

Introduction

What are the main characteristics of the Gospel of Mark?

1. Mark emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching.
2. Mark's writing style is vivid, forceful, and descriptive, reflecting an eyewitness source such as Peter.
3. Mark portrayed his subjects with unusual candor.
4. Mark's Gospel is dominated by Jesus' movement toward the Cross and the Resurrection.

Mark 1:1

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Gospel – euangelion – good news

- * the message given by Jesus and
- * the message about Jesus

The Preparation for Jesus' Public Ministry 1:1-13

We saw three events that were part of His preparation for public ministry:

1. His coming is announced – John the Baptist
2. His ministry is affirmed by God - Baptism
3. His character is validated – temptation by Satan

Jesus' Early Galilean Ministry (1:14 – 3:6)

Introductory summary: Jesus' message - 1:14-15

Jesus' call of four fishermen – 1:16-20

Jesus' authority over demons and disease (1:21-45)

1. Jesus Casts Out Unclean Spirit (1:21-28)
2. Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed (1:29-31)

3. Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset

4. Withdrawal for Prayer and a Preaching Tour in Galilee (35-39)

5. The Cleansing of a Leper (40-45)

Jesus' controversies with Jewish religious leaders in Galilee (2:1–3:5)

Mark brought together the five episodes in this section because of the common theme of conflict in Galilee between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders.

Thus they are not in strict chronological order.

The conflict here concerned Jesus' authority over sin and the Law.

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic 2:1-12

Matthew the Tax Collector 2:13-17

Jesus Is Questioned about Fasting 2:18-22

The Setting and the Question

- a. The Participants
- b. The Practice - Fasting
- c. The Question – “Why do you feast while we fast?”

The Answer by Jesus

- a. The logic of the answer
 1. You don't fast during a celebration (wedding).
 2. A day will come (crucifixion) when they will fast.
- b. Two parables
- c. The point
Salvation, available through Jesus, was not to be mixed with the old Judaistic system (cf. John 1:17).

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath 2:23-28

The Setting and the Question

- a. Grainfields
- b. Sabbath
- c. Plucking
- d. Observation - It seems that the Gospel writers record Jesus' actions on the Sabbath to show -
 1. the controversies they caused or
 2. that Jesus did these kinds of things every day, and the Sabbath was no exception

The Answer by Jesus

- a. The sarcasm
- b. The incident
- c. God's response
- d. The point
 1. The Sabbath was made for man.
 2. Lord of the Sabbath
- e. Commentary

The Sabbath regulations had become the priority.
These traditions had become the issue of religion,
not love for humans made in God's image.
Rules had replaced the priority of relationship.
Merit had replaced love.
Religious traditions (i.e. the Oral Law) had replaced
God's intent (cf. Isa. 29:13; Col. 2:16–23).
Jesus rejected the legalism.

Jesus, the Man, reveals the ultimate dignity and priority of humanity! God became one of us, for us!
Human need precedes religious tradition.
God is for us individually and collectively.

Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-5

The Pharisees are looking for a reason to accuse Jesus.

The Encounter

- a. Jesus challenges their Sabbath views.
- b. Jesus is angry and grieved.
- c. Jesus heals the man.

Jesus' Rejection by the Pharisees 3:6

The Alliance

Commentary

These leaders were offended by healing on the Sabbath, but saw no problem in premeditated murder! Strange things have been rationalized in the name of God. This is surely a foreshadowing of Jesus' death at the hands of the Jewish leadership.

How about you?

- 1. Are you a legalist? Are you all about the rules?**
- 2. Are you a Pharisee?**
- 3. Are you a grateful disciple of Christ?**

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery