

UNDERSTANDING THE HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS.

John's Relationship to Matthew, Mark and Luke

COMPLIMENTARY PASSAGES – CONCEPTUAL

John reports a different teaching style of Jesus in comparison to Matthew, Mark and Luke. (The use of first person references by Jesus to Refer to his Significance as compared to second person references used in M, M & L). Yet while the style may differ to some degree, the themes and focus are the same.

Abundant Harvest Theme

John 4:35 – Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Matthew 9:36-38 – When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

New Birth Theme

John 3:3 – In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Matthew 18:2 – He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Father Reveals the Son/Only the Son Knows the Father Theme

John 10:14-15 – "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 14:6 – Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 17:2 – Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

Matthew 11:25-27 – At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. 27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father, No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

"The Disciple is Not Greater than His Master" Theme

John 13:16 – I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Matthew 10:24-25 – A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.

"The Holy Spirit Will Tell Jesus' Followers What to Say" Theme

John 14:18-26 – "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey

yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Luke 12:11-12 – When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Light Theme

John 8:12, - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Shepherd Theme

John 10:111-115 – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.

Luke 15: 1-7 – Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Servant Theme

John 13: 12-17 – When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Matthew 20:24-28 – When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Persecution Promised / Forewarned

John 16:1-4 – “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

Luke 12:11 – When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Luke 21: 12-19 – “But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life.

Fasting

John 16:19-24 – Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Matthew 9:14-15 – Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

Jesus – Reference to himself as “the Son of Man”

John 1: 49-51 – Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.” He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Matthew 8:18-20 – When Jesus saw the crowd around him he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

COMPLIMENTARY PASSAGES – DESCRIBED EVENTS

Slipped through the Crowds

John 10:38-39 – But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

Luke 4:28-30 – All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill

on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Jesus' Feet Perfumed

John 12:1-11 – READ

Matthew 26:6-13 (see also Luke 7:36-48) – While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth. Wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Jesus' Dipping the Bread, Passing to Judas

John 13: 26-27 – Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

Matthew 26: 23-25 – Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” Then, Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”
Jesus answered, “Yes, it is you.”

Jesus' Feeding of the 5,000

John 6:1-14 – READ

Matthew 14:13-21 – READ.

Jesus' Walking on Water

John 6: 16-24 – READ

Matthew 14: 22-36 – READ

EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

At this point I won't list scriptures – as the gospels are in great agreement as to the events of that week. John does record some events with greater detail – his prayer time the night of his betrayal, the trials of Jesus, and his crucifixion (to name a few).

THE RESURRECTION

John 20: 19-23 – READ

Luke 24: 36-48 – READ

DEPENDENT PASSAGES

There is an intriguing interconnectedness to the Four Gospels.

Testimony Given at Trial

John 2: 19-21 – Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

Matthew 26: 59-16 – The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not

find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" (here the witnesses bear witness to words only reported by John).

The Sisters Martha and Mary

John 11: 1-44 – READ

Luke 10:38-42 – As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman names Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

The Identification of the Post Resurrection Jesus through his Repeated Miracle of the Miraculous Catch of Fish

John 21: 1-14 – READ

Luke 5: 1-10 – READ

JESUS' "I AM" STATEMENTS

THE QUESTION: *Did Jesus refer to his Divinity in M, M and L as clearly as he did in John?*

Comparing the "I AM" Statements of Jesus in John to his Statements in the Synoptic Gospels (I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world; I am the gate; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life; I am the true vine....)

Matthew 5: 11-12 – Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:17 – "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 7: 21-23 – Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Matthew 7: 24-29 – "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 9: 1-8 – Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."**

At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, **"This fellow is blaspheming!"**

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...**" Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home. And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men

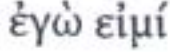
Matthew 10: 32-33 – Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 12: 1-8 – (v. 8) "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Matthew 16: 24-26a – Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"

Matthew 24:35 – Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Evidence That Jesus Spoke Using "I Am" In The Synoptics

In each of these passages Jesus used the phrase,  (ego eimi – "I Am").
John 6:48 - I am the bread of life.

John 8:58 - "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

Matthew 14:27 – But Jesus immediately said to them: "take courage! *It is I*. Don't be afraid."

Luke 22:70 – They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"
He replied, "You are right in saying *I am*."

Luke 24:39 – Look at my hands and my feet. *It is I* myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

Conclusion.

- The evidence indicates that John wrote his gospel to supplement information given by the other Gospels and writes from his recollection of events. John does not write depending on outside sources – and so follow the outline used by M, M & L, but writes using his own memory of events. John tells us about Jesus by reporting some different events than M, M & L, private conversations and other details to which the other writers of the other gospels did not have access.

- John 20:30 – Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.