

# Internal Evidence in the Bible

A decorative horizontal flourish consisting of a central diamond shape with two long, thin, curved lines extending outwards from its sides.

Material from Dr. Timothy McGrew

# 2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

# The Gospels

- The four gospels were written by eyewitnesses or recorded eyewitness accounts.
- The external evidence (Josephus, Tacitus, archaeology) confirms the details in the gospels.
- Found that they are accurate and well-informed.
- Do we have evidence from within the gospels?

# Why Four Gospels?

- They are similar, but they also provide additional details (synoptic gospels and gospel of John).
- Can we tell by comparing two passages of Scripture determine if they are both authentic?
- What does it mean if they are identical? They could merely be copies of each other or copies of an original document.

# Undesigned Coincidences

- Sometimes two works by different authors *interlock* in a way that would be unlikely if one of them was copied from another or if both of them were copies from a common source.
- One book may mention something *in passing* that answers a question raised in the other book. The two records fit together like jigsaw puzzle pieces.

# Undesigned Coincidences



The four gospels from a  
lawyer's standpoint

Edmund Hatch Bennett



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# Fictions and Forgeries

- Fictions and forgeries are not like this. They usually do not leave loose ends or raise questions.
- You can't control what someone else writes about the same subject.
- Interlocking records are another demonstration that the authors are recording real events.

# Internal Evidence

# #1 - Matthew 8:14-16

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. **That evening** they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

# #1 - Matthew 8:14-16

If people believed that Jesus could truly heal the sick, why did they wait until evening to come to Him?

# Capernaum



# Mark 1:21, 29-32

And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching . . . immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John . . . he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. **That evening at sundown** they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.

# Power of Evidence

- One undesigned coincidence might be an accident.
- This would be like have two jigsaw puzzles fit together by chance.
- But numerous undesigned coincidences make it unlikely to believe all are accidental.

# Mark Explains Matthew

Matthew



Mark

Luke

John

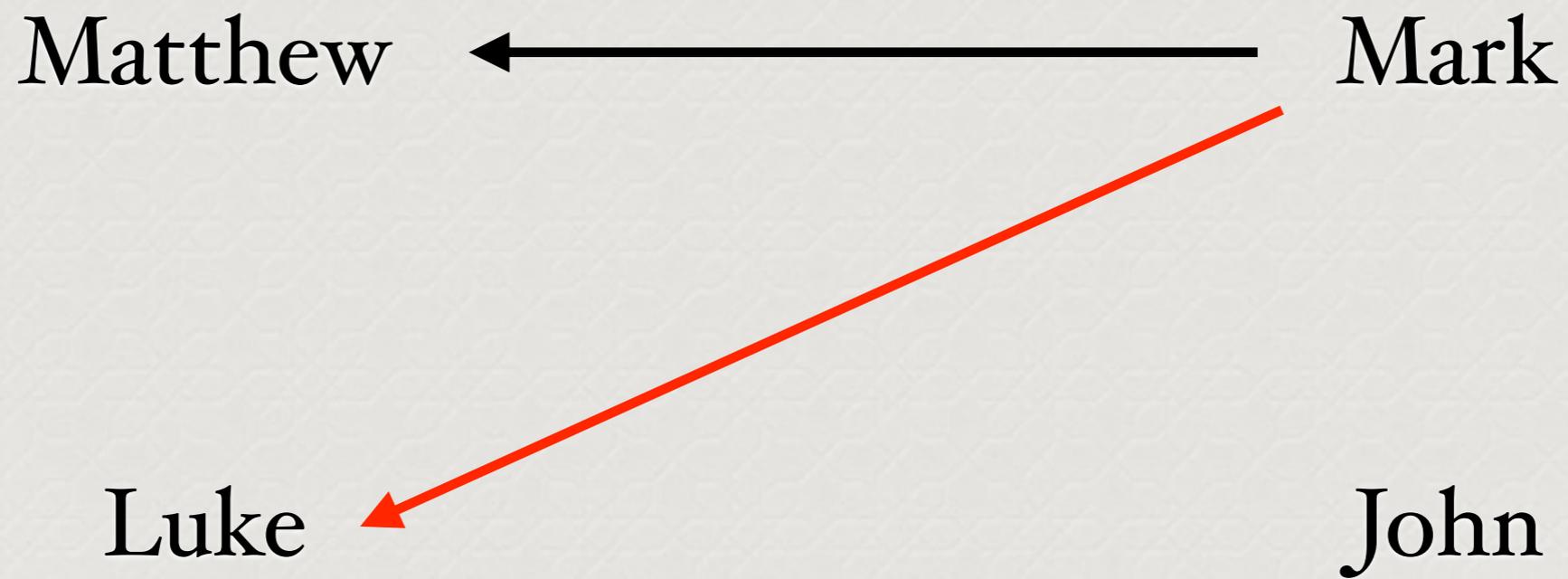
## #2 - Luke 9:34-36

As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. **And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.**

# Mark 9:9

And as they were coming down the mountain, **he charged them to tell no one what they had seen**, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

# Mark Explains Luke



# #3 - Mark 6:31,39

And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.

# Green grass?

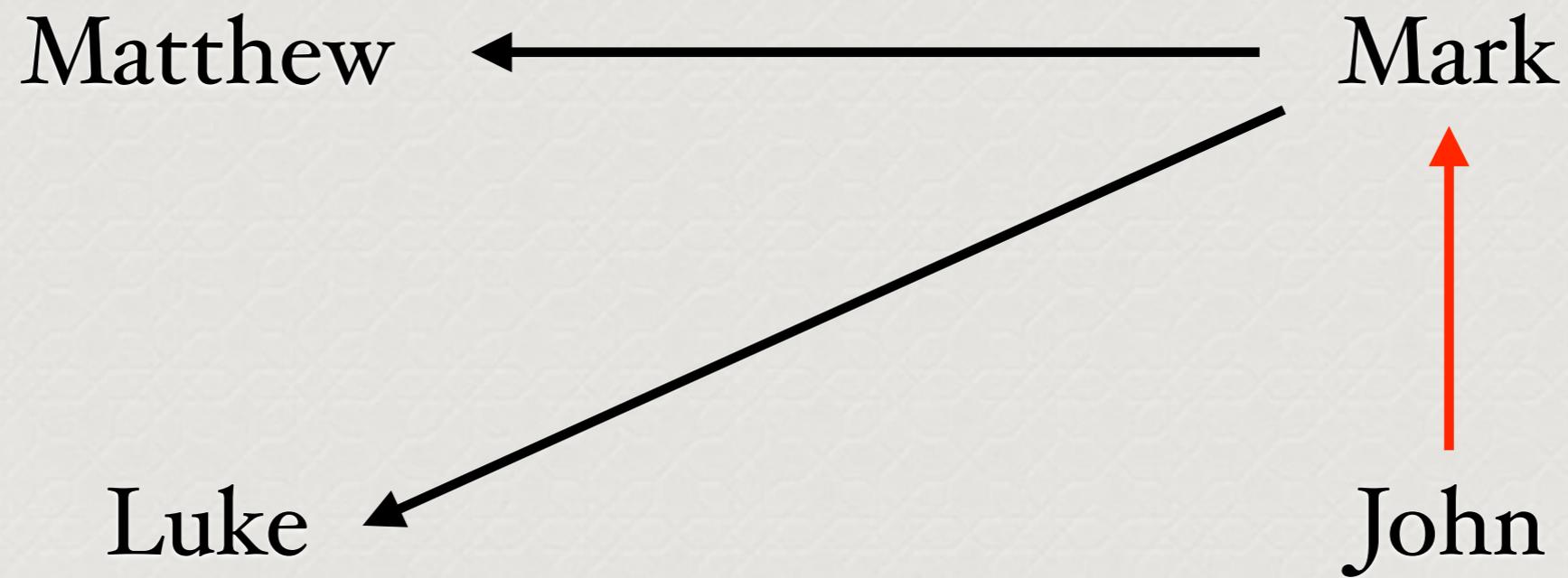


# John 6:4

**Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews,  
was at hand.**

- During Passover, there would be great crowds of pilgrims coming and going.
- Passover occurs when there is a growing season in Palestine.

# John Explains Mark



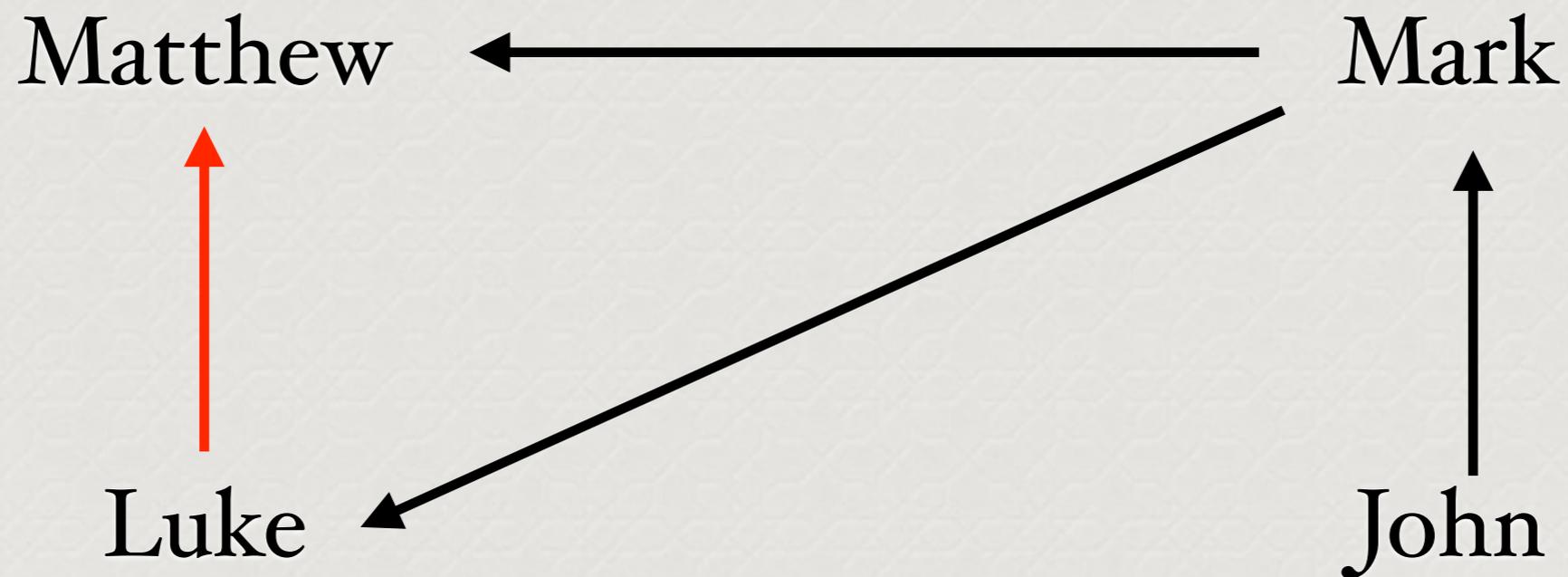
# #4 - Matthew 14:1-2

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”

# Luke 8:3

and Joanna, the wife of Chuza,  
**Herod's household manager**, and  
Susanna, and many others, who  
provided for them out of their means.

# Luke Explains Matthew



# #5 - Matthew 11:21

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

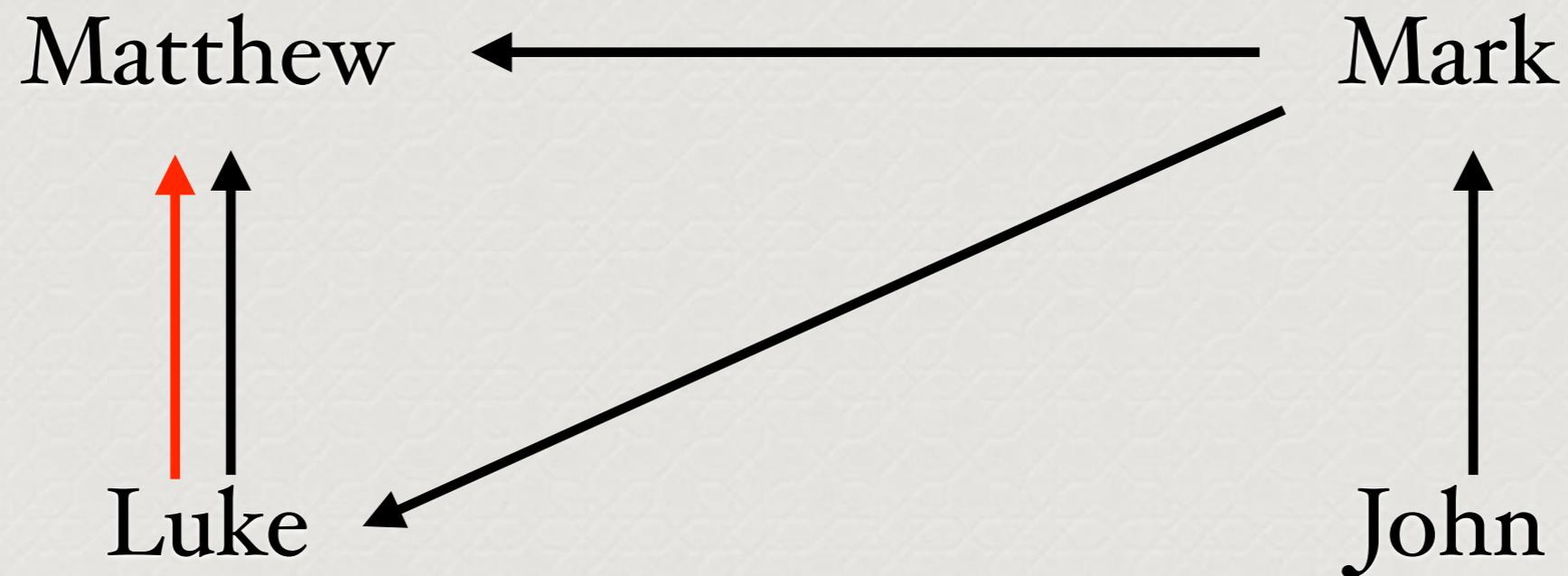
# Luke 9:10-11

On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called **Bethsaida**. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

# Bethsaida



# Luke Explains Matthew



# #6 - John 6:5

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”

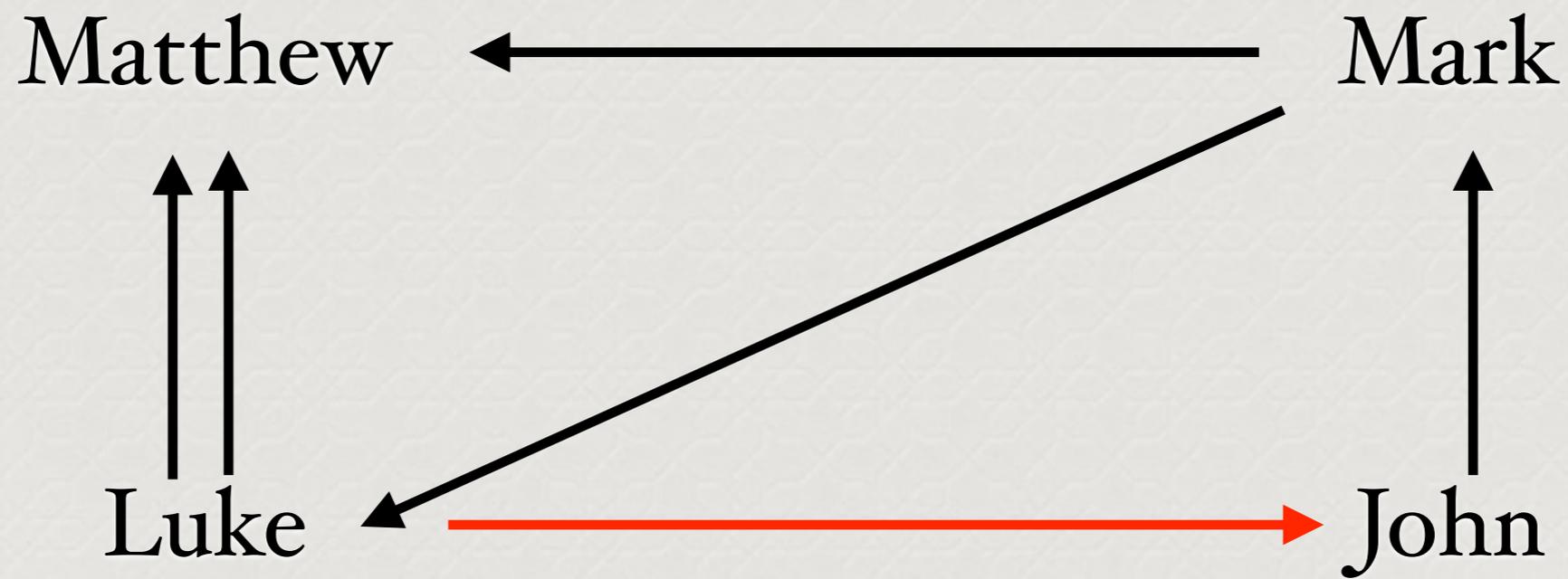
# Luke 9:10-11

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# John 12:21

So these came to Philip, **who was from Bethsaida in Galilee**, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

# Luke Explains John



# #7 - Mark 14:58, 15:29

“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”

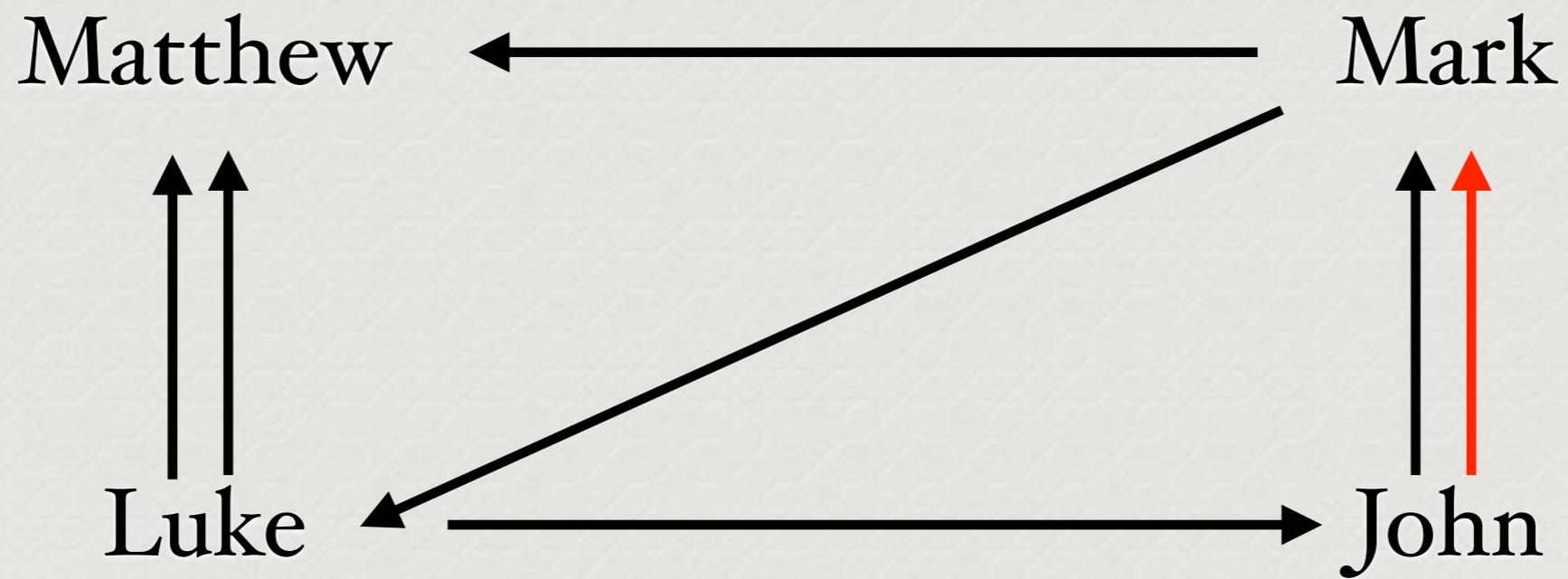
And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

# John 2:18-19

So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**”

- John gives us the original statement. The synoptic gospels give us the accusation.
- Neither of these is copied from the other.

# John Explains Mark



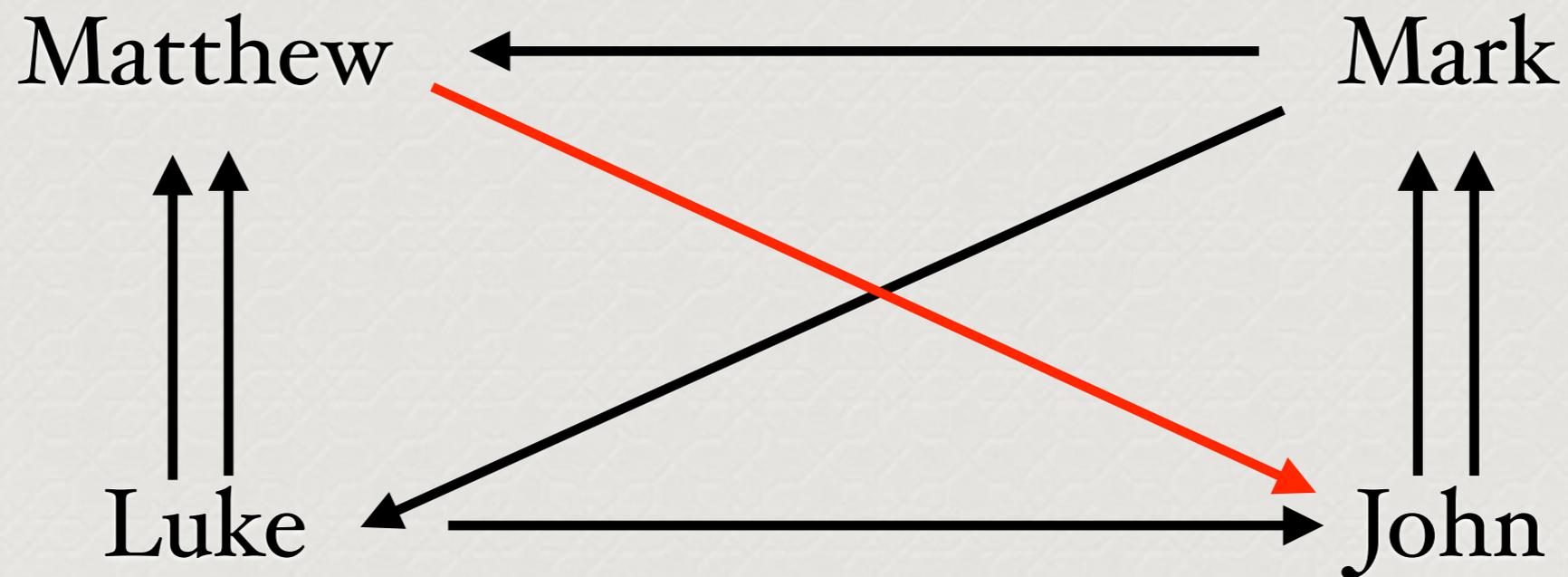
# #8 - John 21:15

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, **do you love me more than these?**” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

# Matthew 26:33

Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

# Matthew Explains John



# #9 - Luke 23:2-4

And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”

# Pilate's Response

- The Jews make some significant accusations.
- Pilate questions Jesus about the accusations.
- Jesus apparently admits to one of the accusations.
- Pilate then declares that Jesus is innocent!
- This doesn't make any sense.

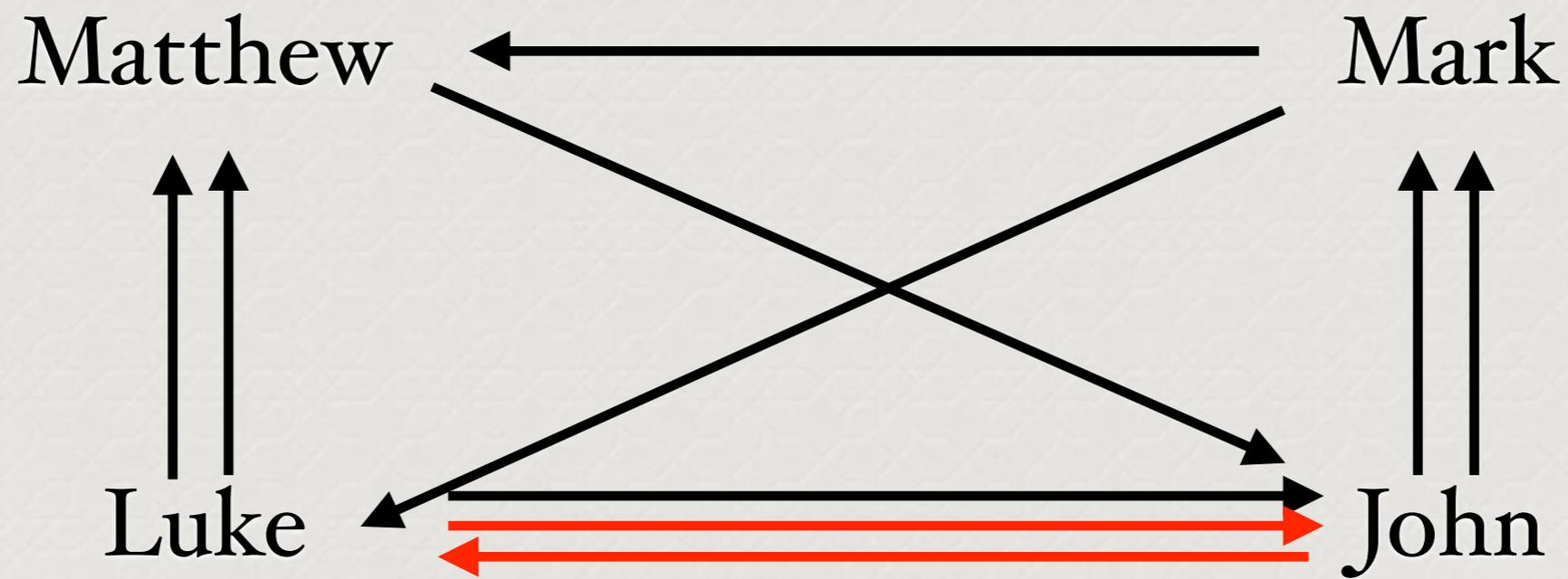
# John 18:33-38

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” . . . Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world . . . After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”

# Summary

- John's gospel describes the scene and gives the question of Pilate. It also provides Pilate's response.
- Luke gives the accusation but not the full answer.
- John gives the full answer but not the accusation.

# Each Explains the Other



# #10 - John 18:10,36

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

# Luke 22:51

But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

- Peter could not be arrested since there was now no evidence.
- No one could contradict this claim of Jesus.

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FOREWORD BY GLENN BECK

A TIME FOR  
**ACTION**

EMPOWERING THE FAITHFUL TO RECLAIM AMERICA

**RAFAEL CRUZ**

EPILOGUE BY SENATOR TED CRUZ

