

Can We Trust the Gospels?

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Raising Arrows Trinity Baptist Church, Ada Sunday, February 28, 2021

I. The Question: Are the New Testament Gospels Historically Reliable?

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16 - *all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*
- B. The Jesus Seminar – Jesus only said 18% of the red-letter words in the Gospels
- C. Can we trust the historical reliability of the Gospels?

KEY CLAIM: There are good reasons to believe that the Gospels provide an accurate depiction of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection

II. Six Lines of Evidence for the Historical Reliability of the Gospels

- A. *The Gospels* _____ *Eyewitness Testimony*
Luke 1:1-4; Acts 16:10, 20:5-11, 21:1-26, 27:1-28:31; John 21:24-25
- B. *The* _____ *of the Gospels*
Mark: _____ Luke: _____ Matthew: _____ John: _____ 1 Cor.: _____
_____ matters because it establishes the presence of _____, both
friends and foes, who could _____ the _____ of the Gospels.
- C. *The* _____ *Has Always Recognized the* _____ *of the Gospels*
The _____ Gospels vs. The _____ Gospels
- D. *Undesigned Coincidences (I _____ D _____, I _____ K _____, and I _____ C _____)*
 - A. *Incidental Details*
John 5:1-5
 1. What part of Jerusalem?
 2. What pool?
 3. What architectural structure?
 4. How long paralyzed?
 - B. *Insider Knowledge*
 1. Accurate Slang/Shorthand
 - a. Hanging Out at “The RAWC” (OBU)
 - b. Going to “The Mall” (Edmonton)
 - c. Headed to “The Sea” (1st-century Galilee)
 2. Knowledgeable Geographic References
 3. Appropriate Names

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C. *Intricate Convergence*

1. Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner @ The Anderson's Home (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John reporting)
2. John and James, 'Sons of Thunder' (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-55)
3. Jesus the Humble Foot-Washer (John 13:1-15; Luke 22:24-27)
4. Herod and His Servants (Matthew 14:1-2; Luke 8:1-3)
5. The Feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-15; Luke 9:10-17; John 12:21; Mark 6:30-44)
 - a. John 6:1-5 – Why Philip?
 - b. Where Are They? – Luke 9:10
 - c. Where is Philip From? – John 12:21 (and John 1:44)
 - d. Mark 6:30 – Why Is It So Busy? – John 6:4

E. *The _____ for the Gospels (The Discipline of _____)*
John 5:1-5

F. _____ of the Gospels
The analogy of _____

Further Resources:

Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, 2nd ed.

Craig Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*

F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, 3rd ed.

Tawa Anderson, *Why Believe?*

Peter Williams, *Can We Trust The Gospels?*