

TREASURES of OUR FAITH

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Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics. This week we'll look at the different portraits of Jesus in the Gospels.

The four Gospels of the New Testament each portray Jesus in different, unique ways. There are many different portraits of Jesus that can be interpreted from the gospels, but each book has its own strong idea of who Jesus was.

The portrait of Jesus found in **Matthew** shows Jesus as the Messiah, we also see a portrait of Jesus as the law-giver. He is compared to Moses who atop Mount Sinai received the law from God and we then have Jesus giving us the new law on the mount in the Beatitudes. Jesus is portrayed as the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. Matthew contains several references to the Old Testament, they are there to show us that Jesus was talked about before he came to the earth to be with us.

The portrait of Jesus found in **Mark** shows Jesus as a man of action, we see this in Jesus' healing of those in need, in His walking on water, in calming the storm, but we also see a portrait of Jesus as the 'Suffering Servant' who comes to save humanity and who takes on the sins of the world upon himself to save us.

The portrait of Jesus found in **Luke** shows us the compassionate Jesus, who tells us the many stories of how God is compassionate and merciful to the sinner. We have the parables of the lost coin, the lost sheep, the prodigal son and the good Samaritan.

The portrait of Jesus found in **John** is one of high Christology, where Jesus was always God. Jesus is described as the Word of God who always existed with God. John stresses the need for service. We find here the washing of the feet at the Last supper which is a beautiful example for us of humility and service.

These portraits of Jesus help to give us a fuller picture of who Jesus was. It is through these different characteristics that we can begin to know Jesus more fully and hopefully deepen our own relationship with Him.