

Mark: Introduction and Overview

- I. Purpose of the Class
 - A. Why study the Bible?
 1. Deuteronomy 32:47
 2. Psalm 19, 119
 3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 4. John 17:17
 5. 2 Peter 1:3, 16-21
 - B. Why study the Gospel of Mark?
 1. Synoptic Gospels - impact of going through a Gospel (Hebrews 13:8-9)
 2. Short and punchy (but still has a lot of theology)
 3. Focus on discipleship & following Christ
 4. To the Gentiles
 - C. Why study the Gospel of Mark *in this way*?
 1. Teaching versus “inductive Bible study” (OIA)
 - a) Extended study and wrestling
 - b) Not many of you should be teachers (James 3:1)
 - c) Literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutics
 - d) Speak about the Word, from the Word, but do not speak THE WORD (unless I’m quoting Scripture)
 - e) Be a Berean (Acts 17:11)
 2. Teaching versus Preaching
 - a) Less exhortation and application, more building up theological foundations and systematic study
 - b) More flexibility to cover concepts in detail (e.g. repentance, baptism, miracles, eschatology, etc.)
- II. Format of the Class
 - A. [Schedule](#)
 - B. Pedagogy
 1. Understanding of the challenge to pay attention
 2. Attempts to make it interactive
 3. Purpose of homework
 4. Questions
 5. Additional Resources
 6. Recordings
 - C. Rewards
- III. Overview of Mark
 - A. Historical Context
 1. John Mark as author, “Peter’s Gospel”

- a) “Kata Markon” - ancient caption to the Gospel
 - b) Eusebius (~A.D. 326) writing about Papias’s (~A.D. 140) testimony - “Mark, having become Peter’s interpreter, wrote accurately as many things as he remembered, not, indeed, in order, of the things spoken and done by the Lord. For he neither heard the Lord nor did he follow Him, but afterwards, as I said, he followed Peter, who used to give his teachings according to the needs [i.e., of his hearers], but not as though he were making a connected account of the Lord’s oracles. So then Mark made no mistake in thus recording some things as he remembered them, for he made it his one concern not to omit anything of the things he heard nor to falsify anything in them.” (Eusebius *Ecclesiastical History* 3. 39.)
 - c) Justin Martyr (~A.D. 150); Irenaeus (~. A.D. 185); Clement of Alexandria (~A.D. 195); Origen (~ A.D. 230)
 - d) Combined testimony of Asia, Rome (Gaul), and Alexandria
2. Who is John Mark?
- a) Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37; 13:5, 13; 15:39: John (Hebrew), Mark (Latin / Greek)
 - b) Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13
 - c) Desertion and then restoration (similar to Peter)
3. Written in Rome, to the Gentiles
- a) Early witnesses almost uniformly agree on Rome
 - b) Latin versus Greek (6:27; 7:4; 12:14; 15:15, 16, 39)
 - c) Careful explanation of Jewish customs (7:3-4; 12:42; 14:12)
 - d) Aramaic words (3:17; 5:41; 7:11, 34; 14:36; 15:22, 34)
 - e) Rufus (15:21, Romans 16:13)
4. Date
- a) Peter’s death in A.D. 64 by Emperor Nero
 - b) Earliest reasonable date around A.D. 45
 - c) More probably between 64 and 67 A.D.
 - d) Less likely (though has been argued) after A.D. 70 due to Mark 13
- B. Quick Overview
- 1. Mostly chronological
 - 2. Chapter outlines
 - a) 1:1-13 Preparations for the Christ
 - b) 1:14-28 Jesus’s Message and Authority
 - c) 1:29-45 Jesus’s Ministry
 - d) 2:1-12 The First Challenge: Forgiveness of Sins
 - e) 2:13-17 The Second Challenge: Dining with Sinners
 - f) 2:18-22 The Third Challenge: Lack of Fasting

- g) 2:23-28 The Fourth Challenge: Lord of the Sabbath
- h) 3:1-12 Confrontational Climax and Conclusion
- i) 3:13-19 Choosing of the Twelve
- j) 3:20-35 Considering the Christ
- k) 4:1-20 The Parable of the Soils
- l) 4:21-34 The Kingdom of God in Parables
- m) 4:35-41 Jesus's Authority over the Wind and the Sea
- n) 5:1-20 Jesus's Authority over the Unclean Spirits
- o) 5:21-43 Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Fear
- p) 6:1-6a A Prophet in His Hometown
- q) 6:6b-13 The Sending of the Twelve
- r) 6:14-29 The King's Cowardice and the Greatest Prophet
- s) 6:30-44 Feeding of the Five Thousand
- t) 6:45-56 The Second Wind and Sea
- u) 7:1-13 Hypocrisy of the Pharisees
- v) 7:14-23 Sin and the Heart
- w) 7:24-30 Humility of a Gentile
- x) 7:31-37 Healing in the Decapolis
- y) 8:1-10 Feeding of the Four Thousand
- z) 8:11-21 Beware the Pharisees
- aa) 8:22-30 Blindness and True Sight
- bb) 8:31-38 Suffering of the Son of Man

C. Main Themes

1. Discipleship
 - a) Call - Mark 1:15
 - b) Examples
 - (1) Simon, Andrew, James, John (1:16-20)
 - (2) Simon's mother-in-law (1:30-31)
 - (3) Levi (2:13-14)
 - (4) Twelve (3:13-19)
 - (5) Whoever does the will of God (3:35)
 - (6) Peter (8:27-33)
2. Jesus' Compassion
 - a) 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22 - "splaɡchnizomai"
 - b) Mark 2:2
 - c) Mark 3:5
3. Jesus the Suffering Servant (Mark 10:45)
 - a) Omission of long discourses and teaching -> primacy of the Servant versus teaching
4. Jesus the Son of God (Mark 1:1; 8:29; 15:39)

- a) Mark - 1:1; 8:31; 9:9
 - b) God the Father - 1:11; 9:7
 - c) Demons - 1:24; 3:11; 5:7
 - d) Jesus - 2:10; 2:28; 8:38; 9:12; 9:31; 10:33; 10:45; 12:35; 13:26; 13:32; 14:21; 14:41; 14:62
 - e) Peter - 8:29
 - f) Blind beggar - 10:47; 10:48
 - g) High priest - 14:61
 - h) Centurion - 15:39
5. Action-oriented (“And”, “immediately”)
- a) And is used roughly 800 times, and starts about 61% of verses (“kai”), ~410 / 673
 - b) Immediately used a few dozen times (~42, “euthys”)

D. Key Verses

- 1. Mark 1:15
- 2. Mark 8:29
- 3. Mark 10:45

IV. Icebreaker Exercise

- A. Put the [events](#) in order! You may work in groups.

V. Homework

- A. Read (or listen to) the book of Mark
- B. ~11,304 words at the average reading speed of 250 / minute = 45 minutes.

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