

The Harmony of the Gospels

The Purpose of the Gospels

Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. It also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed (Luke 1:1-4)

The Purpose of the Gospels

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31)

What is meant by a contradiction?

Contradiction: “A” cannot be non- “A” at the same time and in the same sense.

Two Contradictory Statements:

- As of March 14, 2021, Seth Miller is a bachelor.
- As of March 14, 2021, Seth Miller is a married man.

Not Necessarily Contradictory:

- Seth Miller is a bachelor.
- Seth Miller is a married man.

Differences, Not Contradictions

Imagine the conversations after watching this video...

- “Seth wore glasses.”
- “Seth did not wear glasses.”
- “His point about x was very inspiring.”
- “I really liked how he talked about y.”

These are all differences but necessarily contradictions. In fact, taken together, you get a bigger picture.

Why differences at all?

Several thoughts...

- Being identical causes suspicion
- No difference of doctrine or message
- Different purposes for writing
- Historical and Cultural misunderstandings

Last Sunday at FBC

Last Sunday at First Baptist Church, a young man was baptized while his parents read scripture. Roxanne led the congregation in, “How Great Thou Art”, “This is Amazing Grace”, and “Just As I Am.” She is also recited a Psalm for us. Pastor Seth preached from the book of Philippians and his message was about loving each other. At the invitation, an elderly couple came forward expressing their desire to join FBC.

The Gospel According to Jane

“I was so pleased to see little Joey get baptized. I am so proud of him. And how about the Smiths joining FBC? Our church is just growing!”

- No mention of sermon or songs.
- The focus seems to be on the numerical growth of the church.

The Gospel According to Ben

“Pastor Seth did not excellent job this morning. He is going through the book of Philippians and enjoyed his message on love. I spoke with him afterwards and we are setting a lunch date to further discuss the sermon.”

- No mention of songs, baptism or people joining.
- The focus seems to be on the sermon that was preached.”

The Gospel According to Randy

“The choir was amazing this week. No one can perform “How Great Thou Art” like Roxanne. The music really prepares my heart to listen to the sermon.”

- No mention of baptism or members joining.
- Not all of the songs were mentioned.
- The sermon was only alluded to.