



The Gospel of Mark

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St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
April & May 2018

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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)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

- Jesus arrives in Jerusalem
- The disciples are given explicit instructions and two go off
- Jesus is to ride a “colt” a young donkey into Jerusalem
- He prepares the disciples in the event they are challenged



Jesus Enters Jerusalem



- Entering on a donkey is symbolic
- The city would have been jammed with pilgrims
- His entry is celebrated with actual and symbolic gestures
- Jesus briefly visits the Temple area – fulfilling yet another prophecy

The Fruitless Fig Tree

- Jesus' reaction to the fig tree is absurd on the surface
- Israel was frequently represented by a fig or a fig tree
- The cursing of the fig tree is a two part story with the cleansing of the temple in the middle
- Jesus calls the disciples to faith



Cleansing of the Temple



The abuse was not of the temple alone

Sacrifice had to be made by every devout Jew

The Roman coins could not be used in the Temple

The poor were doubly abused in their attempt to fulfill the obligation

Jesus leaves the city again

The Authority of the Son

- Jesus is approached by chief priests, scribes and elders
- He is challenged because of his recent actions
- Their twofold question is all about authority
- Jesus answers in rabbinic fashion – with a question
- Answer me – reverses the authority back to Jesus
- They prove to be self serving



The Rejected Son

- Jesus now expands his use of parables
- The tenants signify the leaders of Israel
- God, the owner sends for his share of the produce
- The tenant's reaction to the owner (God) is violence
- The third emissary is killed and others also are beaten or killed by the tenants
- The owner sends his "beloved son" – his only one
- The foolishness of sending more and more impresses on the reader the reckless love of God
- Absent an heir the ownerless property could be claimed
- What will the owner of the vineyard do...

The Rejected Stone



- Parable is addressed to the Temple leaders
- He is the rejected son, rejected stone
- God will correct their error
- He will become the cornerstone – foundation of a new temple
- The authorities fulfill the parable – seeking to arrest Jesus

Caesar and God

- The authorities try to ensnare Jesus
- Pharisees and Herodians would have had opposite opinions about tax
- The question is a trap
- He responds with questions
- By using coins they already recognize Caesar's authority
- What belongs to God is what bears his image - people



Whose Wife Will She Be?



- Sadducees try to disprove the resurrection
- They refer to the levirate law of marriage
- Jesus tells them they
 - Don't understand the power of God
 - Don't understand Scripture
- They are greatly misled = they are fools to think the body is destined for death

The Great Commandment

- This scribe seems to be of good will and is earnest\
- He is looking for a common or unifying principle among the 613 mosaic laws
- Jesus quotes DT 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel...
- To love God is to give yourself completely to him
 1. Heart – inner depths
 2. Soul – entire being
 3. Mind – even thoughts should be devoted to God
 4. Strength – not a sentiment but a commitment
- Neighbor – same priority as self
- Love everyone – without limits

Dangers of Honors

- Scribes were experts in the Law and Theology
- They were well respected
- Their manner and dress indicated importance
- Jesus wasn't saying stay away from them but to avoid their conduct
- They exploited "widows"
- Their lengthy prayers were not aimed to God



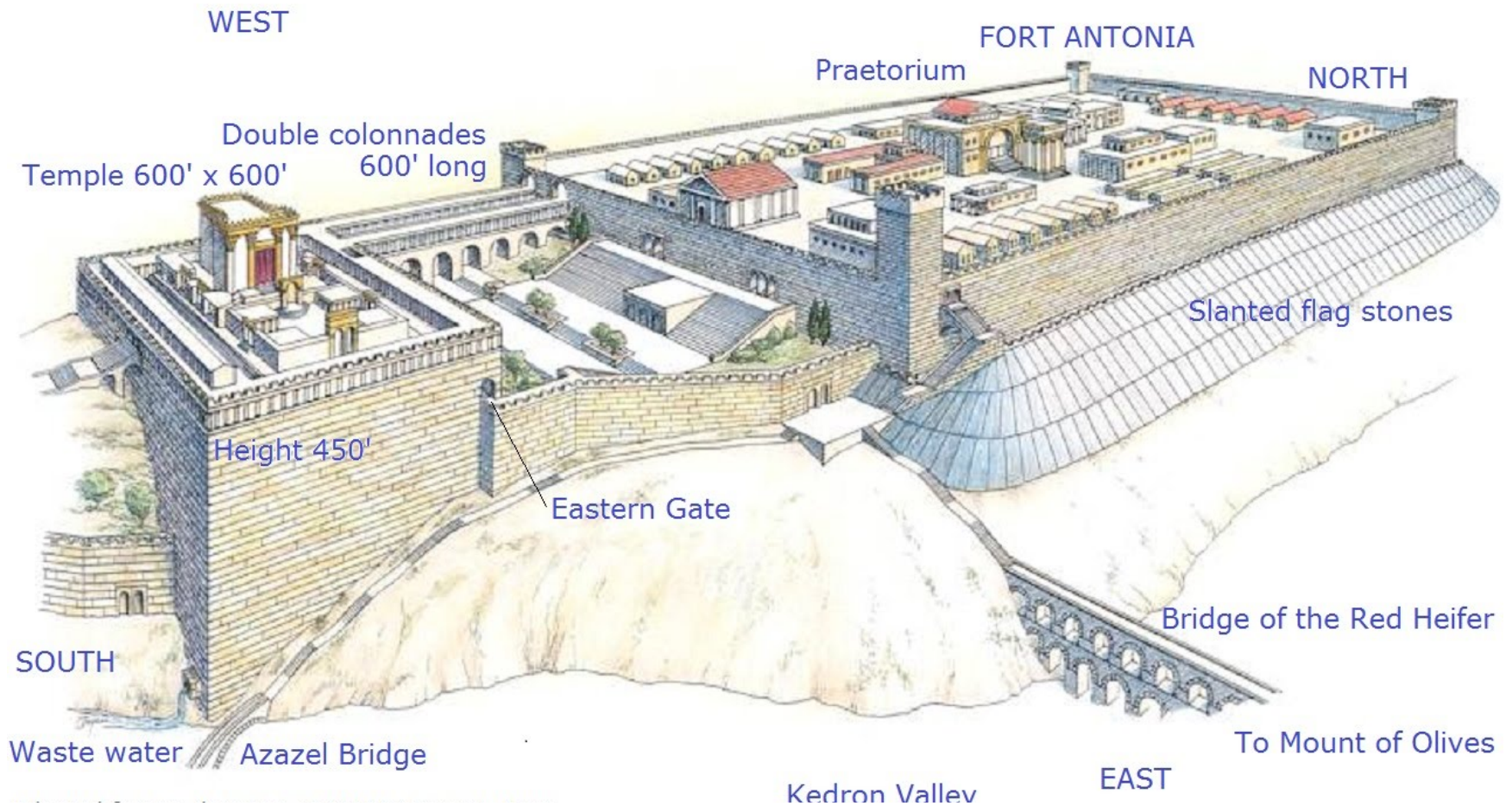


Widow's Offering

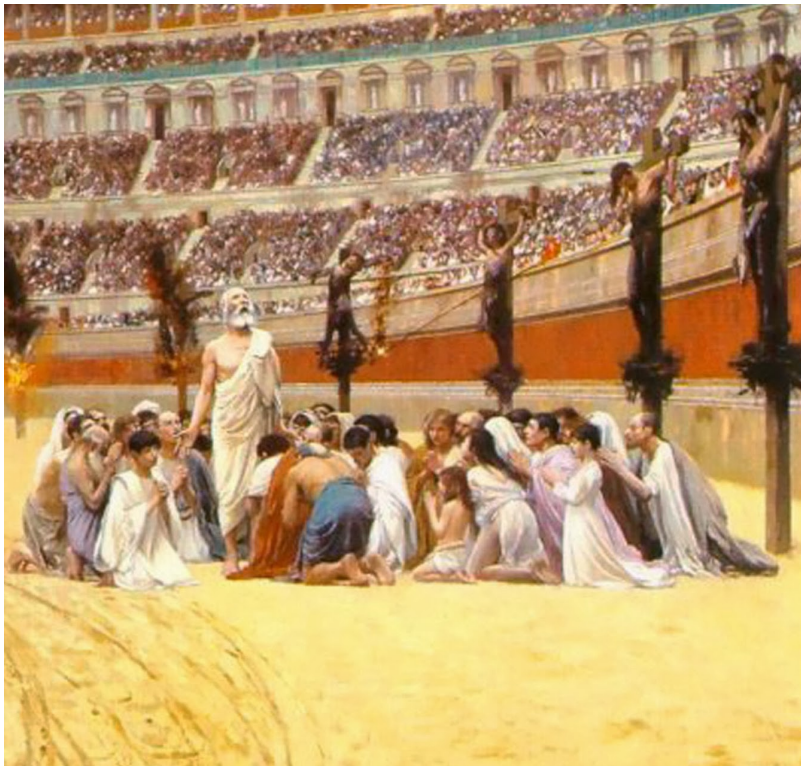
- Donations to the treasury were not secret
- The widow comes along to make a donation – the smallest coins circulated
- She donates two, not one
- Jesus summons disciples
- Jesus' focus is on the woman
- Her gift is a gift to God himself – even Jesus marvels at her



The Doomed Temple



Coming Persecution



- Jesus speaks of trials that followers will endure
- These ordeals will be the means by which they bear witness (martyrdom)
- Timely message for Mark's readers
- Preach to all nations – not all will accept, but preach
- sufferings united with Christ's
- The Holy Spirit – Advocate

Reading Fig Leaves

- Jesus returns to farming lessons
- Disciples want to know when things will happen
- Signs of the times
- Destruction of Temple, end of time, etc?
- Amen I say to you...
- Generation is ~40 years
- The end was expected, was Jesus just wrong?



Be on the Watch

- That day, that hour, no one knows
- Mark overlays near and far times in this passage
- Culmination of history only the Father knows
- Living in a state of constant watchfulness is imperative
- Traveling landlord points to the Church
- Link to passion – Watch!



Class Schedule

May 15 th	Passion, Death and Resurrection (14:1 – 16:20)
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