

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

The Synoptic Problem Part Two

Lesson 10

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I. Introduction

Luke 1: 1-4

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,

² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

I. Introduction

John 20: 30-31

³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

II. Helpful Observations

- Analogy of reports on an accident
- Difference in western and eastern culture and thought

III. David L. Dungan's book, A History of the Synoptic Problem

- 3rd century Origen: two levels of truth, literal and symbolic
- 5th century Augustine: all literally true by harmonizing
- 19th century historical-critical scholars: almost no literal truth, seek a purely literary explanation for similarities and differences, accept the "Two Source Hypothesis"

Confessions of a “foot soldier”

“I had always thought that the historical-critical study of the Bible had nothing to do with politics, that it was a pure and noble calling requiring years of apprenticeship followed by decades of dedicated service in the vineyards of archaeology, comparative philosophy, historical reconstruction, sophisticated literary analysis, fearless theological critique, and so on. I never knew that I was a foot soldier in a great crusade to eviscerate the Bible’s core theology, smother its moral standards under an avalanche of hostile historical questions, and at the end, shove it aside.”

IV. Comparing Texts

Mathew 4: 1-11

1. Wilderness: Turn stones to bread.
2. Temple: Jump and be saved.
3. High place: Bow and rule the world

IV. Comparing Texts

Mark 1: 12-13

¹² At once the spirit sent him out into the desert,

¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

IV. Comparing Texts

Luke 4, 1-13

1. Wilderness: Turn stones to bread.
2. High place: Bow and rule the world.
3. Temple: Jump and be saved

IV. Comparing Texts

Mathew 20: 20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, “ You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong for those for whom they have been prepared by my father.

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

25 Jesus called them together and said, “ You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

IV. Comparing Texts

Mark 10: 35-37

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “ we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

³⁷ They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.:

V. Three Passages Unique to Mark

The Parable of the Growing Seed; Mark 4: 26-29

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the

V. Three Passages Unique to Mark

Healing a deaf and dumb man; Mark 7: 32-37

32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means, "Be opened!") 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus Commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf here and the mute speak."

V. Three Passages Unique to Mark

Healing a blind man at Bethsaida; Mark:8: 22-26

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything."

24 He looked up and said "I see people; they look like trees walking around.

25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

26 Jesus sent him home, saying "Don't go into the village."

VI. David A. Black's article,

**“The Historical Origins
of the Gospels”**

Points for Home

- Don't miss the point of all the Gospels! Is your faith in Jesus growing by reading them carefully and often?
- Good intentions do not justify stupidity and wrong actions.
- Decide that your perspective will be one filled with faith each day.

Points for Home

- Jesus was tempted; so are we. Scripture will protect us as it did Jesus.
- The only preeminence worth pursuing demands servanthood and sacrifice.
- Jesus can heal you and your family. Will you let him?
- Jesus, not the details of the Gospel story, is our Savior and He knows the answers to ALL our questions.