FOUR PATHS. ONE JOURNEY.

The Four-Gospel Journey as the paths of transformation

QUADRATOS

How do we face change?

On the first path, we encounter an earthquake. All that we knew is shaken to the core. Yet, this is not an end but an invitation to a new journey, beyond the familiar to a deeper way of being. Like a mountain trail, this path requires great exertion, and we can only see a step ahead. Do we have the courage to climb, one step at a time?



The Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew was written to Jewish Christians facing tremendous inner and outer upheaval. With the destruction of the Temple and massacre of the Jewish priesthood, everything they knew was gone. They could no longer be who they were before. Could they move forward? Could they reimagine what it meant to follow the Christ? Can we?

How do we move through suffering?

The second path is by far the most difficult. We are betwixt and between. Yesterday's reality is gone, the new has not yet come. Our uncertainty can be terrifying. As in winter, we are not able to see the growth deep at work in the ground, and all seems lifeless. We feel fragile and alone, and perhaps find ourselves slipping into despair. Is help coming?



The Gospel of Mark

Written to the Jewish Christians facing execution by the Roman emperor, The Gospel of Mark reminds us of Jesus's response to the disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee – "*I am with you, do not be afraid. The journey is not over.*" Even in the storm, even in the dead of winter, the *Christ is here*—always present, an eternal now, in our very midst.

How do we receive joy?

The third path takes us by surprise. Like springtime, a bright fresh reality appears suddenly all around us. Awake to a sense of communion with all, we discover that joy arrives from somewhere beyond ourselves. We perceive everything as gift. We see a larger reality, and glimpse fresh ways that life can be lived.



The Gospel of John

The late first century Christian community in Ephesus sought to create a new kind of community, based on the oneness of all people. John used the image of a paradisial garden of oneness at the beginning of time to provide an inspiring blueprint. Likewise, we are invited to use the energy of joy to create a garden where each and all may flourish.

How do we mature in service?

Often overlooked, the fourth path is where we must bring the new vision we have glimpsed into our ordinary, day-to-day realities. While the journey thus far has brought us awareness, we now take up the work of truly transforming our everyday attitudes and behavior, and one day at a time, the world around us too.



The Gospel of Luke

Encountering bitter rejection and oppression, the early Christians wondered how they could hold to their vision of a more just, inclusive and loving human community. In Luke's gospel, Jesus' great teachings occur as he and the disciples walk along the road, reminding us that the new world we seek is created step by gradual step, as we patiently persist in love.