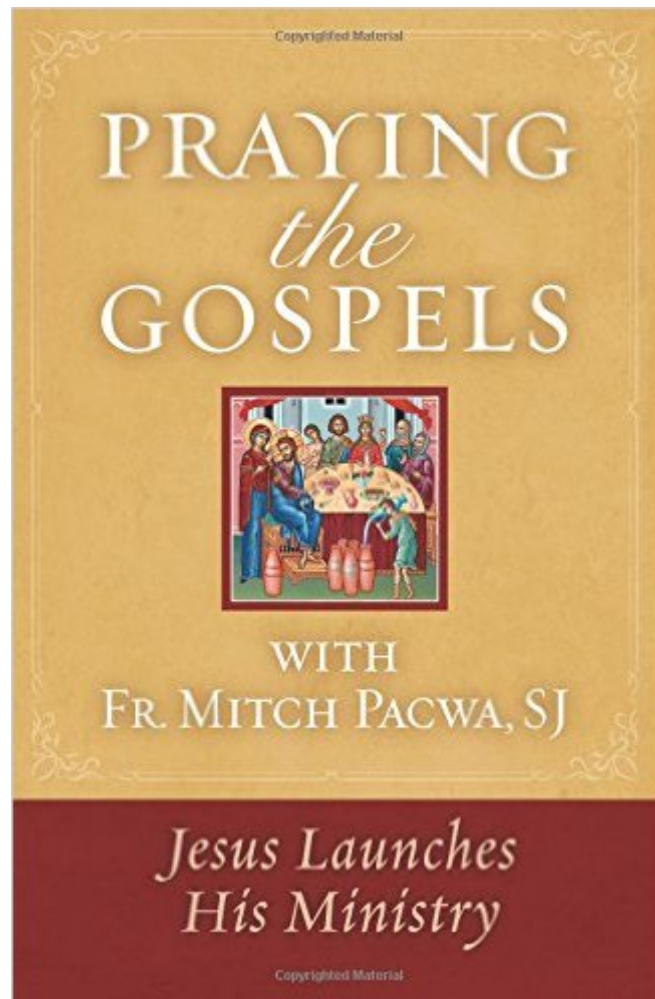


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Praying The Gospels With Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ: Jesus Launches His Ministry



Synopsis

Fr. Mitch Pacwa has a gift for opening up the Scriptures, and he offers Catholics such a gift in this book of meditations on the beginnings of Jesus public ministry. Based on Ignatian principles, the thirty-nine meditations are meant to help readers use their imagination to enter into the Gospel scene and experience the presence of Jesus. From Jesus baptism in the Jordan to his temptation in the desert and the wedding feast at Cana, Fr. Pacwa provides fascinating background information about the text, such as the geography of Palestine and Jewish customs and ideas. Then he asks a series of questions that are intended to lead readers into a deeper examination of their own life and mission in the world today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the medium for a quiet discussion with Jesus about our lives, our life experiences and our thoughts for the future. Fr. Pacwa has us interacting in a very personal, relaxed way with Our Lord, using Scripture as the place setting. One question took me three weeks to answer as I had to really look back on my life. This can lead to a great experience with Jesus if we take our time and can be honest with Him and us.

Fr. Mitch Pacwa gives a few verses at a time when covering a period of Jesus's life, starting with His Baptism to Jesus's temptations then his teaching in the synagogue. Follow this with the first miracle (or as John calls it- a 'sign'), the calls others to follow and Jesus moving into Galilee and

calls others, expels demons and teaches by the lake in a boat and calls his followers to abandon their life to be 'fisher of men'. Take this a few verses per day (or topic in the theme) and you can complete this book in about forty days. Sounds like it may be even good during lent, or perhaps advent/christmastime.

Praying the Gospels with Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ is excellent! I took it to the Bible study/Prayer group I belong to and they dropped the one we were doing to use this one. We all enjoy it and get a lot out of it.

Fr. Pacwa breaks down the gospels by explaining what was going on during the time of Jesus. He points out many things that I had never thought about, even after reading the complete Bible several times. Love this book.

Fr. Pacwa poses very thoughtful questions to consider after he comments on short gospel readings. He supplies some information that the reader probably never knew before or considered. Good meditations.

In recent years, I have used Fr. Mitch Pacwa's Bible Study books available from Our Sunday Visitor, and I have always been pleased with the books. When I found out that The Word Among Us Press had a new Bible Study series by Fr. Pacwa, I knew that I had to give this a try. The series is called Praying the Gospels and the first two books are Jesus Launches His Ministry and Jesus' Miracles in Galilee. Each book is designed to help you reflect better on specific events in Jesus' life and ministry. Let me tell you about the books. Jesus Launches His Ministry is an approximately 175 page book that is divided into the following eight chapters: 1. The Baptism of Jesus 2. Temptations in the Wilderness 3. Between Baptism and Capernaum 4. The Wedding Feast at Cana 5. Jesus Inaugurates His Public Ministry 6. The First Exorcism and Manifestation of Jesus' Authority 7. The Transition from Capernaum to the Galilean Ministry 8. Put Out into the Deep Jesus' Miracles in Galilee is also an approximately 175 page book that picks up where the first book left off. It is divided into the following thirteen chapters: 1. Jesus Begins His Preaching Mission throughout Galilee 2. The Cleansing of the Leper 3. The Healing of a Paralytic 4. The Healing of a Man with a Withered Hand 5. The Centurion's Request for a Healing 6. The Raising of the Widow of Nain's Son 7. Storms at Sea 8. The Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman and Jairus' Daughter 9. The Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish 10. Walking on the Storms of Life 11. A Syrophenician Woman 12. Jesus Heals a Deaf Man 13. Sailing

to Bethsaida. Within each chapter, there are several meditations, which break apart subsections of the Gospel passage. For example, in "The Baptism of Jesus." we see six meditations, which cover topics such as John the Baptist, Jesus' journey to the Jordan River, and the manifestation of the Trinity. Within these meditations, Fr. Pacwa instructs us with other Scripture passages, both Old and New Testament. He then probes the reader with reflection questions to answer and provides several lines at the end of each meditation to give you ample room to answer the questions and write your thoughts. The books are nice in that they chronologically and thematically walk us through the Gospels. No one Gospel is the focus of these books, but instead Fr. Pacwa draws from all four of them to give us a complete picture. I also like the fact that each meditation is only a few pages long and only focuses on a tiny bit of the Gospel. Too often, when we read Gospel, we try and read a whole chapter at a time. These chapters contain a lot of parables, miracles, and other events that make it hard to grasp all at once. Fr. Pacwa eliminates this with his bite-size approach. I wish there had been a book before these two that focused on Mary, Joseph, and the infancy passages of Jesus, but the focus of this series seems to be the three years of Jesus' ministry and not the thirty years prior. That wish aside, I would highly recommend these books, for someone looking to take a slow, deliberate, and meditative walk through the Gospels. I look forward to seeing how many more books there will be in this series and am sure to recommend them as much as I recommend these two.

Excellent book and excellent author.

Excellent stuff from Father Mitch. Those who listen to EWTN will really enjoy it.

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