



**Houston Theological Seminary
at Houston Christian University**

Theology Conference 2024, Call for Papers

Jesus within Judaism: The Law and Its Interpretation in the Gospels and Early Judaism

We are pleased to announce our upcoming annual Theology Conference, which will be held in Houston, TX, on April 10-11, 2024. The focus of the conference will be on the interpretation of the Law as variously presented in the New Testament Gospels. Professor Yair Furstenburg (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) will offer the keynote lecture on “Jesus and the Law” and participate on a panel moderated by Dr. Paul T. Sloan (Houston Christian University). We also invite proposals for papers on the topic of the interpretation of the Mosaic Law in early Judaism, especially *but not exclusively* regarding matters that intersect with the legal debates present in the Gospels.

Scholars widely recognize the inevitable diversity of interpretation of the Mosaic commandments extant among various groups and their textual deposits (Pharisees, Essenes and/or Qumranites, Sadducees, Samaritans, John the Immerser, Jesus followers, emerging “schools” of various rabbis). Similarly, a growing number of readers recognize that the Gospels are squarely situated within this context of intramural debate over “proper” Law-keeping. This conference seeks to advance this conversation by hosting discussion of the legal controversies (broadly construed) recorded between Jesus and his contemporaries, on the one hand, and major legal controversies outside the Gospels, on the other. To that end, we are interested in papers that explore the different interpretations expressed among Jewish texts (HB/LXX, 2TJ, and early rabbinic) and how these intersect with the narrative and legal material of the Gospels, including *inter alia* matters of ritual purity (non-sacral food, tithes, hand-washing, vessels, *lepra*, bodily fluxes), criminal/civil law, sabbath, eschatology, sacrifice, etc.

Papers and the subsequent Q/A will be allotted a total of 45 minutes.

Please submit proposals of no more than 500 words to Paul Sloan (psloan@hc.edu) by Dec 31, 2023. Decisions will be conveyed in January 2024.

Participation may be in-person or digital (Zoom). Registration is \$30 in-person and \$10 through Zoom.

See <https://hc.edu/school-of-christian-thought/events-in-the-college/hcu-theology-conference/> for details and registration.