



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

30 June 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Synoptic \ˈsə-ˈnāp-tik\

From Greek for “seen together,” sharing a common view or perspective; specifically, relating to the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, because, unlike the Gospel of John, which is 90 percent unique, the three **synoptic** gospels present similar parables, sayings, and episodes.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-Synoptic>

### CONTEXT

Despite the likeness among the **synoptics**, comparing them can feel like comparing apples and oranges.

—Santiago Cortés-Sjöberg

Even though John does not appear to depend upon the **synoptics**, the evangelist may have known of one or more of the **synoptics**.

—Pheme Perkins, Reading the New Testament

### WHY IT MATTERS

The gospels comprise the mystery of faith in Jesus Christ, whose entrance into human history confirms that God, who is love, is with us to free us from sin and death and lead us to everlasting life. Believers are charged to bring this "Good News" to all the world. Though the **synoptic** gospels tell the same stories or present truths in a similar way, they are meant for different audiences at different times. Appreciating the cumulative testimony of all four gospels enables us to fulfill our mission as church.

From *Dei Verbum* (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation): The sacred authors wrote the four gospels, selecting some things from the many which had been handed on by word of mouth or in writing, reducing some of them to a synthesis, explaining some things in view of the situation of their churches . . . but always in such fashion that they told us the honest truth about Jesus.

### RELATED WORDS

Gospel | Good News | Evangelion | Evangelist

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What’s the difference between “gospel” and the “gospels”?

Our word *gospel* comes from the Anglo-Saxon “god-spell,” good tidings. In Greek it’s *evangelion*, used to describe the proclamation of Jesus. The gospel isn’t what Jesus says. It’s the teachings about Jesus—Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection—which reveal him as God’s Son. Plurally, “gospels” are books that tell how the gospel (Good News) came to be.

Saint Paul frequently refers to “God’s gospel” and boils the evangelion down to a single idea: “Christ crucified.” That the world is saved from sin and death by the death of the Messiah seemed like foolishness to Greeks and a theological obstacle to Jews. Yet Paul refused to back down from the “absurdity” of the cross.

Among the **synoptic** writers, Mark calls his book “The gospel of Jesus Christ.” To Matthew, the Good News is that God has seized power over evil and begun a new reign. Luke emphasizes “glad tidings to the poor.” John doesn’t use the term *gospel*, but his message of God’s Incarnate Word has the same implications.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-gospel-and-gospels>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (JUNE 30)

### Healing takes many forms

Many gospel stories of healing are of the miraculous variety; they’re “supernatural”—above nature—in order to focus on God’s power over everything, including natural things like illness. One of the keys to “miraculous” healing is trust in God, whether the outcome is an actual cure or the acceptance of one’s situation. Either way, suffering eases.

READINGS: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43 (98 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/063024.cfm>). “Your faith has saved you.”

### FAITH IN ACTION

“Grace does not destroy nature but perfects it,” wrote Saint Thomas Aquinas. Let the grace of faith bring healing to your life.