Basic Outlines of the Four Gospels

Mark

Introduction: John the Baptist & Jesus (1:1-15, incl. the theme of Jesus’ preaching 1:14-15)

Early Ministry: healing & preaching to Jews in Galilee (1:16 – 6:52)
   Expanded Ministry: mostly outside of Galilee to non-Jews (6:53 – 8:21)

Central Section: Jesus and his disciples “On the Way” to Jerusalem (8:22 – 10:52)
   (incl. three passion predictions [8:31; 9:31; 10:32-34] framed by two healings of blind men)


Passion Narrative: Last Supper, Trials, Crucifixion (14:1 – 15:47)

Conclusion: Report about the Empty Tomb (16:1-8)
   [Later endings added to Mark’s Gospel: 16:9-20]

Material found only in Mark: 1:1 (Introductory Verse); 3:19b-21 (Jesus' Family Comes for Him); 4:26-29 (Parable of Seed Growing of Itself); 7:31-37 (Deaf Man in Decapolis); 8:22-26 (Blind Man of Bethsaida); 14:51-52 (Young Man Runs Away after Jesus' Arrest); [16:14-18 - Commissioning of the Eleven]

Matthew

Genealogy & Infancy Narrative: 1–2
   Narrative: 3–4
      First Discourse: “Sermon on the Mount”: 5–7
   Narrative: 8–9
      Second Discourse: “Missionary Instructions”: 10
   Narrative: 11–12
      Third Discourse: “Parables Collection”: 13
   Narrative: 14–17
      Fourth Discourse: “Community Instructions”: 18
   Narrative: 19–22
      Fifth Discourse: “Sermon on Eschatology”: 23–25
   Passion & Resurrection Narrative: 26–28


Material in other Gospels but significantly different in Matthew: 1:2-17; most of ch. 5–7 (esp. 5:3-12; 6:9-15; 7:15-20); most of ch. 10; 12:33-37; 16:13-23; much of ch. 18; 22:1-14; 25:14-30.

Luke

Literary Preface & Infancy Narrative: 1:1 – 2:52
   Preparation for Ministry: 3:1 – 4:13
   Galilean Ministry: 4:14 – 9:50
      Journey to Jerusalem: 9:51 – 19:27
   Jerusalem Ministry: 19:28 – 21:38
   Resurrection Appearances & Ascension: 24:1-53


John

      “The Book of Signs”: 1:19 – 12:50 (Wedding at Cana, Dialogue with Nicodemus, Samaritan Woman at the Well, Healing at the Pool of Bethesda, Bread of Life Discourse, Man Born Blind, Raising of Lazarus, etc.)

Epilogue: 21:1-25 (Another Resurrection Appearance at the Sea of Tiberias/Galilee - added later)