

An overly simplistic comparison of each evangelist's purpose in telling the story of the Passion of Jesus

Mark:	To prepare Jesus' followers during the Jewish-Roman War (66-70 CE) for the violent rejection they will face if they stand against the Temple system and its Roman sponsors during the war.
Matthew:	To show that Jesus is the expected "Messiah" and his rejection by the Temple elite echoes the rejection of Jeremiah (and other prophets generally) before the Exile six centuries earlier.
John:	To portray a cosmic battle between the representatives of "the evil one" (the Temple and Roman elites) and God's representative (Jesus) in which the Light shines and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Luke:	To convince his young adult Roman audience that Jesus' "way" of opposing imperial propaganda and violence with nonviolent, divine Love is the true way of "peace," unlike the Pax Romana/Pax Deorum