

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
- 2) THE GOSPEL OF MARK
- 3) THE GOSPEL OF LUKE
- 4) CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYNOPTICS

SYNOPTIC MEANS “SEEING TOGETHER”

We call Matthew, Mark, and Luke the Synoptic Gospels because they look at the ministry and teachings of Christ from similar points of view.

FIGURE 1)

The Synoptic Gospels: Their Readers and Purposes		
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Purpose and Theme</i>
Matthew	Jews	Jesus is the Messiah , King of the Jews
Mark	Romans	Jesus is the Servant of the Lord, busy working
Luke	Greeks	Jesus is the Son of Man , the perfect human

PART 1 – THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:

Q 1) WHO WROTE THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE?

Q 2) FOR WHAT PURPOSE WAS THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW WRITTEN?

FIGURE 2)

Matthew includes nine quotes from the Old Testament that Mark, Luke, and John do not.	
Matthew	Quote from the Old Testament
1:22–23	All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” [Isaiah 7:14]
2:15	Where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” [Hosea 11:1]
2:17–18	Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” (Jeremiah 31:15)
2:23	And he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: “He will be called a Nazarene.”
4:14–16	To fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:1–2)
8:17	This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Isaiah 53:4)
12:17–21	This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.” (Isaiah 42:1–4)
13:35	So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.” (Psalm 78:2)
21:4–5	This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (Zechariah 9:9)
27:9–10	Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.” (Jeremiah 32:6–9)

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW...

- I. The Messiah’s Birth and Early Years, 1–2
 - A. His family tree (1:1–17)
 - B. His birth (1:18–2:12)
 - C. His escape to Egypt (2:13–23)
- II. The Messiah’s Background for Ministry, 3:1–4:11
 - A. His announcement by John (3:1–12)
 - B. His baptism (3:13–17)
 - C. His temptation (4:1–11)

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW (CONTINUED)...

- III. The Messiah's Ministry in and around Galilee, 4:12–18:35
 - A. The beginning of ministry in Galilee (4:12–25)
 - B. The Sermon on the Mount (5–7)
 - C. Miracles of the Messiah (8–9)
 - D. The commission of the twelve apostles (10)
 - E. Ministry throughout Galilee (11–12)
 - F. Parables of the Kingdom (13)
 - G. Opposition rises against the Messiah (14–17)
 - H. Teachings on life in the Kingdom (18)
- IV. The Messiah's Ministry in Judea and Perea, 19–20
 - A. Teachings about divorce, little children, and entering the Kingdom (19)
 - B. Teachings about the vineyard, the Lord's death, and being a servant (20:1–28)
 - C. The healing of blind Bartimaeus at Jericho (20:29–34)
- V. The Messiah's Final Week of Ministry in Jerusalem, 21–27
 - A. The King's entrance into Jerusalem, cleansing the temple, and rebuking the leaders (21–23)
 - B. The end-time sermon on the Mount of Olives (24–25)
 - C. The arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial of the Messiah (26–27)
- VI. The Messiah's Resurrection and Great Commission, 28
 - A. The Resurrection (28:1–15)
 - B. The Great Commission (28:16–20)

Q 3) IN WHAT CHAPTERS CAN WE FIND THE FIVE TEACHING SEGMENTS OF JESUS?

Q 4) WHY DID MATTHEW USE THE TERM "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" RATHER THAN "KINGDOM OF GOD"?

PART 2 – THE GOSPEL OF MARK:

Q 5) WHO WROTE THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE IT?

Q 6) FOR WHAT PURPOSE WAS THE GOSPEL OF MARK WRITTEN?

FIGURE 3)

Jewish custom or Aramaic word	Explanation for Romans and other Gentile readers	Mark
<i>Boanerges</i>	"Sons of Thunder"; the name Jesus gave to James and John	3:17
<i>"Talitha kourm!"</i>	"Little girl, I say to you, get up!"	5:41
Washing of hands	The Pharisees and all Jews did not eat without washing their hands. The tradition also guided them to wash cups, pitchers, and kettles.	7:2–4
<i>Corban</i>	(Hebrew) "a gift devoted to God"	7:11
<i>"Ephphatha"</i>	"be opened"	7:34
<i>Golgotha</i>	"The Place of the Skull"	15:22
<i>"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"</i>	"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"	15:34
Preparation Day	This means it was the day before the Jewish Sabbath.	15:42

OUTLINE OF MARK...

- I. The Background of Jesus' Ministry, 1:1–13
 - A. His messenger (1:1–8)
 - B. His baptism (1:9–11)
 - C. His temptation (1:12–13)
- II. Jesus' Early Ministry in Galilee, 1:14–3:12
 - A. Calling the first disciples (1:14–20)
 - B. Capernaum: Driving out demons and healing diseases (1:21–34)
 - C. Ministering throughout Galilee—first trip (1:35–45)
 - D. Return to Capernaum: healing a paralytic, calling Levi, teaching on fasting and the Sabbath (2:1–3:22)
- III. Jesus' Later Ministry in Galilee, 3:13–7:23
 - A. Choosing the Twelve, teaching about Beelzebub, telling parables, calming a storm (3:13–4:41)
 - B. Freeing a man from a legion of demons, raising a dead girl, healing a sick woman (5)
 - C. Visiting Nazareth, sending out the Twelve, feeding five thousand, walking on the water (6)
 - D. Teaching what makes a person clean or unclean (7:1–23)
- IV. Jesus' Ministry Beyond and in Galilee, 7:24–9:50
 - A. In Phoenicia: sharing some "crumbs" with a Gentile woman (7:24–30)
 - B. In Decapolis: healing a deaf and mute man, feeding four thousand (7:31–8:10)
 - C. Around Caesarea Philippi: teaching about yeast, touching a blind man twice, hearing Peter's confession, predicting His death, being transformed on a mountain, freeing a demon-possessed boy (8:11–9:32)
 - D. Return to Galilee: teaching on being a servant, accepting others, and loving children (9:33–50)
- V. Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Perea, 10
 - A. Teaching on divorce, children, and the danger of riches (10:1–31)
 - B. Predicting His death and responding to James and John's request (10:32–45)
 - C. Healing the eyes of blind Bartimaeus (10:46–52)
- VI. The Passion Week, 11–15
 - A. Sunday: Ride into Jerusalem—the Triumphal Entry (11:1–11)
 - B. Monday: Cleansing of the temple, cursing of a fig tree (11:12–19)
 - C. Tuesday: Teaching on faith, authority, tenants, four questions, the end-time, and Mary's gift (11:20–14:11)
 - D. Thursday: The Last Supper with the Twelve (14:12–25)
 - E. Friday: Travel from Gethsemane to Calvary (14:26–15:47)
- VII. The Resurrection, 16

PART 3 – THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

Q 7) WHO WROTE THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE?

Q 8) WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE?

Q 9) FOR WHAT TWO PURPOSES WAS THE GOSPEL OF LUKE WRITTEN?

FIGURE 4)

Luke shows that Jesus came to be the Savior of all people (Geldenhuys 1977, 43–44).	
People Jesus came to save	Luke
Samaritans, even though Jews and Samaritans hated each other	9:51–55; 10:30–37; 17:11–19
Gentiles	2:11, 31–32; 3:6, 38; 4:25–27; 7:9; 10:1; 24:47
Jews	1:33; 2:10, 31–32; 19:9–10
Publicans (tax collectors), sinners, and those society casts out	3:12; 5:27–32; 7:37–50; 19:2–10; 23:43
Respected people	7:36; 11:37; 14:1
The poor	1:53; 2:7; 6:20; 7:22; 14:21
The rich	14:2; 23:50
Women and men	7:36–50; 19:1–10

OUTLINE OF LUKE...

- I. Introduction to Luke's Gospel, 1:1–4
- II. The Savior's Background, 1:5–2:52
 - A. Announcement about John (1:5–25)
 - B. Announcement about the Savior (1:26–56)
 - C. Birth of John (1:57–80)
 - D. Birth and childhood of the Savior (2)
- III. The Savior's Preparation, 3:1–4:13
 - A. His messenger (3:1–20)
 - B. His baptism (3:21–22)
 - C. His genealogy (3:23–38)
 - D. His temptation (4:1–13)
- IV. The Savior's Ministry in Galilee, 4:14–9:50
 - A. Rejection at Nazareth, healing of many in Capernaum (4:14–41)
 - B. A tour of Galilee: call of Simon, James, John, and Levi; healing of a leper and a paralytic (4:42–5:39)
 - C. Healing of a man's hand on the Sabbath, choosing of the Twelve (6:1–16)
 - D. The sermon on the plain (6:17–49)
 - E. Healing of a centurion's servant, raising of a widow's son (7:1–17)
 - F. Jesus and John the Baptist (7:18–35)
 - G. Sinful woman saved through faith in Jesus (7:36–50)
 - H. The Savior's teachings: the sower, a lamp, and His family (8:1–21)
 - I. The Savior's power: calms a storm, frees a man from demons, raises a dead girl, heals a woman (8:22–56)
 - J. Sending of the Twelve, feeding of five thousand, glorification, freeing of a boy from a demon, teaching on greatness (9:1–50)
- V. The Savior's Ministry on the Final Journey to Jerusalem, 9:51–19:27
 - A. The Savior's reaching out to Samaritans and sending out the seventy-two (9:51–10:24)
 - B. The Good Samaritan (10:25–37)
 - C. Mary and Martha (10:38–42)
 - D. Prayer, Beelzebub, Jonah, the eye, six woes (11)
 - E. Fear, riches, worry, watching, division, the end-time (12)
 - F. Repentance, compassion, the Kingdom, Jerusalem's judgment (13)
 - G. A local banquet, the great banquet, discipleship (14)
 - H. The lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son (15)
 - I. The unjust steward and the unjust rich man (16)
 - J. Sin, faith, ten lepers, the end-time (17)
 - K. Prayer, humility, children, riches, the Cross, Bartimaeus (18)
 - L. Zacchaeus's meeting with the Savior, the ten minas (19:1–27)
- VI. The Savior's Last Days in Jerusalem, 19:28–23:56
 - A. Triumphal ride into Jerusalem, cleansing of the temple (19:28–48)
 - B. Four questions between Jesus and the Jewish leaders (20)
 - C. Teaching on the end-time from the Mount of Olives (21)
 - D. The Last Supper (22:1–38)
 - E. From Gethsemane to Calvary (22:39–23:56)

OUTLINE OF LUKE (CONTINUED)...

- VII. From the Savior’s Resurrection to His Ascension, 24
 - A. The Resurrection (24:1–12)
 - B. The post-Resurrection appearances (24:13–43)
 - C. The Savior’s final instructions (24:44–53)

FIGURE 5)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs of Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon (1:39–80) • The shepherds and the angels (2:8–20) • Jesus presented in the temple; Anna and Simeon (2:21–40) • The boy Jesus in the temple (2:41–52) • Jesus raises a widow’s son (7:11–17) • Samaritan opposition (9:51–56) • Plow illustration on following Jesus (9:61–62) • Jesus sends out the seventy-two (10:1–12) • Return and report of the seventy-two (10:17–20) • Parable of the Good Samaritan (10:25–37) • At the home of Mary and Martha (10:38–42) • Parable of the persistent friend (11:5–10) • Parable of the rich fool (12:13–21) • Repent or perish (13:1–5) • Parable of the fruitless fig tree (13:6–9) • A crippled woman healed on the Sabbath (13:10–17) • Jesus’ sorrow for Jerusalem (13:31–33) • Jesus at a Pharisee’s house (14:1–6) • Parable about feasts and guests (14:7–14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parable of the great banquet (14:15–24) • Comparison: planning of the tower-builder (14:28–30) • Further comparison: planning of king going to war (14:31–33) • Parable of the lost coin (15:8–10) • Parable of the lost son (15:11–32) • Parable of the shrewd manager (16:1–15) • The rich man and Lazarus (16:19–31) • Illustration about duty (17:7–10) • Ten healed of leprosy (17:11–19) • The coming of the kingdom of God (17:20–21) • Parable of the persistent widow (18:1–8) • Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (18:9–14) • Zacchaeus, the tax collector (19:1–10) • Parable of the ten minas (pounds) (19:11–27) • Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (19:41–44) • Jesus heals Malchus’s ear (22:51) • The thief on the cross repents (23:32–43) • On the road to Emmaus (24:13–35) • Wait for the Holy Spirit baptism (24:49) • The Ascension (24:50–53)
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PART 4 – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS:

FIGURE 6)

Six Events Found in All Three Synoptic Gospels			
Event or Teaching	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1. Announcement of the Savior by John the Baptist	3	1	3
2. Baptism of the Savior	3	1	3
3. Temptation of the Savior	4	1	4
4. Transfiguration of the Savior	17	9	9
5. Trial, death, and burial of the Savior	26–27	14–15	22–23
6. Resurrection of the Savior	28	16	24

Q 10) WHAT UNUSUAL EVENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Q 11) BESIDES BEING SAFE AND EASILY REMEMBERED, LIST TWO REASON WHY JESUS USED PARABLES...

Q 12) WHAT ARE THE TWO PHASES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Q 13) WHAT DID JESUS SHOW THROUGH HIS MIRACLES?

FIGURE 7)

Jesus' Healings and Miracles in the Synoptic Gospels			
Healing or Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Man with leprosy	8:2–3	1:40–42	5:12–13
Roman centurion's servant	8:5–13		7:1–10
Peter's mother-in-law	8:14–15	1:30–31	4:38–39
Calming of the storm	8:23–27	4:37–41	8:22–25
Two men from Gadara	8:28–34	5:1–15	8:27–35
Paralyzed man	9:2–7	2:3–12	5:18–25
Raising Jairus's daughter	9:18–25	5:22–42	8:41–56
Woman with bleeding	9:20–22	5:25–29	8:43–48
Two blind men	9:27–31		
Man—dumb and possessed	9:32–33		
Man with a shriveled hand	12:10–13	3:1–5	6:6–10
Man—blind, dumb and possessed	12:22		11:14
Feeding five thousand people	14:15–21	6:35–44	9:12–17
Walking on water	14:25	6:48–51	
Canaanite woman's daughter	15:21–28	7:24–30	
Feeding four thousand people	15:32–38	8:1–9	
Boy with epilepsy	17:14–18	9:17–29	9:38–43
Coin in fish's mouth	17:24–27		
Two blind men	20:29–34		
Fig tree withered	21:18–22	11:12–25	
Man—demon-possessed in synagogue		1:23–26	4:33–35
Deaf mute		7:31–37	
Blind man at Bethsaida		8:22–26	
Blind Bartimaeus		10:46–52	18:35–43
Catch of fish			5:1–11
Raising widow's son at Nain			7:11–15
Crippled woman			13:11–13
Man with dropsy			14:1–4
Ten lepers			17:11–19
The high priest's servant			22:50–51

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:

Look up each parable referenced in the chart. Then, in the blank space provided, write what the parable says about the kingdom of heaven.

Twelve Parables in Matthew about the Kingdom of Heaven		
Parable	Matthew	Your main thought on the kingdom of heaven
The weeds	13:24–30	
The mustard seed	13:31–32	
The yeast	13:33	
The hidden treasure	13:44	
The pearl	13:45–46	
The net	13:47–50	
The workers in the vineyard	20:1–16	
The two sons	21:28–32	
The wicked renters	21:33–46	
The wedding banquet	22:1–14	
The ten virgins	25:1–13	
The talents	25:14–30	

