

# Week 4 Gospel Introduction II

## 1. Topic:

Theological Differences between the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John

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## 2. Learning Objectives

- 1) Distinguish the differences between the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and the Gospel of John.
  - 2) Understand the purpose and theological emphasis of each Gospel.
  - 3) Comprehend the life and ministry of Jesus from the perspectives of all four Gospels.
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## 3. Summary of Lecture Content

### 1) Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke)

#### (1) Common Features:

Focus on Jesus' ministry in Galilee, use of parables, similar historical structure.

#### (2) Distinctives:

- ① Matthew: The Messiah for the Jews; emphasizes fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.
- ② Mark: Suffering servant; action-oriented and the shortest Gospel.
- ③ Luke: Gospel for the Gentiles; highlights salvation for the marginalized.

### 2) Gospel of John

#### (1) Theological Depth:

Emphasizes the divinity of Christ ("The Word was with God, and the Word was God").

#### (2) Structure:

Focuses on Signs and "I Am" sayings.

#### (3) Audience:

Broader and more universal, including the Hellenistic world.

**(4) Purpose:**

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)

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**4. Key Comparison**

Category	Synoptic Gospels (Matt., Mark, Luke)	Gospel of John
Theme	Historical life and teachings of Jesus	Divinity of Jesus and eternal life
Keywords	Kingdom of Heaven, parables, repentance	Eternal life, truth, love, light, Word
Image of Jesus	Human, suffering servant	Son of God, the Word made flesh
Lord's Supper	Narrates the institution of Communion	Emphasizes “Bread of Life” discourse

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**5. Meditation and Application**

- 1) Which aspect of Jesus am I more familiar with?
- 2) How can I integrate the historical Jesus of the Synoptics with the theological Jesus of John?

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**6. Assignment & Discussion**

**1) Assignment:**

Summarize Jesus’ identity in each Gospel, and write a one-page reflection on which Gospel has most impacted your personal faith.

**2) Discussion Topic:**

Why do you think God gave us four Gospels instead of just one?

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