

Daily Discipleship

The Gospel of Mark

What is a lectionary?

A lectionary is a list of scripture readings assigned to be read on a particular day. This tradition of a lectionary has roots in Jewish worship of long ago and was continued by the early Christians.

Not all Christians use the same lectionary, but many Lutheran, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and other Christian churches around the world use the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle. Each year the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, or Luke is read primarily with the Gospel of John interspersed throughout all three years. Consequently, if a person worshipped every Sunday for three years, he or she would be able to hear the majority of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Each year begins with the season of Advent and is referred to as:

Year A: Primarily the Gospel of Matthew

Year B: Primarily the Gospel of Mark

Year C: Primarily the Gospel of Luke

What do we know about the Gospel writer Mark?

Mark's Gospel is usually considered the first of the Gospels written. The writers of Luke and Matthew appear to have used Mark's Gospel as a framework and foundation for their Gospels.

Mark is not written in sophisticated Greek.

Mark is unclear about details and doesn't spend much time with descriptions. There is a sense of urgency to his writing.

The audience probably knew the story of Jesus, but needed support during the turbulent times of persecution.

What is unique about the Gospel of Mark?

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels beginning its story with Jesus as an adult.

Mark's Gospel portrays Jesus as teacher.

There is a sense of immediacy and urgency.

Fear is a theme throughout the Gospel. (This Gospel was probably written during a time of Christian persecution and fear.)

Mark's Gospel ends abruptly with the women not telling anyone about the resurrection because they were afraid. (Mark 16:8) Theories about this abrupt ending include a lost section or an intentional literary device to challenge people to not be afraid. (Bibles usually list several alternative endings.)

What can the Gospel of Mark teach me about being a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Mark's Gospel begins with announcing the good news of Jesus Christ. Disciples are invited to overcome their fear, repent, believe, follow Jesus, and receive the kingdom of God.

Lectionary Readings from the Gospel of Mark

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark 1:1-8 | Advent 2B |
| Mark 1:4-11 | Baptism of our Lord B |
| Mark 1:9-15 | Lent 1B |
| Mark 1:14-20 | Epiphany 3B |
| Mark 1:21-28 | Epiphany 4B |
| Mark 1:29-39 | Epiphany 5B |
| Mark 1:40:45 | Epiphany 6B |
| Mark 2:1-12 | Epiphany 7B |
| Mark 2:13-22 | Epiphany 8B; Sunday, May 24-28B |
| Mark 2:23-3:6 | Sunday, May 29-June 4B |
| Mark 3:20-35 | Sunday, June 5-11B |
| Mark 4:26-34 | Sunday, June 12-18B |
| Mark 4:35-41 | Sunday, June 19-25B |
| Mark 5:21-43 | Sunday, June 26-July 2B |
| Mark 6:1-13 | Sunday, July 3-9B |
| Mark 6:14-29 | Sunday, July 10-16B |
| Mark 6:30-34; 53-56 | Sunday, July 17-23B |
| Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23 | Sunday, August 28-September 3B |
| Mark 7:24-37 | Sunday, September 4-10B |
| Mark 8:27-38 | Sunday, September 11-17B |
| Mark 8:31-38 | Lent 2B |
| Mark 9:2-9 | Transfiguration |
| Mark 9:30-37 | Sunday, September 18-24B |
| Mark 9:38-50 | Sunday, September 25-October 1B |
| Mark 10:2-16 | Sunday, October 2-8B |
| Mark 10:17-31 | Sunday, October 9-15B |
| Mark 10:35-45 | Sunday, October 16-22B |
| Mark 10:46-52 | Sunday, October 23-29B |
| Mark 11:1-11 | Palm Sunday B |
| Mark 12:28-34 | Sunday, October 30-November 5B |
| Mark 12:38-44 | Sunday, November 6-12B |
| Mark 13:1-8 | Sunday, November 13-19B |
| Mark 13:24-37 | Advent 1B |
| Mark 14:1-15:47 | Passion B |
| Mark 16:1-8 | Easter Day B |



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Written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade

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