

Contradictions in the Gospels? Dealing with the Differences

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I. Are the Gospels at Odds with One Another?

A. Ancient Biographies

B. Variation and Gist

C. Precision and Accuracy

II. Dealing with Differences in Parallel Gospels Accounts

A. Differences in earlier and later reports

1. Paul's conversion (Acts 9, 22 & 26)

2. John and the Last Supper

B. Differences in reported speech

1. Jesus' words at the Last Supper

- "Blood of the Covenant" (Mk, Mt)
- "Blood of the New Covenant" (Lk, 1 Cor)

2. Peter's words at Caesarea Philippi

- Christ (Mk)
- Christ of God (Lk)
- Christ the Son of the Living God (Mt)

Apologetics GuySM

C. Differences in reported speakers

Healing of the centurion slave

- Meeting (Mt)
- Emissaries (Lk)

D. Differences in reported time and chronology

1. Jairus' Daughter

- Just died (Mt 8:18)
- Does on the way (Mk 5:35)

2. Fig Tree

- Withered at once (Mt 21:19)
- In the morning (Mk 11:20)

3. Controversies

- Topical (Mk)
- Stretched out (Mt)

4. Transfiguration

- 6 Days (Mk)
- About 8 days (Lk)

E. Differences in reported details of events

1. Calming of the Sea

- Did not understand / hearts were hardened (Mk 6:52)
- Worshipped Jesus (Mt 14:33)

2. Jesus Sayings on the Cross

- Quotes Ps 22:1 (Mk)
- Quotes Ps 31:5 (Lk)

3. Jesus' Resurrection

- Mary (Jn)
- Mary and others (Mt, Mk, Lk)