

NT 615 - 5-3-1 – *Fee & Stuart, Ch 7*

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Questions:

1. What are the two facts that make interpreting the Gospels difficult?
2. What are two unique methods used to interpret the Gospels?
3. What are the three principles at work in the composition of the Gospels?
4. What is an essential concept to correctly interpret the Gospels?
5. What is the critical hermeneutical tension in much of the New Testament, and especially to the ministry and teaching of Jesus?

Answers:

1. (1) Jesus himself did not write a gospel and was written by others. (2) four gospel presentations are not entirely alike.
2. (1) think horizontally – when studying a pericope in any one gospel, it is usually helpful to be aware of the parallels in the other gospels. (2) think vertically – when reading or studying a narrative or teachings in the Gospels, one should try to be aware of both historical contexts – that of Jesus and that of the evangelist.
3. Selectivity, arrangement, and adaptation.
4. A clear understanding of the concept of the kingdom of God in the ministry of Jesus.
5. The tension of already, but not yet.

Terms:

1. Pericopes: individual stories and sayings, self-contained units of scripture
2. Pronouncement stories: the narrative exists only for the sake of the saying that concludes it.
3. Synopsis: a presentation of the gospels in parallel columns.

Summary:

The gospels are unique in that they are not books by Jesus but books that record the facts about Jesus, recall the teaching of Jesus, and bear witness to Jesus. The stories and sayings of Jesus were initially passed on orally in pericopes, and Holy Spirit guided the gospel authors to write them in their particular context. Thus, it is essential to know both Jesus' and the writers' context. The kingdom of God is a critical concept. Jesus announced the coming of the kingdom of God, which was the beginning of the end, and created the tension of already but not yet.