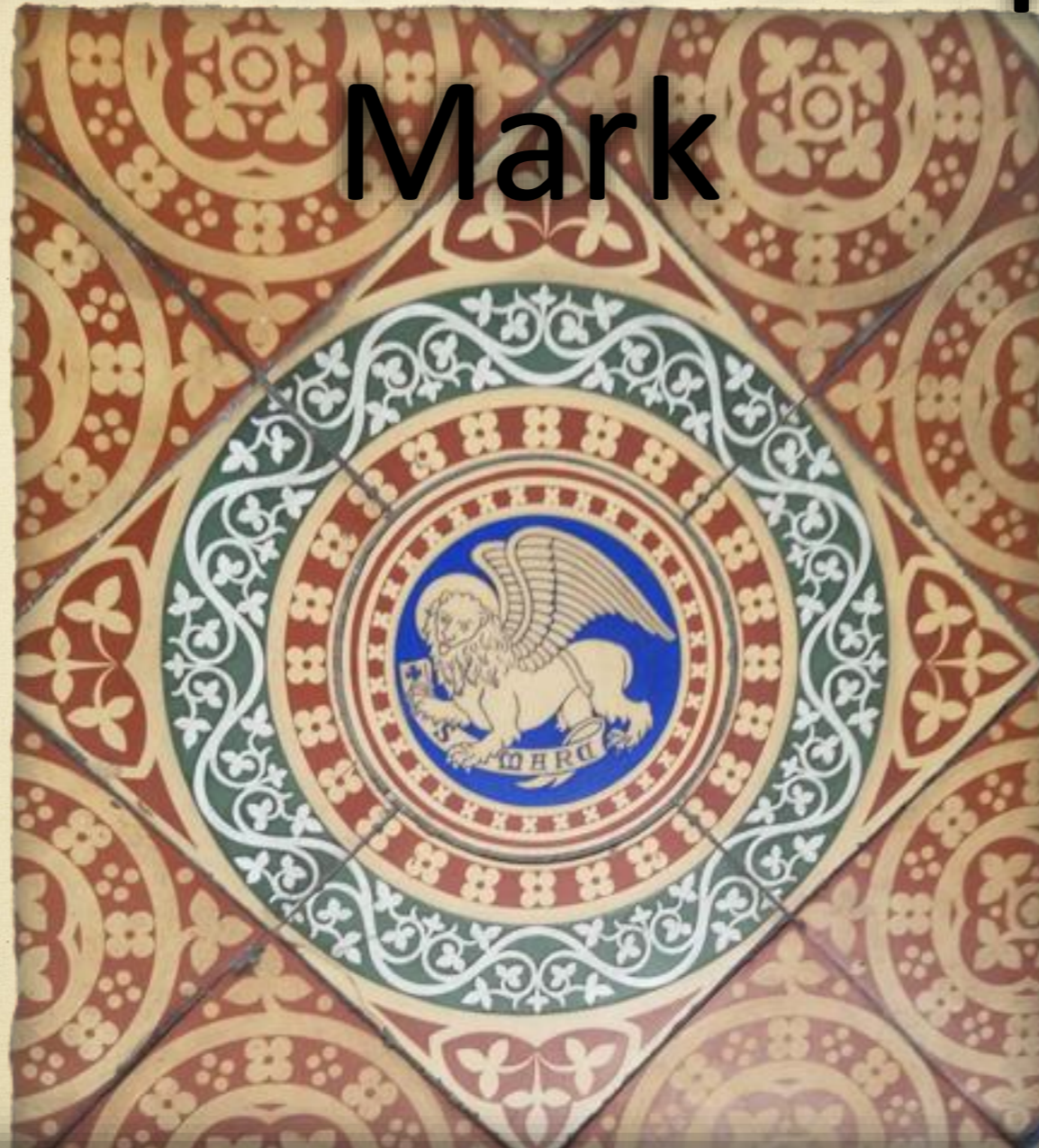


Mission in the Gospel of Mark

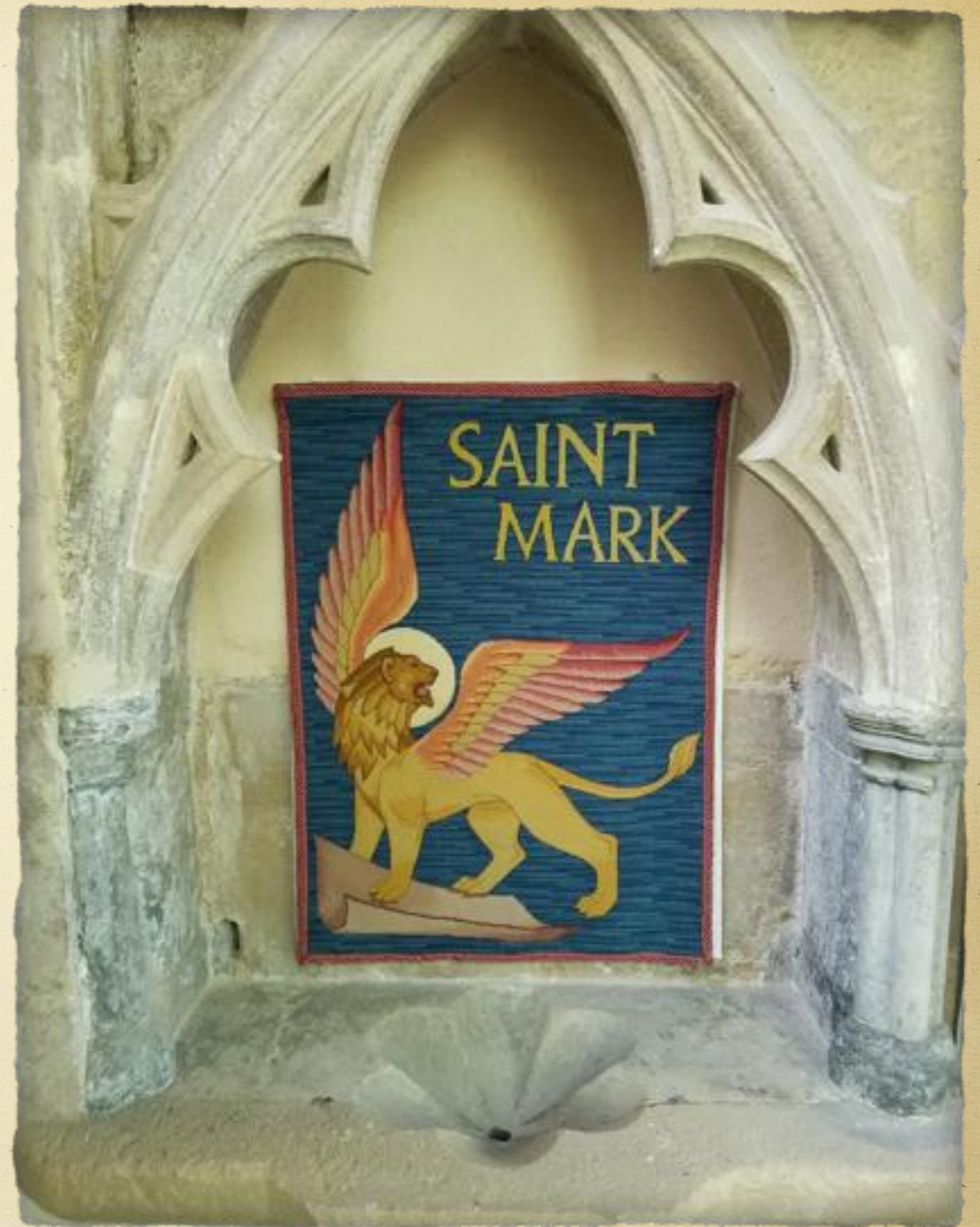


Empowered for Costly Discipleship of a
Provocative Lord

“Jesus is not
nice.”

Why Mark?

- First
- Intense Brevity
- Discipleship - challenge and grace



“He’s not safe, but he’s good.”
C. S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Bible Studies

- Call of Discipleship
- Way of Ministry
- Cross
- Continuing Presence

Immediate Departure: The Calling of the Disciples (Mark 1:14-21; 2:14-17; 3:13-19)

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And **immediately** they left their nets and followed him.

As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **Immediately** he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And **he got up** and followed him.

• JESUS

- More to the Story (John 1)
- Social Advance
- Would you leave it all?



Why did they follow Jesus so quickly?

Immediate Departure

↳ Jesus is attractive

What did Jesus do when he called them?

- Incorporated regular life
- Synagogue worship
- Family
- Colleagues
- Transforms it
- Preaching
- Healing
- Restoration

Immediate Departure

- Jesus is attractive
- Jesus enriches life does not eradicate it

What is the story of your call?
Did you follow quickly? Why or
why not? What advantages
does it offer you?

In what ways has God
used your normal life?
In what ways has Jesus
enhanced it?



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The Unexpected Jesus: Three Vignettes in the Ministry of Jesus

- 5:21–43: The Healing of Jairus' daughter and the woman with the issue of blood
- 6:45–52: Walking on Water
- 7:24–30: The Syrophoenician woman

Jesus, the Good Guy

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

"Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. . . . "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."

Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; . . . Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" . . . He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.""

"While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. ...Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." . . . He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat."

Similarities

- ❧ Faith
- ❧ Unclean women (dead and bleeding)
- ❧ 12 years — rehabilitation



Jesus, is he a guy (a human)?

Mark 6:45–52 — Walking on the Sea

➤ Divine Encounter

God is one who “trampled the waves of the sea” Job 9:8

➤ Walking on the Sea

➤ Intended to pass them by

God passes by the Israelites (Exod 12:23), Moses (Exod 33:19), Elijah (1 Kings 19:11), Job (Job 9:11)

➤ Human Encounter

➤ “They thought it was a ghost, cried out, and were terrified”

➤ Voice

➤ Body in the boat

The miraculous in the mundane

➤ They were beside themselves;

➤ They did not understand about the loaves

Jesus, the Bad Guy

Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

Problems:

- He resists her
- He shows favoritism
- He calls her a dog

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

He heals her

There is a priority to Israel

She speaks

She demonstrates the correct position of faith

Jesus is

- Good
- Bad?
- Unexpected.
- Can we follow him?

A wooden crucifix of Christ on the cross, set against a stone Gothic window with intricate tracery. The crucifix is made of dark wood and depicts Christ with a halo, arms outstretched, and a loincloth. The background is a stone wall with Gothic arches and tracery. The entire scene is mounted on a green textured background with yellow paper strips on the sides.

The Way of the Cross

Passion Predictions and Fulfillment

Passion Predictions

<u>First (8:27–33)</u>	<u>Second(9:30–32)</u>	<u>Third (10:32–34)</u>
Cesarea Philippi	Galilee	On the way to Jerusalem
Peter's Confession	Boy with unclean Spirit	blessing and cost of sacrifice
He was speaking the word boldly	Prediction	Prediction
Suffer		Mock, spit upon, and whip
Be handed over	handed over	Handed over to High Priests, Scribes and Gentiles
Be killed	Kill him	Condemn to Death and Die
After three days, he will rise	After three days, he will rise	After three days, he will rise

The Predictions Fulfilled

- Involvement of the Jewish and Gentile leadership
- Shaming
- “Give his life as a ransom for many” (10:45). “He saved others, he is not able to save himself”
15:31
- Death — “My God, My God why have you forsaken me”

Why did they not understand?

- Messianic Expectations
- General Resurrection
- Jesus' corrections reveal their misunderstandings
 - Third— Sit on the right and the left? Great shall be a servant
 - Second—First shall be last, receive little children
 - First—Take up your cross

How can they “Take up their cross?”

- He really died; how can they really take up their crosses?
- They can and will
- They cannot in the same way, a redemptive way
- They can die to expectations
- They can die to honor

Relinquish control

Streams from the Cross

- Divine affirmation
- Tearing of the temple veil
- Young man in white affirming the resurrection
- Bold Respect - Joseph of Arimathea —anticipated the Kingdom of God, boldly approached Pilate, buried the body of Jesus
- Ambiguous declaration —Truly this man was the Son of God



Streams from the Cross

Followers of Jesus: Distance, Respect, and Fear

- Women watch from the distance —crucifixion, burial (15:40–41, 47)
- Prepare the body after the sabbath (16:1–3)
- Fear:
 - Dispersion of the Disciples (14:50–51)
 - Peter's Denial (14:66–72)
 - Women flee in fear (16:8)

Mark 16:8

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



The Three Marys Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1910

The End?

Does Mark end this way?

Why would Mark end this way?

- Reverberations of the Cross
- Pass the baton to the audience

How will we respond?

- We have been invited (Confidence in our call)
- to follow an iconoclastic Lord (study his life to love as he loved)
- into death (to expectations, honor, control)
- and resurrection

Mark, like all the Gospels, is an unfinished story

Continue in the Power of the Spirit

“I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (1:8)

When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (13:11)