



Why the Gospel Timelines Don't Clash

The timing of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ has long been the subject of scrutiny and debate, particularly when comparing the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, with the account given in John. On the surface, these accounts appear to present different chronologies. Matthew 26:17 states, "Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?" Yet John 19:14 declares, "And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour."

This apparent tension has led some to conclude that the Gospel writers are in disagreement. However, a careful and disciplined examination of the text reveals that the issue is not a contradiction but a matter of perspective. Each Gospel writer emphasizes different aspects of the same sequence of events, and when those perspectives are properly understood within their historical, linguistic, and theological context, the result is a unified and deeply significant narrative.