

“The Gospel According to Mark: The Beginning of the Good News”

Roseville Lutheran Church – 10:10 – March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020
James L. Boyce

A prominent theologian once described the Gospel of Mark as a “Passion Narrative with an extended introduction.” From its opening announcement of this work as the “beginning of the good news of Jesus the Christ,” Mark’s story draws us into the story of Jesus’ journey to the cross with repeated foretelling of Jesus’ coming suffering, death, and resurrection. At the same time we are at times left somewhat breathless and puzzled by the motifs of secrecy and mystery that compel us as readers.

From Session 1 “The Beginning of the Good News of Jesus the Messiah”

Mark 1:14-15 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Mark 3:6 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Mark 3:35 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark’s Special Story

<p>Beginnings and Endings Begins with a Fanfare:... good news...a voice crying out Ends with a whimper:.....and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid (Mark 1:1; 16:8, cf Matthew and Luke)</p> <p>Urgency and Movement: Plunges directly into the story of Jesus’ baptism and ministry “immediately” (14 times in first 3 chapters)</p>	<p>Hiddenness or Secrecy “See that you say nothing to anyone”</p> <p>Disciples Misunderstanding seems to grow as the story progresses (cf. 10:35-40)</p> <p>Overwhelming presence of Jesus’ Passion 3:6: the Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him</p>
---	---

Session 2 “The Mystery of the Kingdom” Mark 4:1-8:21 (selections)

Mark 4:1f. Parables of the Kingdom

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 “Listen! A sower went out to sow.9 And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

10 ¶ When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12 in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’” 13 And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables?”

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:35-41 Stills the Storm

But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 5:1-17 Heals a Demon-possessed man

1 ¶ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. 2 And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. 3 He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; 4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; 7 and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

14 ¶ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. 17 Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

Mark 5:21-24 Daughter of Jairus at point of death

Mark 5:25-34 Women with blood flow (faith saved you)

Mark 5:35-43 Jairus daughter dead. Raised from dead

Mark 6:1-6 Rejection in his Hometown

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Mark 6:30-44 Jesus Feeds five thousand

Mark 6:45-52 Disciples in Boat, Jesus Walks on Water

45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. 49 But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." 51 Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Mark 6:53-56 53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55 and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Mark 7:24-30 Heals Syrophenician Woman's Daughter

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25

but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go-- the demon has left your daughter." 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Mark 8:1-21 Feeds Four Thousand Then Again in Boat with Disciples

1 ¶ In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, 2 "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way -- and some of them have come from a great distance." 4 His disciples replied, "How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?" 5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." 6 Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. 7 They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be

distributed. 8 They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. 10 And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

11 ¶ The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

14 ¶ Now the disciples¹ had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out -- beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." 16 They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread." 17 And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" They said to him, "Twelve." 20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" And they said to him, "Seven." 21 Then he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-13)

“Beginning”... in the wilderness; John the Baptist, Jesus’ Baptism; Temptation

II. JESUS’ MINISTRY IN GALILEE (and beyond) (1:14-8:21)

Transitional Summary: “Kingdom of God is at hand” 1:14 - 15

A. Jesus Son of God: Authority in Word and Deed 1:16-3:6

Call of Disciples, Healings, Teaching, Conflict Stories

Transitional Summary: Multitudes follow from everywhere 3:7 - 12

B. Jesus Son of God: Rejected by his own people 3:13-6:6

Parables (ch. 4); Miracles (ch. 4-5); Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

Transitional Summary: Teaching among the Villages 6:6b

C. Jesus Son of God: Misunderstood by his own disciples 6:7 – 8:21

Mission of the 12

Feeding 5000 (6:30-44)-----Feeding 4000 (8:1-10)

Crossing Sea (6:45-52)-----Crossing Sea (8:11-20)

Transitional Summary: Do you not understand? (8:21)

III. JESUS ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM (8:22-10:52)

Jesus the Messiah who Suffers – Discipleship in light of the Passion

GIVING OF SIGHT STORY 8:22-26

PETER’S CONFESSION 8:27-30

A. Passion Prediction # 1 8:31
Misunderstanding 8:32-33
Teaching on Discipleship 8:34-9:1

B. Transfiguration 9:2-8
Disciples puzzled 9:9-13
Teaching to Disciples 9:14-29

C. Passion Prediction # 2 9:30-31
Misunderstanding 9:32-34
Teaching on Discipleship 9:35-37

Collection of Teaching Materials: First, last; Last, First 9:38-10:31

D. Passion Prediction # 3 10:32-34
Misunderstanding 10:35-41
Teaching on Discipleship 10:42-45

GIVING OF SIGHT STORY 10:46-52

IV. JESUS IN JERUSALEM (11:1-16:8)

Ministry before the Passion (ch. 11-13)

Triumphal Entry; Cleansing of the Temple; Conflicts with Leaders

Apocalyptic Discourse: Watch! (ch. 13)

Passion Narrative (14:1-15:47)

Resurrection (16:1-8)