

Encounters with Jesus: Through the eyes of Mark, a Disciple
January 13 – March 3, 2025
Mondays – 5:00 – 6:30 PT (Tentative)

Description of Bible Study:

News about Jesus spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. Mark is writing to a restless, impatient audience. These people are more like movie-goers than readers who look for an outline and come away baffled. Matthew and Luke each give four chapters of historical warm-up before recording a miracle. Mark covers three miracles and a group event in the first chapter alone. Mark focuses on events, not speeches or editorial comments. In contrast to all of its action scenes, the book includes only a sampling of Jesus's parables. According to Mark, wherever Jesus goes, the crowd follows buzzing about his remarkable life. "*Is he the really the son of God*"? "*Is he mad*"? "*Isn't this the carpenter's boy*"?

Mark manages to achieve more drama than perhaps any other biblical writer. Action guarantees an attentive audience and Mark jams sequences together breathlessly. *At once*, the spirit sends Jesus into the desert; *at once* the disciples respond to Jesus' call to follow him; Jesus' touch *immediately* heals a man with leprosy and 42 times Mark uses the Greek verb "hurry up" which has been translated into English several different ways. Characters rush from place to place and crowds are astonished at His mighty works. Mark's a gospel full of emotive words like amazed, astonished, and terrified. A phenomenon is loose on the earth, and Mark is determined to capture its impact for future generations.

About 90% of Mark's content appears in the three other gospels. Mark doesn't refer to the Old Testament law, a striking difference from the other gospels that such facts indicate that his book was written to a non-Jewish audience, probably the Romans. Because it loosely follows the chronological order of Jesus's life, Mark offers an excellent introduction to the life of Jesus and His encounters with others. For our study, *Encountering Jesus*, as you read, stop and ponder the events, the words that Mark records: Why did Mark select these facts? What meaning did they have for the people in Jesus's day? What meaning do they have for us/you today?

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Study Schedule (8 Sessions)

January 13th:

Introduction to Mark Study
Study schedule and instructions
Chapter 1 (9 interactions) – We will do in class

January 20:

Review of last week
Chapter 2 (6 interactions) and Chapter 3 (6 interactions)

January 27

Review of last week
Chapter 4 (2 interactions) and Chapter 5 (10 interactions)

February 3:

Review of last week
Chapter 6 (7 interactions) and Chapter 7 (6 interactions)

February 10:

Review of last week
Chapter 8 (9 interactions) and Chapter 9 (9 interactions)

September 17:

Review of last week
Chapter 10 (9 interactions) and Chapter 11 (5 interactions)

February 24:

Review of last week
Chapter 12 (6 interactions) and Chapter 13 (1 interaction)

March 3:

Review of last week
Chapter 14 (3 interactions) and Observe Lord's Supper

Note for Lent: Mark 14:27 through 16:19 - Jesus's death and resurrection: we will be participating in the imposition of ashes, Lent, Holy week and the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

March 5th April 17th - Lent

April 18th - Holy Friday

April 19th - Holy Saturday

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Rest of Mark for Lent Study on your own as you contemplate your discipleship

Lent: Mark 14:27 – 15:41

Holy Week: Mark 15:42-16:20