

The Four Portraits of Jesus

- Each Evangelist had a particular audience in mind when he (they) wrote.
- It is doubtful that any one writer wrote a single Gospel. It is more likely that each Gospel is a combination of the author's work, as well as that of his "students". After an author died, those who followed him continued to write using the same perspective.
- No one Gospel tells us everything we need to know. Each Gospel adds to our understanding of Jesus.
- In order to get a complete picture, one should read all four Gospels.

Author	Target Audience	Perspective	Other Information
Mark (c. 70)	Christians in Rome suffering persecution	The Suffering Servant	Stresses that just like Jesus, we too must suffer. Shows Jesus' <u>humanity</u> .
Luke (c. 85 CE)	Non-Jews ("gentiles"), especially poor and outcasts	The Compassionate Saviour	Stresses Jesus' concern for "second-class" citizens.
Matthew (c. 90 CE)	Jews	The Teaching Saviour	Stresses how Jesus brings teachings of Moses to fulfillment.
John (c. 100 CE)	Christians of all backgrounds	The Life-Giving Saviour	Stresses that Jesus came to make the lives of <u>all</u> people richer and fuller.