

Gospel of Jesus' Wife: the last line is also from Thomas

NT Blog, Mark Goodacre, 24 September 2012

Francis Watson's essay, [The Gospel of Jesus' Wife: How a Fake Gospel Fragment was Composed](#), argues, I think persuasively, that the Gospel fragment that has been at the centre of so much discussion over the last week or so was composed by means of collecting together a patchwork of pieces from the Gospel of Thomas.

Watson suggested that the last line of the fragment (line 7), however, was taken over not from Thomas but from Matthew. I would like to suggest that in fact this line is also derived from Thomas.

Here is the last line of the fragment:

] . ΔΝΟΚ †ΨΟΟΠ ΝΜΜΔϸ ΕΤΒΕ Π [

“ . I am with her on account of . . . ”

This bears a striking resemblance to the last part of Thomas 30:

ΠΜΔ ΕΥ̅Ν̅ϸΝΔΥ Η ΟΥΔ ΔΝΟΚ †ΨΟΟΠ ΝΜΜΔϸ

“The place which has two or one, I am with him”

Here we have the same three words in Coptic in sequence, ΔΝΟΚ †ΨΟΟΠ ΝΜΜΔ(ϸ / ϸ), “I am with her / him”, with just the switch from male to female. Moreover, even the last word and a bit of the line is found in the same context -- ΕΤΒΕ Π . . . , “on account of ?” comes twice in Thomas 29, ΕΤΒΕ Π̅ΝΔ, “because of spirit” and ΕΤΒΕ ΠϸΩΜΔ, “because of the body”.

I would like to suggest, then, that Francis Watson is bang on the money in finding the Gospel of Jesus' Wife to be a patchwork of pieces from the Gospel of Thomas, and to offer this suggestion as extending and so confirming his excellent case.