

One Bible, One Story

New Testament Survey

The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God: The Gospel according to Mark

Last Week's Main Points

- There is a great unity to the Bible. Between the OT and NT, this unity can be seen in purpose, prophecy, and typology.
- We can have theological confidence in the NT writings because they record the apostolic witness to the orthodox faith and were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- We can have historical confidence in the NT writings because of the accountability provided by the public nature of their proclamation, the relatively early and reliable textual history for the manuscripts, and established scribal care demonstrated by the OT canon.

I. Introduction – Simon Marmion's *Saint Luke Painting the Virgin*¹

II. Key Concepts/Features

- The Gospel: One gospel, four Gospels?
- The Kingdom of God
- Discipleship: Failure and Cost
- Celestial Conflict

¹ Markus Bockmuehl, *Seeing the Word: Refocusing New Testament Study* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006).

- Messianic Secret
- Christology
- The Death of Jesus

III. Outline of Mark²

- A. Prologue (1:1-13): Witness of John, Baptism of Jesus, The Temptation of Jesus
- B. Who is this Jesus (1:14-6:6)
 - i. Authority (1:14-3:12): Calling Disciples, Healing and Mighty Acts in Galilee
 - ii. Teaching (3:13-6:6): Selecting the Twelve, Rejection, Parables, Lord of Demons, Disease, and Death
- C. Mission and Misunderstanding (6:6b-8:21): Death of John the Baptist, Feedings, Healing the Syrophenician Woman, Healing the Deaf
- D. On the Way to Jerusalem (8:22-10:52): Healing the Blind, Peter's Confession, Passion Predictions, Transfiguration, Teachings on Discipleship, Request of James and John
- E. Jesus's Entry into Jerusalem (11:1-13:37): Messianic Entry, Judgment on the Fig Tree and the Temple, Opponents Try to Question and Trick Jesus, Widow's Gift, Eschatological Discourse
- F. The Passion Narrative (14:1-16:8): Plots to Kill Jesus, Jesus Is Anointed, Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Tried by Sanhedrin and Pilate, Peter's Denial, Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection.

IV. Today's focus passage: Mark 8:27-35

1. Read this entire passage as a table. Which if any of the themes discussed above under Key Concept/Features appear in this passage? What is said about these themes in our passage?
2. Thinking of the Marmion illustration above, what might be the purpose of the author for including this account? Is there a single main purpose you can identify, or is it multi-faceted?

² Outline based upon Robert A. Guelich, *Mark 1-8:26* (Word Biblical Commentary; Dallas: Word, 1989), xxxvii; Robert H. Stein, *Mark* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), vii–ix.

3. Mark 1:15 records the first words of Jesus in Mark. At that starting point in Jesus' ministry, what is said about the Kingdom of God? What might have been expected already at that time about the kingdom and its leader?

3. In today's focus passage, how does Jesus' teaching about the Messiah confront the expectations of the disciples? Why do you think the disciple Peter responded the way he did?

4. In what ways historically or personally have people had misconceptions about the Kingdom or its Messiah?

V. Application

- Read Mark (n.b. today's focus passage) this week with an eye toward discipleship's cost and its failures. How does this presentation challenge our expectations about what the Christian life can/should look like? What crosses are you meant to take up?
- One of the main purposes of Mark is to get his readers to ask the question "Who is this Jesus" and to lead them on a journey to find the answer. In what ways can we emulate Mark's purpose with our own lives to share the gospel message about who Jesus is?
- In our passage, Jesus rebukes Peter for getting in his way. Are there areas in your life where you are allowing "human concerns" to obstruct the leadership of Jesus? Pray that God would reveal these areas and illuminate how to "get back in line" behind Jesus.

Fig. 1. Marmion's *Saint Luke Painting the Virgin*



Fig. 2. Synoptic Gospel Comparison



