# The first 3 Gospels

* Last 3rd of 1st c. (65-95)
* Written by believers
* Why 4?
* “Lives” – gospel – good news, *euangelion*
* To convince or confirm about truth pf J.C.
* Circulated (?orally) over decades
  + Reshaped
    - Applied to circumstances
  + Interpreted in geog and cultural circumstances
* Overlapping worlds
  + Relate to JC in Jewish Galilee and Jerusalem in 1st 3 decades of c.
  + Stories told in
    - Different geog and cultures
      * Urban not rural
  + Stories overlaid with subsequent history an evangelists’ culture
* The 3 are similar in structure and words
  + Synoptic = “seeing together”
  + Mark oldest
    - Basis for Matthew and Luke
  + (Griesbach (Two gospel) hypothesis has Matthew then Luke, conflated by Mark) )
  + Supposed Matthew & Luke worked independently
    - Shared, non-Mark material coming from Q
* MK 1:1-13
  + Questions
    - Textual variants
    - Historical
    - Literary
    - Theological
  + Some narrow focused on text
    - Some on how it connect in wider context
  + May focus on author’s role in shaping material
    - Or on application tdoay