

## Different Portrayals of the Crucified Jesus

Gospels are based upon memories / reflections / traditions of the Words & Deeds of Jesus.

The Gospels are not literal, historical accounts!

Faith of the Christians Communities > Preaching of Apostles > Viewpoint of Evangelist.

Result? 4 Pictures of Jesus: 4 books but one Jesus.

Matthew and Mark used the same sources for their Gospel.

In this Study we will take 3 viewpoints: the gospels of MARK, LUKE & JOHN.

### MARK

#### ABANDONMENT

##### DISCIPLES

portrayed negatively

- fall asleep
- Judas betrays
- Peter curses... don't know
- all flee (clothes)

Judges are cynical

on Cross for 6 hours

3 hours mockery &

3 hours darkness of earth

##### WHY FORSAKE ME?

Cry met with derision;

YET GOD CONFIRMS Jesus

when at his weakest

Temple Veil torn

Roman Centurion believes

### LUKE

#### FORGIVENESS

##### DISCIPLES

portrayed positively

- faithful in Jesus' trials
- fall asleep only once – sad
- no false witness produced
- Pilate says "Not guilty" (x3)

People grieve for Jesus

Jesus concerned about others:

heals slave's ear

concerned about Women

forgives killers

promises Paradise to thief

##### Crucifixion:

Occasion for forgiveness

Dies in peace

### JOHN

#### POWERFUL – a KING

Soldiers & Police powerless

Doesn't pray to be delivered

Self-assured before High-

Priest

Pilate afraid of him.

No Simon of Cyrene appears

Royalty (INRI)

proclaimed in 3 languages

Not alone on Calvary

Mary & John at foot of Cross

No sense of being forsaken

"It is finished" + his decision

Dispenses life – water from side

Burial amidst 40 kilos of spices in a new tomb.

All 3 accounts are given to us by the Holy Spirit; no one of them exhausts the meaning of Jesus. To choose one portrayal of the crucified Jesus in a manner that would exclude the other or to try to harmonize all them into one would deprive the cross of much of its meaning.

It is important that

some people be able to see the head bowed in dejection,

while others observe the arms outstretched in forgiveness,

and still others perceive in the title on the cross the proclamation of a **reigning king**.