

Bookends to the Gospels

I love it that these Gospels are really three in one and the other guy. What I mean is that the first three books Matthew, Mark, and Luke share their information. They are called the Synoptic Gospels meaning related to or a summary. A summary of what? Some say there is another book called Q. This Q has all the stories. Each writer took what they wanted from the Q to make their book. These three books are similar because they shared information one way or the other. Then there is John.

John did take some of the stories from the other three gospels? Actually, there is more sharing than I thought. Yet, John is different. Some scholars have dismissed John because it's so different. Yet, I see these four books as the same. I think the Bible curators thought so too. Is it consistent to Jesus? Do these stories reflect the truth about God the Father, the Holy Ghost, and Jesus the Son? John might not have all the same words, phrases, and stories as the synoptics, but he did know what they know: the Jesus story.

What seems clear is that each book has an intent. It has an intended audience but the themes they used. Those themes mean there was intention. It also means that each book is different than the others. Matthew had a certain kingdom message. John is very spiritual. Mark portrays the disciples differently. Why not cut John out? I mean the shared words and stories are more consistent right? That is true, but the flavor of the Gospels is to tell the same story from a different view. John fits that.

My wife and I will go to a movie. She will love it and I will hate it. it's the same movie. The theatre is the same. The film is the same. The characters and script were the same. Yet, we differ on what we saw. We differ on our understanding of it. So, who is right? I say we both are. In witnessing the movie, we both agree it was a horror or Sci-Fi. We both agree it was 2 hrs. However, our view is different. The gospels tell the same story. For the most part it's the same characters. Yet, 4 men tell a different story using the same material. Although John decided to use different material, and words, it's the same Jesus within the same story.

Why I called these bookends is because, as I read these books, I realize that John answers some of the Synoptic Gospels questions. Who is the Baby Jesus? John answers this as the risen savior. Matthew talks about the ten commandments and John answers those questions. I realized that John must have heard, read, or witnessed these events and teachings. It's by no mistake that John mentions significant parts of the synoptic gospels.

It might seem that I'm just reaching. It's just another gimmick. Maybe? Yet, I want you to see that all 4 gospels share the same story. Just because John appears to stand alone; that is not totally true. The synoptic gospels point to a mission. They reflect a theme of kingdom work, the coming king, and Christ savior. It's showing Jesus as this person all wrapped into one. Yet, inside, the people were asking the same question: who Jesus was? I find that in John we peer inside the life of Jesus and his ministry. In some ways it's the guts of the synoptic gospels.

I hear a lot of talk about template. Who wrote the first gospel. Is it Matthew, Mark, or Luke. The argument continues. Rarely do anyone say that John is the template. They would rather say there is a mysterious (never seen) Q book. Yet, the stories common to the synoptic gospels are played out inside the book of John. It's like the camera went for a close up. Sometimes we read that Jesus would be King

or Lord. In John we get to know why. For the next 12 weeks lets take a look at Matthew and John. I feel they compliment each other and hold the gospels up and together like bookends.