**The Synoptic Problem**

Read the account of the Transfiguration in the three Gospels in which it appears:

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<td>1 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart.</td>
<td>2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became white as light.</td>
<td>28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.</td>
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<td>2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light.</td>
<td>3 And his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them.</td>
<td>29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white.</td>
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<td>3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.</td>
<td>4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus.</td>
<td>30 And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem.</td>
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<td>4 And Peter said to Jesus, &quot;Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.&quot;</td>
<td>5 And Peter said to Jesus, &quot;Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.&quot;</td>
<td>32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep but kept awake, and they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, &quot;Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah:&quot; not knowing what he said.</td>
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<td>5 He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, &quot;This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to him.&quot;</td>
<td>6 For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid.</td>
<td>34 And as he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, &quot;This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!&quot;</td>
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<td>6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were filled with awe. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, &quot;Rise, and have no fear.&quot;</td>
<td>7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, &quot;This is my beloved Son; listen to him.&quot;</td>
<td>36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.</td>
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1. **Using three colored pencils or pens**, underline all the words in the three gospel accounts that are unique to that Gospel (e.g. verse 31 in Luke).

2. If you were a professor & received 3 papers with this much similarity, what conclusions might you make?

3. What is the significance of:
   
   a. Jesus' glowing garments?
   
   b. the cloud and the voice?
   
   c. Moses' presence?
   
   d. Elijah's presence?

4. Matthew includes some details not included in Mark or Luke. Compare Mtt. 17:2 and Exod. 34:29, 35; Mtt. 17:5-6 and Exod 20:18-19. What do these details tell you about Matthew's understanding of Jesus?

5. Luke reports that Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah about his "departure which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem." The Greek word translated here as "departure" is "exodon" (the root of "exodus"). What does this suggest about Luke's understanding of the crucifixion?

Matt. 6:25-33
25Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?

28And why are you anxious about clothing?

Consider
The lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; 29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? 31Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33But see first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Luke 12:22-34
22And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. 23For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? 25And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his span of life?

26If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 27Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28But if God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith? 29And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. 30For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. 31Instead, seek his kingdom,

6. Underline all the common words. Why do you suppose these words are not included in Mark?

7. Where did Matthew and Luke get their material?