

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

**S2E14**

**Title - How are the Gospels so similar to each other?**

**Description - Have you ever wondered why the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke & John seem similar? In today's episode we'll examine the four gospel accounts to see how they are both similar and different.**

We're finally getting into the gospels, but some have wondered, why are the Gospels so similar?

From a skeptic's point of view, why does the bible, particularly the gospels seem so similar?

Today we're going to talk about "Q" or "Quelle" and the Theory around it.

The Gospels fall into two categories, the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and John.

The synoptics are similar, they're very similar in fact. But John is different. John is written in the mid to late 90's AD. But the synoptics would have been written in the 50-70's AD.

When you study Matthew, Mark and Luke, you'll see that they mostly include the same encounters and ministry of Jesus.

- Feeding of the 5,000
- Driving out demons
- Healings

So the question is: how did these men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, know these stories, but some were not even disciples?

Mark writes his gospel to a Roman audience, and his two themes are that Jesus is the suffering servant from Isaiah and that Jesus is Lord, not Caesar.

Well, who helped Mark write his gospel? Scholars believe it was Peter. There's detail that only Peter would have known in some of the accounts.

Also, there's an easter egg

Luke is writing to a gentile audience, "Theophilus." Luke is a doctor by trade, he's going to write with laser point accuracy, he's going to use greek words that other writers don't use.

Luke's focus is to try to give an orderly account of the events and the life of Jesus.

Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. <sup>3</sup>So it

also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.

Remember: Luke wasn't a disciple, he wasn't an eyewitness. But he had the Apostle Paul who was his traveling companion.

Luke could have been talking about Matthew & Mark, but could have also been talking about a theoretical Q or "quell" document.

Why is that a big deal for the eastern culture? It's not a big deal to them. They don't worry too much about sequence. But to western culture we always go from A to B to C to D. For a Jewish culture, the order doesn't matter as much as the final outcome.

Luke is written to the Gentiles

Mark is written to the Romans

Matthew is written to the Jews

Matthew's theme and major thoughts are: God is with us, Jesus is the son of David, and Jesus is the new Moses. Matthew was the only synoptic gospel writer who was there. The other was John, who was there, but not a synoptic gospel.

So how did the Quelle theory come around?

The idea came about from a human perspective, that there was a document that is the "source" document that began to circulate among the early church. We don't have any archaeological evidence for Quell, no scroll or papyrus has been found. Some think we can take the synoptics and reverse engineer parts of this Q-document.

Pastor Robby believes that Matthew would have been written first, as Matthew, writing to a Jewish audience, was addressing "Halakah" questions. Questions about Jewish arguments on the oral tradition. "Halak" - how to walk/live this out.

So, how did the movement of Jesus start? Did it start with the gentiles, or the Jews? Jews.

So a first century Jew would be wrestling with ideas of "Halakah" or dealing with Jewish customs & how to live, oral law.;

Matthew may have been written first in Hebrew. There's a bunch of Hebrew idioms that make sense only when you translate it back to Hebrew.

Matthew quotes the OT more than any other gospel.

Matthew also starts with a Genealogy.

So the question for next time: Does the Q or Quelle theory take away from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?