Synoptic Problem

- Sun-optic (synoptic)—with one eye
- Confidence church saw differences and didn’t correct or try to harmonize them.
- What does that say about their belief in the sanctity of the text and also its historical reliability?
- Why not legend? time & corroborating eyewitnesses
- Wouldn’t things be covered up like disciples’ dumbness, tax-collectors, Samaritans, unbelief of disciples, family…. Peter’s denials

Similarities

- Same broad chronological order
- Same wording in many passages
  - Healing of the Paralytic: Mat 9:6; Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24
  - Mat 9:6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sin…” Then he said to the paralytic.
  - Mk 2:10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sin….” He said to the paralytic.
  - Lk 5:24: But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins…” He said to the paralyzed man.
- John Bapt. OT quote: Mat 3:3; Mk 1:3; Lk 3:4
  - This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one calling in the desert, “Prepare the way for the LORD make straight paths for him.” =LXX
  - A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD make straight.” = Massoretic
  - Text Isa. 40:3

Similarities – Wescott’s Percentages

Gospel Differences Similarities

Mark
Matthew
Luke
John
Synoptic Overlap

Differences: QC TON

**Order** -- Mat 4/Lk 4: Temptation sequence

- Mat 4
  - Rocks to bread
  - Pinnacle –jump
  - Kingdoms-worship
  - Next: Mat. kingdom

- Luke 4
  - Rocks to bread
  - Kingdoms-worship
  - Pinnacle-Jump
  - Next: hill-thrown off (v.28)

**Quotation Variation**: Title on Cross, Peter

- Mat 27:37 This is Jesus, the king of the Jews
- Mk 15:26 the king of the Jews
- Lk 23:38 This is the king of the Jews
- Jn 19:19 Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews

**Peter’s quote**: Who do you say I am?

- Mt 16:16 “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”
- Mk 8:29: “You are the Christ”

**Number Variation**: Demonic(s) into pigs
Mat 8:28 2 demoniacs
Mk 5:2 1 demoniac

Timing Variation:
- Temple cleansing: Jn 2 beginning, Mat 21 end
- Fig withered immediately Mt 21:19; Mk 11:20 next day—lit. framing

Contradiction: take a staff, do not take staff (Mat 10:10; Mk. 6:8f)

Cleansing of the Temple
- Found in all four Gospels: Mt. 21:10ff; Mk. 11:15ff; Lk. 19:45f; Jn 2:13ff
- Question: What is the function of the story of the cleansing of the temple?

Messianic restoration: city hosannas v. 9-10
Lame healed, outsiders brought in v. 14f
Insiders become opponents – minor role v. 16
Next day Fig tree: – disconnected from cleansing; lesson on prayer

Luke 19:45f temple place of teaching

Context: lament over Jerusalem, foreshadow to day of Lord, destruction of Jerusalem; God coming to you...
Mutes incident: no reference to money-changers, doves, no details
Taken as an example of sage Jesus’ teaching function splits audience,
(Luke only: Jesus as child teaching in temple area)—2:46

John 2: temple building to body
Self-contained story: no triumphal entry, donkey, fig tree → destroy this temple 3 days
Beginning or end of Jesus life? 2X?
Actions more extreme; no quote about “den of thieves, house of prayer” from Jer. 7
Destroy this temple → body
Reconfiguring of temple from Jerusalem to Jesus as meeting place of God
Four Gospels, same story, used 4 different ways

Cleansing of the Temple
Religious defense of temple: Presence of God → his body (3 days destroy) (John)
Coming Day of Lord, sage teaching (Luke)
Messianic King: hosannas, redefining the temple in kingdom (Mat.)
Prophetic: rejection and judgment (Mark)

Documentary Solutions: 1 Source, 2 Source, 4 Source Theories
What is Q source?
Form Critical Approach

- Oral Traditions
- Genre types
  - Pronouncement stories—controversy stories
  - Miracle stories (Therapeutic/non-therapeutic)
  - Stories about Jesus
  - Sayings of Jesus
  - Passion Narrative
  - Parables—why hidden meaning?
  - engagement/attractive mystery
  - Oral → written needed, why? 3 reasons

General Rules for explaining differences

Q  TTWPP (Q Tip)

- Quotes: = / ≈
- Twice occurring event
- Translation differences (Aramaic to Greek)
- Witnesses different
- Purpose (writer/audience)
- Part/Whole: 1 / 2