

SCHOOL OF THE WORD 2017
St Mark's Gospel (6)

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Part 1

- Module 1: The current context of faith
- Module 2: The readings at Mass
- Module 3: What is a gospel?
- Module 4: The Gospel of the current year
- Module 5: Mark's portrait of Jesus
- **Module 6: Discipleship according to Mark**

Sequence

- The issue for today
- The evidence
- Within the narrative
- Costly discipleship
- The teaching for today

The Issue for Today

- Christian
- Ethics?
- Creed?
- Relation to society?
- Way of life?
- Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is
- Spirituality is whatever I do to make the Good News come alive in my life. (Nivard Kinsella OCSO)

The Evidence

- Mark = the "good news" of / about Jesus
- What does it mean to be involved?
- Stories of discipleship are not simply about the past
- Also: paradigms and warning to the Markan community

- Background to "disciples"
- Biblical context: Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 19); Moses and Joshua
- Hellenistic context: e.g. Socrates; NB personal relationship
- Rabbinic context: a rabbi and his talmidim
- So: prophetic call, philosophical teachings, rabbinic practice
- Big difference: Jesus takes the initiative, without any apparent previous contact

- Major section begin with a discipleship story: 1:14; 3:7; 8:27; 11:1; 13:1; 14:12
- Their mission mirrors that of Jesus (3:13-19; 6:7-13)
- They receive private teaching from Jesus (e.g. 4:10-34)
- Privileged witnesses (e.g. 9:2-8)
- They assist Jesus (e.g. 6:30-44)
- They share his final meal (14:12-36)
- Post resurrection link 14:28 and 16:7

- Jesus calls them (1:16-20)
- They are to "be with Jesus" and he sends them out (3:13-29)
- They are sent as itinerant preachers (6:6-13)

- NB being "with Jesus"
- NB doing the "things of Jesus"

Peter's mother-in-law

- The leper
- Tax collectors and sinners
- Whoever does the will of my father
- Demoniac
- Whoever is not against us
- Whoever leaves family
- Bartimaeus
- Whoever prays
- The scribe
- The widow
- Whoever endures
- The woman who anointed
- Simon of Cyrene
- The centurion
- The women who followed
- The women at the tomb
- Positive models
- The disciples
- A host of minor characters
- Helping all who would hear the proclamation: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!" (Mark 1:15)

Within the Narrative

- The disciples fail spectacularly in Mark
- They "track" him in 1:36
- Different kinds of soils (4:13-20)
- "Have you no faith?" (4:40)
- They seem to ridicule Jesus (5:31)
- "Are you without understanding?" (7:18 and 8:4)
- The nine extraordinary questions (8:14-21)
- Passion Predictions followed by misunderstandings
- Judas betrays him (14:10, 42)
- Peter, James and John sleep in Gethsemane (14:33-41)
- They all run away (14:50; only act of "collegiality")
- Peter denies him three times (14:66-72)
- The women at the tomb are (initially) silent (16:7-8)
- Part of the suffering of the "just one"
- Cf. Jeremiah 20; Job 12, 16, 19; Psalm 38, Wisdom 2 and 5
- OT pattern: call, failure, forgiveness. Cf. Psalm 78
- In the context of Mark, the failure of the disciples, especially Peter, James and John, becomes good news
- These are highly significant figures in the early church
- There is life after failure

Prologue	Galilee	The Way	Jerusalem	Epilogue
1:1-15	1:16-8:21	8:22-10:52	11:1-15:47	16:1-8
	Calling, Sending		No calling, no sending	
	Miracles Exorcisms		No miracles, no exorcisms	
	Discourse Kingdom parables		Discourse Apocalyptic	
	Symbols bread, sea, boat		Symbols cup, way, cross	

<i>Passion Prediction 1</i>	<i>Passion Prediction 2</i>	<i>Passion Prediction 3</i>
8:31 Passion Prediction	9:30-31 Passion Prediction	10:33-34 Passion Prediction
8:32-33 Misunderstanding (Peter)	9:32-24 Misunderstanding (The Twelve)	10:32, 35-37 Misunderstanding (James and John)
8:34-38 Discipleship	9:35-50 Discipleship	10:38-44 Discipleship
8:38-9:1 Reason: judgment	9:37-40 Reason: Jesus encountered	10:45 Reason: Son of Man came to serve
Context: Post-Easter persecution	Context: relations outside the community	Context: early church betrayal of service
Focus: the individual	Focus: society	Focus: the church

PP1	PP2	PP3
Mark 8:31 Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and after three days rise again.	Mark 9:30 They went out from there and passed through Galilee. But Jesus did not want anyone to know, 31 for he was teaching his disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”	Mark 10:32 They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem. Jesus was going ahead of them, and they were amazed, but those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was going to happen to him. 33 “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles. 34 They will mock him, spit on him, flog him severely, and kill him. Yet after three days, he will rise again.”

Costly Discipleship: PP1

Mark 8:32b So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.	Action
33 But after turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,	Response
“Get behind me, Satan.	Praise / Blame
You are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but on man’s.”	Syllogism

Mark 8:34 Then Jesus called the crowd, along with his disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.	Principle
35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. 36 For what benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? 37 What can a person give in exchange for his life?	Paradigm Rhetorical question 1 Rhetorical question 2
38 For if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”	Praise / Blame

Costly Discipleship: PP2

Mark 9:33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”	Action / Question
34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.	Response / Silence
35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”	Maxim
36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,	Action
37 “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”	Explanation

Costly Discipleship: PP3

Mark 10:35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”	Issue: greatness
38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking.	Opposite: Gentiles Example 1: rulers Example 2: great men
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?” 39 They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised;	Maxim: not so! Analogy 1: servant Analogy 2: slave
40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”	Reason: Son of Man

Mark’s Teaching for Today

- Relevant to his time
 - Call and gift
 - Being with Jesus
 - The things of Jesus
 - Failure is grace
 - Two blind men
 - Open-ended, i.e. the “story” goes on
- Relevant to our time?
 - Discipleship?
 - Community?
 - Leadership?

Conversation