

future return, but their interest in a returning Lord was never divorced from their memory of an earthly Master. Selecting and shaping the tradition about Jesus was largely determined by community needs. This is not to exclude the fact that some things were remembered and repeated because they could not be forgotten or neglected (cf. Acts 4:20). Memory, lasting impressions, hopes and fears, disappointments and reassurances, and chiefly the loss and recovery of their Teacher and Lord made silence impossible. But beyond this were the daily needs in evangelism, instruction, and discipline.

The early Christians did remember, interpret, use, and thus shape the materials which ultimately found their way into the four Gospels. The Gospels, then, are sources for the life of the early church as well as for the works and teachings of Jesus.

Outline of the Gospel

- I. The birth of Jesus and the beginning of his ministry (1:1—4:25)
 1. The genealogy of Jesus Christ (1:1—17)
 2. The birth of Jesus Christ (1:18—25)
 3. Rejection at home, reception from afar (2:1—23)
 - (1) The Wise Men from the East (2:1—12)
 - (2) The flight into Egypt (2:13—15)
 - (3) Infants slain in Bethlehem (2:16—18)
 - (4) From Egypt to Nazareth (2:19—23)
 4. The ministry inaugurated (3:1—4:25)
 - (1) The message of the Baptist (3:1—12)
 - (2) The baptism of Jesus (3:13—17)
 - (3) The temptation of Jesus (4:1—11)
 - (4) Withdrawal into Galilee (4:12—17)

- (5) Four fishermen called (4:18—22)
- (6) A threefold ministry (4:23—25)
- II. The Sermon on the Mount (5:1—7:29)
 1. Introduction (5:1—2)
 2. The Beatitudes (5:3—12)
 3. Salt, light, and a city set on a hill (5:13—16)
 4. Jesus and the Law (5:17—20)
 5. The intention of the Law (5:21—48)
 - (1) The essence of murder (5:21—26)
 - (2) Lust and adultery (5:27—30)
 - (3) The damage in divorce (5:31—32)
 - (4) Teaching about oaths (5:33—37)
 - (5) Overcoming evil with good (5:38—42)
 - (6) Love for enemies (5:43—48)
 6. Motive in religious life (6:1—18)
 - (1) Almsgiving (6:1—4)
 - (2) Prayer (6:5—15)
 - (3) Fasting (6:16—18)
 7. Freedom from tyranny of things (6:19—34)
 8. Judging others (7:1—6)
 - (1) The speck and the log (7:1—5)
 - (2) Pearls before swine (7:6)
 9. Ask, seek, knock (7:7—12)
 10. Perils to righteousness (7:13—27)
 - (1) The two ways (7:13—14)
 - (2) A tree known by its fruit (7:15—20)
 - (3) Saying without doing (7:21—23)
 - (4) Hearing and doing (7:24—27)
 11. Summary (7:28—29)
- III. The authority of Jesus in work and word (8:1—9:34)
 1. A leper cleansed (8:1—4)
 2. A centurion's servant healed (8:5—13)
 3. The sick healed (8:14—17)

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4. The cost of discipleship (8:18-22)
 5. A storm calmed (8:23-27)
 6. Deranged demoniacs healed (8:28-34)
 7. Healing and forgiveness (9:1-8)
 8. Matthew called (9:9-13)
 9. New skins for new wine (9:14-17)
 10. A woman healed and a girl raised from dead (9:18-26)
 11. Two blind men receive sight (9:27-31)
 12. Pharisees protest a healing (9:32-34)
 IV. Compassion of Jesus and commission of the twelve (9:35-11:1)
 1. Jesus' compassion for crowds (9:35-38)
 2. The mission of the twelve (10:1-4)
 3. The twelve commissioned (10:5-15)
 4. The coming persecution: master and disciple (10:16-42)
 (1) Sheep in the midst of wolves (10:16-25)
 (2) Whom to fear (10:26-33)
 (3) Not peace, but a sword (10:34-39)
 (4) Rewards (10:40-42)
 5. Summary (11:1)
 V. Various responses to Jesus (11:2-30)
 1. Uncertainty and confusion (11:2-6)
 2. Distortion and violence (11:7-15)
 3. Childish displeasure (11:16-19)
 4. Wilful rejection (11:20-24)
 5. Childlike trust (11:25-30)
 VI. Growing opposition to Jesus (12:1-50)
 1. Above the sabbath (12:1-14)
 (1) Plucking grain on sabbath (12:1-8)
 (2) Healing on the sabbath (12:9-14)
 2. The hope of the nations (12:15-21)
 3. The unpardonable sin (12:22-32)

22-32)
 4. The inescapable judgment (12:33-37)
 5. The sign of Jonah (12:38-42)
 6. The unclean spirit's return (12:43-45)
 7. Jesus' true family (12:46-50)
 VII. Parables of the kingdom (13:1-52)
 1. Sower and soils (13:1-23)
 (1) The parable given (13:1-9)
 (2) The purpose of parables (13:10-17)
 (3) The parable explained (13:18-23)
 2. Weeds among the wheat (13:24-30)
 3. Mustard seed and leaven (13:31-33)
 4. The use of parables (13:34-35)
 5. Parable of weeds explained (13:36-43)
 6. Hidden treasure and a costly pearl (13:44-46)
 7. Dragnet and the sorting of the fish (13:47-50)
 8. Treasures new and old (13:51-52)
 VIII. Rejected at home but popular with crowds (13:53-14:36)
 1. Rejection at Nazareth (13:53-58)
 2. The death of John the Baptist (14:1-12)
 3. Five thousand fed (14:13-21)
 4. Peter rescued from storm (14:22-33)
 5. Multitudes seek to be cured (14:34-36)
 IX. Conflict with Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees (15:1-16:12)
 1. Jesus challenges tradition (15:1-20)
 2. A Canaanite woman's faith (15:21-28)
 3. Multitudes healed and fed (15:29-39)
 4. Disciples warned against "leaven" of Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1-12)
 X. Christ, his church, and his cross

- (16:13—17:27)
1. Christ and his church (16:13-20)
 2. Jesus foretells death and resurrection (16:21-28)
 3. Jesus transfigured: revelation and preparation for cross (17:1-13)
 4. Faith to remove mountains (17:14-21)
 5. Disciples again warned (17:22-23)
 6. Temple tax paid, rights waived (17:24-27)
- XI. Instructions for the church (18:1-35)
1. Greatness in the kingdom (18:1-14)
 - (1) Childlike humility (18:1-4)
 - (2) The sin of causing little ones to stumble (18:5-9)
 - (3) Concern that not one little one perish (18:10-14)
 2. Church discipline, to correct and recover (18:15-20)
 3. The forgiving alone able to receive forgiveness (18:21-35)
- XII. Marriage, divorce, celibacy (19:1-15)
1. Introduction (19:1-2)
 2. Marriage: sacred and indissoluble except by death (19:3-9)
 3. Celibacy and its demands (19:10-12)
 4. Children's access to Christ (19:13-15)
- XIII. Rebukes to selfishness (19:16—20:34)
1. The peril of riches (19:16-30)
 2. Workers in the vineyard: first last, last first (20:1-16)
 3. Third reminder of coming death and resurrection (20:17-19)
 4. Self-seeking disciples challenged to sacrificial services (20:20-28)
 5. Jesus heals two blind men rebuked by the crowds (20:29-34)
- XIV. Royal entry into Jerusalem (21:1—23:39)
1. The royal entry (21:1-11)
 2. The Temple cleansed (21:12-17)
 3. Lessons from a fruitless fig tree (21:18-22)
 4. The question of the authority of Jesus (21:23—22:14)
 - (1) The authority challenged (21:23-27)
 - (2) Two sons: authority acknowledged in obedience, not words (21:28-32)
 - (3) Wicked tenants: crushed by spurned authority (21:33-44)
 - (4) Hardening of chief priests and Pharisees (21:45-46)
 - (5) Defiant guests and a king's wrath (22:1-14)
 5. Abortive efforts to outwit Jesus (22:15-40)
 - (1) Paying taxes to Caesar (22:15-22)
 - (2) The question of the resurrection (22:23-33)
 - (3) The great commandment (22:34-40)
 6. Jesus' question: David's son or David's Lord (22:41-46)
 7. Scribes and Pharisees exposed and denounced (23:1-36)
 - (1) Warnings against their example (23:1-12)
 - (2) Seven woes and coming judgment (23:13-36)
 8. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (23:37-39)
- XV. Judgment: immediate and ultimate (24:1—26:2)
1. Destruction of Temple foretold (24:1-2)
 2. Woes before end of the age (24:3-14)
 3. Fate of Judea and warning against false messiahs and prophets (24:15-28)
 4. The coming of the Son of man (24:29-31)
 5. Lessons from the fig tree (24:32-35)
 6. Time of Parousia unknown (24:36-44)

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 Signs of the Son of man (24:32-34)
 Signs of the Son of man from the fig tree (24:35-44)
 Parousia unknown (24:45-51)

7. On being prepared (24:45-25:13)
 - (1) Faithful and unfaithful servants (24:45-51)
 - (2) The ten maidens (25:1-13)
8. Parable of the talents: those who have and those who have not (25:14-30)
9. Final judgment: serving Christ in serving others (25:31-46)
10. Prediction of betrayal (26:1-2)
- XVI. Arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus (26:3-28:20)
 1. Preceding events (26:3-27:26)
 - (1) The plot (26:3-5)
 - (2) Jesus anointed at Bethany (26:6-13)
 - (3) Judas bargains to betray Jesus (26:14-16)
 - (4) Passover with disciples (26:17-25)
 - (5) Institution of Lord's Supper (26:26-29)
 - (6) Jesus warns disciples of betrayal and Peter protests (26:30-35)
 - (7) Gethsemane (26:36-46)
 - (8) The betrayal and arrest (26:47-56)
 - (9) Hearing before Caiaphas (26:57-68)
 - (10) Peter's denial of Jesus (26:69-75)
 - (11) Trial before Pilate (27:1-26)
 2. The crucifixion (27:27-56)
 - (1) Jesus mocked by soldiers (27:27-31)
 - (2) Jesus crucified (27:32-44)
 - (3) Jesus' death (27:45-56)
 3. The burial of Jesus (27:57-66)
 - (1) The burial (27:57-61)
 - (2) The guard at the tomb (27:62-66)
 4. The resurrection and appearances of Jesus (28:1-20)
 - (1) Appearance to the women (28:1-10)
 - (2) False report of the guards (28:11-15)

- (3) The commissioning of the disciples (28:16-20)

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