

# New Testament Survey

## Class 3: Mark

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### Date and Authorship of Mark

- Mark is never named in the gospel
- Papias, a disciple of John, wrote in the early 100s:  
*“Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately, though not indeed in order, whatsoever he remembered of the things said or done by Christ. For he neither heard the Lord nor followed him, but afterward, as I said, he followed Peter, who adapted his teaching to the needs of his hearers, but with no intention of giving a connected account of the Lord’s discourses, so that Mark committed no error while he thus wrote some things as he remembered them. For he was careful of one thing, not to omit any of the things which he had heard, and not to state any of them falsely.”*
- Irenaeus wrote c.180 AD: *“After [the deaths of Paul and Peter], Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter.”*
- Peter mentions “Mark, my son” in 1 Peter 5:13

1	10-Sep-23	NT Introduction
2	17-Sep-23	Matthew
3	24-Sep-23	Mark
4	1-Oct-23	Luke
5	8-Oct-23	John
6	15-Oct-23	Why Four Gospels?
7	22-Oct-23	Acts as history
8	29-Oct-23	Acts
9	5-Nov-23	Introduction to Paul
10	12-Nov-23	Romans
11	19-Nov-23	1 Corinthians
12	26-Nov-23	2 Corinthians

Gospel	# of words in Greek	% longer than Mark
Matthew	18345	162% longer
Mark	11304	
Luke	19482	172% longer
John	15635	138% longer

## Emphases of Mark's Gospel

- "Gospel" used 7 times (4x in Matt, 2x in Luke, never in John)
- "Immediately" used 42 times (e.g., 1:10, 12, 18)
- "Teach/-es/-ing" used 18 times (14x in Mat, 15x in Lk, 7x in Jn)
- Describes Jesus's emotions and reactions:
  - Compassion (1:41)
  - Anger / grief (3:5)
  - Amazement at disbelief (6:5)
  - Sighing deeply (8:12)
  - Indignation (10:14)
  - Love (10:21)

**Markan sandwiches:** one story interrupted by a second story, then Mark returns to the first story (9 or 10 occurrences in Mark)

3:20-21 – Jesus's family goes out to restrain him

3:22-30 – Leaders accuse Jesus of using Beelzebul's power

3:31-35 – Jesus's family arrives; who is his "true family"?

11:12-14 – Jesus curses a fig tree outside of Bethany

11:15-19 – Jesus clears sellers out of the Temple

11:20-25 – The fig tree is withered

## The so-called "Messianic Secret"

- Jesus often commanded people whom he had healed, not to talk about him in public (e.g., 1:25, 34, 44; 3:12). One reason is that fame and notoriety would not allow him to teach and preach openly, which was his stated purpose (see 1:37-38, 45).
- Jesus also commanded his followers not to talk about his identity as the Christ in public (e.g., 8:27-30). This stems from a different reason: they had been given knowledge of him and his kingdom (4:10-12).
- *What kind of Messiah is Jesus?*

## Outline

### 1. Jesus's Public Ministry (1:1-8:26)

- Jesus revealed a significant gap between himself and the religious leaders. Jesus taught them to obey the Law (e.g., 1:44), but he also showed that their understanding of Law and righteousness was wrong (2:24; 3:4). Jesus brought something brand new (2:18-22). He reached out to sinners (2:16-17).

### 2. Private Teaching of the Disciples (8:27-10:52)

- Jesus taught that the Christ came to suffer (8:31) and to serve (10:45), and whoever wanted to follow him must likewise deny themselves (8:31-38)

### 3. Public Crucifixion and Resurrection (11:1-16:8)

- The old ways were being fulfilled and removed (11:12-26; 13:2), the temple would wither and now faith was central. Jesus was giving his own body and blood to initiate a new covenant (14:22-24).