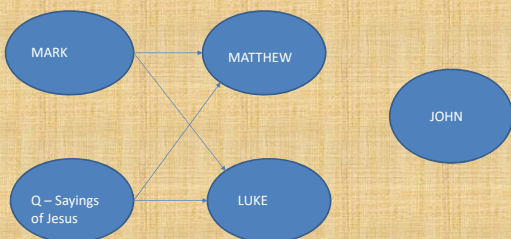


The Nativity – or Tim Ruins Christmas



THE GOSPELS



The Christmas Story

Which Gospels include narratives of the birth of Jesus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

The Christmas Story

An Angel appears to Joseph to tell him of the impending birth

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

An Angel appears to Mary to tell her of the impending birth

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Joseph and Mary live in Galilee, in the town of Nazareth

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Jesus is born in Judea, in Bethlehem

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

At the time of Jesus' birth, Mary was a virgin

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Jesus was born in a stable/cave surrounded by animals

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

The baby Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

The birth of Jesus was announced to nearby shepherds who visited the infant

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Three wise men came from the east to pay homage to the infant Jesus

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Magi from the east pay homage to the infant Jesus lying in the manger

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

King Herod plots to kill Jesus, so Jesus' parents escape with him to Egypt

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Joseph and Mary return with Jesus to Nazareth by way of Jerusalem

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither

The Christmas Story

Mary learns the ins and outs of raising a child with “special needs”

- A. Matthew
- B. Luke
- C. Both
- D. Neither



The Nativity – Story or Stories?



True or False?

In the New Testament, the gospels present a life of Christ or a historical Biography of Christ.

How do we approach the Gospels?

From the results of the new investigations it is apparent that the **doctrine and the life of Jesus were not simply reported** for the sole purpose of being remembered, but were **"preached" so as to offer the Church a basis of faith and of morals**. The interpreter (then), by tirelessly scrutinizing the testimony of the Evangelists, will be able to illustrate more profoundly the perennial **theological value of the Gospels** and bring out clearly how necessary and important the Church's interpretation is.

- "Instruction Concerning the Historical Truth of the Gospels", Pontifical Biblical Commission (April 21, 1964)

How do we approach the Gospels?

- The Gospels come from Apostolic preaching
- The earliest point of Apostolic preaching is salvation
- Salvation comes from Jesus' death and resurrection
- To that core message sayings and healings are added, often colored with allusions to Hebrew Scripture
- The gospels work **back** from the passion/death/resurrection, not towards them

Common Gospel Theme



- The Good News is proclaimed
- The proclamation leads to a two-fold response:
 - Some believe and come to worship
 - Some reject both the message and the preachers

The Gospel of Mark



- Mark 1:1
- “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the son of God”

Christology – Who Jesus Was

- | Jesus was Human | Jesus was God |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? (Mark 6:3)• And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. (Mark 8:29-30)• Arianism - denies that the Son is of one essence, nature, or substance with God• The Nicene Creed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)• Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM. (John 8:58)• Docetism - teaches that Christ only “appeared” or “seemed to be a man, to have been born, to have lived and suffered• Paul’s Proto-Creed |

When does Jesus become “the Son of God”



- At the end of time
Acts 3:19-22
- At the resurrection
Acts 5:30-31
- At the baptism
Mark 1:11
- At the Incarnation
Luke 1:30-32
- At the beginning of time
John 1:1, 14



The Nativity Stories as Gospel

- 1. Read one of the passages from Matthew.
- 2. Identify and list points of similarity between the passages, discuss among your table.
- 3. How do the passages from Matthew illustrate the Gospel theme of proclamation and two-fold response?

The Nativity Stories as Gospel

- Through the same method the evangelists use to proclaim The Good News of salvation in Jesus' death/resurrection and ministry, they proclaim it in the context of the birth of Jesus
- In doing so, the Evangelists shed further light on the answer to the question that so plagued Herod Antipas "Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" Luke 9:9
