

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S2E1

Title - Introduction To The Gospels

Description - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John make up the four gospels found in the Bible. But each gospel writer was writing to a specific audience with specific themes in mind. In this episode, we will begin a two part examination of those audiences and themes.

A picture of how the gospels were written.

There's 4 gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

Out of them, 3 are connected in some way, and one is different.

Mark is not one of the 12 Apostles. He was there with Jesus, but not one of the 12.

Some people think that Mark wrote himself into his gospel, in Mark 14:50-52.

⁵⁰ Then they all deserted him and ran away. ⁵¹ Now a certain young man, wearing nothing but a linen cloth, was following him. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked.

Back to the gospels:

The three gospels that are connected are called the synoptic gospels. Synoptic meaning "the same" or "Similar."

The Synoptic Gospels are Matthew, Mark, & Luke, written in the 50-65 AD range.

The Gospel of John was written later, in the 90's AD.

John is going to write a very different type of Gospel.

We're going to focus primarily on the Synoptics, particularly the gospel of Matthew.

When we read something in the gospels, you always need to ask yourself, did Mark, Luke or John write about this?

Because they're all writing from a different perspective, a different theme. When you're reading the gospels, you always want to know what the theme of the gospel is and who the author's audience was.

The theme of Mark - Servant, Jesus is the suffering servant.

Who is Mark's audience? - Romans. Christians in Rome who have a hellenistic, western mindset.

Mark is writing to a group of people who are hearing daily that Caesar is God, that he's Lord, god-incarnate. Mark shows Jesus wearing a crown of thorns and wearing a purple robe. They're crowing this man who is the true King of Kings.

Mark is not an apostle, he's not someone who was called by Jesus in a formal way. So how does Mark write the gospel? He's writing the first-hand account of Peter. He has expanded sections of dialogue between Peter & Jesus.

When you want to know a long winded account of a story, Mark is your Go-To. The only problem is he doesn't include all of Jesus's encounters.

Luke is writing to a different audience with a different theme.

Luke is a doctor, he's writing to a predominantly Greek audience, also Luke 1:3

The theme of Luke - Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of Man

Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. ³So 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, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.

Luke again is not an apostle, we have no record of him following Jesus. But Luke has the Apostle Paul helping him chronicle everything from the early church in Acts. But Luke is like an Investigative Journalist. He goes back to interview eyewitnesses.

Galatians 1:11-12

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. ¹² For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

In every encounter in Paul's trips in the book of Acts, Luke is there, documenting and writing.

It's an assumption, but knowing Luke, we assume that he went back to investigate and interview eyewitness accounts of the events of Jesus.

He also has the guiding of the Holy Spirit

Luke has a theme - He's writing to greeks and he wrote in a particular, orderly way.

Where the Hebrew would think in abstract, mysterious, chasing rabbit trails for knowledge and coming back to the same point, and be completely fine with it. The western / hebraic mind wants things in a systematic, orderly way.

When you want to know when things happened in the life of Jesus you want to go to the gospel of Luke. He's put things in order.

Luke is also writing to Theophilus, a Greek man who would have been very wealthy and of high honor. Some believe he bankrolled Luke to write and do his investigating.

The other thought is that Luke was writing to "Theophilus" - Theos - God, philleo - brother/friend. Luke could have been writing to the people, or the friends of God, which would be represent all believers from all time.

Luke's theme - Jesus is the son of Man.

Greek / Hellenistic mindset was that man was the crowing jewel.

But the son of man, son of Adam looks different.