

Getting the Most from Mark's Gospel

Structure and Style

- Proposition statement – What does Mark believe about Jesus? What will he show us? (1:1)
- Two-part development (1-8 & 9-16)
 - Christ – Son of God
 - Crowd – Cross
 - Teaching the Multitudes – Training the Twelve
 - Miracles – Mission
 - Preaching – Propitiating
- Four Master Key Sections
 - *Chapter 1* – This chapter is full of core concepts. Some to think about: Preparation, Baptism, **Suffering, Repentance, Belief FOLLOWING Repentance, Forsaking All**, Authority and Signs, **Power over Demons**, Salvation and Service, Priority of Prayer, Pursuit by Crowds, **Purpose of Ministry: Teaching**, Touching the Unclean, and the **Messianic Secret**. You'll see all of these developed as the story continues. The boldfaced concepts are essential keys for recognizing and unlocking later elements in the story.
 - *Chapter 4* – The Parables of Seed and the Necessity of Seeking
 - *Chapter 8* – Paying Attention, the Process of Growth, and the Hinge of the Story
 - *Chapters 14-16* – The Passion Narrative
- Storyteller
 - Vividly descriptive (e.g. 5:1-20, 21-43; 9:14-29)
 - Implicit theology (e.g. 1:2-4, 7-9, 9-11; Contrast of demonic confessions vs. 8:27-31 and 15:37-39)
 - Suspense (e.g. 1:14; 3:21; 9:12; 11:12-14) and paradox (e.g. 1:4, 9; 1:11, 12; 1:34; 6:45-52, 53-56)
 - Additional info which adds color and (eyewitness) credibility (e.g. 2:4; 3:34; 4:36, 38; 6:39; 14:51-52)
- Action and Urgency (*immediately, again, and*)
- Sandwiches (3:20-25; 4:1-20; 5:21-43; 6:7-30; 11:12-21; 14:1-11; 14:17-31 14:53-72; 15:40-16:8)
- Action Parables / Metaphorical Miracles (e.g. 1:21-28; 2:1-12; 7:31-37; 8:22-26; 9:2-13; 11:12-26)

Themes

- Jesus as a Teacher (e.g. 1:14, 22, 27, 38; 2:1, 13; 4:1-2, 33-34; 6:2, 34; 8:31; 9:31; 10:1; 12:35; 14:49)
- Jesus and the Demons (e.g. 1:21-28, 32, 34, 39; 3:11, 15, 22-27; 5:1-20; 6:13; 9:14-29, 38-40)
 - Three things the demons always do: (1) Come closer, (2) Humble/Bow, (3) Submit/Obey
- Asking/Seeking vs. Attending (e.g. 2:1-12; 3:31-35; **4:1-34**; 5:38-43; 6:1-6; 7:24-30)
- Insiders and Outsiders (e.g. 3:31-35; 4:10-12, 33-34; 5:40-43; 9:2-9; 10:10-12; 13:3-5)
- Faith vs. Fear (e.g. **4:35-41**; **5:1-20, 21-43**; 6:45-52; 9:32; 10:32; 11:32; 12:12)
- Failure of the Disciples (e.g. 4:38-41; 6:35-37, 49-52; 8:1-4, 13-21, 31-33; 9:9-13, 17-19, 32, 33-37, 38-42; 10:13-16, 23-27, 32, 35-45; 14:10-11, 27-31, 37-42, 43-46, 50-52 66-72; 15:40-47; 16:1-8, 9-14)
- Hardness of the Disciples' Hearts (e.g. 6:52; 8:17, 33; 16:14)
- Emotions in the Ministry of Christ (e.g. 1:41; 3:5; 6:34; 7:34 8:2, 12, 17-21; 10:21; 14:33)

Suggestions

- Read the book in its entirety once a week
- Look for three things each week: (1) Something New, (2) Favorite Part, (3) Practical Application
- Learn the paragraph headings