

The Four Gospels

the big picture

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Mark the lines below as correct (C), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).

A	() The four Gospels are much alike.
A-1	() They are all centered on Jesus.
A-2	() The triumphal entry is in all four.
A-3	() The feeding of the 5,000+ is in all four.
A-4	() Jesus' death and resurrection are in all four.
A-5	() The Gospel writers probably all knew each other well.
A-6	() The Gospels are equally accepted AND subject to critical attacks.
A-7	() They were all inspired by the Holy Spirit and are free from human error.
B	() The four Gospels are somewhat different.
B-1	() Luke is much longer than Mark.
B-2	() Luke has more about Jesus' birth than Matthew.
B-3	() Luke chapters 10-18 contain a lot of unique material.
B-4	() The longest resurrection accounts are in Luke and John.
B-5	() The Sermon on the Mount is only found in Matthew's Gospel.
B-6	() There are many parables in Matthew and Luke but none in John.
B-7	() The deity of Jesus is more clearly seen in John than in Matthew.
B-8	() Many of the miracles in John are not found in the other Gospels.
B-9	() There is more about believing in the Lord Jesus in John than in Luke.
C	() There are various opinions about how best to use the Gospels.
C-1	() We should try to read at least a chapter a day.
C-2	() It is good to compare and combine parallel passages.
C-3	() It is good to choose one Gospel as a personal favorite.
C-4	() Luke's Gospel is especially good to use in our materialistic age.
C-5	() John's Gospel is the best one for new believers to read and study.
C-6	() Narrative passages are the easiest for young children to understand.
C-7	() It is nearly impossible to proclaim the gospel without using the Gospels.
C-8	() Paul's letters are for the church age, but Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is not.
C-9	() We should study the Old Testament before studying the life of the Lord Jesus.

Answers: Most of the lines are correct or partly correct. The only line that is clearly wrong is C-8. Although the Gospels took place before the church began, all four were written during the church age and used in the early church. Lines B-5, B-7, B-9, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-5, and C-9 are all questionable. Line B-6 is a bit tricky, because there are various metaphors used in John, but these are not really parables.