

Embracing the Cross

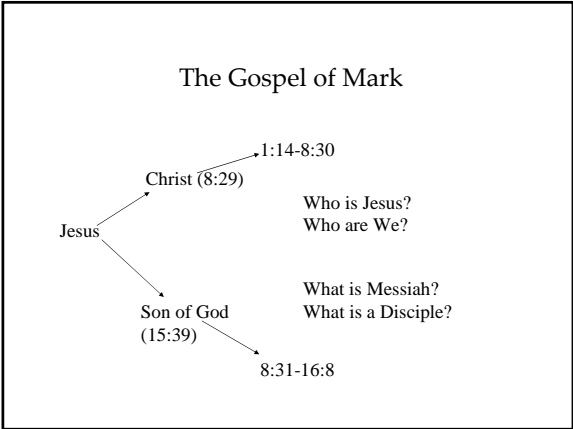
A Look at the Gospel of Mark
Clergy Reflection Day
October 26, 2005

The Marcan Outline

- Mark 1:1-15 the Prologue
- Mark 1:16-8:21 The Galilean Ministry
- The Journey Mark 8:22-10:52
- The Jerusalem Ministry Mark 11:1-14:31
- The Passion, Death and Resurrection Mark 14:32-16:8

Mark 1:1

- Beginning of the Gospel
 - Of Jesus
 - Christ (Messiah)
 - Son of God
 - AS it stands written in the prophet Isaiah..
- Presents outlines of Christology
 - Note what is missing



Messianic Expectation

משיח אדני *Mashiach Adonai*, the messiah of the Lord

- Title given to the king of Israel
 - David is "anointed" King
 - Each "successor" is anointed
- Monarchy is promised eternity (II Samuel 7)

Messianic Expectation

- Monarchy ends with Babylonian Invasion (587 BC).
 - Never restored
 - What of the promises to David through Nathan
 - Reinterpretation
 - A descendant of David would come some day to re-establish the Kingdom

Son of God

- Psalm 2:7 "You are my son, this day I have begotten you..."
- Chanted on the day of anointing of the King
 - Natural Descendant (son) of David
 - Adopted as son of God when he becomes king.
- It is thus a title given to a human king

The Baptism (1:11-13)

- Jesus enters Gospel (1:9)
 - Comes from Nazareth of Galilee
 - God's Son is a human being from Nazareth
- Jesus is baptized by John
 - Heavens opened
 - Spirit descends like a dove
 - Voice Speaks

The Baptism (1:11-13)

- The Voice
 - You are my son (Psalm 2:7)
 - He fulfills Davidic Messianic Expectation
 - In whom I am well Pleased (Isa 42:1)
 - He is the servant of Isaiah
 - The Suffering Servant
 - Suffering vicariously on behalf of the people
 - My Beloved (Genesis 22:2)
 - Remembrance calls for forgiveness of sins

**Fragmentary Targum Gen
22:14**

- I pray for mercy before you, O Lord god, that when the children of Isaac come to a time of distress, You may remember on their behalf the binding of Isaac their father, and loose the forgive them their sins and deliver them from all distress, so that the generations which follow him may say: In the mountain of the Temple of the Lord, Abraham offered Isaac his son, and in this mountain—of the temple—the glory of the Shekinah of the Lord was revealed to him

**Inauguration of the Kingdom
(1:14-15)**

- The Time (καίρος) is fulfilled
- The Kingdom of God is near (ἤγγικεν)
- Repent (μετανοεῖτε)
 - Turn (change) one’s heart (mind)
- Believe in the Good News
 - ἵ Πιστεῦετε ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ
 - Be committed to the Gospel

The Ministry Begins

- The Call of the Disciples
- Early Healings
 - Cure of man with withered hand
 - Cure of Peter’s Mother in Law
 - Continued Healings
 - Cure of a Leper

Jesus Cures a Paralytic
2:1-12

- Paralytic led down through the roof
- Jesus forgives his sins “Child, your sins are forgiven (ἀφίενται)
 - Reaction Scribes murmuring (διαλογίζομαι) in hearts
 - Blasphemy
 - Who can forgive sins except the one God
 - ἵ Εἰ μὴ εἰς ὁ θεός
- Jesus responds

Jesus Cures a Paralytic
2:1-12

- Which is easier (εὐκοπότερον) to say
 - Your sins are forgiven
 - Arise, take up your pallet and walk
- That you might know the Son of Man has authority (ἐξουσία) on earth to forgive sins, I say
 - Arise, take up your pallet and walk

Son of Man

- Title derives from Ezekiel
 - ἵ בר אנוש Aramaic for “Human being” – used as address to Ezekiel
- Title derives from Daniel
 - Son of Man is divine being who comes to throne of God and is presented with power, dominion etc.

Son of Man

- Title derives from Enoch
 - Similitudes of Enoch (I Enoch 42-71)
 - Son of Man is divine eschatological figure who will come for judgment
- Mark's Use
 - Favorite self designation of Jesus
 - Used to designate Jesus as suffering vicariously on behalf of the people

Controversy Builds

- The Call of Levi
- The question of Fasting
- Plucking Grain on the Sabbath
- A Cure on the Sabbath
- The Family come to take him away

The Parables

- Sower and Seed
 - Some falls on footpath
 - Some falls on Rock Ground
 - Some falls among thorns
 - Some produces 30-60-100 fold
- Seed growing secretly
 - Seed planted
 - Sower rises and sleeps daily
 - Seed grows of its own accord (αυτοματη)

Miracles

- The Calming of the Sea
- The Gerasene Demoniac
- The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

- Jesus family Rejects him
 - He is a carpenter, son of Mary
 - How can he do all these things

- John the Baptist beheaded

Jesus, the Shepherd

- Crowds follow Jesus
- Jesus sees them as "sheep without a shepherd"
 - Makes them lie down on Green Grass
 - Multiplies loaves and fishes
- Walks on Water
 - Disciples miss significance (Mk 6:52)

Blindness and Sight (Ch 8)

- Argue in boat because they have no bread(s)
 - Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?
 - Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?
 - *Recalls the two multiplications*
- And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

Blindness and Sight

- Enter a blind man at Bethsaida
 - Healing takes place in stages
 - First he sees, but people look like walking trees
 - Second he sees clearly
- Disciples are at first stage see but not clearly

Peter's Confession

- Who do people say that I am
 - Some say John the Baptist
 - Others Elijah
 - Other one of the prophets
- Who do YOU say that I am
 - Messiah
 - But Peter does not fully understand what this means

The Meaning of Messiahship

- Son of Man **must**
 - suffer many things,
 - be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes,
 - be killed,
 - after three days rise again.
- Peter cannot accept this

The Meaning of Messiahship

- Jesus “rebukes” Peter
 - Get (ὑπαγε) behind me (ὀπίσω μου), Satan
 - You do not think (φρονεῖς) in God’s ways, but rather human ways
- Two more predictions of passion (9:31; 10:32-34)

The Meaning of Discipleship

- Jesus addresses the Crowds
 - If anyone would wish to come after me (ὀπίσω μου) i.e. be my disciple
 - Let him
 - Deny himself
 - Take up his cross
 - And Follow me

The Meaning of Messiahship

- The Transfiguration attempts to show them the result of following on the way
 - Peter speaks they like this
 - Built three tents
 - Voice comes and speaks
 - “This is my beloved son, Listen to him”
 - Parallels voice at baptism
 - Adds command

The Rich Young Man

- Man runs up and kneels before him
 - Good Teacher, What must I do to inherit eternal life?
 - Why call me good; no one is good except the one God (εἰς ὁ θεός)
 - You know commandments
 - I have followed them
 - One thing more – detach self from possessions and follow me
- He couldn't so leaves crest-fallen

Camels and Needles

- Jesus to disciples
 - How hard (δυσκόλως) it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God.
 - Disciples amazed; Jesus repeats
 - It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God
 - Disciples astonished; who can be saved
 - With men it is impossible; but not with God All things are possible with God

The Meaning of Messiahship

- James and John request positions of honor in the kingdom (10:35-45)
 - "One at his right; and one at his left"
- Jesus answers they are not his to give
- "You know how those who seem to have authority among the Gentiles lord it over.."
- It cannot be that way with you

The Meaning of Messiahship

- Whoever wishes to be first (πρῶτος) must be servant (δοῦλος) of all.
- Son of man came not to be served, but to serve
 - To give his life in ransom for (ὑπὲρ) the many

The Meaning of Messiahship

- Enter Bartimaeus, blind man at Jericho
 - "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus enters Jerusalem: Tension Mounts

- The Entry Narrative
- The Temple Incident
- The Question of Authority
- The Parable of the Wicked Tenants
- The Question of Taxes
- The Question of Resurrection

The Love Command

- Scribe comes up to put question
 - Which commandment is first of all
 - Jesus answers with Deut 6:4
 - "Hear O Israel, the lord our God; the lord is one" (others translate "alone")
 - שמע ישראל יהוה אחד יהוה אחד
 - You shall love the Lord
 - With all your heart בקבלי-לבבך
 - With all your soul ובקבלי-נפשך
 - With all your mind
 - With all your strength ובקבלי-קאךך

The Love Command

- Scribe responds "You have truly said that he is one; and there is no other than he"
 - Deuteronomy – Henotheism Deut 6:4
 - Second Isaiah – Monotheism Isa 45:21
 - Historically Israel's henotheism become monotheism
- To love god with whole self is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices
 - Significant insight
- You are not far from the Kingdom Of God

The Apocalyptic Discourse

- There will not be left a stone upon a stone
 - Tell us when will this be?
 - What will be the signs when these things are all to be accomplished?
- The Discourse
 - False Christs and Prophets
 - Pesection, War, Famine, Earthquake
 - But the gospel must first be preached to all nations
- Response: Be watchful, Be awake

The Messianic Anointing

- Chief priests and Scribes sought how they might put him to death
- Near the Passover (2 days before)
- Jesus in Bethany at home of Simon the Leper
 - Woman comes
 - Anoints Jesus' head - Messiah anointed on head in OT

The Jewish Trial

- Have you no answer?
- He was silent cf. Servant Isa 53
- "Are you the Christ, the son of the blessed one?"
- I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power (Ps 110:1) and coming with the clouds of heaven (Dan 7:13)

Passion Narrative

- Jesus reigns as messiah from the cross
 - Giving his life in ransom for the many
- Acknowledge by the Centurion
 - "Truly this man was a son of God"

The Resurrection

- It is not the disciples; but the women who come to anoint the body
 - Stone rolled away
 - Young man sitting in the tomb
 - Announces good news
 - He is risen
 - Go and tell the disciples to meet him in Galilee
 - They say nothing to anyone; they are afraid

Conclusion

- We must be willing to embrace the cross
 - To give our lives in service of others
 - This leaves us in Fear
- BUT nothing is impossible with God
- THEREFORE remain awake, take heed and watch
 - And we will succeed
