

Lecture 4

Primary Viewpoint

- Our primary viewpoint is not _____ viewpoint.
- Our primary viewpoint will be the viewpoint of _____:
 - the disciples
 - the crowds
 - the adversaries
 - the recipients of ministry
 - or perhaps the narrator

NOTES

Parallels (vertical and horizontal reading)

- _____ reading
- _____ reading

NOTES

An exercise in reading horizontally:

<p>Matthew 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.</p>	<p>Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.</p>	<p>Luke 5:27-28 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.</p>
<p>Matthew 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.</p>	<p>Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.</p>	<p>Luke 5:27-28 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.</p>

Observations:

An exercise in reading vertically (and horizontally):

Matthew	Mark	Luke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jesus cleanses a leper</u> • The faith of a centurion • Jesus heals many • The cost of following Jesus • Jesus calms a storm • Jesus heals two men with demons • Jesus heals a paralytic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jesus cleanses a leper</u> • Jesus heals a paralytic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jesus cleanses a leper</u> • Jesus heals a paralytic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls Matthew • A question about fasting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls Levi • A question about fasting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls Levi • A question about fasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A girl restored to life and a woman healed • Jesus heals two blind men • Jesus heals a man unable to speak • The harvest is plentiful, the laborers few 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath • A man with a withered hand • A great crowd follows Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath • A man with a withered hand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The 12 apostles</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The 12 apostles</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The 12 apostles</u>

Observations:

- _____ reading

NOTES

Harmonization

- Sometimes “harmonizing” can be _____, especially when reading another Gospel account can help fill in some blank spots.
- However, there is a _____ in harmonizing.

NOTES

Discrepancies

- First, it helps to acknowledge and appreciate 2 complementary truths:
 1. The four gospel accounts _____ in overwhelming fashion.
 2. There are perceived (_____) discrepancies.

NOTES

An Apparent Discrepancy:

Matthew 27:44	Mark 15:32b	Luke 23:39–43
<p>And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.</p>	<p>Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.</p>	<p>And one of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”</p>

- So, do we have harmony ... or discord?
 - Discord is _____ with a correct view of biblical inspiration.
 - Harmony is _____.
 - How should we hear the harmony between and among texts?
 1. _____ various gospel accounts thoroughly.
 2. _____ precisely the apparent discrepancy(ies).
 3. As much as possible, get crystal clarity on every _____ in every text.
 4. Patiently _____ all options and theories.
 5. Be _____ and _____ about your hermeneutical limits.
 6. Prayerfully _____ for more clarity and confirmation.

7. Get helpful _____.⁷
8. Celebrate the _____ of perceived discrepancies.

Final Suggestions for reading and studying the Gospels and Acts

1. Remember these works are _____ and read them as such.
2. Keep in mind the _____ of the narrative genre.
3. Maintain the point of view of the _____ (not Jesus).
4. Use your _____. Visualize.
5. Seek to appreciate the _____ and _____ of the texts.
6. Ponder both the _____ and the _____ of the parallels.
7. Identify and investigate _____ references and echoes.
8. Keep _____ and _____ “connected”.
9. Sometimes read _____.
10. Other times read _____.
11. Be cautious about over-_____.

⁷ Some helpful resources include: Norman L. Geisler and Thomas Howe, *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992); John W. Haley, *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977); Gleason L. Archer, Jr., *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 2001; Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., et. al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic), 2010.