

**Summary of the Book of Mark**  
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**Overview**

1. Began 23 Nov 1995

2. Basic structure chiastic, but with many embroideries across the sections. 2-3 and 11-16:8 are major opposition sections that each divide about the leaders' scheming.

- a) Lord's & Church's ministry begins 1:1-45 16:9-20
- b) Mortal Opposition from Temple 2:1-3:6 14:1-16:8
- c) Mixed Allegiance in Galilee & Jer 3:7-35 11-13
- d) Travels in Galilee & to Jerusalem 4:1-8:26 8:31-10:56
- e) Confession of Jesus as Christ 8:27-30

**A. 1:1-45, Lord's Ministry Begins**

1. Reference previous study.

2. Here he goes forth to preach (1:38), but forbids one unprepared from doing so (1:45), for two reasons.

- a) The man is preaching the wrong thing: focus on the miracle. Contrast 6:12, where the Twelve go out preaching repentance, focus on men's sin.
- b) The man has not been prepared through fellowship with the Lord. Contrast 16:20, where after demonstrating their incompetency in their own strength but receiving the Lord's encouragement, the Twelve finally go forth to preach Jesus as Christ and Lord (Christ not understood until 8:27-30, Lord until 16:20).

**B. 2:1-3:6, Mortal Opposition from Temple**

1. 2:1-17, Jesus' authority over SIN

2. 2:23-3:6, his authority over SABBATH

3. 2:18-22, focal point, his presentation of himself as the heavenly bridegroom.

4. This section introduces the objective of the religious leaders to destroy him, 3:6, pointing to ch. 14:1 and the associated 14-15.

**C. 3:7-35, Mixed Allegiance in Galilee**

1. 14ff, Sets apart Twelve to be the focus of his effort.

2. 22, The scribes continue their expected opposition.

3. 21, 31, Contrast the unexpected opposition of his friends and

family.

**D. 4:1-8:26, Four Five-Part Trips in Galilee**

1. Focal lesson: the different kinds of soils seen in ch. 4.
2. The four trips have the same structure:
  - a) Initial teaching
  - b) Trip out
  - c) Medial miracle
  - d) Trip back
  - e) Final miracle
3. In 6:12, the Twelve are sent out to preach that men should repent. They have learned enough to focus attention on the sin problem (something the leper of 1:45 didn't know); they do not yet understand the solution for the problem.

**E. 8:27-30, the Confession**

1. The Lord is called "Jesus" in 93 vv of Mark. His human name.
2. He is called "Christ" first in 1:1, then not again until here. The word occurs in six more vv in the rest of the gospel. It is at this point that the disciples are able to articulate clearly that he is the Messiah, the foundation on which the sacrificial teaching of the rest of the book builds.
3. The title "Lord" does not appear until the last verse, 16:20.

**F. 8:31-10:56, Travel to Jerusalem**

1. Focal teaching: three predictions of his passion: 8:31; 9:31; 10:32-34. Now that they recognize him as Messiah, they are ready to learn a new side to his work.
2. Two chiasms.
  - a) 8:31-9:13, the cost of discipleship: focus on 8:34-9:1.
  - b) 9:14-10:52 is simplicity of salvation: begins and ends with a faith-based healing, and focus on the simple faith of children in 10:13-16.

**G. 11-13, Mixed Allegiance in Jerusalem**

As in ch. 3, we have the press of the multitude, the opposition of the religious leaders, and the attempt to be alone with the Twelve.

1. 11:1-11, Triumphal Entry, Public Assertion of Authority
2. *Sanhedrin*: Two sections about the temple, each introduced with Fig Tree
  - a) 12-19, Cleansing the Temple: The Lord's authority
  - b) 20-12:34, Contest with the Sanhedrin: their lack of authority

3. 12:35-40, *Multitudes*: Public Assertion of Authority
4. 12:41-13:37, Private teaching to *Disciples* (cf. quest for time alone with them in ch. 3)

**H. 14:1-16:8, Mortal Opposition from Temple**

1. 14:1 recalls 3:6.
2. Major emphasis on prediction and fulfillment
  - a) 14:12-16 shows the Lord's ability to predict.
  - b) 14:17-72 is prediction and fulfillment of betrayal by the disciples.
  - c) The whole section fulfills the threefold passion prediction.
 

	8	9	10	14-16
1) Betrayal		X	X	14a
2) Condemned/Jews	X		X	14b
3) Humiliated/Gentiles			X	15a
4) Crucified	X	X	X	15b
5) Raised	X	X	X	16a

**I. 16:9-20, Church's Ministry Begins**

Recall earlier study. Finally, the disciples can "go forth and preach," the mission that was forbidden to the leper in 1:45, because they both understand the message and have the experience with the Lord.

**J. Major Themes in Mark**

1. Failure of Church and State
  - a) Opposition from the very first by the religious establishment
  - b) Their perversion of the political process to achieve their ends
2. Variety of Responses:
  - a) four soils in ch. 4.
  - b) mixed responses all the way through
3. The Gospel
  - a) Founded in the Lord's death, 15:37
  - b) Accessed by simple faith, 9:14-10:52
  - c) Yields whole-hearted obedience and self-sacrifice, 8:31-9:13