I am' he raised Lazarus to life.
The statement was meant to restore the hope of Martha and Mary for example Martha told Jesus that if he had been there, his brother would not have died.
It signified that Jesus was the promised messiah who had come to solve all challenges of mankind.
The statement signified the importance of prayer when Martha told Jesus that though Lazarus had died, God would give him whatever he asked from him.
It showed the faith that Martha had in Jesus as the messiah when she told Jesus that "I believe you are the Christ, the son of God."
The statement increased the faith of the disciples in Jesus Christ.

SIGNIFICANCE /MEANING OF "I AM THE TRUE VINE AND YOU ARE THE BRANCHES" 15:1-17

The vine symbolized the nation of Israel.
The true vine meant that Jesus was the true Israel of God.
The branches in the statement meant the followers of Jesus Christ.
It meant that the branches (followers) gain their life from the vine (Jesus Christ).
It signified that whoever remained in the vine would bear much fruit.
It showed that those who do not bear fruits will be pruned.
It showed the intimate relationship between Jesus and his disciples when he said that 'as the father loved me, so I have loved you'.
It showed the love that Jesus had for his disciples for example he was ready to lay down his life for them.

It signified Jesus' obedience to the will of God his father that is "if you obey my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my father's commands...."

It signified Jesus' divinity for example branches that remained in him would bear fruits.

The statement openly revealed the messiah ship of Jesus Christ for example it was through him that the branches would bear much fruit.

It meant that the believers were supposed to bear good fruit so as to bring glory to God.

The statement pointed towards the Day of Judgment for example branches that do not bear fruit will be cut off, thrown into fire and burned up.

It implied that Christians belong to God as the gardener.

It implied that those who bear good fruits will be rewarded.

It reflected the Old Testament scriptures in the book of Exodus 3:14 "I am who I am".

It meant that just as God chose Jesus, he had also chosen his followers or disciples to follow him.

It signified the importance of prayer that is he told the disciples that the father would give them whatever they asked for in his name.

It showed the importance of love for one another as Jesus gave a command saying, love each other.

It pointed towards the death of Jesus Christ when he said that he lay down his life for his friends.

It meant that pruning of some branches that is persecution would help the whole vine to grow well.

The true vine (Jesus) was the source of wine which symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ which was the seal of the new covenant.

It showed the importance of having faith in Jesus as the vine so as to bear good fruits.

To what extent have Christians today lived up to the expectation of the above discourse?

To a larger extent Christians today have lived up to the expectation of the discourse in the following ways;

Christians today extend love to one another hence observing the law of love.

Christians today express their faith and belief in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and savior.

Some Christians have accepted to die for the sake of the gospel for example the late Bishop Janan Luwum and the Uganda martyrs.

Some Christians preach the gospel about Jesus Christ in different places like in churches, along streets and in taxis.

Christians today have devoted their time to prayer like the Pentecostals who normally participate in overnight prayers.

Some Christians today carryout works of charity to the needy by providing them with basic necessities like food and clothes.

Some Christians today celebrate Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross.

Some Christians have devoted their lives to the service of the Lord for example the catholic priests and nuns who live a celibate life.

Some Christians have repented their sins to God and also confessed their sins to one another.

Some Christians perform miracles in the name of Jesus like healing the sick.

Some Christians have continued to endure suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel.

Some Christians are united together under Jesus Christ and have always participated in fellowships.

However, to a smaller extent some Christians have fallen short of expectation of the above discourse in the following ways;

Some Christians involve in immoral acts like prostitution, adultery and homosexuality.

Some Christians involve in witchcraft to acquire riches and others use it as a way of defending themselves like wearing protective charms.

Some Christians are jealousy and envious of others especially when they have registered achievements in life like promotions at work places.

Some Christians are hypocrites hence they pretend to be actively for God when they are seriously for Satan.

Some Christians misinterpret scriptures for personal interests like some religious leaders who interpret scriptures to make their followers happy and maintain them.

THE IDEA OF WITNESS TO JESUS AS A SON OF GOD

There are seven witnesses to the identity of Jesus as the son of God in the fourth gospel and these are;

God the father bore witness to Jesus as his son. God sent the Holy Spirit in form of a dove to help John the Baptist to identify Jesus as his son. Jesus assured the Pharisees that the father who sent him also testified on his behalf.

Jesus testified on his behalf that he was a son of God. He constantly referred to God as his father. He also told the Samaritan woman that he was the messiah.

The Holy Spirit also bore witness to Jesus as the son of God. The Holy Spirit would come and reveal the truth about God and would lead them into all the truth.

The Old Testament scriptures testified about Jesus. Jesus told the Jewish leaders that if they had believed Moses, then they would have believed in him since Moses wrote about Him.

John the Baptist testified on behalf of Jesus. He testified that Jesus was a son of God. He told his disciples that Jesus was a Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. John also testified that Jesus was greater than him because he existed before he was born.

The disciples also bore witness to Jesus as the son of God. Andrew told Simon Peter that they had found the messiah. Philip Nathanael that they had found the one whom Moses wrote about in the book of law. Nathanael later confessed that Jesus was the son of God and king of Israel. Peter confessed that Jesus was the Holy one from God with words of eternal life.

The deeds of Jesus testified on his behalf that he was a son of God. The signs and other deeds that Jesus performed showed that he was a son of God like feeding the 5000 people, turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, healing the official's son, raising Lazarus, cleansing the temple and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF JESUS AT THE FEAST OF THE TABERNACLES OR SHELTERS 7:1-52

The feast of shelters signified that Jesus takes initiative as the word/logos. He went to the feast out of his own initiative.

The feast signified Jesus' humanity that is he had brothers and attended the feast physically.

The feast signified Jesus' divinity for example he taught with wisdom and authority from God.

It signified that Jesus had been sent by God for example he said that his teaching was not his own but came from the one who sent him.

It showed the lack of understanding of the crowd towards Jesus that is they said that Jesus was just deceiving the people.

The feast signified the open messiah ship of Jesus Christ when he taught with authority.

It reflected the Old Testament scriptures when Jesus referred the crowd to the Law of Moses which he said they had not kept.

It meant the inefficiency of the law in bringing salvation to mankind.

It showed people's faith in Jesus Christ for example many in the crowd put their faith in him.

It pointed towards the death of Jesus Christ when he said that he was with them for a short time.

It meant that Jesus would go back to the one who sent him.

It meant that Jesus was the source of living water.

It showed the importance of having faith in Jesus, whoever believed in him, streams of living water would flow from within him.

It meant that Jesus was a prophet as some people confessed upon hearing his words.

It meant the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus' believers would receive.

It showed the spiritual blindness of the Jewish leaders that is they wanted Jesus to be arrested because they did not believe him as a messiah.

It showed the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders for example they were envious of Jesus' good deeds.

Jesus' teaching at the feast brought about divisions among the Jews for example some believed him as the Christ while others did not and wanted to seize him.

HOSTILITY TO JESUS AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION OF THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE 10:22-42

REASONS FOR JESUS' REJECTION AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

The Jews who came to Jesus to demand an answer from him were his opponents.

The Jewish leaders wanted to know who Jesus was that is whether he was the Christ.

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of keeping them in suspense about who he was.

Jesus' claim that the miracles he did in his father's name spoke for him brought hostility from the Jews.

Jesus' claim that the things he did came from God the father was considered as blasphemy by the Jews hence hostility.

Jesus' claim that he had sheep that listen to him and follow him meant that he excluded the Jewish leaders hence hostility.

Jesus' claim that he was the source of eternal life to his sheep and that they shall never perish raised hostility from the Jews.

Jesus' claim that he and the father are one raised hostility because the Jews saw him as the one equating himself to God.

There was hostility because the Jewish leaders were spiritually blind about Jesus Christ.

The Jews became hostile to Jesus because they thought that he was just an ordinary man who was claiming equality with God.

Jesus' claim that he was the son of God before them raised hostility.

There was hostility towards Jesus because the Jewish leaders were envious of Jesus' many great miracles.

Jesus' refusal to modify the claim that he was the son of God and referred again to his actions which witnessed to who he was raised hostility.

There was hostility because Jesus' opponents wanted to arrest/seize him but he escaped their grasp.

PROBLEMS PEOPLE IN UGANDA TODAY MEET IN ACCEPTING JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR

Economic hardship like poverty.

Ignorance of people due to lack of knowledge about the gospel.

The nature of jobs for example brewers, soldiers.

Belief in modern science and technology.

Differences in political ideologies.
Bad conduct of some church leaders.
Belief in traditional culture and customs.
Influence of western culture for example pornography.
Rise of cults.
Lack of genuine faith in God.
Unanswered prayers.
Belief in witchcraft as a solution to people's problems.
Rigidity of some church laws.
The delayed Parousia.
Permissiveness in society.
Bad examples from parents.

CAUSES OF CONFLICT/HOSTILITY/OPPOSITION TOWARDS JESUS FROM THE JEWISH LEADERS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Jesus' performance of miracles which made him more popular amongst the people angered the Jewish leaders hence conflicting with him.

Jesus openly called God his father and stressed that he and the father are one hence raising conflict from the Jewish leaders.

Jesus' cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem with divine authority made the Jewish leaders to oppose him because they did not know the origin of his right to cleanse it.

During the cleansing of the temple, Jesus made a claim that he would tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days hence rising conflict from the Jewish leaders.

During the cleansing of the temple, Jesus referred to it as his father's house which annoyed the Jewish leaders hence opposing him.

Jesus' healing of the crippled man for 38 years raised conflict towards him from the Jewish leaders because he appeared to be breaking the Sabbath law.

The Jewish leaders opposed Jesus because he healed the man who had been born blind on the Sabbath hence breaking the Sabbath law.

When Jesus raised Lazarus to life the Jewish leaders made plans to arrest him because the sign made him more popular.

Jesus' claim that he was from the father in heaven angered the Jewish leaders because they saw this as blasphemy.

Jesus' forgiving of the sins of the adulterous woman who according to the Jewish law was supposed to be stoned to death brought hostility towards him from the Jewish leaders.

The Jewish leaders opposed Jesus because he referred to them as children of the devil.

The Jewish leaders opposed Jesus because he attacked them for being hypocrites which annoyed them.

Jesus' knowledge in teaching and interpreting of the Old Testament scriptures than the religious leaders brought about hostility since they knew that Jesus had no formal training.

Jesus' claim that he was greater and older than Abraham the Jewish ancestor annoyed the religious leaders hence opposed him.

The religious leaders opposed Jesus because he referred to himself as the bread of life that came down from heaven.

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem brought hostility towards him from the Jewish religious leaders because many people believed in him to their surprise.

The Jewish leaders opposed Jesus because they knew his background as the son of Joseph which contradicted with his claim that he was from heaven.

Jesus' claim that they could not go where he was going and that they would look for him but would not see him but instead will die in their sins made the Jewish leaders to become hostile to him.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF A WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY 8:1-11

The story signified that the Mosaic Law had outlived its importance and therefore required adjustments.

It signified that Jesus had come to correct the errors in the Mosaic Law.

It signified that Jesus was a messiah when he forgave the sins of the woman.

Jesus' response showed that everyone is a sinner.

It showed Jesus' divinity for example he forgave the sins of the adulterous woman.

It showed that Jesus condemned sin but not the sinners for example he forgave the woman and told her not to sin again.

It showed Jesus' humanity that is he felt sorry for the woman whom people wanted to stone to death.

Jesus' response was a call for repentance because he forgave the woman and told her to sin no more.

It signified that Jesus had come to save the sinners but not the righteous.

It showed the love of God towards mankind for example Jesus forgave the adulterous woman which was a sign of love.

It showed the need for reconciliation in Jesus' ministry instead of condemnation.

The story was a challenge to the Pharisees to find fault in themselves before condemning others.

It exposed the hypocrisy, pretense and insincerity of the Pharisees. They had brought the woman to Jesus as a way of trapping him.

It signified that there's no sin beyond God's forgiveness.

It meant that God knows all about his creatures. He knew that the Pharisees were not fully holy.

The story was a call to holiness among the followers of Jesus Christ.

It showed the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees. They had brought this woman to Jesus with intentions to trap him.

It showed that Jesus was a fair judge. He knew that those who had brought the woman were also sinners and therefore saved the woman from being stoned to death.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures Isaiah 40:2 "their sins have been forgiven".

It meant that Jesus came for all people in society since he didn't discriminate the woman.

It showed Jesus' humility when he forgave the adulterous woman.

RELEVANCE OF THE STORY TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should condemn sin but not sinners as Jesus told the woman to sin no more.

They should forgive one another's sins as Jesus forgave the woman.

Christians should repent their sins before God and also confess to one another.

They should live holy lives instead of sinning.

They should turn to Jesus Christ who is the source of mercy and love.

Christians should be sincere in whatever they do instead of being hypocrites like the Pharisees were.

Christians should accept Jesus as the messiah and follow his example in their work.
They reconcile conflicting partners within the Christian community.
Christians should examine themselves and find faults in themselves before condemning others.
They should help those in wrong and direct them to the right path instead of pointing fingers at them.
They should extend love to others especially those who might be condemned in society.
Christians should be faithful in marriage.
Christians should judge case fairly instead of being too emotional like the Pharisees.
They should protect people's lives instead of condemning people to death.
Christians should adjust to new changes other than sticking to the law for the sake of it as the Pharisees did.
Christians should be humble in the service of God's work like Jesus.
Christians should be impartial when dealing with people irrespective of their status.
Christians should work for justice in society.
Christians should seek for God's guidance to enable them handle difficult situations.
Christians should encourage openness with sinners without exposing their sinfulness to the public.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF THE ANNOITING OF JESUS AT BETHANY 12:1-11

The anointing of Jesus showed the faith that Mary had in Jesus. She used expensive perfume to anoint him.
It showed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who had come to the world.
The anointing of Jesus showed the glory of God to those who witnessed it when Mary poured expensive perfume on his feet.
It showed Jesus' divinity for example Mary recognized that Jesus was the son of God and therefore anointed him with expensive perfume.
It signified Jesus' humanity for example being anointed like any other person besides he was having a meal.
The anointing signified that Jesus' body was being prepared for his burial.
It showed the love that Mary had for Jesus when she used an expensive perfume to anoint him.
It showed the lack of understanding of Judas Iscariot that is he complained that Mary had used expensive perfume to anoint Jesus which to him was wastage.
The anointing was a fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example the anointment of kings and priests like Saul, David and Jehu.
It meant that giving to God should be in full measure and the best of all we have.
The anointing showed that Jesus was the king of the Jews since it was a Jewish ritual.
The anointing of Jesus by Mary pointed out that some women were good disciples of Jesus Christ.
It meant that following Christ at times involves risks for example Mary appeared before men in a Jewish setting.
It showed the humble service and humility of Jesus Christ for example he allowed Mary to anoint him and appreciated her action.
It signified that Jesus' ministry was for all that is Jesus did not mind about sex.
It meant that Jesus is always there to defend his people in any times of opposition like he told Judas to leave Mary alone.
Accepting to be anointed meant that Jesus had fulfilled the Jewish rituals or practices.
The anointing pointed towards the death of Jesus when he said that "you will not always have me".

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

They should express their faith in Jesus Christ as Mary did.

They should accept and honour Jesus as the promised Messiah.

They should treat all people equally as Jesus appreciated and accepted to be anointed by Mary.

Christians should always give the best to Jesus like Mary used an expensive perfume to anoint him.

They should depend on Jesus' protection in times of trouble and opposition.

They should always understand Jesus Christ unlike Judas who showed lack of understanding by complaining.

They should at times accept to take risks in order to fulfill God's command.

They should welcome and accept Jesus as the king in their lives.

They should be hospitable to God's servants since the anointing took place in the home of Lazarus where Jesus was having a meal.

Christians should be humble when carrying out God's work.

Christian women should be good disciples of Jesus Christ like Mary was.

They should be ready to serve God at all costs instead of having treasure in material things.

They should do good things that reveal the glory of God to others.

Christians should be ready to accept God's will even if it means death.

Christians should express their love to Jesus by doing good like Mary did.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ANOINTING OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

In both gospels, Jesus was anointed at a place called Bethany.

In both gospels, Jesus was anointed by a woman.

In both gospels, Jesus was anointed with expensive perfume made of pure nard.

In both, Jesus was anointed when he was having a meal which had been prepared for him.

In both gospels, the woman was rebuked for wasting an expensive perfume to anoint Jesus.

In both gospels, Jesus appreciates the action of the woman who anoints him with expensive perfume.

In both the anointing took place some days before the Passover feast.

In both the perfume is valued worth 300 silver coins or worth a year's wage if it had been sold.

In both gospels, those who rebuked the woman had concern for the poor people.

In both gospels, Jesus assures those who rebuked the woman that they will always have the poor with them but would not always be with him.

In both, the anointing was pointing towards Jesus' death that is they would not always have him.

In both, the anointing was in preparation for Jesus' body for burial.

In both gospels, Jesus defends the action of the woman who anointed him by those who complained to leave her alone.

In both gospels, the anointing took place in homes of men to whom Jesus had performed miracles for example Simon had been healed of leprosy and Lazarus raised from death.

Differences

In Mark's gospel, the anointing took place two days before the Passover feast while in John's gospel it took place six days before the Passover feast.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus was anointed by a woman while in John, he was anointed by Mary,

In Mark's gospel, Jesus was anointed on his head while in John, he was anointed on his feet.

In Mark's gospel, the woman broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head while in John, Mary used half litre of the perfume to anoint Jesus.

In Mark's gospel only Simon is identified while in John, many personalities are mentioned for example Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Judas Iscariot.

In Mark's gospel, the woman who anointed Jesus came from outside the house while in John, Mary was already inside the house of Lazarus.

In Mark's gospel, the woman just poured the perfume on Jesus' head while in John Mary poured the perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped the feet with her hair.

In Mark's gospel the people around complained of wastage while in John, it was Judas Iscariot who complained and objected towards Mary's action.

In Mark's gospel, the people who complained of wastage had concern for the poor while in John, Judas complained because he was a thief.

In John's gospel, the sweet smell or fragrance filled the whole house while in Mark, after the woman anointed Jesus people became angry.

In John's gospel, Judas who complained is referred to as one who was later to betray Jesus while in Mark, people just complained.

In Mark's gospel, the anointing took place in the house of Simon the leper while in John, it was in the house of Lazarus.

In Mark's gospel Jesus appreciated the action of the woman and said wherever the gospel is preached, what she has done would be told in her memory while in John, Jesus told Judas to leave the woman alone.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING/IMPORTANCE OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS IN TO JERUSALEM 12:12-19

The triumphal entry signified Jesus' divinity for example people sang hosanna and said blessed is the king of Israel.

It signified that Jesus was the spiritual messiah who had come to bring salvation to mankind instead of a political messiah as the Jews expected.

The entry signified that Jesus was indeed the king of Israel when people said that blessed is the king of Israel.

It signified Jesus' humanity that is he rode on a colt while entering Jerusalem.

The triumphal entry signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Zachariah 9:9 and Psalms 118:26.

It showed the love of God towards mankind for example Jesus' journey to Jerusalem was the journey to his suffering which would bring salvation to mankind.

It publically showed that Jesus was not a military conqueror or political revolutionary as the Jews expected.

It revealed people's love for Jesus for example they took palm branches and welcomed him as a king.

It showed the holiness of Jesus because he sat on a colt that had never been used.

It signified that Jesus was a humble and a peaceful servant of God when he rode on a young donkey instead of a horse.

The triumphal entry exposed Jesus' messiah ship openly as people sang Hosanna, blessed is he the one who comes in the name of the lord.

It revealed the glory of God on earth as Jesus was welcomed as a king.

It showed the lack of understanding of disciples towards Jesus. They did not understand the meaning of the triumphal entry.

It showed the greatness of Jesus as people sang Hosanna as he entered Jerusalem.

It showed the honour and respect that people gave to Jesus.

The entry increased hostility towards Jesus from the Pharisees. They became envious that the whole world had followed Jesus.

A NARRATION OF JESUS' WASHING OF HIS DISCIPLES FEET 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover feast and Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go back to the Father.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of love. Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist.

Jesus poured water into the basin and began to wash his disciples' feet.

He then dried them with a towel that was wrapped around his waist.

Jesus came to Simon Peter who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'

Jesus told Peter that, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

Peter said, no, you will never wash my feet.

Jesus answered saying that, 'unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

Peter replied, 'Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head too.'

Jesus said that a person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet for his body is clean.

Jesus then said, 'you are clean, though not every one of you.'

Jesus knew that one of them was going to betray Him and that is why he said that not everyone was clean.

When Jesus had finished washing their feet he put on his garments and he went back to his place.

Jesus asked the disciples whether they had understood what he had done for them.

Jesus told the disciples that if He the Lord and Teacher had washed their feet, they should also wash one another's feet.

Jesus told the disciples that he had set for them an example so they should do what he had done for them.

Jesus told them that no servant is greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

He told the disciples that since they knew these things, they would be blessed if they did them.

MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE/IMPORTANCE OF JESUS' WASHING OF HIS DISCIPLES FEET 13:1-17

The incident signified the divine power of Jesus that is he knew that the father had given him complete power.

It showed the love of Jesus towards his disciples when he washed their feet.

It signified Jesus' humanity that is he washed his disciples' feet and was troubled about his coming death.

The incident showed Jesus' open messiah ship, he knew he had come from God and was returning to God.

It signified that Jesus was a servant of mankind.

It signified that Jesus was a suffering messiah who was going to die for the sins of mankind.

The incident symbolized a humble service by Jesus washing his disciples' feet. It was a perfect example of how the disciples should be willing to serve one another as Jesus had done.

It signified that Jesus was giving spiritual cleansing that the disciples required before he would go back to the father.

It signified that anyone who receives the disciples receives Jesus and the one who receives Jesus receives the one who sent him.

It gave Jesus a chance to reveal the betrayer when he said "all of you are clean except one".

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in psalms 41:9 "one who shared my food turned against me".

Washing the disciples' feet was a sign of intimate relationship between master and the flock.

The incident was a preparation for the last supper that Jesus was about to institute.

Water in the basin symbolized the idea of baptism.

It showed the lack of understanding of Jesus' disciples for example peter refused Jesus to wash his feet.

It signified that Peter will be a leader of the disciples.

Jesus laid down his garments which implied that he will lay down his life for mankind.

Jesus putting back his garments implied his resurrection.

It meant that Jesus was preparing his disciples for the future mission of spreading the good news.

RELEVANCE/LESSONS TO THE CLERGY TODAY

The clergy should humble themselves in their service as Jesus did when he washed the disciples' feet.

The clergy should have love while executing their services amongst the people of God.

They should seek for God's guidance and allow him to lead them in their leadership and ministry.

They should serve others but not wait to be served.

They should train their followers for future work as Jesus trained his disciples.

They should be exemplary to the people they lead as Jesus showed a good example to his disciples.

They should reflect and use Jesus as a role model in their leadership.

The clergy should be prepared to die in course of their service for the sake for the gospel for example the Uganda martyrs.

They should be aware that there are traitors among those they serve, so they should take care.

They should treat their flock equally including those who might betray them.

They should be ready to do the will of God even amidst challenging situations.

Church leaders should tolerate those who may work against their ministries.

They should encourage their flock to repent their sins.

They should spiritually cleanse their flock.

They should bring about positive changes in their communities.

They should prepare their followers well for the Lord's Supper.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER/LAST SUPPER

The last supper signified Jesus' love for his disciples for example he washed their feet and taught them many things.

It signified Jesus' humanity that is he was troubled in spirit because one of the disciples was going to betray him.

It confirmed the messiah ship of Jesus.

It gave Jesus the opportunity to reveal the identity of the betrayer when he dipped a piece of bread and offered it to Judas Iscariot.

The bread symbolized the body of Jesus.

It pointed towards the death of Jesus Christ when he told the disciples that he would not be with them very soon.

It showed the need to love one another as Jesus gave his disciples a final commandment of loving one another as he had loved them.

It showed the lack of understanding of the disciples towards Jesus for example when Jesus told Judas to be quick at whatever he was doing none of the disciples understood why Jesus said this to him.

It showed the fulfillment of Old Testament scriptures in Jeremiah 31 about the new covenant.

It showed that Jesus was a suffering messiah as talked about in Isaiah 53.

It meant that Jesus was preparing his disciples for future work after Jesus had left them.

It gave Jesus a chance to predict that Peter would deny him three times.

It showed that Jesus was the new Lamb of God.

It showed the divinity of Jesus for example he knew that the time had come for him to leave the world.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

In both gospels, the Lord's Supper involved Jesus and his disciples.

In both, the Lord's Supper coincides with the Passover feast.

In both gospels, the Lord's Supper started in the evening.

In both, it ended at night.

In both, Jesus predicted his betrayer.

In both gospels, it marked the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples.

In both gospels, Jesus predicted his death.

In both the Lord's Supper involved eating of bread.

In both, Jesus is the initiator of the Lord's Supper as well as the central figure.

In both gospels, the disciples showed lack of faith towards Jesus as they did not know who was to betray him.

In both gospels, the disciples were shocked and terrified about the imminent death of Jesus.

In both gospels, Jesus used the title son of man.

In both gospels, the disciples failed to know the actual name of the betrayer.

In both gospels, Jesus made a sign to identify the betrayer as Judas Iscariot.

Differences

In Mark the disciples asked Jesus where to prepare the Lord's Supper from while in John's gospel the disciples were already at the Lord's Supper with Jesus.

In Mark's gospel, the Lord's Supper coincides with the Passover feast while in John it was celebrated a day before the Passover feast.

In Mark's gospel, the Lord's Supper was prepared and held in the upper room while in John, Jesus was already having the meal with his disciples in a certain place.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus inaugurates the Lord's Supper while in John Jesus gives a new commandment of loving one another.

In Mark's gospel Jesus talks of a new covenant sealed with his blood while in John he talks of the need for serving one another.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus gives a brief teaching while in John he gives a long teaching and a farewell message to his disciples.

In Mark, the Lord's Supper replaces the animal sacrifice to God while in John's gospel Jesus replaces the role of a leader to that of being a servant of others.

In Mark, there was bread, sauce and wine that Jesus shared with the disciples while in John, there was only bread and sauce.

In Mark's gospel, the twelve disciples are treated in the same way while in John, special attention is given to John the beloved disciple who leaned against Jesus and even Peter requested him to ask for the name of the betrayer.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he will never drink again wine until the new wine in the kingdom of God while in John, Jesus tells the disciples that he would not be with them much longer and that they would look for him but will not get him.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus identifies the betrayer saying "the one who dips with me in the same plate" while in John, Jesus gives a piece of bread to Judas as a sign of the one who was to betray him.

In Mark's gospel, Satan appears to have entered Judas before the Lord's Supper while in John, Satan entered Judas immediately after he had eaten the piece of bread given to him by Jesus.

In Mark, the Lord's Supper goes on till the end with all the disciples including Judas while in John, Judas leaves before the end of the Lord's Supper because Jesus ordered him to be quick about what he was going to do.

In Mark, Jesus warns the disciples about his coming death at the mountain of Olives after the Lord's Supper while in John, Jesus is troubled in spirit and therefore warns the disciples about his coming death while at the Lord's Supper.

In Mark, the disciples sang a hymn during the Lord's Supper and thereafter went to the mountain of olives while in John Jesus just continued with the farewell message.

In Mark, Jesus predicts Peter's denial after the Lord's Supper at the mountain of olives while in John, Jesus predicts Peter's denial while at the Lord's Supper.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY JESUS 14:15-31 AND THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 16:5-25

JOHN'S TEACHING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Right from the beginning the Holy Spirit appears resting on Jesus as John the Baptist his testimony. The work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the truth about God.

John the Baptist said that Jesus was to baptize with the Holy Spirit in contrast to John's baptism with water.

Jesus' physical departure will bring about the coming of the Holy Spirit to help the disciples in their work.

The spirit will be with those who love Jesus and obey his commandments.

The world that is the sinful mankind does not know the spirit.
God the father would send the Holy Spirit to teach the disciples.
Both the son and the Holy Spirit come from the father.
Although Jesus was going to leave his disciples they would not be alone because he would return to them in the power of the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit makes the world aware of sin and the judgment on sin.
The disciples are to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
The helper is the Holy Spirit of truth and he is holy.
Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit to forgive sins (John 20:22-23).
The Holy Spirit was to make the disciples to remember what Jesus taught.
Jesus came in the father's name and the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name (John 5:43).
One needs to be born of water and the spirit to attain eternal life (John 3:5-8).
The spirit is given by God to those he loves (John 3:34).
Jesus told the disciples that the words he had spoken to them were spirit and life (John 6:63).
The Holy Spirit enables people to worship God in truth and spirit (John 4:23).
The Holy Spirit would be the helper to stay forever with believers.
The Holy Spirit will guide people into all truth and will teach with authority from God (John 16:13).

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The Holy Spirit helps Christians to repent their sins.
The Holy Spirit encourages Christians to preach the gospel.
It helps Christians to endure suffering and persecution.
It helps in speaking in tongues.
It helps in prophesying.
It promotes unity in church.
It encourages performance of miracles.
It helps in conducting missionary journeys.
It helping in composing gospel hymns and songs.
It guides Christians to carryout charity to the needy.
It guides Christians to interpret scriptures.
It guides Christians to establish churches
It promotes love for one another.
It helps Christians to celebrate the Lord's Supper.
It guides Christians to write Christian literature.
It helps to soften hearts of hard characters to turn to God.
Revelations are brought about by the Holy Spirit.
Counseling and spiritual guidance is due to the Holy Spirit.

CONTENT OF JESUS' PRAYER OF SELF DEDICATION JOHN 17

Jesus prays for glorification of the father for the work he had given him was coming to its end.
He prayed for his father's love to be revealed to his people.
He prayed that eternal life be given to those who believe in him.
He prayed to be glorified to his former glory in the presence of God his father.
In his prayer, Jesus indicates that he had shown total obedience to the father.
He also shows that the father had been revealed through his son.

In his prayer Jesus intercedes for the disciples he had called to serve him.
He prays for special divine protection for his followers who were about to be left in the world.
He prays for the church to be kept safe by the power of God's name.
He prays that the apostles may be one just as he and his father are one.
He prays that the apostles may have Jesus' joy in their hearts in all its fullness.
Jesus prays to God not to take the disciples out of the world but to keep them safe from the evil one.
Jesus dedicated the disciples to God himself by means of truth which is God's word.
The prayer shows that the final home of the church is in heaven though they have still to live in the world.
He prays that he has protected all except one who was bound to be lost (Judas).
He prayed for the church to remain united completely.
He prayed for those who would believe in him to also be united to him and the father.
He prayed for Christians to be with him and see his glory.

RELEVANCE OF THE PRAYER TO THE CHURCH

Christians should believe in Jesus as the son of God.
Christians should love one another as Jesus loved them.
They should have total faith in God's protection towards them.
They should pray for the love of God to remain in the church.
They should believe in the word of God since it gives eternal life.
They should be united to Jesus and with one another.
They should study the word of God and obey it.
The church should remain committed to the word of God.
Christians should show total obedience to the father and serve according his will.
Christians should pray at all times.
They should prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
They should strive to know Jesus and God the father so as to receive eternal life.
The church should remain united as God and Jesus were united.
Christians should aim at glorifying God the father like Jesus did.
The church should be sanctified by the truth which is the word of God.
Christians should stay focused on heavenly things even when they are still in the world.
They should always pray to be protected from the evil one.
Church leaders should show love to the church members as Jesus did by praying for his disciples.
The church should be victorious in all its endeavors.
The church should aim at serving as its mission instead of waiting to be served.

THE ARREST, CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Significance of the arrest of Jesus 18:1-11

Jesus' arrest signified his humanity that is he was arrested like any other person.
It signified Jesus' divinity for example when Jesus told the arrestors that he was the one they were looking for they drew back and fell on the ground.
It showed that Jesus was indeed a suffering type of messiah. He was arrested as a criminal yet he was innocent.
The arrest showed the lack of understanding of Judas Iscariot towards Jesus. He betrayed Jesus and guided the soldiers to the place where Jesus was.

It also fulfilled Jesus' prediction that one of his disciples would betray him for example Judas led the soldiers to arrest Jesus.

It fulfilled Jesus' prediction that not any of his disciples would be lost from him except one for example he told the soldiers to leave his disciples free.

It signified that Jesus was a peaceful leader for example he commanded Peter to put the sword away.

It showed that Jesus was obedient to the will of his father when he asked Peter that "shall I not drink the cup the father has given me?"

It portrayed Peter as the leader of the 12 disciples when he tried to defend Jesus by cutting off the ear of one of the servants of the high priest.

It signified that Jesus was the good shepherd who takes care of his sheep when he told the soldiers to only arrest him and let the disciples go.

It showed that Jesus takes initiative as the word of God for example he identified himself to the soldiers that he was Jesus of Nazareth they were looking for.

Significance of the crucifixion of Jesus 19:1-27

It signified Jesus' humanity that is he carried his own cross to Golgotha.

It signified that Jesus was a suffering messiah hence fulfilling Isaiah 53.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Psalms 22:18 "they divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing".

It showed the faith that women had in Jesus for example Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Clopas stood near Jesus' cross.

It signified that Jesus' ministry was universal in nature for example the notice on Jesus' cross was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

It signified that Jesus was indeed the king of the Jews as the notice on his cross read.

It signified that Jesus' ministry and work had been completed.

Significance of Jesus' death 19:28-37

It signified Jesus' humanity that is he physically died like a human being.

It signified the love of God towards mankind since his death was to redeem sinful man from the bondage of sin.

Jesus' death revealed the glory of God on earth.

The blood that came out of Jesus' body when he was pierced symbolized the idea of holy Eucharist.

The water that came from Jesus' body symbolized the idea of baptism.

It signified that Jesus was indeed the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

It signified the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures in Exodus 12:46 "...do not break any of the bones...."

The piercing of Jesus' body also fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures Zechariah 12:10.

It signified that Jesus had accomplished the work of the one who had sent him for example he said "it is finished" at the time of his death.

REASONS FOR THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus' crucifixion and death was a result of God's divine plan for the Salvation of mankind.

Jesus' healing of a man born blind on Sabbath raised hostility towards him from the Jewish religious leaders hence planned for his death.

Jesus' healing of a crippled man at the pool on Sabbath led to his death since he had disrespected the Sabbath law.

Jesus' crucifixion and death was because he had forgiven the sins of the adulterous woman who according to the Jewish law was supposed to be stoned to death.

Jesus had power to perform miracles that made him to become popular. This annoyed the Jewish leaders hence planning for his death.

Jesus' claim that he and the father are one before the Jewish leaders led to his death.

Jesus' cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem which had turned into a market place angered the Jewish leaders hence planned for his death.

Jesus' claim to rebuild the temple in three days also annoyed the Jewish leaders hence planned for his death.

Jesus' crucifixion and death was because he called the temple his father's house which annoyed the Jewish leaders.

Jesus' claim that he was older than Abraham annoyed the Jews hence planning for his death.

Jesus' crucifixion and death was because he called the Jewish leaders children of the devil which annoyed them.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus to life raised hostility towards him from the Pharisees hence planned for his death.

Jesus' crucifixion and death was intended to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures about the suffering messiah in Isaiah 53.

Jesus' death was because Satan entered Judas and he betrayed him.

Jesus willingly carried his cross to Golgotha hence leading to his death.

Jesus' death was because Pilate had become Unpopular and therefore wanted cheap popularity from the Jews. That is why he handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of being the king of the Jews hence leading his death.

Jesus was crucified because the crowd demanded for his death and for the release of Barabbas who was a criminal.

Jesus' crucifixion and death was because a treason case had been put against him.

Crucifixion was a roman way of executing criminals and since the chief priests considered Jesus a criminal, he had to be crucified.

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led to his death because the whole world was following him which angered the Pharisees.

The cross was Jesus' glory and therefore he was crucified for glorification.

Jesus' death was because he attacked the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders.

THE ROLE OF THE JEWISH LEADERS IN THE DEATH OF JESUS

The Jewish leaders became hostile to Jesus when he cleansed the temple and asked for his authority to do it.

Jesus' claim to rebuild the temple in three days was misunderstood by the Jewish leaders.

When Jesus called the temple his father's house, the Jewish leaders were annoyed.

Jesus' claim to be older than Abraham annoyed the Jewish leaders.

When Jesus called the Jewish leaders children of the devil they planned for his death.

Jesus' claim that he and the father are one was considered as blasphemy by the Jewish leaders.

When Jesus healed the crippled man on Sabbath the Jewish leaders accused him of misusing the Sabbath.

When Jesus healed the man born blind on Sabbath the Pharisees accused him of breaking the Sabbath law.

When Jesus forgave the sins of the adulterous woman the Pharisees became annoyed.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus from death annoyed the Pharisees because he was becoming more popular.

Jesus' power to perform miracles made him to become more popular which annoyed the Jewish leaders.

The Jewish leaders became jealousy of Jesus because he had many followers.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly many people welcomed him which annoyed the Pharisees because the whole world had gone after him.

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of being the king of the Jews before Pilate.

They put a treason case against Jesus before his trial by Pilate.

They insisted that Jesus should be crucified even when Pilate realized that Jesus was innocent.

The high priest Caiaphas suggested that Jesus should be killed to save the Jewish nation from being destroyed by the Romans.

The Jewish leaders organized soldiers and other officials from the chief priests and Pharisees to arrest Jesus at night.

They influenced the crowd to demand for the crucifixion of Jesus in return for the release of Barabbas who was a criminal.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

Similarities

In both gospels, Pilate ordered for the crucifixion of Jesus and handed him over to the Jewish authorities to be crucified.

In both gospels, Jesus was crucified at Golgotha.

In both gospels, Jesus was crucified with two other men, one on each side.

In both gospels, the soldiers mocked Jesus for example they twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and clothed him in a purple robe.

In both gospels, the soldiers divided Jesus' clothes amongst themselves.

In both gospels, the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing to determine what share each would get.

In both gospels, Jesus was offered wine to drink.

In both gospels, woman watched the crucifixion and death of Jesus for example Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and other women.

In both gospels, a notice was written and put on Jesus' cross reading "the king of the Jew".

In both gospels, Jesus died on Friday before the Sabbath.

In both gospels Jesus was buried on Friday before the Sabbath.

In both gospels, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus for burial before the dawn Sabbath.

In both gospels, Jesus' body was wrapped in strips of linen.

In both gospels, Jesus' body was buried in an empty tomb.

Differences

In the gospel of Mark, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Rufus and Alexander was forced to carry the cross while in John's gospel Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus was offered wine mixed with Myrrh but he refused to drink it while in John's gospel, Jesus was made to drink the wine because he said he was thirsty.

In Mark's gospel the chief priests, the teachers of law and the two men who were crucified with Jesus insulted him while in John's gospel, the soldiers insulted Jesus.

In Mark's gospel Jesus' body remained intact without being pierced while in John's gospel, Jesus' body was pierced and blood and water came out of it.

In John's gospel, Jesus handed over the beloved disciple to Mary and handed over Mary to the beloved disciple while in Mark's gospel, Jesus shows no special concern to either Mary her mother or John the beloved disciple.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus was crucified at 9:00 am while in John's gospel, the timing of Jesus' crucifixion is at 12:00pm.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus cried loudly saying 'my God my God why have you forsaken me' while in John's gospel, his cry was of victory saying "it is finished".

In Mark's gospel, Jesus cried loudly saying "my God my God why have you forsaken me" while in John's gospel he died quietly after taking the wine.

In mark's gospel, darkness came over the whole land at the sixth hour and lasted until the ninth hour while in John's gospel, the weather seems to have been normal.

In Mark's gospel, the Roman soldier confessed that Jesus was indeed the son of God after witnessing his unique death while in John's gospel an eyewitness who saw it has given a testimony.

In Mark's gospel, the notice put on Jesus' cross read "the king of the Jews" and no request was made by the people to change it while in John's gospel, the chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate and refused him to write the king of the Jews though he insisted on what he had written.

In Mark's gospel, Pilate was surprised at the death of Jesus and so asked the army officer to go and verify whether he had died while in John's gospel, Pilate just permitted Joseph of Arimathea to take Jesus' body without any verification.

In Mark's gospel, Joseph of Arimathea went alone to request for Jesus' body for burial while in John's gospel, Joseph went with Nicodemus to request for Jesus' body.

In John's gospel, the notice which was put on Jesus' cross was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek while the language in which the notice was written in Mark's gospel was only Aramaic

In Mark's gospel Jesus was buried in a linen cloth while in John's gospel he was buried in linen cloth with spices for example myrrh.

In John's gospel the sponge was put on a stalk of hyssop while in Mark it was put on a stick.

In Mark the tomb was dug out of a solid rock while in John's gospel the tomb was new and nobody had been buried there.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT JESUS RESURRECTED ACCORDING TO THE FOURTH GOSPEL

The presence of the empty tomb proves that Jesus resurrected.

When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb she saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

John the disciple whom Jesus had loved reached the tomb and only saw the strips of linen lying there.

Simon Peter entered into the tomb and he saw the strips of linen lying there as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head.

Mary Magdalene saw two angels in white seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

The risen lord appeared to Mary and even called her by name but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

The risen Lord instructed Mary to go and tell his brothers that he was returning to his father.

The risen lord appeared to his disciples in a room and said to them, "peace be with you".

The risen lord physically showed the disciples his hands and they were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit unto the disciples and advised them to forgive people's sins.

Jesus appeared to the doubting Thomas and showed him his hands.

Thomas confessed to Jesus saying, "My lord and my God".

The risen lord appeared to the seven disciples who had gone to fish on Lake Tiberius and there was a miraculous catch.

John the beloved disciple told Simon Peter that the man who had told them to the net on the right was the lord.

The risen lord called the seven disciples together and gave them bread and fish.

The risen Lord asked Simon Peter whether he truly loved him more than the other disciples.

The risen lord asked Peter to take care of his sheep.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES OF JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

The resurrection appearances were a proof that Jesus indeed rose from the death.

They showed the divinity of Jesus Christ for example he had overcome the power of death.

They confirmed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah.

They confirmed the humanity of Jesus Christ for example he physically appeared to his disciples.

They strengthened the faith of the disciples in Jesus like the doubting Thomas who later believed and confessed Jesus as the Lord.

They confirmed that there's life after death.

They showed the importance of women in the spreading the gospel for example the risen Lord instructed Mary Magdalene to go and inform the disciples about the resurrection.

The resurrection appearances encouraged the disciples to go out and preach the gospel to all parts of the world.

They showed the disciples' lack of understanding towards Jesus for example Thomas doubted when fellow disciples told him that they had seen the lord.

They made the disciples go out and preach the good news and forgive people's sins in the name of Jesus.

They signified that the disciples were witnesses to the risen Lord and through them the news of resurrection would spread all over the world.

They signified that Jesus' enemies had been defeated.

Jesus said to Mary Magdalene "do not hold on me" which implied to the disciples that the relationship with Jesus is not necessarily a physical one.

The appearances gave courage to the disciples who had been hiding to come out and begin evangelism.

They implied reinstating Peter as the leader of the disciples and the entire church when Jesus asked him "Peter do you love me?"

They showed Jesus' love towards the disciples for example at Lake Tiberius he enabled them to catch fish.

Jesus' appearance to the disciples on Lake Tiberius signified that resurrection is a gradual process for example it took long for the disciples to recognize him.

The appearance at Tiberius showed Jesus' power over the sea that is he ordered them to cast the net and they got fish.

The appearance at Lake Tiberius showed the idea of holy Eucharist when Jesus took bread and gave it to the disciples.

The appearances signified to the disciples that Jesus Christ will come again as he had promised.

They showed the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ when he said that, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.

WAYS IN WHICH JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through miracles of healing for example some Christians have confessed to have been healed of cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Jesus reveals himself through deliverance from demoniac powers. Many people possessed with demons have been prayed for and healed by pastors like Robert Kayanja of Rubaga Miracle Centre.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through visions and dreams. Some Christians have received visions of the lord and the Virgin Mary.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through the message of preachers in different churches that has caused impact on the souls of many.

Jesus reveals himself through the power of the Holy Spirit which enables people to speak in tongues especially in the Pentecostal churches.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through miraculous signs for example some barren women have ended up producing children.

Jesus reveals himself through answering people's prayers that usually centre on various needs for example acquiring jobs, married partners.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through provision of material things like land, food, houses.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians through accepting and receiving the sacrament of baptism.

Jesus reveals himself through academic achievements at various levels of education.

Jesus reveals himself to Christians in the midst of problems where they have seen him coming to their rescue for example financial and marital problems.

Jesus reveals himself through fulfilled prophecies.

Some Christians have been saved from fatal accidents a sign of Jesus' revelation to them.

Jesus reveals himself through the Christian ministries being successful for example many churches have been established.

THE EPILOGUE IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 21:1-25

The epilogue of John's gospel is the conclusive chapter of John's gospel which covers Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish at Lake Tiberius and Jesus reinstating Peter.

SIGNIFICANCE/MEANING OF THE EPILOGUE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

It signified Jesus' divinity for example when he told the disciples to throw the net on the right side of the boat, they were able to catch fish.

Jesus' appearance to the disciples at Lake Tiberius confirmed that he was indeed the promised messiah.

The epilogue signified Jesus' humanity for example he gave fish and bread to the disciples.

It signified that Jesus had indeed resurrected from death for example his appearance on Lake Tiberius.

It signified that Jesus had power over the sea that is he ordered the disciples to cast the net on the right side of the boat and they got fish.

It signified the idea of holy Eucharist when Jesus took bread and gave it to the disciples.

It showed the disciples' lack of understanding towards Jesus that is at first they failed to understand him when he told them to cast the net in the water until when John told Peter that it was the Lord. It showed Jesus' love to the disciples when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberius and they were able to catch fish.

It signified that the disciples were witnesses to the risen lord and through them the news of Jesus' resurrection would be spread to all parts of the world.

It signified that resurrection was a gradual process for example at Lake Tiberius the disciples took long to recognize Jesus.

It increased the faith of the disciples in Jesus like when he appeared to them on Lake Tiberius and even prepared breakfast for them.

It implied reinstating Peter as the leader of the disciples and the entire church when Jesus asked him, "Peter do you love me?"

It showed the genuine love that Peter had for Jesus when he assured him three times that he really loved him.

It signified to the disciples that Jesus will come again as he had promised "if I want him to remain alive until I return".

It pointed towards the kind of death by which Peter which would glorify God when Jesus said to him that "someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go".

The three times that Peter confessed to Jesus that he loved him corresponded to the three times that Peter had denied Jesus.

The multitude of fish the disciples caught pointed towards their success as fishers of men.

It corresponded with the miracle of feeding the 5000 people by Jesus for example he gave the disciples fish and bread that he had prepared for them just like he multiplied bread and fish to feed the crowd.

RELEVANCE OF THE EPILOGUE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

Christians should accept and honour Jesus Christ since he is the promised messiah.

Christians should believe in life after death since Jesus Christ resurrected.

Christians should have clear understanding Jesus Christ at all times.

Christians should celebrate Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus' death.

They should testify the news of Jesus' resurrection since he appeared to his disciples.

Christians should look forward towards the resurrection of all believers.

Christians should look forward towards the second coming of Jesus Christ since he promised to come back the second time.

Christians should have strong faith in Jesus Christ since he resurrected from death and appeared to his disciples.

Christians should express love to one another as Jesus showed love to his disciples when he appeared to them at Lake Tiberius and enabled them to catch fish.

Christians should express their love to Jesus Christ like Peter affirmed three times that he loved Jesus.

Christians should serve as good shepherds by taking care and feeding the sheep with God's word.

Christians should be humble like Peter humbled himself before Jesus for example when Jesus asked him the third time if he loved him, he was hurt but still said to Jesus “Lord you know all things”.

They should accept any kind of death for the glorification of God.

They should be obedience to the word of word just like the disciples obeyed Jesus’ word and cast the net on the right side of the boat.

JOHN’S POTRAYAL OF THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS

In the prologue of John’s gospel, Jesus is presented as the creative word of God that existed before the creation of the world.

John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away of sins of the world.

At the baptism, John the Baptist saw the spirit in form of a dove descend upon Jesus hence revealing his messiah ship.

Jesus’ coming fulfills the Old Testament prophecies of the coming messiah. Phillip told Nathanael that they had found a man whom Moses talked about in the law, Deuteronomy 18:15.

Andrew told his brother Simon that they had found the messiah and he brought him Jesus.

Jesus performed nature miracles for example when he walked on water and turned water into wine.

Jesus’ messiahship was revealed during the healing of the crippled man at the pool and the man born blind.

Jesus fed the five thousand people on five loaves of bread and two fish which revealed his messiah ship.

Jesus raised Lazarus to life hence showing his messiahship.

Jesus’ capacity to forgive sins showed his messiah ship for example he forgave the sins of the adulterous woman.

Nicodemus told Jesus that they knew he was a teacher sent by God, for no one could perform the miracles he was doing unless God was with him.

The Samaritan woman confessed that Jesus was a prophet and other Samaritans believed that Jesus was the savior of the world.

Jesus said “I am the bread of life”. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jesus referred to himself as a good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.

Jesus said to Martha that, “I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies”.

Jesus said that “I am the light of the world” which eventually led to his healing of the man born blind.

Jesus said that “before Abraham was born I am” which implied his messiah ship.

At the feast of Tabernacles Jesus said that his teaching comes from the one who sent him.

Jesus’ capacity to predict issues showed his messiah ship for example Peter’s denial and Judas Iscariot’s betrayal.

Mary and Martha the sisters of Lazarus confessed that Jesus was the messiah.

The anointing of Jesus with expensive oil at Bethany revealed his messiah ship.

Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem showed his messiah ship.

Jesus washed his disciples’ feet as a sign of messianic love.

As the messiah, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help his people.

Jesus’ cleansing of the Jerusalem temple was a messianic act.

Before Jesus died he said the prayer of self-dedication and even prayed for his disciples.

At the death of Jesus, a notice was written and put on Jesus' cross reading "the king of the Jews".
As the messiah, Jesus resurrected from death on the third day.
As the messiah, Jesus appeared to his followers after resurrection for example the doubting Thomas, Mary Magdalene and the seven disciples on Lake Tiberius.
Jesus uses the title son of God and often refers to God as his father.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Humanity of Jesus

In the prologue of John's gospel, Jesus is presented as the word of God which became flesh and lived among us.

Jesus had parents like Mary and Joseph.

Jesus had relatives for example his brothers who advised him to go to Judea so that his disciples would see his miracles.

Jesus had friends for example Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Jesus attended social functions like the wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Jesus conversed with Nicodemus late in the night.

Jesus was tired and thirsty while at Jacob's well and asked for water to drink from the Samaritan woman.

Jesus became angry when people had misused the temple of God and therefore cleansed it.

Jesus felt pity for those who were suffering and went ahead to heal them for example the Roman officer's son.

Jesus sometimes used the title of son of man instead of son of God for example during the conversation with Nicodemus.

Jesus felt hungry and his disciples urged him to eat something when he had finished conversing with the Samaritan woman.

Jesus appreciated and defended Mary who had anointed him with expensive perfume.

Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus had died.

Jesus prayed to God for example he gave thanks to God for the bread and fish before distributing to the hungry crowd.

Jesus had a certain disciple whom he loved most that is John the beloved disciple.

Jesus washed his disciple's feet as an example to them to be servants of others.

Jesus feared death for example he was deeply troubled when his death was approaching and said a prayer of self-dedication.

When Jesus' body was pierced by the soldier while at the cross, blood and water came out of it.

Jesus died and was buried in the tomb.

Divinity of Jesus

Jesus is presented as the creative word of God that existed before the creation of the world.

John the Baptist confessed that Jesus was far greater than him that he was not fit to untie his sandals.

John the Baptist saw the spirit in form of a dove descend upon Jesus hence showing his divinity.

Nathanael declared Jesus as the son of God and the king of Israel.

Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Jesus healed the man who had been crippled for thirty eight years by telling him to pick up his mat and go.

Jesus fed the 5000 people on five loaves of bread and two fish.
Jesus healed the roman officer's son hence showing his divinity.
Jesus used supernatural powers to cleanse the temple which had been misused and nobody dared to stop him.
Nicodemus confessed that Jesus was a teacher sent by God.
The Samaritan woman confessed that Jesus was a prophet and messiah because of the strange things he had told her.
Jesus referred to himself as the bread of life and that whoever went to him would never get hungry.
Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one goes to the father except by me".
Jesus said "I am the true vine and you are the branches, whoever remains in me will bear much fruits".
Jesus said "I am the good shepherd who is willing to die for my sheep".
Jesus openly referred to God as his father and even claimed that he and God were one.
Jesus forgave the sins of the adulterous woman who according to Jewish law was supposed to be stoned to death.
Jesus was anointed with expensive perfume at Bethany.
Jesus predicted things that would happen and they came to pass for example Peter's denial and the betrayal by the Judas Iscariot.
During the triumphal entry, Jesus was welcomed as a king for example people shouted "Hosanna".
Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the disciples and said that it would be sent in his name.
Jesus resurrected from death on the third day.
Jesus appeared to his followers after resurrection for example Thomas who even referred to him as Lord and God.

OCCASIONS WHEN THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS SHOWED LACK OF UNDERSTANDING/SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS TOWARDS JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Nathanael asked Phillip whether anything good could come from Nazareth when Phillip told him that they had found the one whom Moses wrote about in the law.
The disciples were surprised when they found Jesus conversing with the Samaritan woman.
The disciples failed to understand what Jesus meant when he said that he had food to eat that they knew nothing about during the conversation with the Samaritan woman.
Phillip and Andrew doubted Jesus' capacity to feed the 5000 people using 200 silver coins, 5 loaves of bread and two fish.
The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on water.
The disciples failed to understand what Jesus meant when he said that Lazarus was asleep and he was going there to wake him up. They thought it was a natural sleep yet Lazarus had died.
During the anointing of Jesus at Bethany Judas rebuked Mary for having wasted expensive perfume to anoint Jesus.
Peter refused Jesus from washing his feet because he did not know what Jesus was doing.
Thomas showed spiritual blindness when he said to Jesus, "lord we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way".
Phillip said to Jesus, "lord show us the father and that will be enough" when Jesus had told them that he was the way to the father.
The disciples failed to understand the actual name of the betrayer when Jesus revealed to them that one of them would betray him during the Lord's Supper.

Judas betrayed Jesus Christ and led the soldiers and some officials from the chief priest to arrest Jesus.

Peter denied Jesus three times in the courtyard.

Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servants during the arrest of Jesus not knowing that Jesus had to drink the cup the father had given him.

When Jesus and the disciples found a man who had been born blind they asked Jesus whose sins had caused the man's blindness wondering whether it was his parent's sins or his own sins.

Thomas doubted the news of Jesus' resurrection when the other disciples told him that they had seen the lord.

When Jesus appeared to the seven disciples on Lake Tiberius they did not understand that the man who had instructed them to throw the net into the water was Jesus.

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time whether he loved him.

THE VIEW THAT THE FOURTH GOSPEL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS CHARACTERIZED BY SYMBOLISM

A striking feature of the gospel of John is the symbolic use of common things from everyday life. It uses ordinary symbols to bring out spiritual truth about God or spiritual realities to his audience. Light symbolizes the true wisdom and spiritual understanding of God for example John the Baptist came to tell people about the light so that all should hear the message and believe.

Light is used in contrast with darkness which symbolizes the forces of evil and sin for example Jesus told Nicodemus that the light had come into the world but people love darkness rather than light.

Truth is used in the Gospel to symbolize God's absolute faithfulness towards fulfilling his promises to mankind.

Water symbolizes the idea of purification and healing for example water in the pool of Bethzatha. Water is used to symbolize the idea of baptism for example water that Jesus poured in the basin to wash the disciples' feet.

Water in the well of Jacob symbolized the religion of Judaism which was ineffective in saving Jews.

Life giving water that Jesus told the Samaritan woman symbolized the religion of Christianity/eternal life.

The term world as used in the prologue symbolized the physically created world in which mankind lives and also symbolized the state of mankind enslaved by sin.

Word as used in the prologue symbolized Jesus himself and it also symbolized the wisdom of God. Bread and wine are used to symbolize the idea of Eucharist/lord's supper.

The cross which Jesus was laid upon at death symbolized the idea of victory in the ministry of Jesus.

Old wine that had got finished during the wedding at Cana symbolized the religion of Judaism.

New wine that Jesus made at the wedding at Cana symbolized the idea of good news/Christianity.

Blood that came out from Jesus' body when a soldier plugged a spear into his body at the cross symbolized the idea of Eucharist/the Lord's Supper.

Water that came out of Jesus' body when a soldier plugged a spear into Jesus' body at the cross symbolized baptism.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, this symbolized that Jesus was to be the ultimate sacrifice on the cross in order to bring salvation to mankind.

Jesus referred to himself as the bread of life which symbolized that he was a provider of food to mankind and whoever would believe in the son would get eternal satisfaction.

Jesus as the good shepherd cares for the sheep symbolized the love of God for mankind revealed through Jesus. This was also in contrast with the bad shepherds/thieves/robbers that never cared about the sheep which symbolized the Jewish leaders.

The term good shepherd symbolized Jesus and the term sheep referred to the new people of God while the phrase “other sheep” referred to the Gentiles.

Jesus said that he was the gate for the sheep; this symbolized that only through him could one enter the kingdom of God.

The term real vine symbolized Jesus, the gardener symbolized God and the branches from the vine symbolized followers of Jesus who were required to bear good deeds of Christianity.

Jesus referred to himself as the way, the truth and the life, this symbolized that Jesus was the way to God; therefore whoever believed in son would get eternal life.

The sign of feeding the five thousand people on five loaves of bread and two fish and turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana were symbols pointing towards heavenly banquet.

Five loaves of bread and five entrances to the pool of Bethzatha symbolized the five the five law books of the Old Testament.

Five husbands that the Samaritan woman had, symbolized the many gods that the Samaritans worshipped and it also symbolized that the Samaritan woman was too immoral in life.

Six jars that were filled with water to the brim at the wedding at Cana symbolized the idea of satisfaction and abundance found in Jesus.

Jesus’ act of cleansing the temple was a symbolic sign showing the destruction of the old system of worship in the temple.

Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night could have been an element of symbolism that he was moving from spiritual darkness of the heart/forces of evil and sin to spiritual light.

Jesus’ anointment at Bethany with an expensive perfume could be understood as a symbolic coronation rite of the true king of Israel who was about to enter the royal city of Jerusalem.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SYMBOLISM IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Bread and wine are symbols often taken during the sacrament of Holy Communion/the lord’s last supper.

Bread and wine symbolize the love of God for mankind revealed through Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the cross.

Bread and wine are symbols of salvation that remind Christians about the death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross.

The cross/rosary reminds Christians about the death of Jesus on the cross which brought salvation to mankind.

The candles that baptismal candidates lit signify that Christians are the light of the world.

The candle light used during baptism shows that the baptismal candidate has received the Holy Spirit from God.

The baptismal candidates dress in white clothes which symbolize purity required of Christians.

The ring that married people are given in church symbolizes faithfulness among married people.

Bread symbolizes the body of Jesus that he sacrificed for the sins of mankind and wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus that he shed for mankind.

The ring used by the clergy symbolizes the union with Jesus Christ.

The scepter used by the bishops symbolizes that they are the heads of the church.

Incense used by the Catholics during worship symbolizes blessings to the congregation.
The lying down of catholic priests during ordination symbolizes obedience towards their superiors.
The palm leaves that Christians carry on Palm Sunday symbolizes the kingship of Jesus and remembrance of the day he entered Jerusalem.
The sprinkling of water on the fore head of a baptismal candidate symbolizes the idea of baptism.
Laying hands upon Christians by the bishops symbolizes giving of blessings to Christians.
The different garments used by Christians symbolize different things, for example white garments symbolize purity/holiness and black symbolizes death and mourning.

THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS; WATER, BREAD AND LIGHT IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Water

Water was to wash away sins and that is why it was used for baptism.
Water stood for eternal life for example the streams of living water flowing from people's hearts John 7:38.
Water in the six jars during the wedding at Cana stood for Judaism which needed to be changed to the new value of the good news.
Water was used in the process of salvation for example Jesus told Nicodemus the need to be born of water and spirit.
Water had a life changing element that would satisfy people's spiritual needs for example the life giving water which Jesus promised to give the Samaritan woman.
Water would quench the spiritual thirst of everyone hence it stood for spiritual life.
During the healing of the crippled man water in the pool was ineffective in healing the man.
Water represented the Holy Spirit which would change people's lives.
Jesus as the life giving water gives both spiritual and physical healing.
Water had healing powers for example Jesus ordered the man born blind to go and wash his face in the pool of Siloam and he restored his sight.
Jesus walked on water towards his disciples meaning that he was divine as well as the messiah.
The symbol water was in fulfillment of the messianic age where water streams would flow in the desert.
Water in the basin during the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus stood for spiritual cleansing.
Water and blood that came out of Jesus' body after it was pierced by the soldier symbolized baptism and the idea of Eucharist.

Bread

Bread symbolized the Eucharist which would mark the new covenant between God and man kind.
It meant that life comes from Jesus Christ as the bread of life.
Bread represented the unleavened bread of the Passover that the Jews celebrated.
Bread gave nourishment meaning that Jesus alone as the bread of life could give people spiritual nourishment.
It meant that eternal life only comes by receiving God's own life given by the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
The five loaves of bread which Jesus multiplied to feed the hungry crowd pointed towards the heavenly banquet that believers in Christ would enjoy.
Bread meant that Jesus gives spiritual strength to his followers.
It meant that Jesus gives spiritual growth to those who receive him as God's word.

It meant Jesus' redemption, death and resurrection.

Bread was compared to the manna that God gave the children of Israel while in the wilderness.

The term bread was pointing to the hunger which people would have for the word of God which is Jesus Christ.

Bread meant that Jesus was the promised messiah for example he was the bread of life that came down from heaven.

Bread meant the divine nature of Jesus like he used five loaves of bread to feed the five thousand people.

It meant the need to put more emphasis on spiritual bread other than the physical bread.

It pointed to the hunger which people would have for the word of God which is Jesus Christ.

Light

The term light was contrasted with darkness, sin, evil and death brought into the world by Satan.

It meant that it's only through Jesus that man gets the meaning of life.

It meant that righteousness can be got through Jesus as the only light.

The term light meant the true wisdom and spiritual understanding of God.

It meant that anyone who believes in Jesus can reach the father because he is the light that shows the way.

It meant that Jesus gives light to those who are spiritually blind.

Through Jesus as the light man can come from the world of sin to righteousness and life.

It meant that those who follow Jesus should do so by faith because Jesus knows the way.

The term light meant the purity of Jesus since he was the light of the world.

It meant that Jesus was a universal savior for both Jews and gentiles since he is the light of the world.

It meant the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures for example the pillars of fire and the burning bush.

It meant that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah.

As the light of the world it is only through Jesus that one can fully understand the scriptures.

Jesus being the light of the world meant his divinity.

SYMBOLS USED IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The symbol of the candle light used during baptism especially among Catholics shows that the new convert has received the Holy Spirit.

Bread which is shared during Holy Communion symbolizes the blood of Jesus which was shed for the sins of mankind.

The symbol of the cross represents the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The white cloth used during baptism symbolizes purity.

Incense used by the catholic priests during worship symbolizes blessings.

Rings used by marriage couples symbolize unity between one man and one wife.

Sprinkling of water on someone's forehead in the catholic and Anglican churches symbolize baptism.

The use of palm leaves during Palm Sunday symbolize Jesus' kingship and also symbolize the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Garments of different colors have different meaning for example white garments symbolize purity and black symbolize mourning.

Lying down during ordination of the catholic priests symbolizes their obedience to the service of the lord.

The ash used during Ash Wednesday symbolizes life and death.

Oil used during anointing stands for purity or anointed one of God.

Laying of hands on believers in the church symbolizes blessings to Christians or commissioning.

THE ROLE OF SIMON PETER AS A LEADER OF THE DISCIPLES IN THE GOSPELS OF MARK AND JOHN

In Mark's Gospel

Simon Peter was the first disciple to be called by Jesus.

It was Simon whom Jesus gave another name as Peter or Cephas.

Peter's name is placed first on the list of the 12 disciples of Jesus.

Peter belonged to the inner circle of Jesus' disciples that included Peter, James and John.

Peter was among the three disciples who witnessed Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter.

Peter is the only disciple whose relative was healed by Jesus that is his mother-in-law.

Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ on behalf of other disciples while at Caesarea Philippi.

Peter was among the three disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus while at a high mountain.

During the transfiguration, it was Peter who suggested to build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Elijah and one for Moses.

Simon Peter led his other companions to search for Jesus in a solitary place where he had been praying.

Simon Peter reminded Jesus that the fig tree he had cursed the previous day had dried which gave Jesus a chance to teach about the importance of faith.

Peter assured Jesus that they had left everything behind so as to follow him on behalf of the disciples.

Peter was the only disciple concerned about the suffering of Jesus and that's why he rebuked him for claiming to be a suffering messiah.

Peter promised Jesus total loyalty even if other disciples deserted him.

Peter was among the three disciples whom Jesus chose to go with him further in the garden of Gethsemane to have a moment of prayer with God.

It was Peter whom Jesus asked on behalf of the other disciples why they had fallen asleep instead of keeping watch.

Peter was the only disciple who followed Jesus during the arrest and even witnessed Jesus' trial.

The women who witnessed the empty tomb were instructed to go and inform Peter about the resurrection of Jesus.

However Peter played a negative role as a leader of the disciples in Mark's gospel in the following ways;

Peter rebuked Jesus for teaching that he was a suffering messiah.

Peter's suggestion to build three tents during the transfiguration showed his lack of understanding of Jesus Christ.

Peter doubted Jesus capacity to curse the fig tree.

Peter denied Jesus three times in the courtyard.

In John's Gospel

Peter was one of the first two disciples that Jesus called and was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew.

Simon Peter was the only disciple whom Jesus gave another name Cephas.

Peter assured Jesus that they had nowhere to go as he was the holy one from God who had words of eternal life (6:68).

During the Lord's Supper, it was Peter who requested the beloved disciple who was seated next to Jesus to ask for the name of the betrayer.

Peter was the only one who tried to defend Jesus during the arrest when he cut off one of the ears of the arresting soldiers.

Peter was the only one who said that he would lay down his life for Jesus (13:37).

Peter was one of the two disciples who accompanied Jesus to the courtyard and witnessed Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin.

Peter was troubled when he heard that Jesus was going to leave them and asked where Jesus was going (13:36).

After hearing the news of resurrection Peter ran to the tomb with John but though Peter reached later he went straight into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying there.

Peter was one of the two disciples who first received the news of Jesus' resurrection from Mary Magdalene.

Peter was the one who led the six disciples to go back fishing where the risen lord appeared to them and they had a miraculous catch.

Peter was the one whom the beloved disciple told that the man who had told them to throw the net on the right side of the boat was the Lord.

When Jesus told the disciples to bring some of the fish they had caught, it was Peter who climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore.

Peter was the only disciple whom Jesus asked whether he loved him and Peter assured him that he truly loved him three times.

Peter was assigned the duty to look after the sheep by Jesus.

He was the only disciple concerned about Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet thinking that thinking that it was his duty to wash Jesus' feet.

However, Peter played a negative role as a leader of the disciples in John's gospel in the following ways;

Peter tried to stop Jesus from washing his feet because he did not know its meaning.

Peter denied Jesus three times in the courtyard.

Peter cut off the ear of one of the arresting soldiers because he failed to understand that Jesus was a suffering messiah.

Peter failed to recognize the risen lord when they had gone fishing on Lake Tiberius.

Peter failed to know the name of the betrayer and asked John the beloved disciple to ask Jesus instead of asking Jesus himself.

THE ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN JESUS' MINISTRY IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN.

In Mark

The woman with constant bleeding had total faith in Jesus which she expressed by touching Jesus' cloak and she was healed.

The Syro-Phoenician woman had great faith in Jesus when she begged Jesus to drive out the demon from her daughter and she was healed.

Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and the people who witnessed the miracle believed in Jesus.

Jesus raised Jairus' daughter to life and those who witnessed the miracle believed in Jesus.

The poor widow expressed her faith when she offered generously all she had and Jesus Christ appreciated her action.

At Bethany, a woman expressed her love and faith in Jesus when she anointed him with expensive perfume. Her action was appreciated by Jesus and was to be spread all over the world.

It was in the house of Mary the mother of John Mark where Jesus and his disciples had the last supper. This showed the love and faith that Mary had towards Jesus.

Women like Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome witnessed the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross showing the faith and affection they had for him.

Women like Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James bought spices so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body which showed the honour and faith they had for him.

Women like Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James were the first to witness the empty tomb and therefore spread the news of Jesus' resurrection to the disciples.

The angel of the lord instructed women to go and inform the disciples about Jesus' resurrection therefore they ran and informed the disciples about Jesus' resurrection.

The risen lord first appeared to Mary Magdalene and therefore she went and spread the news to the disciples who were mourning and weeping.

During Jesus' trial in the courtyard, a slave girl accused Peter of being one of the disciples of Jesus which led to Peter's denial of Jesus hence fulfilling Jesus' prediction.

Herodias the wife of the king Herod played a negative role when she influenced her daughter to demand for the head of John the Baptist which led to his death.

In John

At the wedding at Cana, Mary the mother of Jesus was concerned that there was no wine and informed Jesus about it because of the faith she had in him. This caused Jesus to perform the first sign when he turned water into wine.

The Samaritan woman confessed that Jesus was a prophet and messiah showing the faith she had developed in Jesus.

The Samaritan woman became a disciple of Jesus when she went and informed other Samaritans about Jesus and they all believed.

Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume in preparation for his death and burial. This showed the faith that she had in Jesus.

Jesus forgave the sins of the adulterous woman which helped to show the inefficiency of the Jewish law. The woman should have spread the news of forgiveness to others.

Mary and Martha the sisters of Lazarus showed great faith in Jesus as the messiah when their brother Lazarus had died.

Mary the sister of Lazarus prepared dinner for Jesus showing the affection she had towards him.

Women like Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the wife of Clopas, his mother's sister and Mary Magdalene showed their faith and concern for Jesus when they stood by his cross and witnessed his suffering,

Mary Magdalene was the first to witness the empty tomb and therefore spread the news to Simon Peter and John the beloved disciple.

Mary Magdalene was the first person whom the risen Lord first appeared to and instructed her to go and inform his brothers that he was returning to his father.

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news about the risen lord.

A slave girl identified Peter and asked him whether he was one of the disciples of Jesus hence creating an opportunity for Peter to deny Jesus as Jesus had earlier predicted.

ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL TODAY

Women have been ordained as priests and pastors in Anglican churches which enables them to preach the gospel for example Pastor Jessica Kayanja, Pastor Imelda Namutebi.

Women have composed gospel songs and hymns which have instilled the faith of many believers for example “Nzijekira” by Judith Babirye.

Women organize religious conferences and seminars to spread the gospel for example girl power conference by Pastor Jessica Kayanja.

Among the Catholics, women have been ordained as nuns and their dedication to the service of the Lord has attracted many to Christianity.

Women serve as ushers in various churches which enable them spread the gospel.

Women conduct Sunday school lessons to the young.

Women are good at leading and organizing fellowships which instill faith among believers.

Women have offered charity to the needy people in society through various organizations for example UWESO.

Women teach Christian religious education in schools and higher institutions of learning which has had an impact on some students.

Women preach the gospel in churches and public places like taxis and along the street.

Christian nurses in hospitals have contributed to the spread of the Gospel by preaching to the sick and praying for them.

Some women carry out missionary journeys to different parts of the country to spread the gospel.

Women groups like mothers’ union, Christian women fellowship under the Anglican Church have been formed and have preached the gospel and fostered discipline among Christians.

Christian mothers have a lot of influence on their children’s behaviors through prayer right from the time of birth.

Women take part in church choirs where they lead praise and worship hence spreading the gospel.

Some have been good at convincing men and in particular their husbands to become Christians and change their behavior.

Some women have established churches where the gospel is spread for example Liberty Worship Centre in Lugala by Pastor Imelda Namutebi.

Some women have written Christian literature like magazines which teach Christianity and also guide Christians on how to live morally upright.

THE ROLE/SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GENTILES IN JESUS’ MINISTRY IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND JOHN

In Mark

The gentiles were open to the teachings of Jesus for example the crowd which appeared to Jesus on Lake Galilee were from gentile areas like Tyre, Sidon and these believed in Jesus. They might also have spread the gospel to others.

Aramaic words like Golgotha, TalithaKoum and Rabbi were translated so that the gentiles would understand them and spread the gospel to others.

Jesus healed the demoniac at Gerasa, a gentile territory. The demoniac became a disciple of Jesus after the healing and the news must have spread to others.

The healing of the deaf mute in a gentile territory made the people there to believe and the news could have spread to other gentiles.

The Syro-Phoenician woman had total faith in Jesus and her daughter was healed of a demon. She must have spread the good news to other gentiles.

Jesus fed the four thousand people in a gentile area. These people had been with Jesus for some time showing the faith they had in him and must have spread the good news to others after the miracle.

Jesus healed the blind man at Bethsaida and this made the people around to believe in him.

In the parable of the mustard seed, the term birds in the air meant the gentiles who would receive the good news and take it to the whole world.

Peter's confession of Jesus as the messiah was in a gentile area Caesarea Philippi and this meant the kingdom of God had come to the gentiles as well.

The transfiguration of Jesus happened in a gentile area which meant that gentiles were important in the salvation of mankind.

During the cleansing of the temple Jesus said that the temple was his father's house for prayer for all people of all nations which meant that gentiles were free to worship God in the temple.

Pontius Pilate was reluctant to sentence Jesus to death because he realized that Jesus was innocent. Simon of Cyrene a gentile carried the cross of Jesus to Golgotha and through him the gospel must have spread to North Africa a gentile land.

The roman centurion confessed that Jesus was the son of God after witnessing his unique death. He must have spread the news about Jesus to others.

At the death of Jesus Christ there was tearing of the temple curtain into two from top to bottom which meant that salvation was opened to all including gentiles.

Jesus instructed his apostles to preach the good news to all parts of the world which meant the importance of gentiles in the salvation plan.

In John

John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the sins of the world which meant that salvation was even for the gentiles.

Aramaic words like Golgotha, Rabbi are translated so that the gentiles could understand the gospel. The roman officer had great faith in Jesus and his son was healed. This made the family members and other people to believe in Jesus.

Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and having told her about her past, the woman confessed that Jesus was a prophet as well as messiah.

The Samaritan woman went and called other Samaritans to come and see Jesus and they all believed in him. This woman therefore became a disciple of Jesus.

Jesus cleansed the temple in the Jerusalem which had been misused by the Jews so that the gentiles could come and worship in the temple.

Jesus referred to himself as the light of the world which meant that he had brought salvation to both Jews and gentiles.

In the discourse of I am the good shepherd Jesus said there were other sheep which belonged to him that were not in the sheep pen but he would also bring them. This meant that he had brought salvation even to the gentiles.

Many Samaritans, whom the Samaritan woman testified to, came to Jesus and begged him to stay with them which he accepted. This meant that Jesus had come even for the gentiles and many believed in him.

The Samaritans confessed that Jesus was the savior of the world because they had heard Jesus' words themselves.

Jesus accepted to see the Greeks who came looking for him and he told them many things. This meant that he was concerned about the gentiles.

When Jesus prayed to God, he said that God gave him authority over all mankind so that whoever believed in him would receive eternal life. This meant that Jesus had come even for the gentiles.

Pilate realized that Jesus was innocent although he sentenced him to death by crucifixion.

The notice on Jesus' cross was written in Greek, Aramaic and Latin to show that the gentiles were important in Jesus' ministry.

Pilate wrote a notice on Jesus' cross which read, Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews which the chief priests protested. However Pilate insisted on what he had written.

ROLE PLAYED BY FOREIGNERS IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL TODAY

Positive Role

Some foreigners have given financial assistance to the churches hence helping in the spread of the gospel for example Verona fathers in northern Uganda.

Some foreigners have performed miracles hence converting many to Christianity for example Benny Hinn healed many people at Namboole.

Foreigners have continuously preached the gospel in Uganda for example Joyce Meyer, Benny Hinn, Richard Bonkey.

Some foreigners have given scholarships to Christians in Uganda to study abroad.

Some foreigners have provided Christian literature like bibles and Christian magazines to the Ugandans hence spreading the gospel.

Some foreigners have offered charity to the needy orphans, street children and widows.

Some have come with Audio-visual machines like keyboards, loud speakers, projectors and video tapes which they have offered freely to churches hence helping in the spread of the gospel.

Some foreigners have physically established churches where the gospel is spread.

Some foreigners have advocated for peace talks and discouraged armed conflicts in areas affected by war in northern Uganda.

Some foreigners have sponsored building of Christian radio stations for example radio Maria.

Some foreigners have sponsored the establishment of Christian schools and theological colleges where Christian religious education is taught.

Some foreigners have lived good spiritual life that the African believers have emulated.

Some foreigners have carried out holy pilgrimages to holy places in Uganda where they have preached to many for example Pope Francis' visit to Namungongo martyrs shrine where the Uganda martyrs were killed.

Some foreigners have established hospitals that offer cheap and sometimes free services to people.

Negative Role

Some foreigners have encouraged bad practices among the youth for example homosexuality and lesbianism.

Some foreigners have forged miracles to attract followers.

Some foreigners are false preachers and therefore have misguided the believers.

Some have ignored important sacraments like the Lord's Supper and Baptism.
Some have caused divisions in church due to differences in doctrines.
Some tolerate polygamy and divorce which contradict Christian teachings.
Some dress indecently hence affecting the African culture and values.
Some carry out illegal trade like drug trafficking.
Some foreigners have promoted great desire for wealth through their prosperity gospel.
Some foreigners condemn all that is African for example music, dance and drama in favor for foreign music.

HOW THE MINISTRY OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS OF MARK AND JOHN IS CONNECTED TO THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

In Mark

John the Baptist appeared in the desert calling upon people to repent their sins hence fulfilling Isaiah 40:3 "voices of one calling in the desert prepare the way for the lord".

During the baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon him and the voice of God declared him as his dear son with whom he was pleased hence fulfilling Isaiah 42:1.

When Jesus went into the desert wild animals were there but God sent Angels to help him. This reflected the old testament teaching about Prophet Daniel who was locked up in a den of hungry lions but God sent angels to shut up their mouths (Daniel 6:16-21).

Jesus' calling of the twelve disciples reflected the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus' healing of the deaf mute, paralyzed man and the blind Bartimaeus reflected the Old Testament scripture in Isaiah 35:5-6 that the blind will see, the lame will leap and the deaf will talk.

Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter to life reflected the Old Testament teaching about Prophet Elijah who raised the widow's son to life.

Jesus' feeding of the 5000 and 4000 people on bread and fish reflected the Exodus event when God fed Israelites on quails and Manna Exodus 16:13-17.

The five loaves of bread which Jesus used to feed the five thousand people represented the five law books of the Old Testament.

Jesus' walking on water reflected the Old Testament scriptures when Moses led the Israelites to cross the red sea.

When Jesus healed the leper he instructed him to go to the priest for examination and to offer a sacrifice as Moses had commanded them. This fulfilled Leviticus 13:20.

Jesus used parables as a commonest method of preaching about the kingdom of God for example the parable of the mustard seed. This reflected the use of parables by Prophet Nathan to King David.

During the transfiguration of Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared standing besides Jesus. Moses reflected the Old Testament law while Elijah reflected the Old Testament prophets.

The anointing of Jesus at Bethany with expensive perfume reflected the Old Testament scriptures about the anointing of kings for example Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as a king of Israel.

During the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem Jesus rode on a colt hence fulfilling Zachariah 9:9.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd called upon God to bless the ones who comes in the name of the Lord. This fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures in Psalms 118:26 "blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".

During the cleansing of the temple, Jesus said that the temple was his father's house of prayer for people of all nations hence fulfilling Isaiah 56:7.

Jesus was rejected by his own people at Nazareth which reflected the rejection of God's prophets by the people in the Old Testament.

The last supper which Jesus had with his disciples fulfilled and replaced the Passover meal that the Israelites celebrated in the Old Testament.

The suffering that Jesus experienced for example his arrest at night, trial before the Sanhedrin council and before Pilate reflected the Old Testament teaching about the suffering messiah in Isaiah 53.

During the crucifixion, Jesus cried out saying "my God, my God why have you forsaken me?" hence fulfilling Psalms 22:1.

In John

In the prologue, it is shown that in the very beginning there was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. This reflected the Old Testament scriptures about creation of the universe in Genesis 1 and 2.

John the Baptist is presented as a fore runner of Jesus hence fulfilling Malachi 3:1.

Jesus fed the 5000 people on bread and fish hence reflecting the Exodus event when God fed the Israelites on quails and manna in the desert.

The five loaves of bread which Jesus multiplied to feed the 5000 people represented the five law books of the Old Testament.

The twelve baskets of leftovers during the feeding of the 5000 people represented the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus healing of the man born blind reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Isaiah 35:5-6.

When Jesus walked on water towards his disciples it reflected the crossing of the red sea by the Israelites under the leadership of Moses.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus to life reflected the raising of the widow's son by prophet Elijah.

In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus Jesus said that as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the son of the man would be lifted up hence fulfilling Numbers 21:9.

Jesus' cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem reflected Isaiah 56:7.

The anointing of Jesus at Bethany reflected the anointing of kings in the Old Testament for example Prophet Samuel anointed King Saul.

During the triumphal entry Jesus rode on a colt hence fulfilling Psalms 118:26.

Jesus' use of 'I am' statements reflects the divine voice of God during the burning bush incident "I am who I am".

Jesus' use of I am the good shepherd reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Ezekiel 34 about the shepherds and the sheep.

The suffering that Jesus experienced in his ministry reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Isaiah 53 about the suffering messiah.

During the washing of the disciples' feet Jesus gave a new commandment to the disciples to love one another which reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Isaiah 53 about the suffering messiah.

The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes amongst themselves which fulfilled Psalms 22:18 "they divide my clothes among them".

While at the cross, Jesus became thirsty and was given wine to drink. This reflected Psalms 69:21 "they gave me vinegar for my thirst".

When Jesus was on the cross, his bones were not broken since he had already died which reflected the Old Testament scriptures in Exodus 12:46 about the Passover lamb whose legs were not broken.

“Jesus appears to reveal himself and his nature more in the gospel of John than in the gospel of Mark” Justify this view.

It’s true the messiahship of Jesus is more open in John’s gospel than in Mark’s gospel where it’s hidden.

In Mark the beginning is seen as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies while in John’s gospel Jesus is straight away seen as the Logos/creative word of God.

At Jesus’ baptism, John the Baptist hears the voice of God in John’s gospel while in Mark the voice of God was only a secret to Jesus Christ.

In John’s gospel Jesus is seen so strong that even John the Baptist’s disciples change their allegiance to him instantly while in Mark John’s disciples remained unique to him alone.

In John’s gospel there is a strong confession from John the Baptist that Jesus is greater than him because he existed before he was born while in Mark he only confesses that he was greater than him because he baptized with the Holy Spirit.

In Mark when Jesus performed some miracles he ordered some people to keep quiet about what had happened to them while in John’s gospel all signs are open claim that he is a messiah.

In John’s gospel Jesus performs signs at his will and when the time comes for example his response to his mother at the wedding in Cana while in Mark Jesus is always requested and then he responds for example the leper and the Syro-Phoenician woman.

In John’s gospel Jesus makes open claim that he is from above and he and his father were one while in Mark he refers to himself as the son of man hence hiding his identity.

In John’s gospel Jesus tells the Pharisees that he was older than Abraham while in Mark Jesus tells the disciples not to say what they had seen on the transfiguration.

The seven great I am statements of Jesus show Jesus’ majesty in John’s gospel while in Mark’s gospel Jesus uses the title son of man as a way of hiding his messiahship.

In Mark’s gospel Jesus suffers terribly in the garden of Gethsemane while in John’s gospel Jesus is weak and arrested; besides there is no agony.

In John’s gospel the soldiers who came to arrest Jesus were realized his power, so withdrew a bit and fell down on the ground while in Mark the soldiers easily arrested him.

In Mark’s gospel Jesus is so weak and was assisted by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross to Golgotha while in John Jesus carried his own cross.

In John’s gospel, the cross is where Jesus Christ is seen glorified while in Mark the cross is a battle between Jesus and Satan.

In John’s gospel while Jesus was on the cross Jesus seems to say more words than in Mark’s gospel where he says fewer words.

In Mark’s gospel Jesus’ final words of mourning were “my God my God why have you forsaken me” while in John’s gospel it was a sign of victory where Jesus said it’s finished.

In John’s gospel, the Samaritan woman confessed that Jesus was a Prophet and the messiah which openly revealed his messiahship while in Mark’s gospel after Peter’s declaration of Jesus as the Christ, he ordered him not to tell anyone about it.

In Mark’s gospel Jesus uses parables to hide his identity whereas in John Jesus used discourses where he openly revealed his messiahship.

In John's gospel there are more appearances of Jesus' resurrection to his disciples and followers like his appearance to Thomas, the seven disciples and to Mary Magdalene while in Mark's gospel few of Jesus' appearances to his disciples are recorded.

In John's gospel, the extra ordinary happenings of Jesus were referred to as signs while in Mark's gospel they are known as miracles.

UNEB QUESTIONS

1. (a) How does the John's gospel present the messiah ship of Jesus?
(b) Comment on the significance of the use of the phrase 'I AM' by Jesus in the Gospel of John
(2000)
2. a) Discuss the significance of water in the gospel of John.
b) Comment on the other symbols the church uses today. (2000)
3. "Jesus appears to reveal himself and his nature more in the gospel of John than in the gospel of Mark "Justify the view. (2001)
4. a) Explain the significance of raising Lazarus back to life in the gospel of John.
b) Comment on the attitude of the audience in this incident.
(2001)
5. a) Discuss the significance of the cleansing of the temple in John's gospel.
b) What relevance might a Christian see in this incident? (2001)
6. Discuss the following in the gospel of John:
a) Authorship and the date of writing
b) Purpose of writing the gospel
c) Destination/ audience of the gospel (2002)
7. a) Examine the significance of the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-25.
b) Discuss the relevance of this conversation to the church today.
(2002)
8. 'Jesus was both truly human and truly divine'. Examine this statement giving relevant examples from John's gospel. (2003)
9. a) Explain the significance of the healing of the man crippled for thirty eight years
(John 5:1-18).
b) Discuss the lessons that Christians can learn from this sign. (2003)
10. a) Why was there hostility to Jesus Christ at the Feast of Dedication in John's gospel John10:23-42?
b) Discuss the problems people meet in Uganda today in accepting Jesus Christ as their savior.
(2003)
11. Analyse the use of parables in the gospel of Mark and discourses in the gospel of John.
(2004)
12. a) Examine the significance of the cleansing of the Temple in John's gospel.
b) Explain the relevance of this cleansing to a modern Christian.
(2004)
13. a) Explain the meaning of the sign of feeding the 5000 people in John's gospel.
b) Discuss the relevance of this sign to the Christian community today. (2004)
14. Analyse the role of women in Jesus' ministry as depicted in John's gospel.
(2004)

15. Compare the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and eventual death in the gospel of Mark and John. (2005)
- 16.a) Discuss the significance of turning water into wine at the wedding Cana. John 2:1-11
 b) Why is this event included among the major signs in John's gospel? (2005)
17. a) Examine the meaning of Jesus' conversation with Martha and Mary in John 11:1-53 about Lazarus.
 b) Discuss the lessons modern Christians can learn from this conversation. (2005)
18. a) Analyze the circumstances under which the man born blind was healed.
 b) To what extent are Christians in Uganda blind about Jesus Christ today? (2006)
19. Discuss the spiritual meaning of the symbols of water, bread and light. (2006)
20. "I am the true vine and my father is the gardener and you are the branches" John 15:15
 a) Explain the meaning of this statement.
 b) To what extent has the church lived to the expectations of the above statement in (a)? (2006)
21. To what extent were Jewish leaders responsible for the death of Jesus on the cross in the Gospels of John and Mark? (2007)
22. a) Account for the increasing hostility between Jesus and the Jewish leaders as portrayed in John.
 b) Give reasons for the conflicts among the church leaders in Uganda today. (2007)
23. a) Discuss the significance of Jesus' raising of Lazarus to life.
 b) Explain the church teaching about the resurrection of believers. (2007)
24. "I am the good shepherd..." John 10:11.
 a) Discuss the significance of this statement in John's gospel
 b) What lessons can the Christian church learn from the above? (2007)
25. a) Examine the significance of the prologue in John's gospel.
 b) What do Christians learn from this prologue? (2008)
26. a) Discuss the importance of Jesus' healing of the official's son (John 4:43-54)
 b) What lessons can a Christian learn from this healing? (2008)
27. a) Why was the gospel of John written?
 b) Examine the characteristics of John's gospel (2009)
28. a) Discuss the teaching of John's gospel on the Holy Spirit.
 b) Examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the church today. (2009)
29. Examine the importance of the prologue of John's gospel (1:1-18) to the rest of the gospel. (2010)
30. a) Analyse John's teaching on the Holy Spirit
 b) In what ways have Christians in Uganda limited the working of the Holy Spirit in the church? (2010)
31. a) 'Mark and John's gospel portray Peter as the leader of the disciples' Justify this statement

- b) What lessons can Christians learn from Peter?
(2010)
32. a) Discuss the significance of the first sign Jesus performed in the gospel of John.
b) Comment on the divine signs Christians experience in our modern times.
(2011)
33. a) Explain the significance of Jesus' feeding of the five thousand men in John's gospel.
b) What is the relevance of this event for Christians today?
(2011)
34. Jesus earnestly prayed for Himself and his disciples in John 17.
a) Analyse the content of this prayer
b) What is the relevance of this prayer to the church?
(2011)
35. a) Analyse the role of women in Jesus' ministry in the gospels of Mark and John.
b) Discuss the contribution of women in the spread of the gospel in Uganda today.
(2012)
36. a) Explain the meaning of the cleansing of the Temple in John's gospel.
b) Examine the wrong things in the church today that may require cleansing.
(2012)
37. Discuss the significance of Jesus' conversation with;
a) Nicodemus
b) The Samaritan woman (2012)
38. Discuss the:
a) Similarities and,
b) differences between the presentation of the Lord's supper in the gospels of Mark and John.
(2013)
39. a) How does the author of John's gospel show that John the Baptist is a subordinate to Jesus?
b) Discuss the role of John the Baptist in the New Testament. (2013)
40. "Then He poured some water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet..." John 13:15
GNB
a) Discuss the meaning of Jesus' washing of the disciple's feet.
b) What relevance does this act of Jesus have for the church leaders today? (2013)
41. a) Analyse the evidence in the New Testament to show that Jesus resurrected.
b) Comment on the importance of Jesus' resurrection to Christians today. (2014)
42. a) Analyse the importance of signs in John's gospel.
b) Account for the decline in the performance of miracles in the church in Uganda today.
(2014)
43. 'The gospel of John openly reveals the messiah ship of Jesus.' Justify the statement.
(2015)
44. a) Explain the significance of the raising of Lazarus for the understanding of the person and teaching of Jesus Christ to those who witnessed it.
b) What significance does it have for Christians in Uganda today? (2015)
45. a) Analyze the circumstances under which Jesus turned water into wine.
b) What did this sign signify? (2016)
46. In the healing at the pool (John 5:1-15), John describes the restoration of an invalid who had suffered for 38 years.
a) Explain the significance of this sign.

- b) Why did the man's healing raise concern among the Jews? (2016)
47. "I am the good shepherd..." John 10:14. Analyze the meaning of this statement. (2016)
48. (a) Why did Jesus use discourses in his teaching in John's gospel?
 (b) How effective was the use of discourses by Jesus in the gospel of John? (2017)
49. (a) Discuss the significance of Jesus' appearance to his disciples after resurrecting in John's gospel.
 (b) Explain the ways in which Jesus reveals himself to believers today. (2017)
50. Account for Jesus' arrest and crucifixion in the gospels of Mark and John. (2017)
51. (a) Examine the significance of Jesus' healing of the official's son in John's gospel. (John 4: 46-54)
 (b) Suggest lessons that leaders can learn from the official. (2018)
52. "..... if anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone to her." John 8:7 (NIV)
 (a) Examine the significance of the above suggestion by Jesus Christ.
 (b) In what ways can religious leaders apply this teaching in their ministry? (2018)
53. (a) Analyse the significance of Jesus' healing of the man born blind. John 9:1-12.
 (b) Examine the ways in which Christians today tend to be blind to the teachings of Jesus Christ. (2019)
54. Jesus said to them "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." John 8:7b. (NIV)
 (a) Explain the implication of this statement.
 (b) What can Christians in Uganda today learn from this incident? (2019)