

# “Test Driving the Theory – Middle Voice Forms in Matthew”

Jonathan T. Pennington  
BGLL SBL 2010, Atlanta, GA

## Introduction – From *Via Media* to ἡ ὁδος ἡ μέση

### A Brief Review

- + “Deponency in Koine Greek: The Grammatical Question and the Lexicographical Dilemma,” *TrinJ* 24 (NS) (Spring, 2003): 55-76.
- + “Setting Aside ‘Deponency’: Rediscovering the Greek Middle Voice in New Testament Studies,” in Stanley E. Porter and Matthew Brook O’Donnell, eds., *The Linguist as Pedagogue: Trends in the Teaching and Linguistic Analysis of the Greek New Testament* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009): 181-203.

## Turning to the First Gospel – From the Ground Up

### *Terminology Clarification*

- + MP1 = -μαι -σαι -ται pattern
- + MP2 = -θη pattern

### *Matthew Stats*

- 590 MP1 forms
  - 128 MP1 Aorist and Future forms
  - 462 ambiguous MP1 forms

### *Some Interesting and Significant Phenomena*

+ Expected – Truly Passives; clearly Middle-only (*media tantum*) verbs; Future Middles

+ Other Phenomena:

- Verbs with Related Active and Middle Meanings
  - αἰτέω/αἰτέομαι
- Middle-Only Verbs with Mistaken Active Head-Word/Lexical Forms
  - + ἀτέχομαι
  - + εὐαγγελίζομαι
  - + σέβομαι
  - + φοβέομαι

- Examples of the encroaching of the MP2 onto the MP1 forms of Middle-Only verbs

- + φοβέομαι
- + ἀποκρίνομαι
- + πορεύομαι

- Compound word forms that are Middle-Only versions of Active lemmas

- + ἐπιλαμβάνομαι and προσλαμβάνομαι (cp. λαμβάνω)
- + ἐξομολογεομαι (cp. ὁμολογέω)
- + προσκαλέομαι (cp. καλέω)

- Lemmas that have been collapsed together but are actually distinct Active and Middle-Only verbs

- + ἄπτω and ἄπτομαι
- + ἄρχω and ἄρχομαι

## Pointing to the Future and Outstanding Desiderata

+ Lexicography

+ Digital Morphological Tagging

+ Textual Critical decisions

### Matthew 10

<sup>26</sup> Μὴ οὖν φοβηθῆτε αὐτούς· οὐδὲν γάρ ἐστιν κεκαλυμμένον ὃ οὐκ ἀποκαλυφθήσεται καὶ κρυπτὸν ὃ οὐ γνωσθήσεται. <sup>27</sup> ὃ λέγω ὑμῖν ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ εἶπατε ἐν τῷ φωτί, καὶ ὃ εἰς τὸ οὐρανὸν ἀκούετε κηρύξατε ἐπὶ τῶν δωματίων. <sup>28</sup> καὶ μὴ φοβεῖσθε ἀπὸ τῶν ἀποκτενόντων τὸ σῶμα, τὴν δὲ ψυχὴν μὴ δυναμένων ἀποκτεῖναι· φοβεῖσθε δὲ μᾶλλον τὸν δυνάμενον καὶ ψυχὴν καὶ σῶμα ἀπολέσαι ἐν γεέννῃ. <sup>29</sup> οὐχὶ δύο στρουθία ἀσσαρίου πωλεῖται; καὶ ἓν ἐξ αὐτῶν οὐ πεσεῖται ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἄνευ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν. <sup>30</sup> ὑμῶν δὲ καὶ αἱ τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς πᾶσαι ἠριθμημέναί εἰσιν. <sup>31</sup> μὴ οὖν φοβεῖσθε·

## Conclusion