Themes and texts from the Gospels relevant to the Franciscan movement

Kingdom of God

Matthew (consistently ton ouranōn)

4:17, From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (μετανοεῖτε, ἡγγικέν)

5:3, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:10, Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:19, Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
5:20, For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

6:25-27, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

6:28-30, And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

6:31-33, Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

10:7, And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (ἡγγισκέν)
11:21, if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (μετενόησεν)
12:28, But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.
13:44-46, Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.
18:2-6, And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted (ἐὰν μὴ στραφήτε), and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

19:14, But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark (consistently tou theou)

1:4, John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (μετανοία)

1:15, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (_GENERIC μετανοεῖτε καὶ πιστεύετε ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ)

1:45, Jesus was επ᾽ ἐρήμοις τόποις

4:11, And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

4:26-30, KG as a seed; 4:31-32, [mustard seed] It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

6:12, [mission] And they went out, and preached that men should repent. (ἰνα μετανοοῦσιν)

9:1, And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

9:13, But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

10:14-15, But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Luke (consistently tou theou)

3:3, [John] And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; (μετανοία)

4:43, And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

[=sermon] 6:20, And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.
7:28, For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

8:1, And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, (εὐαγγελιζόμενος)

9:27, But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

10:9, 11, And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. <...> notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. (Ἠγγίκεν)

11:20, But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. (ἀρὰ ἔφθασεν)

[=sermon] 12:30-32, For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

13:3, I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (ἐὰν μὴ μετανοήτε)

13:18-21, Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it. And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

16:16, The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (εὐαγγελιζέται βιάζεται)

[cf. Nietzsche] 17:20-21, And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation (παρατηρήσεις): Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (ἐντὸς ὑμῶν ἐστιν)

18:17, Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

**John (does not use either)**

4:23 (=5:25), ἀλλὰ ἔρχεται ὁ ρα καὶ νῦν ἔστιν
4:35, ἥδη
If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου οὐκ ἔστι/εἰσίν)

Possessions, poverty, and handling money

Matthew

4:20, 22, And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. <...> And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

5:40, And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.
5:42, Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

6:19, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
6:20-21, But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
6:24, No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

[cf. Olivi] 8:20, And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

8:22, But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

[cf. RNB, Olivi; mission] 10:9-13, Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses (ζώνη), Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves (ῥάβδος): for the workman is worthy of his meat (ἀξίος γὰρ ὁ ἐργάτης τῆς τροφῆς αὐτοῦ). And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

16:24-26, Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

[no money to pay tribute] 17:27, Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.
19:21-24, Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the
poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man
heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his
disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich
man to enter into the kingdom of God.

[Oliv: foresaking is worth something] 19:27-30, Then answered Peter and said unto him,
Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said
unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the
Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the
twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father,
or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and
shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Mark

[mission; cf. Oliv] 6:7-10, And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by
two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; And commanded them that they should
take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:
But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. And he said unto them, In what place soever
ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

[apostles had money] 6:37, He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say
unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

8:34-36, And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto
them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and
and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole
world, and lose his own soul?
10:21, 23-25, Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest:
go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in
heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. <...> And Jesus looked round about, and
saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto
them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is
easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom
of God.

10:28-31, Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And
Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you. There is no man that hath left house, or brethren,
or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But
he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers,
and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

**Luke**

5:11, And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

6:29, And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

[cf. Olivi, RNB] 6:30, Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. (=repeteres)

[lending] 6:34-35, And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again;

[mission; cf. Olivi] 9:2-4, And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

[apostles have money] 9:13, But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

9:23-25, And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

[cf. Olivi] 9:58, And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air havernestis; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

[cf. ER about the plough] 9:59-62, And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

[mission; cf. ER, Olivi] 10:1, 3-5, 7-9, After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. <...> Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. <...> And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire (ἄξιος γὰρ ὁ ἐργάτης τοῦ μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ). Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things
as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you (ἠγγείκεν).

12:15, 19-20 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. <...> And I [a rich man] will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

[=sermon] 12:21-22 (and so forth, examples), So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

12:29-34, Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

14:26-27, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

[rich man] 18:22, 24-25, Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. <...> And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

[cf. Olivi] 18:29-30, And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

[cf. Olivi] 18:28-30, Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

[mission no. 2; cf. Olivi] 22:35-36, And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

John

[had money] 4:8, (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)
[cf. Olivi et al.; Judas has a purse] 13:29, For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

**Attitude to other human beings, especially the poor, the sick, and the disadvantaged, and the question of higher and lower status of human beings**

**Matthew**

5:25, Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

[cf. RNB] 5:39, But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

5:44-45, But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

6:12, And forgive us our debts (ὀφείλημα), as we forgive our debtors.

7:1, Judge not, that ye be not judged.

7:12, Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

8:2-3, cleanses a leper

9:10-11, eats with tax collectors and sinners

10:8, Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (cf. Francis, *bona Deo reddere*)

18:2-6, children (see KG)

20:26-28, But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
21:31, Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

[cf. Francis renouncing his father and the Rule] 23:8-12, But be not ye called Rabbi [“my Master”]: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Mark

1:40, healing a leper

2:14-15, And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

9:35, 37, And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

10:43-45, But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Luke

3:11, He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

4:18, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

5:12, healing a leper

5:30-32, But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
[=sermon] 6:20-25, blessed are the poor and wretched, etc., same as Matthew

9:48, And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

[cf. ER] 10:29-37, the “who is thy neighbor” or good Samaritan story
[cf. Francis’s Testament] 10:37, the neighbor is who fecit misericordiam

14:10-11, But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
14:13-14, But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.
14:21, 23, So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. <...> And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
17:12, healing lepers

18:14, for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

18:16-17, But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

[minority and service] 22:26, But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

**John**

13:5-17, washing of feet