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New Testament – Gospels

What Are the Gospels?

The term “gospel” comes from the Greek word *euangelion* meaning _____

What are the Synoptic Gospels?

Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Cleansing of leper	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-16
Centurion of Capernaum	8:5-13	No parallel	7:1-10
Peter’s mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39
Sick healed	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41
Following Jesus	8:18-22	No parallel	9:57-62
Stilling the storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25
Gadarene demoniac	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39
Healing of the paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26
Matthew’s call	9:9-13	2:13-27	5:27-32
Fasting question	9:14-17	2:18-22	5:33-39
Jairus and the woman	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56

(Taking From Duvall and Hays, Grasping God’s Word, 271)

How Should We Read the Gospels?

1. How to Read Individual Stories – Examples Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 10:38-42

What does this small story tell us about Jesus? / What is the main point?

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2. How to Read a Series of Stories

What is the gospel writer trying to say to his reader by the way he puts the smaller stories together?

Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:1-20	Mark 5:24b-34	Mark 5:21-24a and Mark5:35-43

Luke 10:25-37	Luke 10:38-42	Luke 11:1-13

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3. Applying the Message of the Gospels

Special Literary Forms in the Gospels

- Exaggeration – Examples: Matt. 5:29-30; Luke 14:26; Mark 10:24b-25
- Metaphor and Simile – Examples: Matt. 5:13; 10:16; John 6:35; Luke 13:34
- Narrative Irony – Example: Luke 12:16-21
- Rhetorical Questions – Examples: Matt. 5:46; 6:27; Mark 4:40; Luke 12:51
- Parallelism: (1) Similar – Matt. 7:7; Mark 4:22, (2) antithetic – Mark 4:25; Matt. 12:35, (3) progressive – Matt. 10:40; John 6:37
- Parables – Example: Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)

Augustine (354-430) – He inappropriately allegorized the Good Samaritan parable.

The man going down to Jericho	=	Adam
Jerusalem	=	the heavenly city which Adam fell
Robbers	=	the moon (signifying Adam's mortality)
Stripping him	=	taking away his immortality
Beating him	=	persuading him to sin
Leaving him half-dead	=	as a man lives, but is dead spiritually, therefore he is half-dead
Priest and Levite	=	priesthood and ministry of the Old Testament
The Samaritan	=	Christ himself
Binding of the wounds	=	binding the restraint of sin
Wine	=	exhortation to work with fervent spirit
Beast	=	flesh of Christ's incarnation
The inn	=	the church
Two denarii	=	promise of this life and life to come
Innkeeper	=	the apostle Paul

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Reflection For the Week:

Apply the two interpretive questions we used to read the Gospels to Matthew 24:43-25:13 and make the chart to see how the author intended to use the stories together.

Preparation For Next Week:

Read - <https://biblestudybites.com/literary-genre-epistles-and-letters/>

Resources For Going Further:

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation To Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There Meaning in This Text?: The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality or Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.