

The Beatitudes



WALKING WITH MATTHEW IN THE LAND OF JESUS

DOWN AND CONNOR
2019

WELCOME

- BEFORE WE GO: INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW
- DAY 1: THE BIRTH NARRATIVES (MT 1-2 / Exodus 1-2)
- DAY 2: THE TEMPLE ACTION (MT 21)
- DAY 3: THE LORD'S PRAYER (MT 6)
- DAY 4: THE RESURRECTION (MT 28)
- DAY 5: THE TRANSFIGURATION (MT 17 / Exodus 24 and 34)
- DAY 6: CAESAREA PHILIPPI (MT 18)
- DAY 7: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MT 5-7 / Pentateuch)

Sequence

- **Reminder: how the Gospels were written**
- **Layout of the Sermon**
- **What is a “Beatitude”?**
- **Matthew 8+1**
- **Commentary**
- **Conversation**

How were the gospels written?

Mark
(678)
The Sower

Q source
(252 vv)
The Lord's Prayer

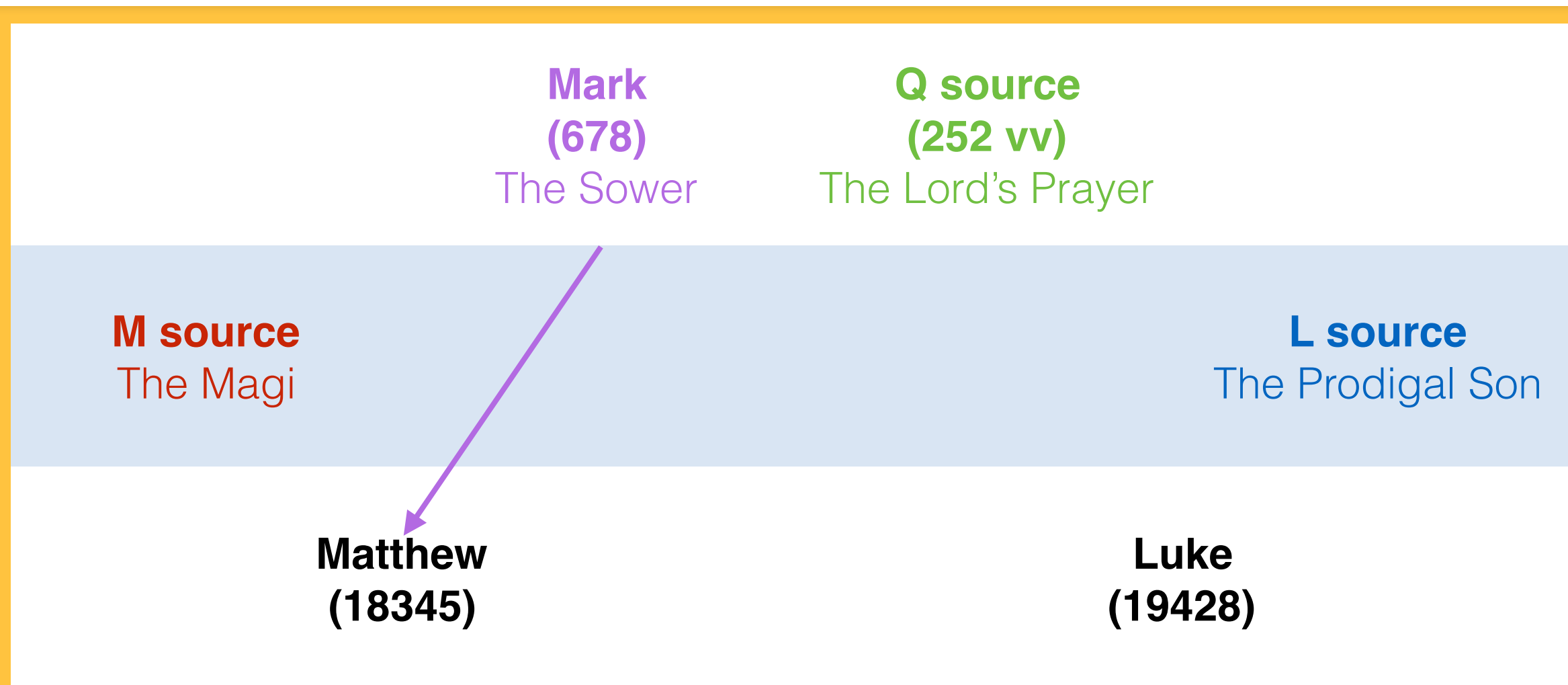
M source
The Magi

L source
The Prodigal Son

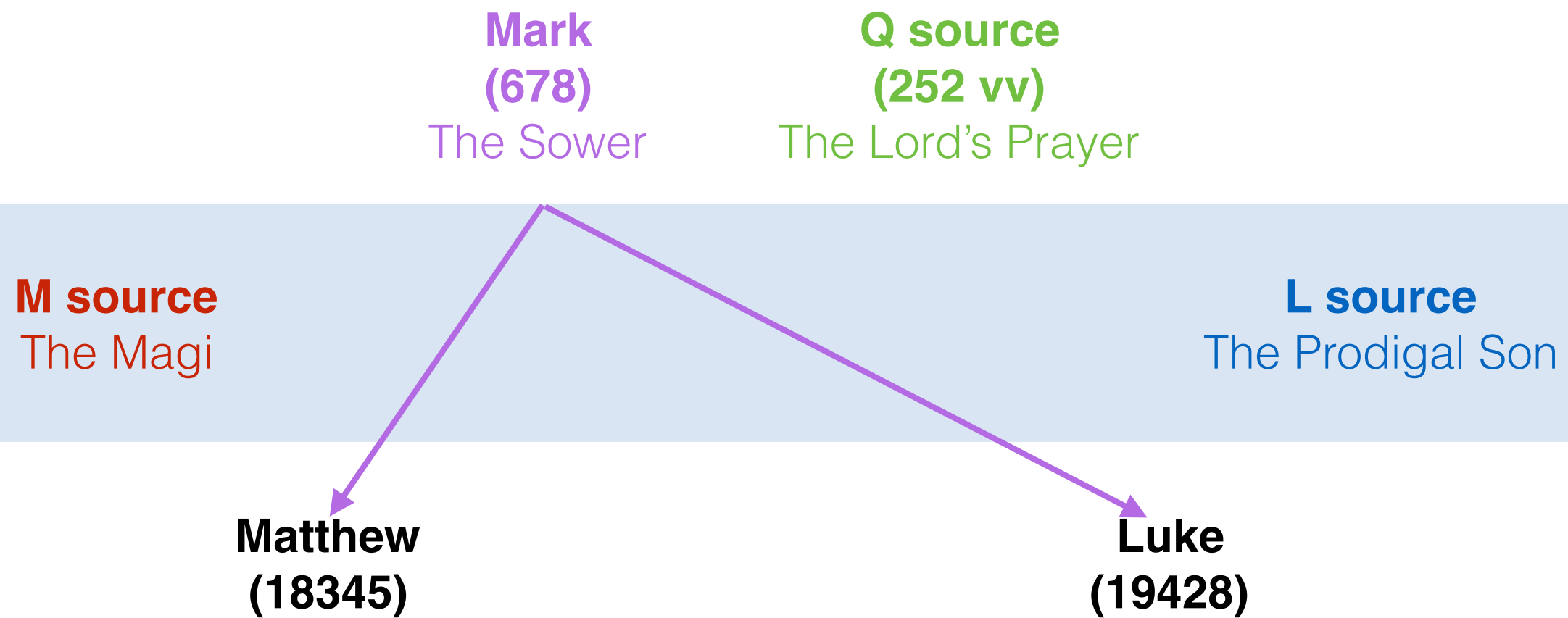
Matthew
(18345)

Luke
(19428)

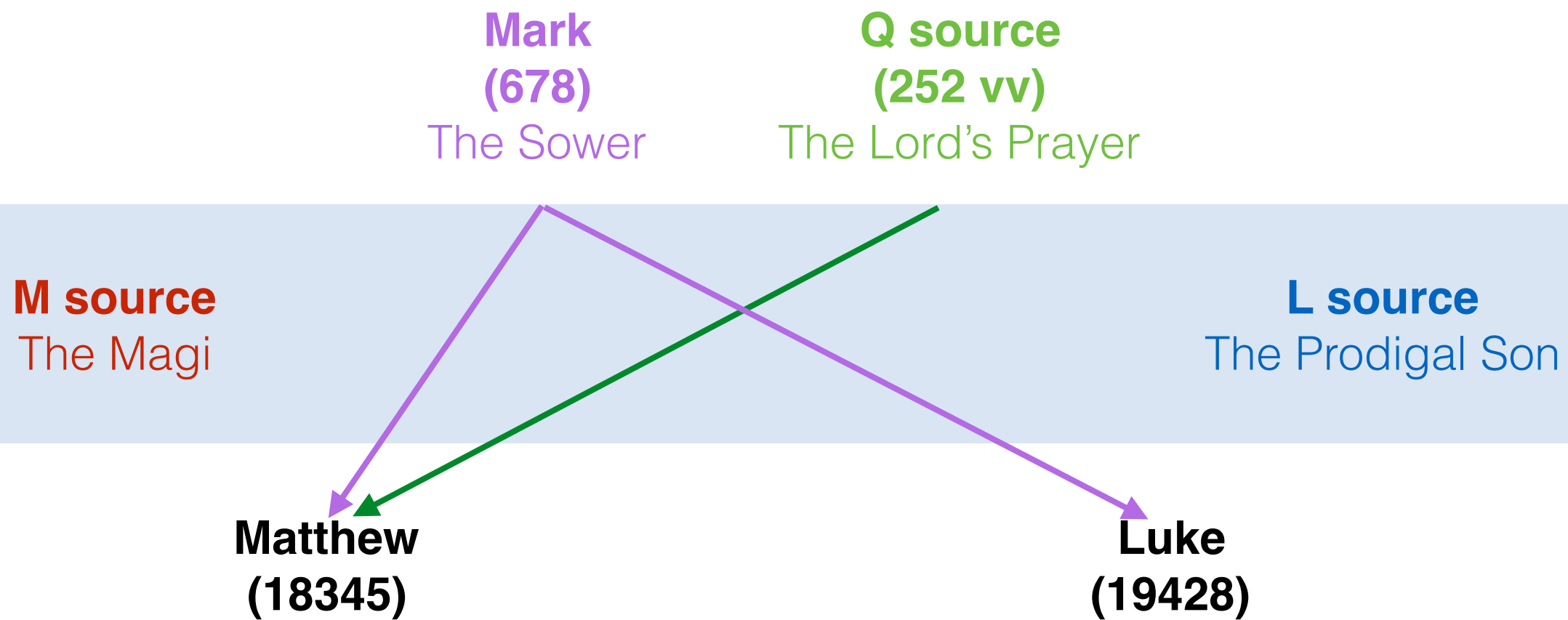
How were the gospels written?



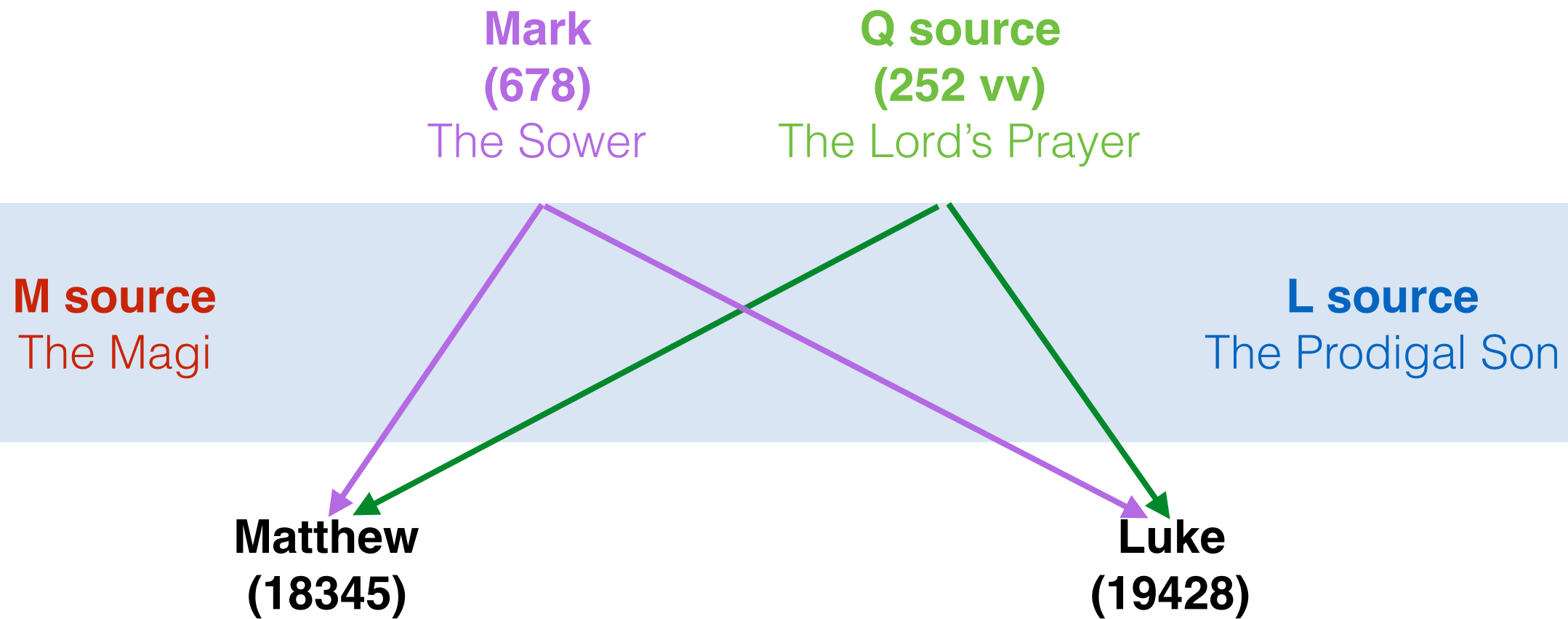
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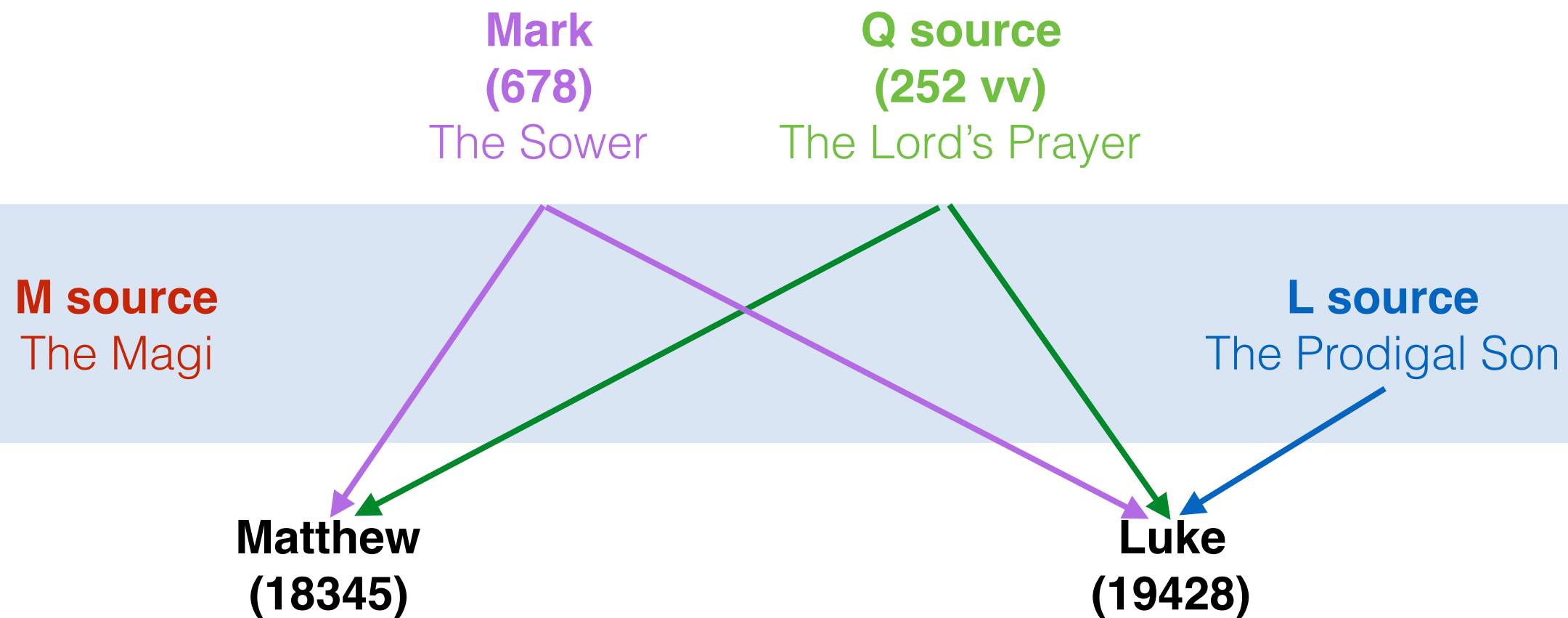
How were the gospels written?



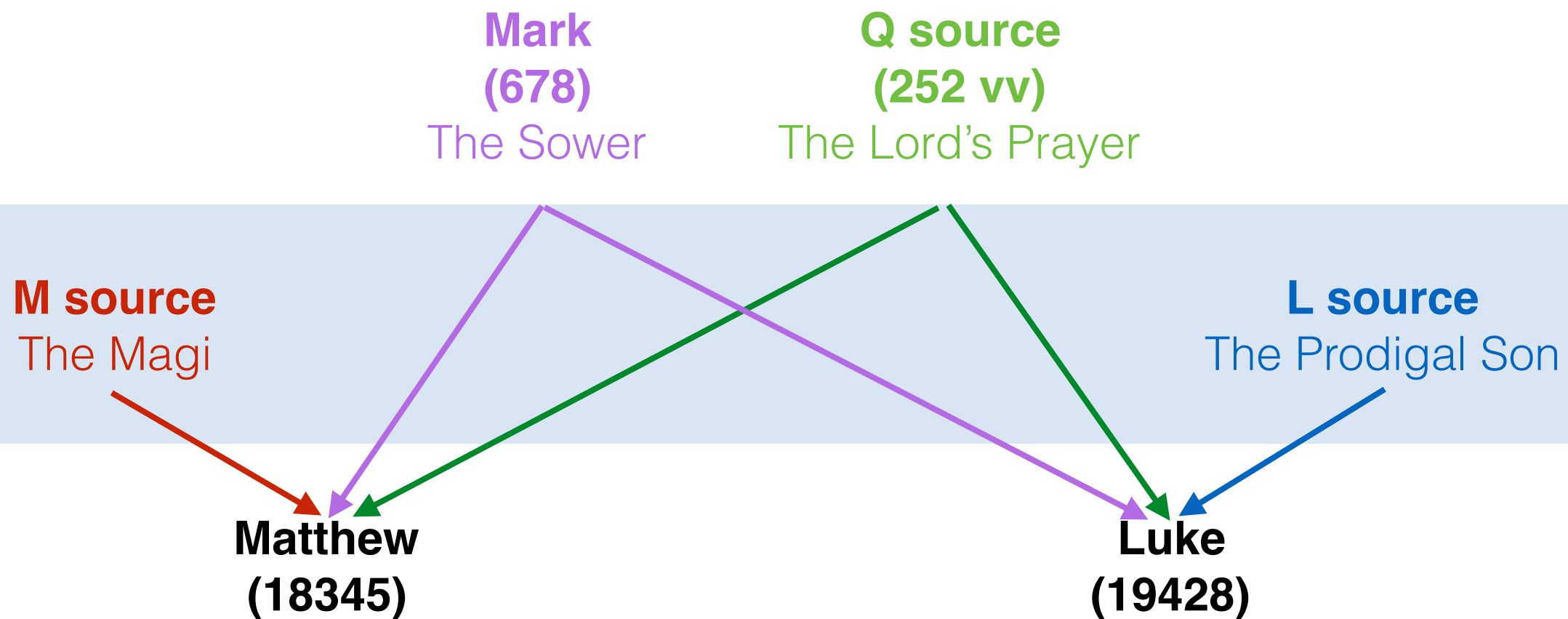
How were the gospels written?



How were the gospels written?



How were the gospels written?



How were the gospels written?

- **252 verses = the Sayings Sources (Quelle)**
- **Q survives only in Matthew and Luke**
- **Q written, probably, in Palestine, in Greek**

The sources and layout

- **Sources for all five discourses in Matthew**
- **Source for the Sermon on the Mount in particular**
- **Material found in Mark, Matthew and Luke (triple tradition)**
- **Material found in Mark and Matthew (double tradition)**
- **Material found in both Matthew and Luke (Q source)**
- **Material special to Matthew himself (M - found nowhere else)**



Layout of Matthew's gospel



Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue

1-2

Birth



Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue

1-2

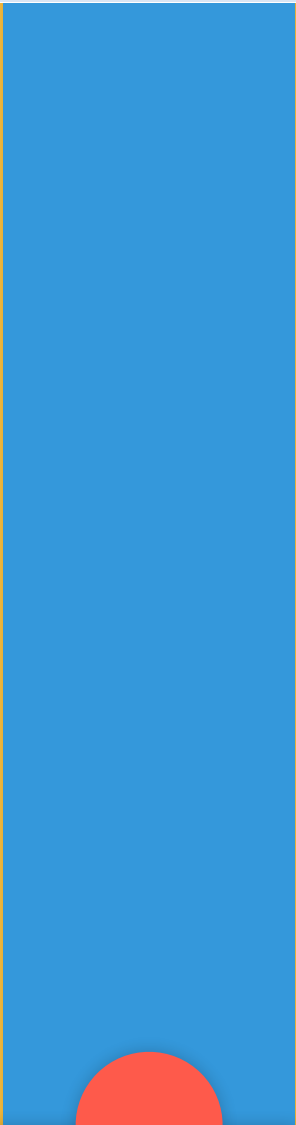
Birth



Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue 1-2 **Birth**

Book 1 3:1-7:29 3-4 **Narrative** Temptation, baptism, call stories



Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue	1-2	Birth
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Book 1	3:1-7:29	3-4	Narrative	Temptation, baptism, call stories
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		5-7	Discourse	<i>Sermon on the Mount</i>
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Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue

1-2

Birth

Book 1

3:1-7:29

3-4

Narrative

Temptation, baptism, call stories

5-7

Discourse

Sermon on the Mount

Book 2

8:1-11:1

8:1-9:34

Narrative

Authority in deeds

Layout of Matthew's gospel

Prologue		1-2	Birth	
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Book 2	8:1-11:1	8:1-9:34	Narrative	Authority in deeds
		9:35-11:1	Discourse	Mission Discourse



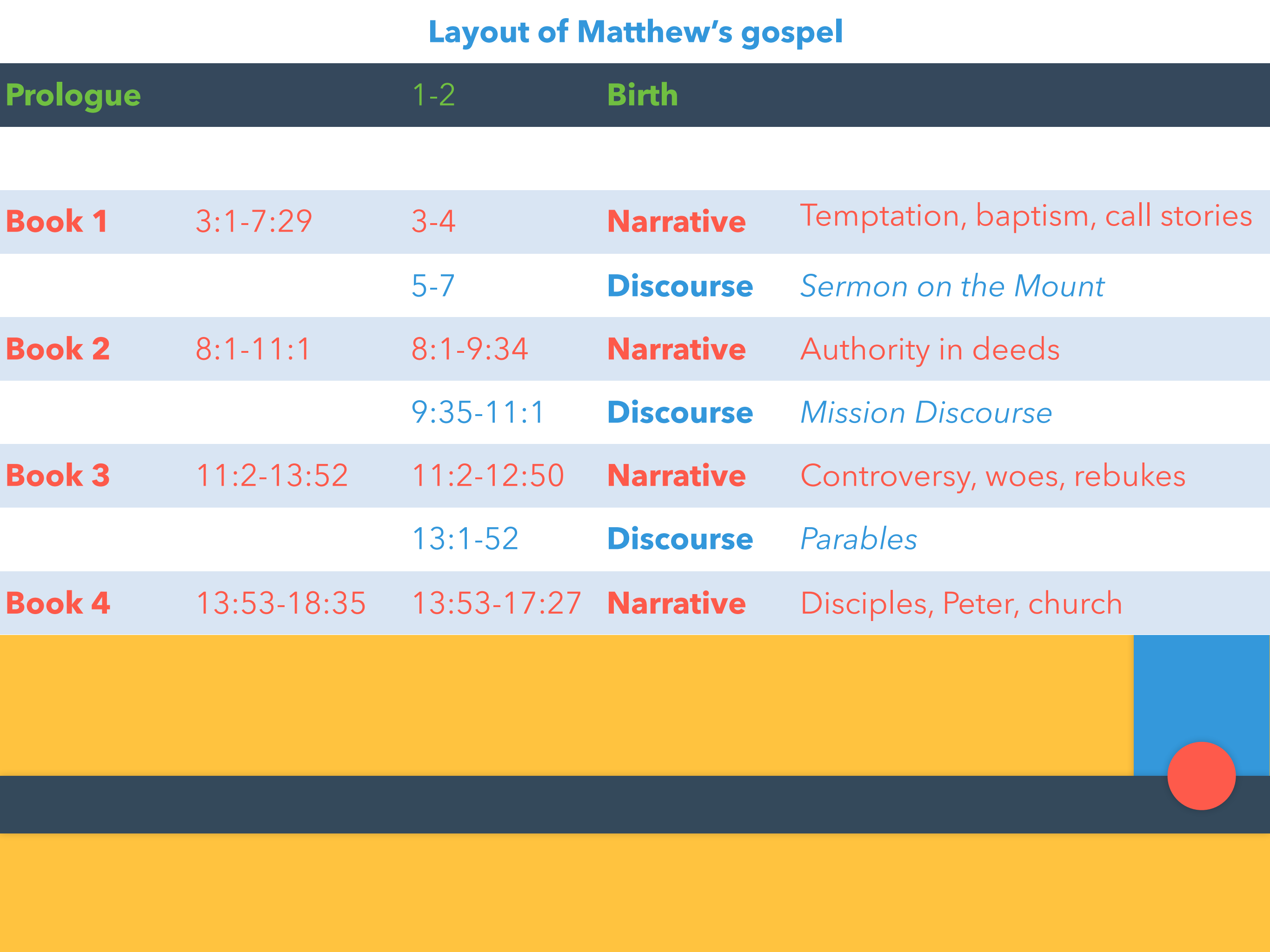
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Climax		26-28	Death and Resurrection	



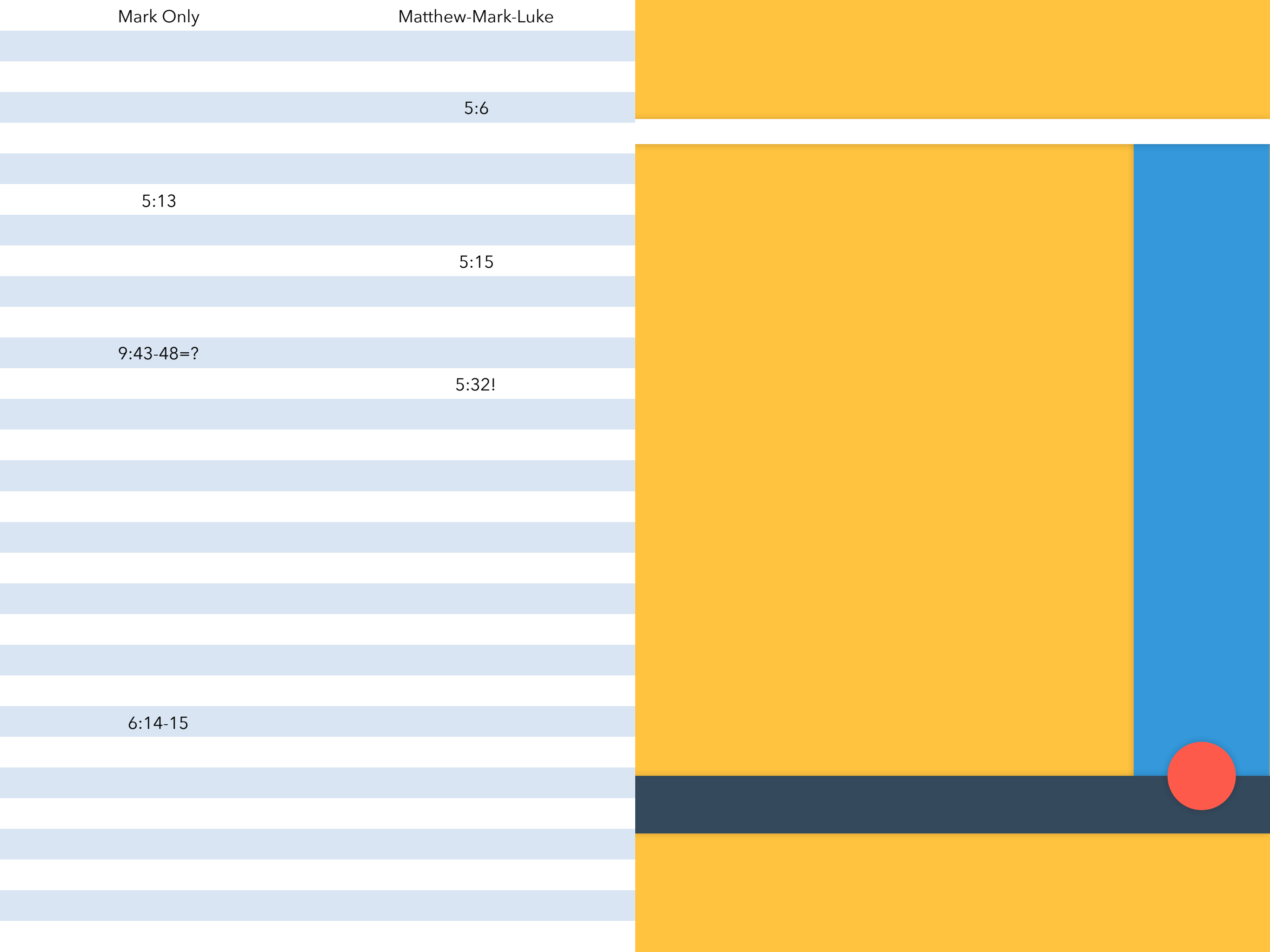
Mark Only

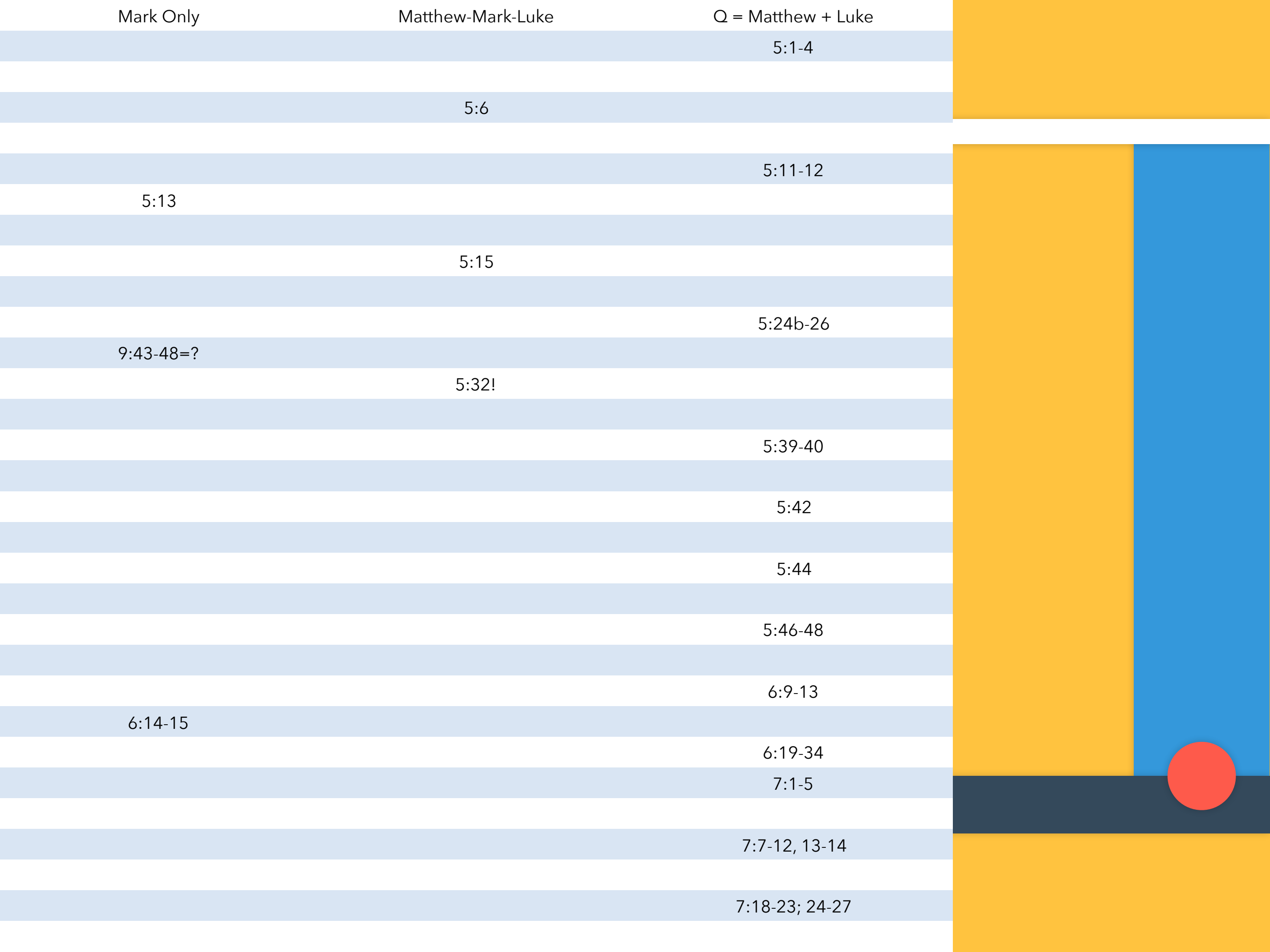
5:13

9:43-48=?

6:14-15





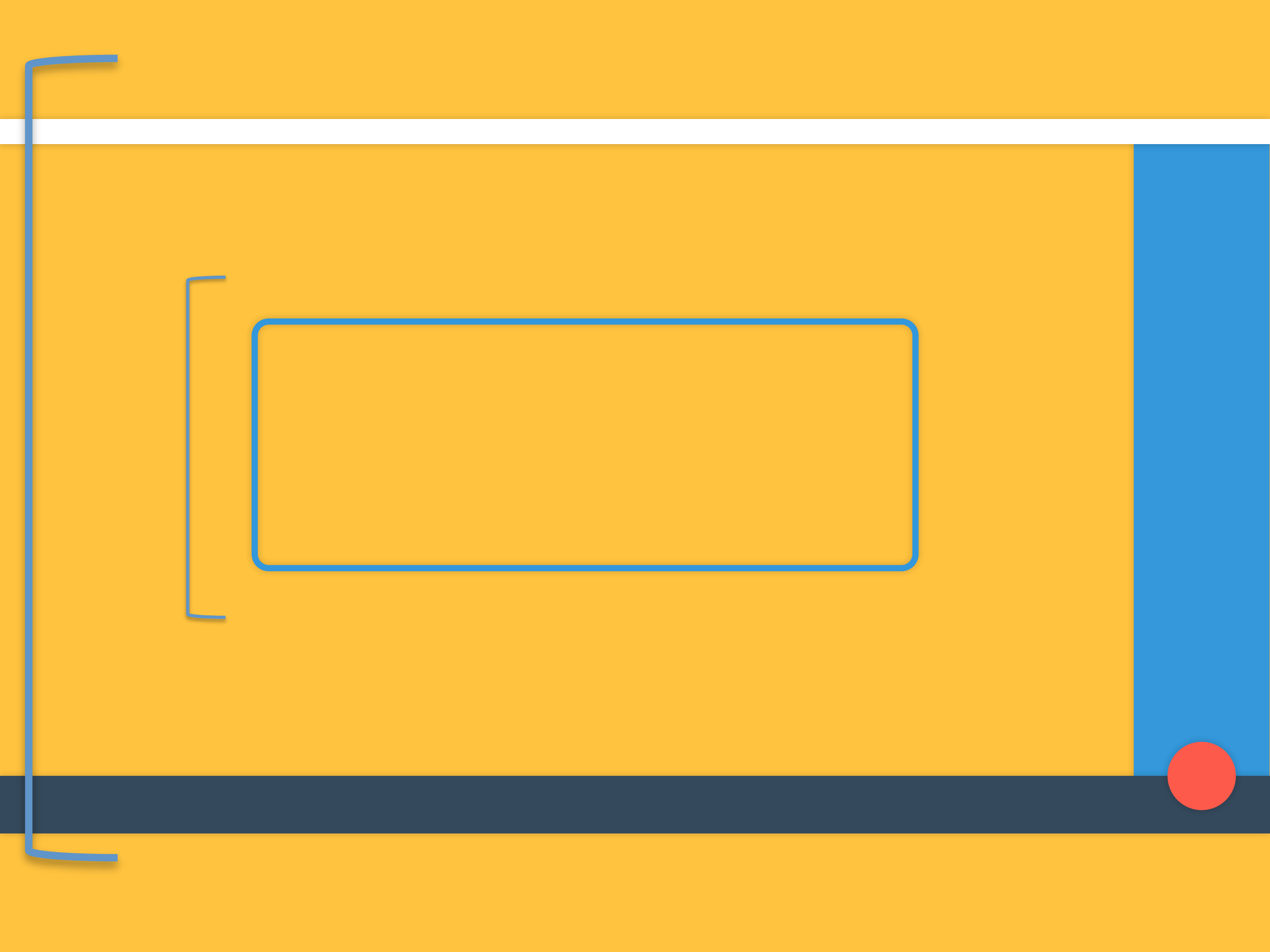


Mark Only	Matthew-Mark-Luke	Q = Matthew + Luke	Matthew only
		5:1-4	
			5:5
	5:6		
			5:7-10
		5:11-12	
5:13			
			5:14
	5:15		
			5:16, 17-20, 21-24a
		5:24b-26	
9:43-48=?			5:27-30, 31
	5:32!		
			5:33-37, 38
		5:39-40	
			5:41
		5:42	
			5:43
		5:44	
			5:45
		5:46-48	
			6:1-4, 5-8
		6:9-13	
6:14-15			6:16-19
		6:19-34	
		7:1-5	
			7:6
		7:7-12, 13-14	
			7:15-17
		7:18-23; 24-27	
			7:28-29

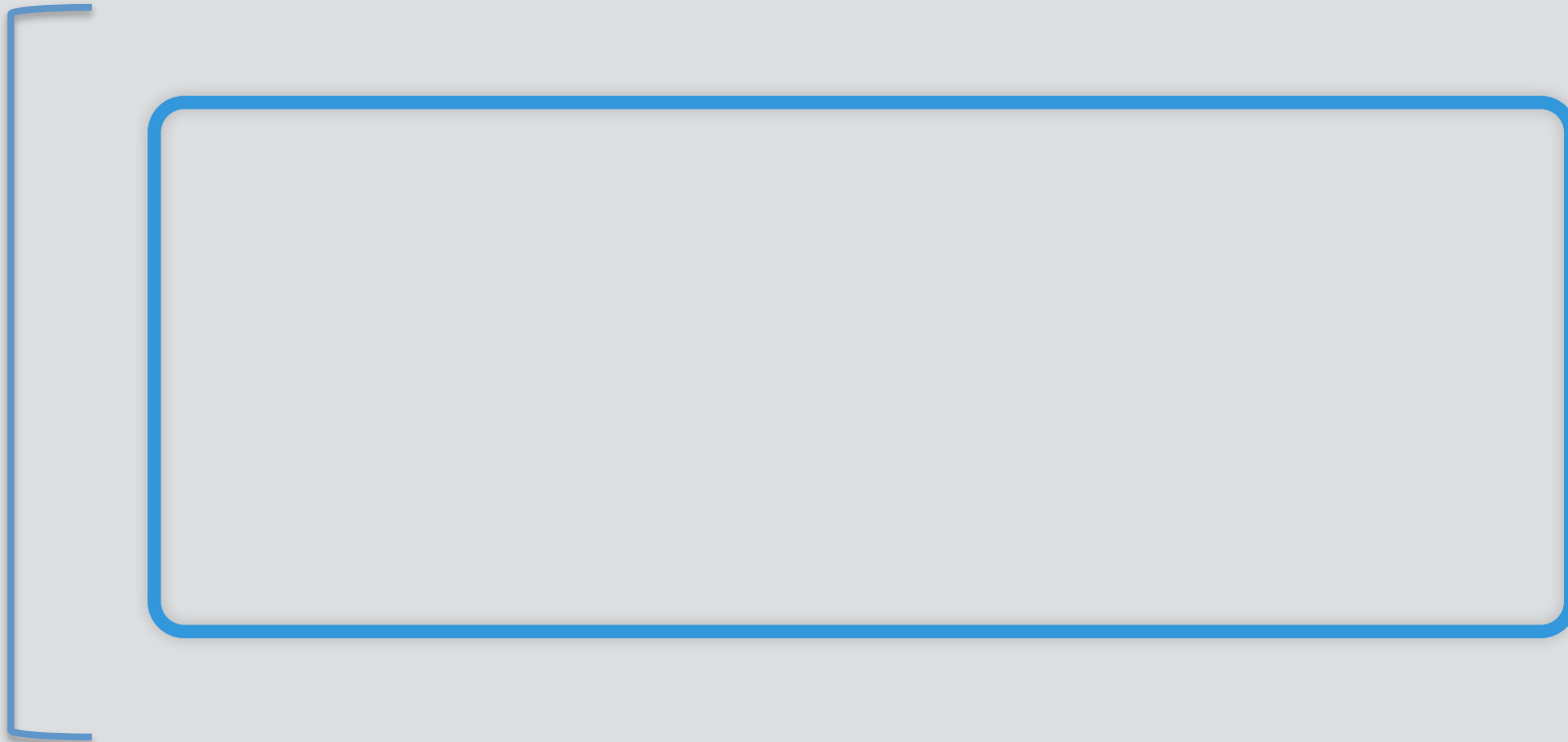






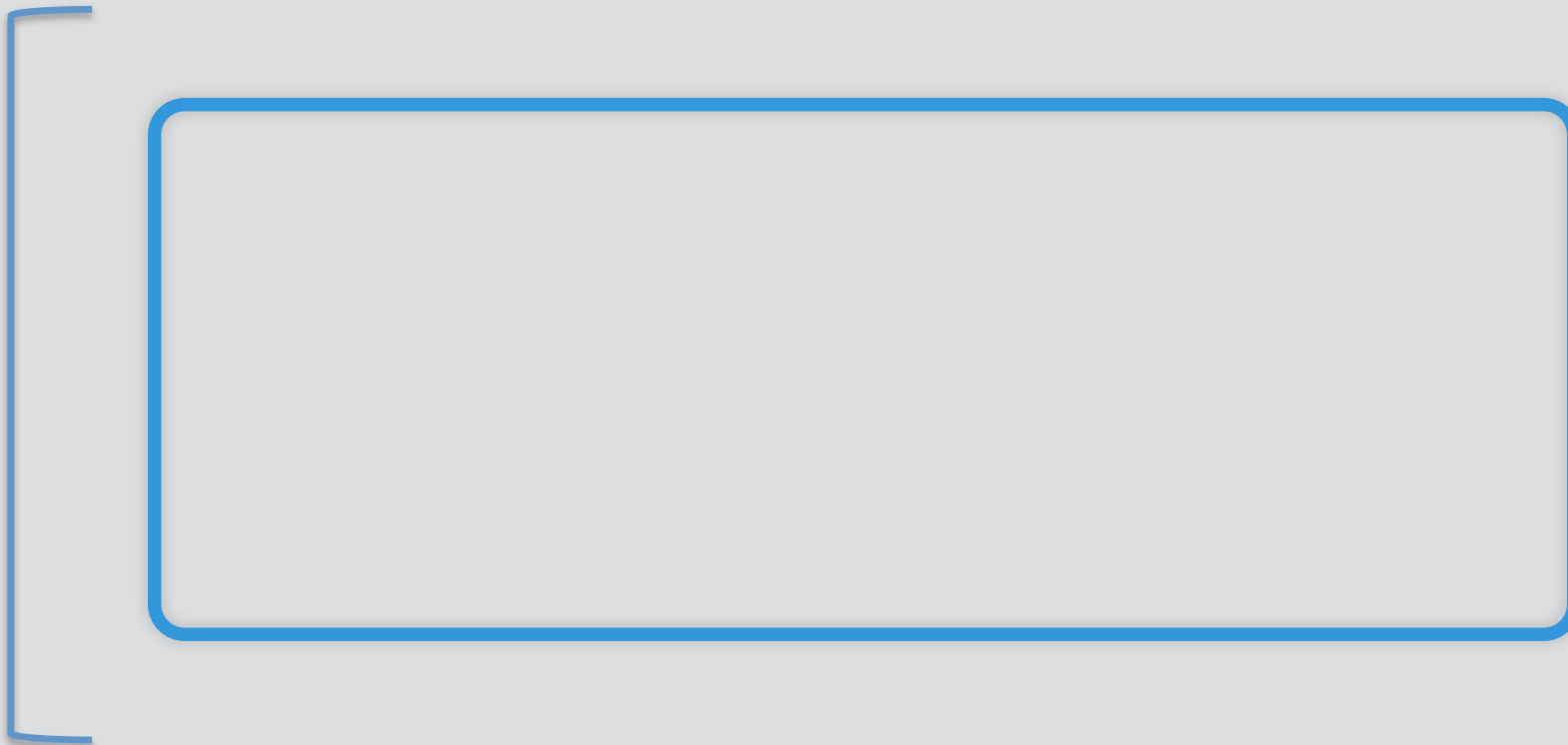


A 5:1-2 Narrative Introduction



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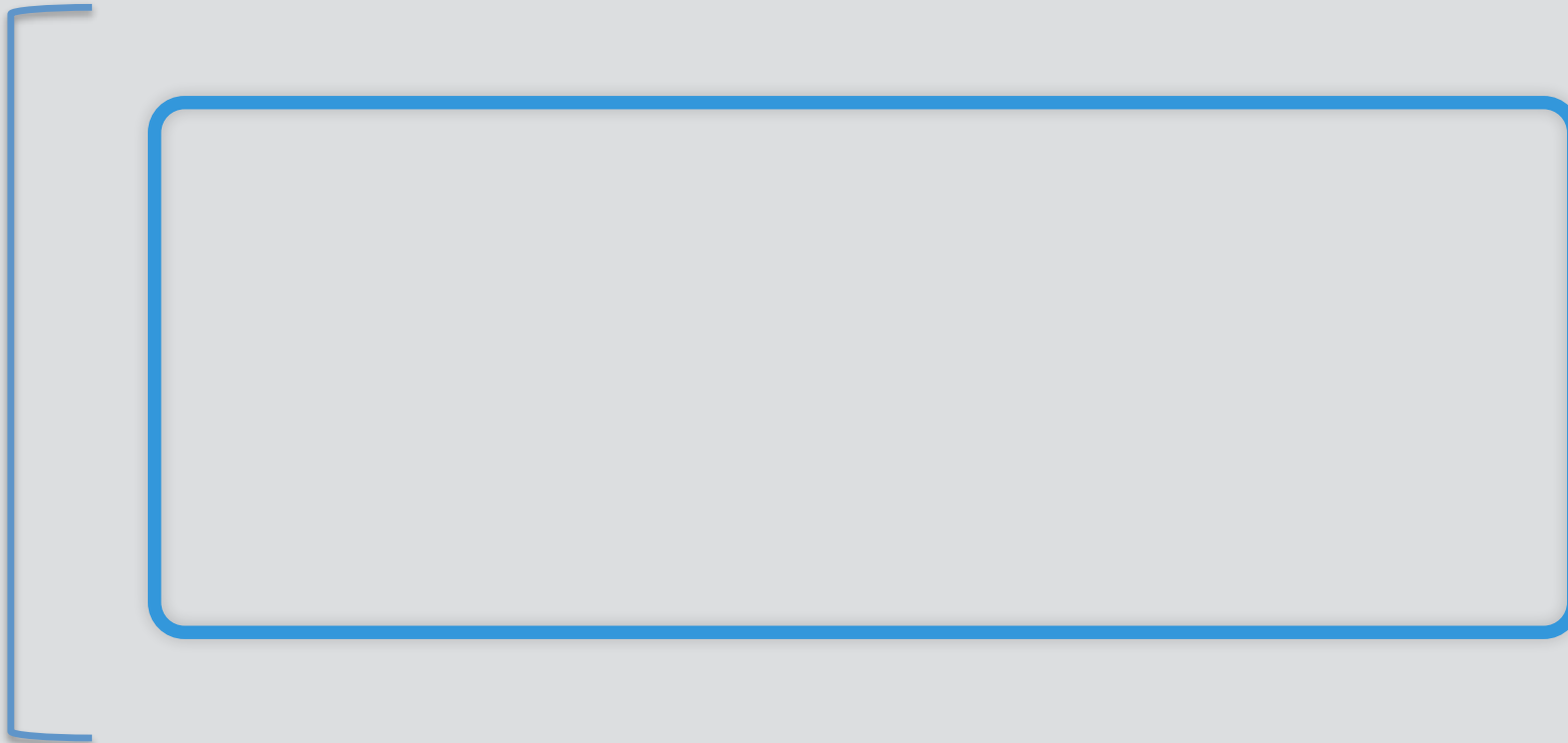
B 5:3-16 Opening exhortation



A 5:1-2 Narrative Introduction

B 5:3-16 Opening exhortation

C 5:17-20 Fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets

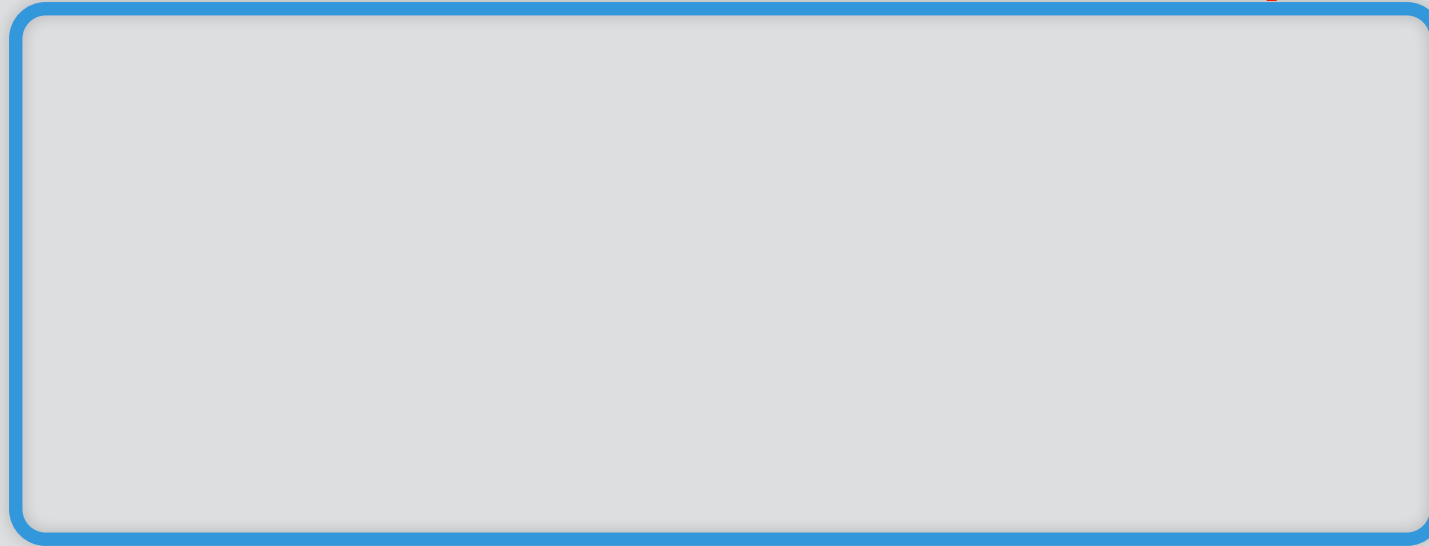


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D 5:21-48 The Antitheses (5 - one is "extra"; plus expansions)



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E 6:1-6 Almsgiving

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B 5:3-16 Opening exhortation

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E 6:1-6 Almsgiving

a how to pray

A 5:1-2 Narrative Introduction

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E 6:1-6 Almsgiving

a how to pray

F 6:7-15 Prayer

b Lord's Prayer

A 5:1-2 Narrative Introduction

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a* why forgiveness

E1 6:16-18 Fasting

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D* 6:19-17:11 (5 negative imperatives plus expansions)

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C* 7:12 Fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets

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C* 7:12 Fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets

B* 7:13-27 Closing exhortation

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C* 7:12 Fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets

B* 7:13-27 Closing exhortation

A* 5:28 Narrative Conclusion

What is a “beatitude”

- **Beatus = the Latin for happy or blessed**
- **There are over 55 “happy” sentences in the Old Testament**
- **Psalms: 25**
- **Wisdom books: 10**
- **“Catholic books”: 15**
- **Other books: 6**
- **Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; (Psalms 1:1)**
- **Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments. (Psalms 112:1)**
- **Happy are those who persevere and attain the thousand three hundred thirty-five days. (Daniel 12:12)**

What is a beatitude?

- **In the New Testament, there are 44 Beatitudes**
- **Matthew: 13**
- **Luke: 15**
- **John: 2**
- **Revelation: 7**
- **Romans, James, and 1 Peter: 7**

What is a beatitude?

- **(Leaving out the famous 8 Beatitudes)**
- **Commitment to Jesus (Luke 7:23; 10:23; 11:27, 28; Matt 11:6; 13:16),**
- **Acts of discipleship (Luke 1:45; Matt 16:17)**
- **Obedience and belief (John 13:17; 20:29)**
- **Preparedness for Jesus' return to establish God's empire (Luke 12:37, 38, 43; 14:14, 15; 23:29; Matt 24:46)**

Luke's Beatitudes and Woes

- **The context is different (mountain / plain)**
- **Luke offers 3 + 1 Beatitudes**
- **Luke includes 3 + 1 Woes**

Luke 6:17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. **18** They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. **19** And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:22 “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. **23** Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

25 “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Matthew's Beatitudes

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matt 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matt 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Matt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matt 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Earlier forms (Q)

- **Can we go behind to detect the Q form?**
- **Omitting the obvious additions**
- **Noticing the tendencies of each writing**
- **Probably include the "woes"**
- **The core number become three beatitudes**
- **Broadly: Matthew has preserved the form of the beatitude; Luke has preserved the sequence and the words**

Q and Matthew

Q Version

Q 6:20 Blessed are the poor for of them is the Kingdom of God

Q 6:21b Blessed are the mourners for they shall be consoled

Q 6:21a Blessed are the hungry for they shall be satisfied

Matthew

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew	Q		Luke
<p>3 Μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι, ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.</p>	<p>6:20 <...> καὶ [ἐπάρ]ας το[ὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς] αὐτοῦ [εἰς τοὺς] μαθητὰ[ς] αὐτοῦ ..λέγ...· μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοί, ὅτι [ὑμετέρα] ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ.</p>	<p>20 <...> And [rais]ing his [eyes to] his disciples he said: Blessed are [«you»] poor, for God’s reign is for [you].</p>	<p>Luke 6:20 Καὶ αὐτὸς ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἔλεγεν, Μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοί, ὅτι ὑμετέρα ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ.</p>
<p>6 μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην, ὅτι αὐτοὶ χορτασθήσονται.</p>	<p>21 μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες, ὅτι χορτασθήσ[εσθε].</p>	<p>21 Blessed are [«you»] who hunger, for [you] will eat [your] fill.</p>	<p>21 μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες νῦν, ὅτι χορτασθήσεσθε.</p>
<p>4 μακάριοι οἱ πενθοῦντες, ὅτι αὐτοὶ παρακληθήσονται.</p>	<p>μακάριοι οἱ [πενθ]ο[ῦ]ντες, ὅτι [παρακληθήσ<εσθε>]</p>	<p>Blessed are [«you»] who [mourn], for [<you> will be consoled].</p>	<p>μακάριοι οἱ κλαίοντες νῦν, ὅτι γελάσετε.</p>

Matthew 8+1

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matt 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matt 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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First Beatitude

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- **Contradicts the usual idea of happiness (even in the Bible) and the usual idea of power (both religious and civil - e.g. the Roman empire)**
- **Compare: the "pious poor" in Ps 14:6; 22:24; 25:16; 34:6; 40:17; 69:29.**
- **God's special care for the poor: God's special care for the poor: Ex 22:25-27; 23:11; Lev 19:9-10; Deut 15:7-11 and Is 61:1 (Mt makes a direct allusion to this text at 11:5).**
- **Poor in spirit = people who know their need of God**
- **Kingdom of heaven = God reverses their present troubles; NB the present tense - the Kingdom of God is theirs already**

Second Beatitude

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

- **Contradicts the usual idea of unhappiness!**
- **To mourn means to feel the pain – to be able to name it. Usually, the "royal system" prefers people to shut up, but the "prophetic system" allows people to speak.**
- **Compare: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn (Isaiah 61:1-2)**
- **Comforted: God will reverse their present state of suffering. The beatitudes and the reversals that accompany them serve in the sermon as an invitation to enter into God's care, because one can know God cares for those who turn to him.**

Third Beatitude

Matt 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- This is really the same as Mt 5:3, because at the word of poor and “meek” are the same in the Old Testament. Again, the Beatitudes it against power and the abuse of power.
- The reward, however, is different. Now such people have nothing and in that future they will inherit the earth.
- Compare: But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. (Psalms 37:11)

Fourth Beatitude

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

- This might sound spiritual, but is also quite political. To want what is right with a real burning desire...
- Originally it was much shorter and sharper: Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are the hungry for they shall be satisfied"
- Cf. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. (Psalms 107:4-5, 8-9)
- Righteousness is very important for Matthew: 5:6, 20; 6:1, 33; also 3:15 and 21:32.
- Compare: Isa 32:6-7; 58:6-7, 9-10; Ezek 18:7, 16

Fifth Beatitude

Matt 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

- **Special to Matthew, reflecting his insistence on both mercy and forgiveness. You could make up an "anti Beatitude": happy those who never show the "weakness" of forgiveness!!**
- **Compare: Those who despise their neighbours are sinners, but happy are those who are kind to the poor. (Proverbs 14:21)**
- **For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)**
- **Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)**
- **NB the parable of the unjust steward in Matthew 18:21-35**

Sixth Beatitude

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

- **Compare:** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. (Psalms 24:3-4)
- **Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart. (Psalms 73:1)**
- **Against externals:** You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean. (Matthew 23:26)
- **Cf. "You have heard it said, but I say to you..."**
- **Compare:** Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. (1Peter 1:22)

Seventh Beatitude

Matt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

- **Shalom = good relationships, health and fertility**
- **The Roman empire was, of course, maintained by violence (as always).**
- **Compare: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good. (Psalms 122:6-9)**
- **If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. (Matthew 10:13)**

Eighth Beatitude

Matt 5:10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Persecution was an experience of the early church (not during the ministry of Jesus). This beatitude is also quite political – being willing to pay personally for what is right and just.
- Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town (Matthew 23:34)
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-45)
- The final phrases “closes” the list of eight Beatitudes

Ninth Beatitude

Matt 5:11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- **Sounds like an expansion of no. 8. and surely reflects the experience of the early church...and not only the early church!**
- **NB “falsely” and “on my account”**
- **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ (Matthew 23:29-30)**

Potential applications

- **My own spirituality of discipleship**
- **My own way of coping with “life” and “events”**
- **My approach to people in general**
- **My approach to ministry and service**
- **Good source: Enzo Bianchi on the Beatitudes.**

Anti-beatitudes

- Blessed are the “masters-of-the-universe” who assume that the whole world revolves around them.
- Blessed are the pleasure seekers, the party animals, and the 15-minutes-of-fame wannabes.
- Blessed are the arrogant, the self-absorbed, and the “my-way-or-the-highway” gang.
- Blessed are those whose sport cars display a bumper sticker that says, “He who dies with the most toys wins.”
- Blessed are the cruel, the vicious, and the terrorists who devote their best energy to creative destruction.
- Blessed are the smut peddlers, the artisans of perversion, and those who deface every good thing they touch.
- Blessed are the quarrelsome, the vengeful, and the gangsters always spoiling for a fight.
- Blessed are the guilty who never get caught, or if they do, get off on a technicality.
- Blessed are the trash-talkers, the bullies, and those who start false rumours. May they strut around, confident in the fact that they are entitled to whatever they can get, and allowed to push their way to the front of the line.

Anti-beatitudes

Conversation

