

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

Roseville Lutheran Church – 10:10 – March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020

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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.

Session 4 “Jesus in Jerusalem: Passion and Resurrection” Mark 11:1-16:8

Mark: “A Passion narrative with an extended introduction

Overwhelming presence of Jesus’ Passion throughout Mark’s Story

Premonitions and Foretellings along the way

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

Mark 8:31 **Jesus Foretells Passion #1** (see #2 and #3: **Mark 9:30-31, 10:33-34**)

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

A major transition in the story:

Blind Bartimaeus is healed and “follows Jesus on the way” **Mark 10:52**

And in the very next verse we hear:

“When they were approaching Jerusalem” **Mark 11:1**

Now for the first time in the gospel of Mark, Jesus is about to set foot in Jerusalem.

A story filled with Irony and Pathos: Triumphal entry, Angry leaders, Son of Man on Trial, a crucified King

Mark 11:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem with Praises

1 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5 some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6 They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” 11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Mark 11:15-17 In Temple—Drives out Sellers

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; 16 and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. 17 He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

Mark 11:18-33 Religious Leaders Angered

18 And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. 19 And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city....

27 Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him 28 and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?" (cf. 1:27)

Mark 12:1-12 A Telling Parable-Wicked Tenants

1 Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 2 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. 4 And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. 5 Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. 6 He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not read this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 11 this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

12 When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away. 13 Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said.

Mark 12:14-44 Jesus' Teaching

Taxes to Caesar?

Resurrection?

The First Commandment?

David's Son?

Denounces Scribes

Widow's Offering

Mark 13:1-37 An Apocalyptic Revelation of Future

1 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" 2 Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these

great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." 3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray...."

The Need for Watchfulness

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Mark 14:1-25 Passover and Lord's Supper

1 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; 2 for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

17 When it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

22 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Praying in Gethsemane

Betrayal and Arrest

Trial Before the Council

Peter's Denial

Mark 15:1-5 Jesus Before Pilate

1 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Crucify Him

Mockery by Soldiers

Jesus Crucified

Mark 14:33-47 Jesus' Death and Burial

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." 36 And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 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!" ...

46 Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

Mark 16:1-8 The Resurrection of Jesus

1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 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.

The Troubling Ending of Mark

- No Appearances of Jesus, only a promise
- The silence of the women –disobey command to “go and tell”

All of our earliest and best Manuscripts end at verse 8

Did Mark really end there? Or has an original ending been lost?

Scholars differ on the answer to these questions.

How shall we read **Mark's** Gospel?

Evidence? Ancient Corrections/ Additions

Matthew and Luke additions/corrections would seem to argue for their dissatisfaction with Mark

Matthew: 2 Appearances & the Great Commission on a Mountain (cf. Sermon on Mount)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Luke: Appearances to Women, Disciples on Way to Emmaus, Upper Room, Mission, Ascension

“And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

By the 5th Century Other Options (see NRSV notes: “other ancient authorities”)

- A Shorter Ending
- A Longer Ending (Mark 16:9-20; see KJV and rest of later tradition)
- Shorter Ending + Longer Ending (this arrangement occurs in One ancient manuscript)

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)