

## “The Gospel of Mark: A Narrative Theology”

Jim Aageson

Mark’s gospel presents its theology in narrative form where the actions and words of Jesus challenge readers and hearers with a powerful vision of God’s reign. It is an expansive and inclusive theological vision of God’s kingdom that the writer of Mark brings to life. As the journey of discipleship unfolds in the narrative world of Mark, it becomes clear that the destination of this journey is the cross. Along the way, the disciples and by implication the contemporary followers of Christ learn that in this kingdom things are turned upside down: the first are last, the sinners and the dishonored are invited to the table of fellowship, and those closest to Jesus are often filled with fear rather than faith.

### **Bibliography:**

Paul J. Achtemeier---*Mark*

J. C. Anderson and S. D. Moore---*Mark and Method*

Charles Bobertz---*The Gospel of Mark: A Liturgical Reading*

D. W. Chapman---*The Orphan Gospel*

Adela Y. Collins---*The Beginning of the Gospel*

R. Fowler---*Let the Reader Understand*

Susan Huebenthal---*Reading Mark’s Gospel as a Text from Collective Memory*

Don Juel---“The Origin of Mark’s Christology”

Werner Kelber---*Mark’s Story of Jesus*

Jack Kingsbury---*Conflict in Mark*

Jack Kingsbury---*Matthew as Story*

Willi Marxsen---*Mark the Evangelist*

Norman Petersen---“*When is the End not the End? Literary Reflections on the Ending of Mark’s Narrative*”

Mark Allen Powell---*What is Narrative Criticism*

D. Rhoads and D. Michie---*Mark as Story*

Mary Ann Tolbert---*Sowing the Gospel*

T. J. Weeden---*Traditions in Conflict*

**Course Outline:**

I. January 10: Introduction and Preliminary Issues

II. January 17: Read Mark 1:1-4:34---The Beginning of the Gospel: Let the Journey Begin

III. January 24: Read Mark 4:35-11:10---The Reign of God

IV. January 31: Read Mark 11:11-16:8---To Jerusalem and Beyond: Who will Speak?

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*Sandra  
Huebenthal*

1:1-13 Prologue

1:14-15 Caesura I: Focus on Jesus

1:16-8:26 IN AND AROUND GALILEE

1:16-3:35 In Capernaum and Galilee: Stable initial part

1:16-45 First appearance in Capernaum

2:1-3:35 Teaching, healings, and controversies in and  
around Capernaum (synagogue)

4:1-34 Inaugural speech: Parables and their interpretation

4:35-8:26 Odysseys on the lake

8:27-11:10 THE WAY TO JERUSALEM

8:27-9:29 From Caesarea Philippi to Galilee: first stage

9:30-10:31 From Galilee to Judea: second stage

10:32-46a From Judea and beyond the Jordan to Jericho: third stage

10:46b-11:10 From Jericho to Jerusalem: fourth stage

11:11-15:37 IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM

11:11-12:44 In and around Jerusalem: stable initial part

11:11-33 First appearance in Jerusalem and in the temple

12:1-44 Teaching and controversies in the temple

13:1-37 Eschatological discourse

14:1-15:37 Passion narrative

15:38-41 Caesura II: Focus on the followers

15:42-16:8 Epilogue

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