

**Course: Gospels & Acts**

**Series: The Gospels**

**Discussion Forum One: Introduction to the Gospels**

- 1. Why did the gospel writers think it was important to record these facts in such careful literary accounts?**
  - a. Greg Perry – Covenant Theological Seminary (01:05)
- 2. Are the Gospels only valuable because they contain facts about Jesus, or is it also important to consider their literary aspects?**
  - a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (02:15)
- 3. Why is it important to identify and consider the genre of the Gospels?**
  - a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (03:40)
- 4. Can we be certain that Jesus was a real, historical person?**
  - a. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (06:25)
  - b. Ben Witherington III – Asbury Theological Seminary (09:10)
- 5. How does the Holy Spirit's inspiration impact the Gospel's historical reliability?**
  - a. Steven Tsoukalas – Wesley Biblical Seminary (10:45)
- 6. How should Evangelicals respond to the charge that the Gospels are based on faulty oral traditions?**
  - a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (14:00)
- 7. Are the opinions of modern historians more reliable than the gospel accounts?**
  - a. Richard Bauckham – University of St. Andrews (20:50)
- 8. Why should the failures and shortcomings of the disciples increase our confidence in the gospel accounts?**
  - a. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (25:40)
  - b. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (29:30)
- 9. How can extra-biblical accounts confirm the reliability of the Gospels?**
  - a. David Redelings – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (31:45)
- 10. How can we discuss the historical reliability of the Gospels with skeptics and unbelievers?**
  - a. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (37:00)

**11. Why are the similarities and differences between the Synoptic Gospels considered problematic?**

- a. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (44:35)

**12. What's the value in having multiple gospels that say essentially the same thing?**

- a. David Redelings – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (47:05)
- b. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (48:40)
- c. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (50:45)

**13. Why is John's gospel so different from the Synoptic Gospels?**

- a. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (52:45)

**14. Should the lack of rigorous chronology in the Gospels pose a problem for modern readers?**

- a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (55:20)
- b. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (57:15)
- c. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (58:20)
- d. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (59:20)

**15. Do the differences between the Gospels indicate that their authors disagreed with each other?**

- a. Ben Witherington III – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:01:35)

**16. What did the Jews in Jesus' day expect the Messiah to do, and how did Jesus compare to those expectations?**

- a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:03:25)
- b. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:06:05)

**17. Why did the gospel writers find it so remarkable that Peter specifically confessed Jesus to be the Christ?**

- a. Mark Strauss – Bethel Seminary, San Diego (1:08:00)

**18. Why did the Messiah have to descend from David?**

- a. Stephen Wellum – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1:10:10)
- b. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. – Third Millennium Ministries (1:11:30)

**19. How can we reconcile Jesus' kingship with his commitment to suffering and dying?**

- a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:12:55)

**20. Do the Gospels teach that Jesus is fully God?**

- a. Jeffrey Lowman – Birmingham Theological Seminary (1:14:15)
- b. Steven Cowan – Birmingham Theological Seminary (1:15:25)

**21. What was the central focus of the gospel that Jesus proclaimed?**

- a. Simon Vibert – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:18:35)
- b. Jonathan Pennington – The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1:19:15)
- c. Peter Walker – Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University (1:21:45)

**22. What are some ways that Jesus taught implicitly about the kingdom of God?**

- a. Wai-yee Ng – China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong (1:24:05)

**23. How might we summarize Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God?**

- a. David Bauer – Asbury Theological Seminary (1:25:35)
- b. Dan Doriani – Central Presbyterian Church, Clayton, MO (1:29:25)