



THE GOSPELS

GOSPELS INTRODUCTION

Combined, the four Gospels are a **masterpiece** and the four Gospel writers are superior **painters**.

The four Gospels provide four **biographies** of Jesus' person and His work.

Taken together, they give us a more complete picture of Jesus compared to each Gospel standing by itself.

MATTHEW

The Gospel of the **PROMISED KING**.

Isaiah 9:6-7

*For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.*

The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 His government and its peace
will never end.*

*He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.*

*The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!*

A Focus on the King's Credentials

Matthew 1: The King's Lineage

Matthew 2: The King's Selection

Matthew 3: The King's Coronation

Matthew's Audience

Jewish

Matthew focuses much effort in helping his Jewish audience see Jesus as the long awaited King their Scriptures pointed towards.

Messianic Prophecy

At least 20x, Matthew refers to an event fulfilling the Scriptures. Half of these are unique to his gospel.

Matthew 2:22-23 (Isaiah 7:14)

Matthew 2:5-6, 9-10 (Micah 5:2)

Matthew 2:15 (Hosea 11:1)

Matthew 2:17-18 (Jeremiah 31:15)

Matthew 2:23 (?) (Acts 20:35; Jude 14-15)

Matthew 3:1-3 (Isaiah 40:3)

Matthew's Authorship

Matthew (AKA Levi)

A tax collector who believed in Jesus and became one of Jesus' 12 disciples (Matthew 10:3).

Read about Jesus calling Matthew in Matthew 9:9-13.

Matthew's Focus

Making Disciples

Matthew 4:19

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew's Uniqueness

The King's Genealogy (Matthew 1)

The family tree in chapter 1 attaches Jesus to King David, proving Jesus as the rightful king.

What does it mean for Jesus to be King and what does it look like to be a citizen of His Kingdom?

Matthew's Themes

The King (1-3)

His Citizens (5-8)

His Kingdom (Church & Future)

MARK

The Gospel of the **SUFFERING SERVANT**.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark's Audience

Roman

In Rome, if you were going to become a great leader, you had to begin by being a great servant.

Mark's Authorship

John Mark

Mark was a companion of Peter and Paul & also Barnabas' cousin.

There is overwhelming evidence that Mark's source for his gospel was Peter. Mark accurately preserved all the things that Peter remembered Jesus saying and doing.

Mark's Focus

Servant Leadership

Mark's Uniqueness

“Immediately”

Mark's gospel is very action oriented. Jesus did not delay in acting upon important things. For Romans, this was an important quality for both leaders and servants.

Mark's Leadership Application

By studying Mark's account of Jesus we have...

- A model of servant leadership
- The supreme example of leadership character
- An example of leadership in action

LUKE

The Gospel of the **SON OF MAN**.

Luke's Audience

Greek

Luke's Authorship

Luke

The Good Doctor, Historian, Missionary
(Col. 4:14).

Luke is a details guy. In his details he focuses on Jesus' humanity.

Luke screams, "No man has ever acted like this!"

Luke's Focus

Jesus' Humanity

Luke 3:38

Kenan was the son of Enosh.

Enosh was the son of Seth.

Seth was the son of Adam.

Adam was the son of God. Luke connects Jesus to Adam and in doing so, to humanity.

Luke's Uniqueness

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Luke's Themes

- God's rule over history – God is in the details
- Affirmation of Jesus' teaching and life – These recorded events didn't happen in a vacuum but in real places and in real time

Luke's Leadership Application

“To seek and save”

Shows us that we should treasure all people because all people are valuable to God.

We prove our belief that people are valuable when we intentionally seek out those far from God.

JOHN

The Gospel of the **SON OF GOD**.

John's Audience

Global

John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John's Authorship

John

John was a fisherman, one of the 12 disciples, and part of Jesus' inner three.

He is referred to in John as the disciple that Jesus loved.

John's Focus

Belief

John 20:31

But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

John's Uniqueness

- Builds his gospel around 7 miracles.
- Each miracle is there to affirm Jesus as the Son of God.
- All these miracles intend to prove Jesus is God as He does only what God can do.
- "I Am" statements when backed by the miracles also prove that Jesus is the Son of God.

John's Themes

- Unity in the Godhead (5, 10, 17)
- Jesus is God (1:1-3, 14)
- Jesus is the source of eternal life (5:39-40)
- The Holy Spirit (14:15-31; 16:5-15)

John's Leadership Application

- Jesus is described as a person full of grace and truth.
- To lead others effectively we will need to extend grace while speaking truth even when the truth is hard or awkward.

THE FOUR GOSPELS AND THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Luke 10:27

The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." And, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew

Heart = Seat of will and desires, what drives your life?

Matthew calls us to submit our wills to the King.

Matthew 3:1-2

*In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, **2** “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”*

John

Soul = It's the motivational piece of us, “you really need this”

John hopes that you come away from his gospel with a longing in your soul! I really need this...this Jesus!

John 4:13-15

*Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. **14** But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”*

15 “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Luke

Mind = Thoughts, decisions, order

Luke is the detailed historian that challenges us to use our minds to further the kingdom of Jesus, share the hope of Jesus, and grow in our knowledge of Jesus using the mind created by Jesus.

Luke 1:3-4

*Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, **4** so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.*

Mark

Strength = Investing what you physically have into the Kingdom

Mark challenges us to invest into the kingdom through service...service requires the strength our bodies.

Mark 10:43

But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.