

The Synoptic Problem and The Gospel according to Matthew

*Catholic Bible Institute of Southern Arizona
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9:00 *Arrival & Setup*

9:15 *Opening Prayer / Initial Announcements*

9:30 **Session 1 – The Synoptic Problem: An Overview**

Historical & Literary Relationships between Matthew, Mark, and Luke

What's the "Problem" with the Synoptic Gospels?

Various Solutions proposed for the "Synoptic Problem"

The Four-Source (or Two-Document) Hypothesis

Analyzing Gospel Parallels: esp. Kurt Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*

10:30 *Table Discussion: What differences does knowing the ORDER of the Gospels' composition make to our understating of Matthew's Gospel?*

10:45 *Break*

11:00 **Session 2 – The Gospel according to Matthew: Jesus the King and Teacher**

Matthew's Gospel: Outline / Overview / Literary Features

Matthew's Jesus: Son of David, Son of Abraham, Teacher/Lawgiver like Moses

Discipleship in Matthew: Learning and Living acc. to Jesus' Teachings

Five Great Speeches of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel

The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5–7)

12:15 *Table Discussions: What impresses/surprises you most about Matthew's portrait of Jesus?*

12:30 *Lunch*

1:30 **Session 3 – The Parables of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels**

Definitions: What are "Parables"? (and what are they not?)

What is the "Purpose" of Jesus' Parables?

Parables and Related Materials in the Four Gospels

Parables in Matthew, esp. Matt 13 and Matt 24–25

2:30 *Group Project: Analyzing a Matthean Parable: What's the "strange twist" within the story?*

2:45 *Break*

3:00 **Session 4 – Miracles, Mission, and Church**

Miracle Stories in the Synoptic Gospels

Matt 8–9 – Jesus the Miracle-Worker

Matt 10 – Apostles "sent out" on a Mission

Matt 16 – Christology and Ecclesiology

Matt 18 – Community life of the "Church"

Matt 28 – Resurrection & Great Commission

4:00 *Concluding Q & A*

4:15 *Homework Instructions / Final Announcements / Closing Prayer*

4:30 *Clean-up & Departure*

