

WHATEVER IT TAKES

HEALED BY
FAITH



THE GOSPELS

The four canonical Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—tell of the “good news” of the Messiah: Jesus. The term “Gospel”—derived from the Anglo-Saxon “God-spell” or “Good News”—translates the Greek *euangelion* (“good news”). Its use as a label for the New Testament works Matthew, Mark, Luke and John derives from early manuscript witnesses which characterized them as “the Gospel According to Matthew,” “the Gospel according to Mark,” and so on.

The term itself is used in Mark 1:1, “the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” but it was current in early Christianity before the writing of the Gospels (e.g., Paul often speaks about “the gospel” as the good news about Jesus that is at the center of his preaching). “Good news” has Jewish and Graeco-Roman precedents in Isaiah’s prophecy, “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns” (Isa 52:7), and in Caesar’s imperial announcements.

Mark Goodacre, [“Gospels, Synoptic,”](#) ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Of the four canonical Gospels, three of them—Matthew, Mark and Luke—are called “Synoptic” because they can be viewed together (*syn*, “with”; *-optic*, “see”) in a Synopsis, or a book that arranges the Synoptic Gospels in parallel columns.

Mark Goodacre, [“Gospels, Synoptic,”](#) ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

FAITH IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Jesus initiates His ministry by proclaiming, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15 NRSV). With this statement, Jesus calls for a serious commitment to His message and invites disciples to follow Him. The collocation of repentance and belief points to a radical reorientation of life for the Jews to whom Jesus preached. In this context, the call to belief refers less to treating Jesus as God and more to accepting that the long-awaited fulfillment of God’s promise has arrived, whereby He has come to break into the sin-dominated world and restore the covenantally unfaithful people of Israel.

Jews may have found it particularly challenging to have faith in Jesus’ gospel message because Jesus came from humble origins and did not seem to have the training and prowess that many expected of the messiah. The invitation to faith for first-century Jews was thus a call to allegiance—to accept the immanence of the kingdom of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

FAITH IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

In the Synoptic Gospels, the language of faith relates to trust in God and in Jesus (Mark 4:40; 11:22–24; Luke 8:25; Matt 21:21–22), with some concern for its relationship to divine judgment (Luke 18:8). However, Jesus' miracles are of greatest interest in regard to the subject of faith. The Synoptic Gospels record two particular phrases that connect healing with faith:

1. "Let it [the requested miracle] be done for you according to your faith" (Matt 8:13; 9:29 NRSV).
2. "Your faith has healed you" (Matt 9:22; Mark 5:34; 10:52; Luke 7:50; 8:48; 17:19; 18:42 NRSV).

Nijay K. Gupta, "Faith," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

§ 107 JAIRUS' DAUGHTER AND A WOMAN'S FAITH

Δ MAT 9:18–26 (§ 55, p. 46)

¹⁸ While he was saying these things
to them,

suddenly
a leader of the synagogue
came in and

knelt before him,
saying, “My
daughter has just

MAR 5:21–43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again
in the boat to the other side,
a great crowd gathered around him;
and he was by the sea.

²² Then
one of the leaders of the synagogue
named Jairus came and,

when he saw him, fell at his feet
²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My
little daughter is at the point of

LUK 8:40–56

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned,
the crowd welcomed him,
for they were all waiting for him.

⁴¹ Just then

there came a man named Jairus,
a leader of the synagogue.

He fell at Jesus' feet
and begged him to come to his
house, ⁴² for he had an only daugh-

died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years

came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,
²¹ *for she said to herself,*
“If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.”

death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
²⁸ for she said,

“If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it.

ter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he

went, the crowds pressed in on him.

⁴³ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years;^C and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her.

⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes,

and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

⁴⁵ Then Jesus asked, “Who touched me?” When all denied it, Peter^D said, “Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.”

22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."

And instantly the woman was made well.

³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told

him the whole truth.

³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me."

⁴⁷ When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.

⁴⁸ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's

§ 193 THE HEALING OF BARTIMAEUS

MAT 20:29–34

Cf. 9:27–31 (§ 56, p. 46)

²⁹ As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the

MAR 10:46–52

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the

LUK 18:35–43

³⁵ As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the

roadside.

When they

heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted,^o “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”

³¹ The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, “Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!” ³² Jesus stood still and called them, saying,

“What do you want me to do for you?” ³³ They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.”

³⁴ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes.

Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

▼ 21:1–9 (§ 196, p. 153)

roadside.

heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say,

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many

sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.”

And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him,

“What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher,^p let me see again.”

⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

▼ 11:1–10 (§ 196, p. 153)

⁴⁷ When he

roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

³⁸ Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

³⁹ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him;

and when he came near, he asked him,

⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” He said,

“Lord, let me see again.”

⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.”

⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.



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