

# FRIDAY MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Fridays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., in the Parlor

## **CATCHING UP WITH JESUS**

by  
Diarmuid O'Murchu

- ❖ **September 9**
  - *Bringing Jesus Out of Captivity (I)*  
(pages 1-22)
- ❖ **September 16**
  - *Bringing Jesus Out of Captivity (II)*  
(pages 22-42)
- ❖ **September 23**
  - *Jesus and the Quantum Worldview*
- ❖ **September 30**
  - *My Relational Matrix*
  - *My Identity and Yours!*
- ❖ **October 7**
  - *The Long-awaited Messiah*
  - *Holy Wisdom in the Power of the Spirit*
  - *Loved Unconditionally*
- ❖ **October 14**
  - *I Love Stories*
  - *Wisdom Has Set Her Table*
  - *A New Commandment I Give You!*
- ❖ **October 21**
  - *Did I Work Miracles?*
  - *Casting Out Evil Spirits*
  - *In Memory of Her*
- ❖ **October 28**
  - *Salvation: What a Price!*
  - *When Hope Defies!*
  - *Birthing Embodied Love!*

## ❖ **November 4**

- *Birthing through Justice*
  - *Birthing a New Reign of Radical Inclusiveness*
  - *'Til We Meet Again!*
  - *Aftermath*
- 

## **BIBLICAL LITERALISM**

### **A Gentile Heresy**

by  
John Shelby Spong

- ❖ **January 6**
  - Preface*
  - PART I: HOW THE GOSPELS CAME TO BE WRITTEN: THE LITURGICAL YEAR OF THE SYNAGOGUE AS THE ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE
    - *Stating the Problem, Setting the Stage*
    - *Setting Jesus into the Context of History*
- ❖ **January 13**
  - *The Oral Phase: Entering the Tunnel of Silence*
  - *Discovering the Clue That Organized the Synoptic Gospels*
  - *Matthew's Dependency on Mark*
- ❖ **January 20**
  - PART II: FROM AFTER PASSOVER TO SHAVUOT: BIRTH TO EARLY MINISTRY
    - *Genealogy and Birth*
    - *Joseph: Myth or History?*
- ❖ **January 27**
  - *The Magi and Their Gifts: An Original Sermon?*
  - *Herod and Pharaoh: Jesus and Moses*
  - *The Baptism of Jesus: Moses Relived*
  - *Into the Wilderness:  
Forty Days, Not Forty Years*

❖ **February 3**

PART III: SHAVUOT AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: SINAI REVISITED

- *Jesus' Return to the Symbolic Sinai*
- *The Lord's Prayer: Taught by Jesus or Composed by the Church?*

❖ **February 10**

PART IV: ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR: MIRACLES AND TEACHING

- *Jesus' Journey from Shavuot to Rosh Hashanah*
- *Matthew's Introduction of Jesus as a Miracle Worker*
- *Matthew's Take on the Work of the Kingdom*

❖ **February 17**

PART V: YOM KIPPUR: THE CHALLENGE OF ATONEMENT THEOLOGY

- *Introducing Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement*
- *Demystifying the Unforgivable Sin: Matthew's Story at Yom Kippur*
- *The Curse of Atonement Theology*

❖ **February 24**

PART VI: FROM SUKKOTH ONWARD: THE NEW HARVEST

- *The Symbols of Sukkoth and the Food That Satisfies Hunger*
- *The Beheading of John the Baptist*
- *Loaves and Fishes, Walking on Water: Moses Stories Expanded*
- *Two Characters, Two Insights*

❖ **March 3**

PART VII: DEDICATION-HANUKKAH AND TRANSFIGURATION: THE LIGHT OF GOD REINTERPRETED

- *Dedication: The Return of the Light of God*
- *The Transfiguration: A Dedication-Hanukkah Story*

❖ **March 10**

PART VIII: JOURNEY TOWARD PASSOVER: APOCALYPSE AND JUDGMENT

- *Introducing the Journey Section of Matthew's Gospel*
- *The Heart of the Journey*
- *Apocalypse Now: The Final Judgment*

❖ **March 17**

PART IX: PASSOVER AND PASSION: THE CLIMAX

- *The Climactic Events of the Passion Narrative*
- *Probing the Passion Narrative for Interpretive Clues*
- *The Passion Narrative as Liturgy*

❖ **March 24**

PART X: MATTHEW'S EASTER STORY: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

- *Easter Dawns: Myth or Reality?*
- *Matthew's Call to Life*