Discussion: texts from the Gospels (the sayings and deeds of Jesus) that are directly relevant to Francis’s idea of “evangelical life” or “following the Gospel.”

All groups will be asked to examine some or all of the following themes in one or more Gospels directly relevant to Francis’s idea of “evangelical life”:

**Topic 1**: The Kingdom of God (when it comes, where it is, what it is, who can enter)

**Topic 2**: Attachments (what should one do with material possessions and money; idea of poverty; what should one do about family relations)

**Topic 3**: Attitude to other human beings, especially the weak and the marginalized (the poor, the sick, sinners, children), and the high (master) and low (servant) positions of human beings (how should one be positioned as regards other human beings)

The groups are to find, copy, and present to class (as well as submit by e-mail) texts (such as statements or deeds of Jesus) that are directly relevant to one or more of the topics (see group assignments below). As there are more texts than one can read in 12 minutes, the groups are to summarize the main points and read only the most relevant lines or statements.

The discussion will focus on the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). As the number and length of references to the above three topics is not even in the three Gospels, the task will be divided between the 5 groups more or less evenly, depending on the amount of material to be gained from the Gospels. As the above three topics are limited to certain chapters in the Gospels, the assignment will also indicate to which chapters the search should be limited.

**Group 1**: Mark, chapters 1-10, all three topics

**Group 2**: Luke, chapters 3-18, topic #1

**Group 3**: Matthew, chapters 4-19, topics #1 and 2

**Group 4**: Matthew, chapters 5-21, topic #3; Luke, chapters 3-22, topic #3

**Group 5**: Luke, chapters 5-22, topic #2

You may use any standard translation of the gospels, either online or in hard copy, but the closest to the text that was available to Francis and his followers is the King James English translation of the Latin version of the Bible called the Vulgate:

http://www.biblestudytools.com/kjv/