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Questions

1. What is an important factor that the Gospel writers used when writing the gospels?
2. What is a function that the gospel writers intend parables for?
3. How did Jesus' clash with the Pharisees' hermeneutics of the Torah?
4. What literary obstacles are there with the genre of the Gospels?
5. What should be considered when studying parables?

Answers

1. They selected the events of Jesus' life and his teachings, guided not by comprehensiveness but by their purpose in writing.
2. Parables are used to bear the teaching of Jesus on the later situation of the Christian churches.
3. The Pharisees often interpreted the Torah in a way that made them "fulfillable." They would take laws and make them required for people to adhere to but make exceptions for themselves.
4. The gospels if seen as history are not written in a modern-day style of historical narratives. Some of the gospels do not go into full biographical detail of the life of Jesus.
5. It involves seeing them in the historical context of Jesus' ministry and understanding how they function in the narrative of the gospel.

Terms

1. Parable: Stories that present a lesson and are usually easy for the audience to identify themselves in the story.
2. Inspired Presentation: Biblical scholars try to interpret what Jesus is "really" saying in the Gospels contrasted to the literal meaning of His teachings.
3. Legalism: religious outlook that sees people as morally self-reliant and in some way contributors to their own salvation

Summary

This chapter discusses in length both the historical and theological nature of the gospels. One highlighted point is discussing on how to interpret parables and realizing that we must look at the historical setting for interpreting parables. Finally, the end contrasts the authority in which Jesus teaches compared to the rabbis and that Jesus taught about grace versus the legalistic view of the torah by rabbis.