

Questions:

1. Which two levels we should consider when reading the four gospels?
2. When exegesis the four gospels, which two settings we have to put into consideration?
3. What is thinking horizontally?
4. What is thinking vertically?
5. What are the three principles at work in the composition of the Gospels?

Answers:

1. There was the purely historical concern that this is who Jesus was and this is what he said and did, and this is the Jesus--- crucified and raised from the dead---whom we now worship as the risen and exalted Lord.
Second, there was the existential concern of retelling this story for the needs of later communities that did not speak Aramaic but Greek, and that did not live in a basically rural, agricultural, and Jewish setting, but in Rome, Ephesus, or Antioch, where the gospel was encountering an urban, pagan environment.
2. They are the historical settings of Jesus and the historical setting of the authors.
3. To think horizontally means that when studying a pericope in any one gospel, it is usually to be aware of the parallels in the other gospels.
4. To think vertically means that when reading or studying a narrative or teaching in the Gospels, one should try to be aware of both historical contexts---that of Jesus and that of the evangelist.
5. They are selectivity, arrangement and adaptation.

Terms:

1. Synoptic: common view.
2. Pericopes: the content of the Gospels was being passed on in individual stories and sayings called pericopes. Or pronouncement stories.
3. Eschatos: the end.

Summary:

To exegesis the gospels, we have to keep the basic theological framework of the New Testament in mind, which is eschatological. Besides that, we have to put into our consideration both the historical settings for Jesus and the authors. To apply to our life in this present age, we are in this world, but under the lordship of Jesus, his teachings, and ethics we should not only accept them but also live out in our lives.