

SCHOOL OF THE WORD 2017
St Mark's Gospel (4)

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Part 1

- Module 1: The current context of faith
- Module 2: The readings at Mass
- Module 3: What is a gospel?
- **Module 4: The Gospel of the current year**
- Module 5: Mark's portrait of Jesus
- Module 6: Discipleship according to Mark

Sequence

- Features of Mark's Gospel
 - Sandwiches
 - Concentric structures
 - Doubling
- How would you know?
- Conversation

Features of Mark

- Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers, *Hearing Mark. A Listener's Guide*, Harrisburg PA: Trinity Press International, 2002.
- Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers, *In the Company of Jesus. Characters in Mark's Gospel*, Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers, *Mark's Jesus. Characterization as Narrative Christology*, Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009.
- Intertextual (LXX) and intratextual (with himself)
- Symbolism: juxtaposing the literal and the metaphorical
- Also: Repetition, intercalation (framing), foreshadowing and echoing, irony.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)	
He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." (Mark 8:29)	Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" (Mark 15:39)
So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (Mark 16:8, ending with a conjunction)	

Features of Mark: sandwich

5:21-43 Jairus' daughter and the woman with the haemorrhage

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|--|-----------|
| A Jairus pleads with Jesus to save his daughter, | vv. 21-24 |
| B Woman with a haemorrhage touches Jesus | vv. 25-34 |
| A Jesus raises Jairus' daughter, | vv. 35-43 |

1. 3:20-35

- A. Jesus' companions try to seize him, vv. 20-21
- B. The religious leaders accuse Jesus of being in league with Beelzeboul, vv. 22-30
- A. Jesus' family seeks him, vv. 31-35

2. 4:1-20

- A. Parable of the Sower, vv. 1-9
- B. Purpose of parables, vv. 10-13
- A. Explanation of the Parable of the Sower, vv. 14-20

3. 5:21-43

- A. Jairus pleads with Jesus to save his daughter, vv. 21-234
- B. Woman with a haemorrhage touches Jesus, vv. 25-34
- A. Jesus raises Jairus' daughter (35-43)

4. 6:7-30

- A. Mission of the Twelve, vv. 7-13
- B. Martyrdom of John the Baptist, vv 14-29
- A. Return of the Twelve, v 30

6. 14:1-11

- A. Plot to kill Jesus, vv 1-2
- B. Anointing of Jesus at Bethany, vv 3-9
- A. Judas's agreement to betray Jesus, vv 10-11

7. 14:17-31

- A. Jesus predicts his betrayal, vv. 17-21
- B. Institution of the Lord's Supper, vv. 22-26
- A. Jesus predicts Peter's betrayal, vv. 27-31

8. 14:53-72

- A. Peter follows Jesus to the courtyard of the high priest, vv. 53-54
- B. Jesus' inquisition before the Sanhedrin, vv. 55-65
- A. Peter's denial of Jesus, vv. 66-72

9. 15:40-16:8

- A. Women at the cross, vv. 15:40-41
- B. Joseph of Arimathea requests Jesus' body, vv. 15:42-46
- A. Women at the empty tomb, vv. 15:47-16:8

Features of Mark: concentric

Concentric				
A 2:1-12	B 2:13-17	C 2:18-22	B ¹ 2:23-28	A ¹ 3:1-6
indoor healing Jesus' perception divine claim Jesus Scribes cripple				indoor healing Jesus' perception divine claim Jesus Pharisees handicapped man
	Eating Uncleanness Disciples about Jesus Jesus Disciples Scribes punch line		Eating Uncleanness Jesus about Disciples Jesus Disciples Pharisees punch line	

		Non-fasting Bridegroom Newness Jesus People		
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Parables of the Kingdom

A		4:1-2	Introduction	2vv.	46
	B	3-9	Sower	7vv.	105
		C	Reasons	3vv.	52
		D	Allegory	8vv.	146
		C'	Enigmatic Sayings	5vv.	74
	B'	26-32	Seed Parables	7vv.	117
A'		33-34	Conclusion	2vv.	26

Jesus in Jerusalem

A. Entry into Jerusalem	11:1-11	Authority
B. Curse of the Fig Tree	11:12-14	Barren
C. Cleansing of the Temple	11:15-19	Cleansing
B ¹ The Fig Tree cursed	11:20-25	Barren
A ¹ Challenge to Jesus	11:27-33	Authority

Chapter 12

A. Warning: the Wicked Tenants who devour the owner's property	(12:1-9)
B. Psalms: Cornerstone	(12:10-11)
C. Pharisees and Herodians: Caesar and God	(12:13-17)
D. Sadducees: the Resurrection	(12:18-27)
C'. Scribe: God and neighbour	(12:28-34)
B'. Psalms: David's Son	(12:35-37)
A'. Warning: Scribes who devour the property of widows.	(12:38-44)

Features of Mark: Doubling

Mark 8:22 Then they came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to Jesus and asked him to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside of the village. Then he spit on his eyes, placed his hands on his eyes and asked, "Do you see anything?" 24 Regaining his sight he said, "I see people, but they look like trees walking." 25 Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again. And he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

Mark 10:46 They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many scolded him to get him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up! He is calling you." 50 He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied, "Rabbi, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has healed you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the road.

Doubling +

<i>Passion Prediction 1</i>	<i>Passion Prediction 2</i>	<i>Passion Prediction 3</i>
8:31 Passion Prediction	9:30-31 Passion Prediction	10:33-34 Passion Prediction
8:32-33 Misunderstanding (Peter)	9:32-24 Misunderstanding (The Twelve)	10:32, 35-37 Misunderstanding (James and John)
8:34-38 Discipleship	9:35-50 Discipleship	10:38-44 Discipleship
8:38-9:1 Reason: judgment	9:37-40 Reason: Jesus encountered	10:45 Reason: Son of Man came to serve
Context: Post-Easter persecution	Context: relations outside the community	Context: early church betrayal of service
Focus: the individual	Focus: society	Focus: the church

Features of Mark: questions

First Multiplication	Second Multiplication
Feeding of the 5,000 (6:35-44)	Feeding of the 4,000 (8:1-9)
Crossing of the Lake (6:45-52)	Crossing of the Lake (8:10)
Controversy with the Pharisees (7:1-23)	Controversy with the Pharisees (8:11-13)
The Children's Bread (7:24-30)	The One Loaf (8:14-21)
Healing of a Deaf Mute (7:31-37)	Healing of a Blind Man 8:22-26)

Layout of the Gospel

Prologue	Galilee	The Way	Jerusalem	Epilogue
1:1-15	1:16-8:21	8:22-10:52	11:1-15:47	16:1-8
	Calling, Sending		No calling, no sending	
	Miracles Exorcisms		No miracles, no exorcisms	
	Discourse Kingdom parables		Discourse Apocalyptic	
	Symbols bread, sea, boat		Symbols cup, way, cross	

Manuscripts

Papyri

- P45** Dublin, Chester Beatty Library (3rd cent.) Fragments from 4:36-12:28
P84 Leuven, University Library and Palestine; Archaeological Museum, Khirbet Mird (6th cent.) Fragments from chapters 2 and 6
P88 Milan, P. Med. Inv. 69, 24 (4th cent.), 2:1–26

Uncial Codices or Codex Fragments

- Ⲛ** (01) Codex Sinaiticus (4th cent.)
A (02) Codex Alexandrinus (5th cent.)
B (03) Codex Vaticanus (4th cent.)
C (04) Codex Ephraemi rescriptus (5th cent.) 1:18–6:31; 8:6–12:29; 13:20–16:20

Summary

- The gospel writer used sources, oral and written
- He structured the presentation with great care
- A one year ministry (editorial choice)
- Mark offers an understanding of Jesus (Christology)
- He gives a particular understanding of discipleship
- The Gospel opens invitingly and ends intriguingly
- Published anonymously
- Written about 69 or 70 AD
- In Syria or possibly Rome

Task for the next day

- Write out in four or five points your own account of Jesus for you today
- Read through Mark again or at least chapters 1, 8, 13, 15 and just notice how the writer “presents” Jesus to his hearers / readers

Conversation