

New Testament March 17: Bring the Kingdom Near (Week 11)

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Outline:

Come, Follow Me: Bring the Kingdom

1. Prayer: Let the kingdom come; let the truth be known (do both within ourselves)
2. Devotional: Courage facing of truth
3. Reading Review
4. Lesson
  - a. Questions and comments
  - b. Follow up (things to take from last week's reading)
    - i. Friendship and ministry
    - ii. What is religion for?
  - c. Bring the kingdom
  - d. Wise as serpents, harmless as doves
  - e. Order of operations
  - f. Internal sacrifice
  - g. Participation
  - h. Challenge
  - i. Conclusion
5. Nugget: Synoptic Problem
6. Preview

Come, Follow Me: Bring the Kingdom

Prayer: Let the kingdom come; let the truth be known (do both within ourselves)

Devotional: Courage facing of truth (What we name we rule; what we won't name rules us)

Reading Review: (This time I resonated most clearly with Matthew)

## Mark 2

Come Follow Me manual directs us to the “Sabbath is a day to do good” section of the chapter

(Mark 8)

Feeding of the four thousand (God uses what we have; contentment rather than wanting more)

Jesus reprimands disciples for their lack of understanding

A healing in two parts (similar to Peter’s understanding in two parts)

Peter declares Jesus the Messiah...

Then misunderstands what that means

Jesus “speaks openly” and Peter challenges him

What will a person give in exchange for his soul? (What will we buy with the currency of our soul? 8:37)

## Matthew 10

Jesus calls and sends out the twelve (Note on the twelve)

“Shake the dust off your feet” (hospitality!)

Persecution; doves and serpents

Do not fear; truth will be known; acknowledge the Son

Cost of discipleship: Put truth and principles ahead of all else

## Matthew 11

John disciples act about Jesus (fruits of the Messiah)

Jesus declares John the forerunner/Elijah (Elias/Elijah issue)

Inconsistency of desires “Wisdom is justified by her works” (11:19)

Hidden things from the wise (know what you don’t know, devout agnostic)

“Come unto me, all who are tired and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take upon you my yoke and learn from me, because I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (The rigorous ease of living in alignment with

correct principles, like how working out or running or eating well becomes natural)

Matthew 12

Son of Man Lord of the Sabbath; "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" (Hos. 6:6)

Pharisees threatened by Jesus' interpretation and actions

Jesus is God's prophesied servant; Isaiah 42:1-4

By whose power does Jesus cast out demons?

(Jesus uses a "by their fruits shall you know them" argument)

Theme: Those who recognize the coming Kingdom and its Messenger, and those who don't. Some misattribute Jesus' power; others' want to benefit from it. The best yield fruits of their own (Parable of the sower acted out)

Jesus condemns those who don't bring forth good fruit

Jesus is greater than Jonah and Solomon, thus those who do not believe are condemned all the more

Unclean spirit: returning to mistakes after having greater understanding and maturity

Family of Jesus, those who do the will of God

Luke 7

Centurion's son is healed (Matthew and Luke, not Mark, "double tradition")

Healing of the widow's son at nain

John's disciples ask about Jesus

Jesus declares John to be Elijah

Jesus anointed at Bethany "the one forgiven of much loves much"

Luke 11

Offerings and prayer (note the Matthew 5-7 material parallels Luke 6 and 11)

People give because of insistence (loaf of bread in the night); if we know how to give good gifts to our children...

Jesus casts out devils by the devil (Beelzebul)

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (11:28)

Condemnation of scribes, pharisees, and lawyers

“When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light”

“But the things that are inside you, give them as offerings, and then everything will be clean to you” RADICAL

Lesson

Questions and comments

Follow up (things to take from last week’s reading)

- 1) Who should we spend time with, and why? What does it mean to “eat with sinners”?
- 2) What is religion for? (Sabbath for humans, not humans for Sabbath)
- 3) What does it mean that Mark made a mistake? (What is scripture?)
- 4) How can we communicate and share in a way that most helps each person where they are?

Bring the Kingdom (apostles teach, then SHOW)

Wise as serpents, harmless as doves (bully vs. martial artist)

Live preparation; do not fear

Order of operations “I have not come to bring peace, but the sword” We have to put truth and principles first; relationships built on truth and healthy principles will thrive; others may die. We have to be willing... differentiation vs. codependency. The invincible relationship is one that can withstand breaking.

(how truth divides, be careful not to fall into the counterfeit of this where you become the kind of person Jesus condemns!)

Internal sacrifice and ritual (broken heart, contrite spirit)

Participation: How do we balance relationships and righteousness (ideally the two aren’t at tension; order of operations)

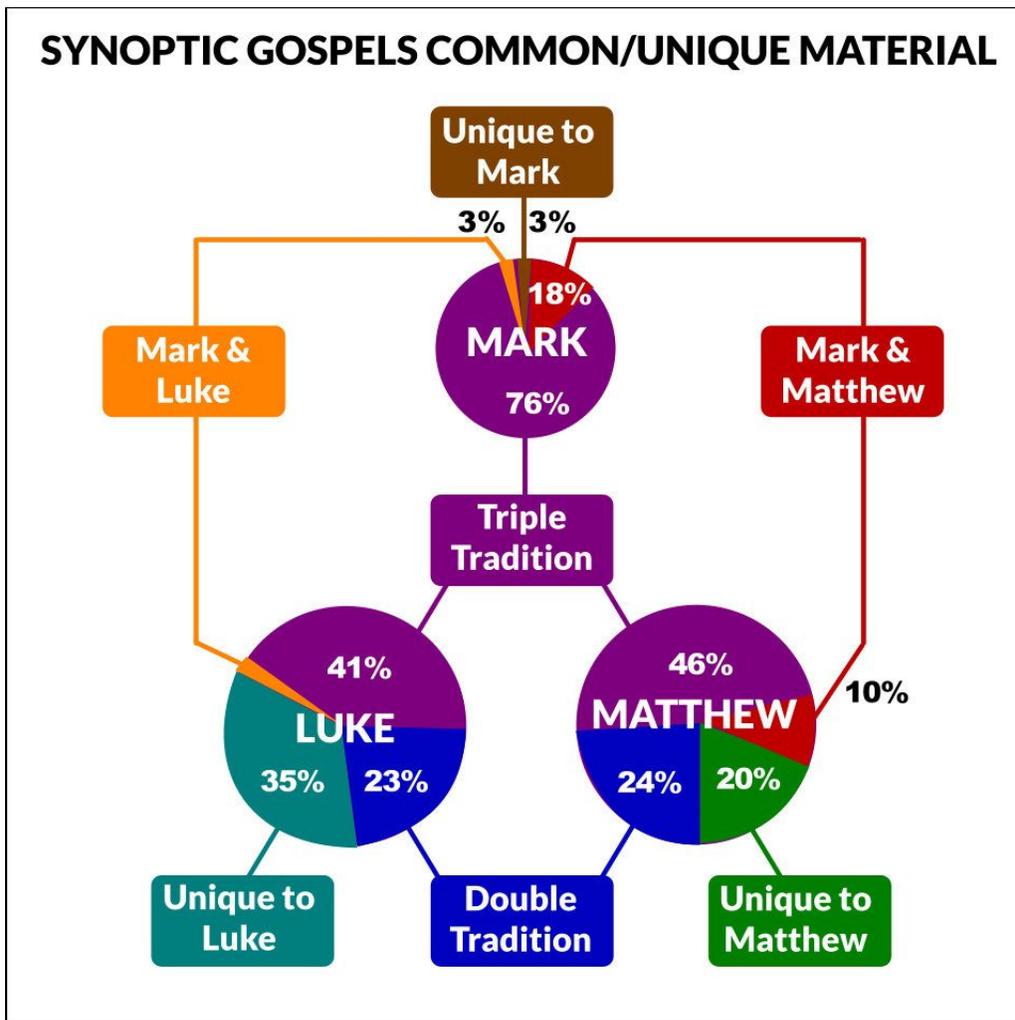
Challenge: How can we “bring the kingdom” this week?

Conclusion

Nugget: The “Synoptic Problem”: Why are Matthew, Mark and Luke so similar, and so different?

Four Source Hypothesis: Mark written first (Markan Priority), Matthew and Luke both used Mark, which is why the three are so similar (triple tradition). Matthew and Luke share about 25% of material not found in Mark, mostly sayings. Most scholars think Matthew and Luke both drew on Q, “Quelle” (double tradition). Then Matthew and Luke both have their own sources and traditions.

Another option is that Luke used BOTH Mark and Matthew, which means “Q” becomes one of Matthew’s sources that Luke didn’t know independently



Recommended Resources

Preview:

Who were the 12? (Coincides nicely with the opening of the Rome Visitors' center!) Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; John 6:67-71; Acts 1:13.

The same across all sources: Simon Peter, James, John (both called "sons of Zebedee" in John); Philip; Thomas; Judas Iscariot.

Mark, Matthew, Luke: Bartholomew; Matthew; James; Simon

(The tax collector is called Levi in Mark 2 but is not mentioned in Mark 3, but there is a Matthew in Mark 3. So reasonably strong tradition about ten of the twelve) Some inconsistency around: Thaddeus; Judas (not Iscariot); Nathaniel;