

The Existence of Q: Three Short Test Cases
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One facet of the Synoptic Problem is explaining parallels between Matthew and Luke that are not found in Mark. A popular proposal is that Matthew and Luke used a no longer extant source, called Q (after the German word *Quelle*, which means source), in the composition of their gospels, which offers an explanation for their agreement, sometimes word-for-word. This assignment is designed to test the Q theory. Below are three passages that Matthew and Luke share, but are not found in Mark. I have translated these from Greek as literal as possible to reflect accurately what the authors wrote. Use a pencil or pen: (1) to circle verbatim similarities between Matthew and Luke, (2) underline with an unbroken line words or phrases that are similar but not verbatim, and (3) underline with a broken line words and ideas that dissimilar. Afterwards, assess and adjudicate the Q Hypothesis.

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| Matt 6:22-23 | Luke 11:34-36 |
| <p>“The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, if your eye is healthy, then your entire body will be full of light. Now if your eye is evil, then your entire body will be full of darkness. Therefore, if the light that is in you is darkness, then how great is the darkness.”</p> | <p>“The lamp of the body is your eye. Whenever your eye is healthy, your entire body is full of light. When if it is evil, then your body is full of darkness. Therefore, watch closely that the light that is in you is not darkness. Therefore, if your entire body is full of light, not having any part full of darkness, the entire thing will be full of light like when the lamp provides lights for you with its rays.”</p> |
| Matt 6:24 | Luke 16:13 |
| <p>“No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will look after the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”</p> | <p>“No household slave can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will look after the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”</p> |
| Matt 7:7-11 | Luke 11:9-13 |
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“Ask and it will be given you. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, [everyone] who seeks finds, and it will be opened to [everyone] who knocks. Or, what person is there among you whose son will ask for bread [and] he will give him a stone? Or, he will ask for a fish [and] he will give him a snake? Therefore, if you who are evil know to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?”

“And I tell you: ask and it will be given you. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, [everyone] who seeks finds, and it will be opened to [everyone] who knocks. Now, what father among you whose son will ask for a fish, and instead of a fish he will give him a snake? Or, he will for an egg [and] he will give him a scorpion. Therefore, if you who being evil know to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father who is from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”