

Contents

Preface	v
Foreword to the Second Impression	vi
Abbreviations	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
I The Problem and the Economic Background to the Gospels	I
The Problem	I
The Economic Background	2
Agriculture	2
Industry and trade	2
The People	3
Aspects of the Economic and Social History	7
Retrospect and Prospect	II
2 The Evangelists and their Sources	12
Matthew's Redaction	13
Luke's Redaction	16
The Sources	20
Material peculiar to Matthew	21
The Marcan tradition	22
The Q Material	24
Material found only in Luke	27
Retrospect	33
Comparison of the Sources	35
3 Hostility to Wealth in the Oral Tradition	38
Historical Background	38
Reversal of Fortune in the Coming Age	41
The Woes	44
The Story of Dives and Lazarus	46
The Magnificat	49
Compensations for Followers of Jesus	49

Contents

Passages which Condemn Hoarding and Praise Generosity	50
On Treasures	51
The Rich Fool	52
'You Cannot Serve God and Mammon'	53
The Eye of a Needle	54
On Renouncing Possessions	57
The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats	58
The Oral Tradition and its Social and Historical Setting	59
4 Poverty and the Kingdom of God: Jesus and his Disciples	61
The Beatitudes	61
'The Poor have Good News Preached to Them'	63
The Mission Charge	65
On Carrying a Purse	69
The Rich Man's Refusal	70
The Call of Simon and Andrew, James and John	74
The Calling of the Four Disciples	76
On Discipleship	78
The Parables of the Treasure and the Pearl	80
On Cares	84
Poverty and the Reign of God	87
5 Conclusions and Contemporary Postscript	88
Conclusions	88
Contemporary Postscript: Social Ethics and the Gospels	93
APPENDICES	
A Studies on property and riches in the New Testament	99
B On 'ānî and 'ānāw	101
C Studies of the Lucan attitude to wealth	103
D Passages in the gospels implying the continued possession of property	105
NOTES	107
INDEXES	
Index of Modern Scholars	129
Index of Biblical References	133