

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

PATTERNS AND STRUCTURE OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

I. GOOD NEWS - This is how the Gospel begins. What Good News? We have a Messiah and Lord who tells us about himself and his kingdom! He preaches to us. Then he helps us as we witness and preach to others. Compare Matt.28:16-20 and Luke 24:50-53 with Mark 16:19, 20. He submitted Himself to the effects of the curse of sin, and helps us witness in the midst of the confusion, hurts, setbacks, difficulties, dangers, trials and challenges we face.

II. WHY THIS ENDING?

- A. The on going emphasis in this Gospel, 10:45?
- B. The author's own experience and ministry of helping the early missionary teams? (Notes on John Mark)

III. OTHER EVIDENCE TO A GOSPEL OF JESUS' WORK, SERVICE, LABOR AND ACTION:

- A. The shortest gospel. Only 16 chapters.
- B. The "action" gospel. More narrative and less teaching. But the narrative "preaches" to us.

IV. THE CONTENT OF MARK'S GOSPEL

- A. Two major emphases:
 - 1. Who? 1:1-8:30 Jesus brings his followers to a confession of who He is.
 - 2. What? 8:31-16:20 Jesus then must explain to them what he came to do, die and rise again.While seeing the Gospel in this light is helpful, it still leaves us with 2 large blocks of text, too large to study as one. But there is another option.
- B. The Structure and Pattern - 7 Major Divisions.
 - 1. The Introduction 1:1-13 Jesus is introduced
 - 2. Four narrative sections 1:14-13:37 Jesus' ministry
 - 3. The Passover 14:1-16:8 Jesus' death and resurrection
 - 4. The Conclusion 16:9-20 His followers take over His work

HOW SHALL WE STUDY THIS GOSPEL? Each division or section of this Gospel answers a key question about the Messiah and His work. There is also an "operative word" which we shall note at the end of each section.

I.	WHO?	"HIM"	1:13
II.	WHAT?	"LIKE"	4:30
III.	WHERE?	"WITHIN"	7:23
IV.	WHY?	"YOU"	9:49
V.	WHEN?	"WATCH"	13:37
VI.	HOW?	"RISEN"	16:6
VII.	WHO?	"THEM"	16:20

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As we study, discuss and lecture on each section we shall emphasize the corresponding question. Note that the questions come full circle, back to the question "who?". Each of Christ's disciples and each generation of disciples must consider these questions in order to fulfill His work as confident servants of his.

- I. WHO IS THIS "PREACHING MESSIAH"?
- II. WHAT PLAN DOES HE HAVE IN MIND?
- III. WHERE DOES HE ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?
- IV. WHY HAS HE COME AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?
- V. WHEN WILL HE CARRY OUT ALL THESE THINGS?
- VI. HOW WILL HE ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?
- VII. WHO WILL CARRY ON HIS PREACHING?

Each generation of Jesus' followers must ask themselves the same questions:

- I. Who is Jesus to me?**
- II. What plan should I follow in my witness for the Lord?**
- III. Where shall I witness for Him?**
- IV. Why should I witness for Him?**
- V. When should I witness?**
- VI. How should I witness?**
- VII. Who will take over from me?**

These are huge questions for each person who wants to follow and serve the Lord. This gospel will answer these questions as we proceed with our study.

Another way to look at these patterns and structures in Mark is to examine the "chronological" line I have developed. While we might not be absolutely certain all the events in Mark are chronological, they do follow, in general, a chronological sequence. Let's look at that line now.