



The Gospel of Mark

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St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
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Outline of Mark's Gospel

Part 1 – Who is this Man?

A. Proclamation of the kingdom with deeds of power (1:1 – 6:32)

B. Understanding the bread (6:33 – 8:26)

Hinge – Peter's confession of faith (8:27 – 8:30)

Part 2 – Revelation of the suffering and glorious Messiah

A. The Way of discipleship (8:31 – 10:52)

B. The Lord comes to his temple (11:1 – 13:37)

C. Passion, Death and Resurrection (14:1 – 16:20)

Class Schedule

April 24 th	Understanding the bread (6:33 – 8:26)
May 1 st	Peter's confession of faith (8:27 – 8:30) The Way of discipleship (8:31 – 10:52)
May 8 th	The Lord comes to his temple (11:1 – 13:37)
May 15 th	Passion, Death and Resurrection (14:1 – 16:20)

Understanding the Bread

- Section called this due to two miraculous feedings and other illusions to bread
- Bread, the Greek “artos” appears 17 times between Mark 6:33 and 8:26
- Twice Jesus feeds a multitude with a few loaves and fish
- Each time these events are followed by
 1. A crossing of the lake
 2. A conflict with the Pharisees
 3. A miraculous healing
- The Bread of course also points to the Eucharistic Banquet

The Compassion of Jesus



- Jesus tries to go on retreat
- People anticipate where he will go
- They run and arrive before him
- Jesus is moved with pity
- They are sheep without shepherd
- Jesus begins to teach them

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

- The only miracle found in all four Gospels
- Herod's banquet led to a death, this one to life
- Disciples recommend that Jesus "dismiss" the crowds
- Deserted places are of OT importance
- Sending them away is sending the sheep away from the Shepherd
- Jesus tells them to "Give them food yourselves"



Feeding the Five Thousand



- He tries to awaken the disciples faith
- They are incredulous
- Jesus tells them to bring what little they have
- This is a principle of all apostolic and evangelical efforts
- The people are told to sit in groups
- They sit on the grass – think Psalm 23

Feeding the Five Thousand

- Sitting in rows of hundreds and fifties recalls the arrangement of the tribes of Israel in the desert (Ex 18:21-25)
- Mark is hinting this is a new “exodus” in which God will feed his people with new “Bread from Heaven”
- The verbs used by Mark to describe Jesus’ actions are important
- All ate the bread and fish and were satisfied
- The leftovers exceed the original amount – verifying that no one went hungry – 12 wicker baskets full
- The five thousand men and others were fed – perhaps 20,000 or more

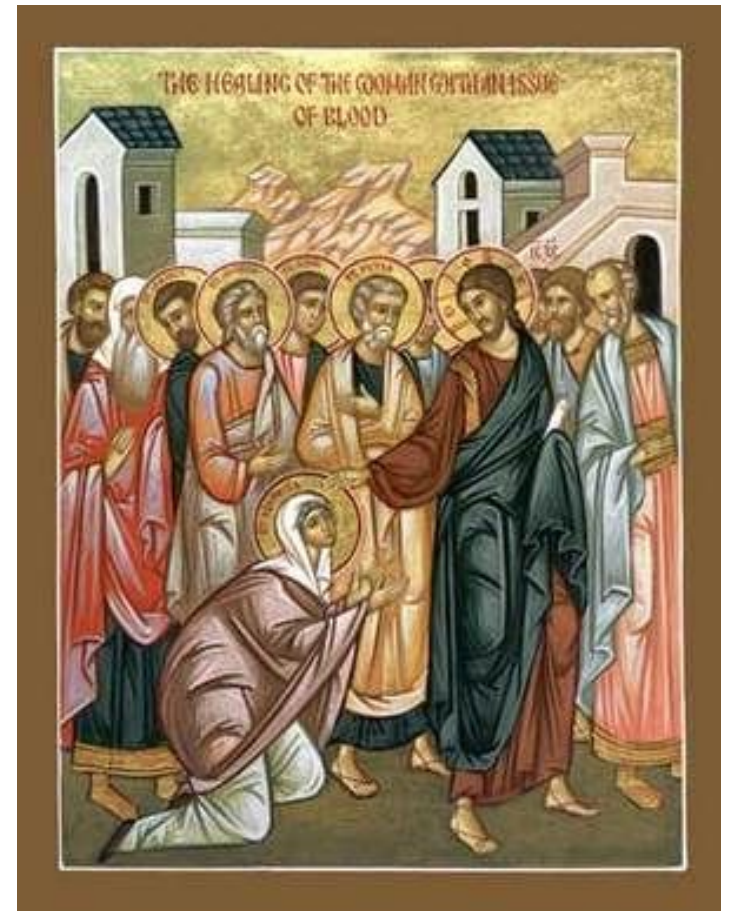


Walking on Water

- Jesus sends the disciples to Bethsaida in a boat
- Jesus goes to the mountain to pray
- The disciples are in distress
- Jesus comes toward them walking on the sea – and “means to pass them by”
- The disciple’s reaction is typical – they are terrified
- Jesus tells them to “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!”

Touch the Tassel of His Cloak

- Jesus tries to arrive in Gennesaret incognito – without luck
- They bring him their sick “on mats”
- All that is needed is a touch, even his garments, to heal
- Tassels were not decoration – they are a sign of faithfulness
- The healing is not due to a magical power in the Tassel but the faith behind the touch



Clean Hands and Distant Hearts

- At the center of the Bread Section Mark puts a lengthy dispute over Jewish legal customs
- Pharisees team up with Jerusalem scribes to pose accusatory questions to Jesus
- Jesus' disciples ate their meals (literally "eat breads") without the ritual washing of hands
- Mark takes a moment to explain the ritual to his readers
- This event happening after the feeding of the 5,000 is not a coincidence
- Jesus calls them hypocrites and cites Isaiah
- "You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition"

Example of Hypocrisy

- Honor father and mother is one of the ten commandments
- That included support of one's parents as they age
- Qorban is an offering "dedicated to God" it was a vow made to support the temple treasury
- Money pledged in Qorban could not be used to support a person's parents
- This led to the practice of "honoring one's parents" with a showy donation to the temple without really caring for their needs
- The hypocrisy of the Pharisees is highlighted by Jesus – and, they do many such things

Evil Comes from Within

- Jesus has criticized the “tradition of the elders” and now summons the crowd
- “Hear me and understand” he says and then relates a parable about “nothing from the outside can defile”
- Much of the Law of Moses was about what can and cannot defile a person – many ritual actions emerged
- Later, his disciples question him about the parable and he admonishes them
- Nothing external separates one from God – only internal
- He uses the word “heart” three times
- Then lists twelve sinful thoughts and deeds – first six are plural (acts) the rest are singular (disposition)

The Children's Bread

- The dispute over ritual purity is followed by healing a Gentile woman's daughter
- "Let the children be fed first"
- She is not put off and responds with a counter argument
- She uses the title "Lord" and is acknowledging Jesus' as the giver of bread to all
- Jesus heals her daughter based on the woman's faith



Opened Ears



- Jesus first trip to the area resulted in them begging him to leave
- They bring a deaf-mute to him
- He puts his fingers in the man's ears, spits, touches his tongue, looked to heaven and cried out, "Ephphatha"
- He enjoins strict silence on the man
- The man tells and the people are astonished
- Jesus has done what Scripture says belongs to God alone

Feeding the Four Thousand

- Jesus takes the initiative – he has taught for three days
- He cannot send them away
- The disciples response is strange given the past
- Eucharistic formula is used again
- Once again there are leftovers – seven baskets full
- The numbers 7 and 4 have meaning



The Demand for a Sign

- After the feeding of the 5,000 two Gentiles approach Jesus for healing, love and compassion
- Now the Pharisees approach to argue and test
- They demand a sign as proof, despite the many miracles
- They are like the Israelites of old – testing God
- They are like the “evil generation” who refused to trust God even after witnessing all he had done in Egypt
- “No sign will be given” – nothing will satisfy them
- The miracles and his healings are to evoke faith, not demand it
- All are free to accept or reject him as they want

The Leaven of the Pharisees

- This is the climax of the disciples failing to understand
- They *forgot to bring bread* but had one loaf – Jesus
- This becomes a teaching moment for Jesus – “Guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod”
- Leaven is yeast – small amounts make bread rise
- Even small amounts of hypocrisy, insincerity and ill will by the Pharisees and Herod are damaging
- The disciples still don’t get it
- They are told to understand, comprehend, see, hear and remember

Gradual Healing of Blindness



- Unique – healing takes place in two separate stages
- Similar to prior healing, outside of Galilee, others requested it, Jesus leads him away, uses spit and hands, urges silence
- He gradually comes to see again - just as disciples are slow to see who Jesus is
- Partial restoration is not enough, Jesus completes the healing

Gradual Healing of Blindness

- The healing of the deaf-mute and blind man occur in a planned sequence
- They both happen after the feeding of the thousands
- They both happen after serious disputes with the Pharisees (and other temple authorities)
- They represent the disciple coming to hear the "Good News" of the Gospel and see Jesus Christ as who he is
- He is the Messiah of God, sent to save all, the people of Israel and the Gentile people
- The opening of eyes and ears to this fact requires effort and time

Class Schedule

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