

Introduction

4 points/ scenes (as in a scene in a play or a movie)

A story that is often mistaken for what it is really about, **not only deliverance but also discipleship**

The Gospel of Mark

- *Probably* the first Gospel written. Written approx. A.D. 55-60. All other Gospels then quote, but 31 verses, from Mark.
- It records more miracles than any other Gospel.
- Written by John Mark, not one of the disciples of Jesus. Companion of Paul on his missionary journey

Acts 13:13 NLT

Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.

- Traditionally associated with the Apostle Peter.

Mark Introduction

“The early Christian Fathers are unanimous in testifying that Mark wrote under Peter’s superintendence and by his authority. Justin Martyr goes so far, indeed, as to call the Second Gospel “Peter’s memoirs.” Tertullian says that it “may be affirmed to be Peter’s, whose interpreter Mark was”; Origen, that Mark “composed it as Peter guided him”; and Eusebius, “that all the contents of Mark’s Gospel are regarded as memoirs of Peter’s discourses.”

1 Peter 5:13 NLT

Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark.

Mark Introduction

“He was also cousin to Barnabas, and therefore a member of the tribe of Levi.”

- Naked young man who fled away according to;

Mark 14:51–52 NLT

One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.

The First and Second Half

First half

[Mark 1:1-8:30](#)

Focus: Authority of Jesus and situations leading to his death.

Mark 2:10 NLT

So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said,

Second half

[Mark 8:31-16:8](#)

Focus: The Suffering Servant

Mark 8:31 NASB *And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

- The one who lays down his authority as a King

Mark 10:31 NLT

But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

Mark 10:45 NLT

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- “We need to know both who Jesus is and how he will fulfil his mission if we are to follow him rightly.”¹

4 Scenes

Exposition [Mark 9:14-29](#)

- Parallel text [Matt 17:14-21](#) & [Luke 9:37-42](#)
- This text is not only about prayer and fasting so we can cast out demons.

#1 Scene [Mark 9:14–19](#) **Unbelief**

Mark Original Meaning

“crowds gathered around the helpless disciples, engaged in a debate, and climaxes in Jesus’ lament over this faithless generation”

14 *When they came*

Coming from the mount of transfiguration, a mountaintop experience. Going down to a place of debate, discussion & dispute.

15 *when they saw him*

- 14 Before we see Him, he has seen us. [Mark 9:14](#) He **saw** a great multitude
- When we finally see Jesus, there is only one response, **run to Him!**

¹ The Message of Discipleship: Authentic Followers of Jesus in Today’s World a. The Confession in Context

16 He asked the scribes

- 17 The father replies
- 18 a mute spirit (4 external effects)
 1. throws him down
 2. foams at the mouth
 3. gnashes his teeth
 4. becomes rigid

19 O faithless generation

- Faithless > Apistos > Unbelieving
- Pisteo > Believing > A = negative form
- Generation similar as [Mark 8:12](#) & [Mark 8:38](#)
 - God deals with an unbelieving generation from the beginning.
 - [Ex 32](#) Golden calf came out of unbelief
 - [Mark 9:18](#) comes out of unbelief

Faith vs Unbelief

- Definition of faith [Heb 11:1-2](#)

“The unbelieving mind would not be convinced by any proof, and the worshiping heart needs none.” A. W. Tozer

- Unbelief withholds the power of Christ

Mark 6:5–6 NKJV *Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.*

- Israel a faithless generation
 - [Jeremiah 3](#)

14 When he came

Same as Moses, going up [Ex 24:15-18](#) after he finishes going down [Ex 32:7](#) / [Ex32:17](#)

Exodus 32:17 NLT

When Joshua heard the boisterous noise of the people shouting below them, he exclaimed to Moses, “It sounds like war in the camp!”

A direct allusion to [Deuteronomy 18:15](#) in [Mark 9:7](#), listen to him, a quote of the final part of Moses’ statement

Like Jesus, we see Moses going from a high to a low in a matter of seconds.

How do we respond in situations like that?

#2 Scene [Mark 9:20-24](#) A Cry for Help

Mark Original Meaning

“ Jesus face to face with a desperate father and culminates in the man’s moving confession of uncertain faith.”

20 when he **saw** Him

- When we start to look at Jesus, everything that doesn't belong will start to manifest.
- the boy **is brought** to Jesus

When we disciple people, we have one task, bring them to Jesus.

20 the spirit convulsed him

- *Sysparasso* > to shake (someone or something) uncontrollably
 - *Spao* > Draw (a sword)
 - *Diaspao* > tear apartTorn apart between his own will and the demon that is controlling him

20 convulsed him

- 5. Convulsed (fifth external effect)
- fell to the ground
- 6. wallowed (sixth external effect)
- foaming at the mouth
 - A total of 6 external signs that show an internal problem.
 - When our life is a mess, it shows an internal problem.
 - [Matt 12:33-37](#) *For a tree is known by its fruit* (saying in teaching that comes after the casting out of another blind and mute spirit)

22 to destroy him

- [Isaiah 43:1-7](#) *Going through deep waters, rivers of difficulty or walking through fires of oppression. You will not drown, nor be burned up*

John 10:10 NLT

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- Not only speaking of Satan but also of religious leaders who are called son’s of Satan [John 8:44](#)

22 *If you can do anything have compassion on us and help us*

- Dwight L. Moody (evangelist 1837-1899) said there were three kinds of faith. There is **struggling faith**, like a man in deep water desperately swimming; **clinging faith**, like a man

hanging to the side of a boat; and **resting faith**, like a man safely within the boat and able to reach out and help others get in.

Many, like this father, have a struggling faith.

The only solution then is that those who have **resting faith**, help you cling on and finally pull you aboard. This is a process called discipleship

23 *All things are possible to him who believes*

- **The climax of this story, the main point**
 - Chiastic structure points to this saying of Christ.
- Faith is the key to the next scene
- **24** *help my unbelief*
 - The only right response is showing poverty in spirit (The recognition of a lack/ the need for Christ)

Matthew 5:3 NKJV

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

#3 Scene [Mark 9:25-27](#) Restoration

Mark Original Meaning

“shows faith at work as Jesus drives out a spirit that has tormented the boy”

25 *When Jesus saw*

- Jesus sees the people coming for the **wrong motive** “a show” instead of the right motive *compassion*

26 *Became as one dead, many said: “He is dead”*

- When the demons leave only one thing remains, the peace of the Lord
- 6 external effects make place for 1
 1. throws him down 1. silence as if dead
 2. foams at the mouth
 3. gnashes his teeth
 4. becomes rigid
 5. convulsions
 6. rolling/ wallowing

The old man dies and a new man is born and raised to life.

27 Lifted him up

- *Egeiro* > To raise up; rise; get up
 - Literally “raised him,” the same term used for Jesus rising from the dead e.g., [Mark 14:28](#); [Acts 3:15](#); [4:10](#); [5:30](#).²

#4 Scene [Mark 9:28-29](#) A Life of Discipleship

Mark Original Meaning

“returns to the disciples’ failure to accomplish the exorcism themselves”

28 Why could we not

- Never stop asking God questions
- Ask and it shall be given

Mark 11:24 NKJV

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Unlike in [Mark 9:32](#)

29 by nothing but

- The wrong motive brings *incapability*

Word Pictures in the New Testament Mark 9:29

“They were powerless because they were prayerless.”

- The right motive comes from a place of prayer, which speaks of *intimacy*

Leading a life of discipleship asks for *Faith and Intimacy* in Christ

2 Corinthians 2:14–17 NKJV

Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

² Hurtado, Larry W. 2011. Mark. Understanding the Bible Commentary Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

17 Peddling the word of God

- *peddling* > To sell or fofer (second hand goods) for sale from place to place, characterized by fasle and deceptive practice

[Colossians 3:5](#) (NASB)

Therefore **consider the members of your earthly body as dead** to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

[Colossians 3:10–11](#) (NASB)

and have **put on the new self** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him —*a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Romans 8:18 NASB

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Discipleship is: a suffering servant, faith, intimacy and, a sweet, life-giving aroma