

Confirmation Lesson 2: Gospel of Mark

January 24, 2010

1. Introduction

- a. We could approach this gospel in several ways
 - i. Chapter by chapter, verse by verse...like looking at each tree in a forest
 - ii. Compare stories across the bible...seeing the similarities and differences between them (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
 - iii. Historical analysis...author, date written, audiences, etc.
 - iv. Themes or concepts

We will focus on the last one in this class

2. Overview

- a. Authorship: no internal reference to a particular Mark. Tradition points to a John Mark—a companion of Peter. The Gospel of Mark was most likely written by a Gentile Christian.
- b. Style: Mark is a Gospel....in other words 'Good News'. The Gospel of Mark was written in common, everyday Greek. The emphasis of the book is on the actions of Jesus rather than His words or teachings. Jesus is presented as a man of authority.
- c. Outline:
 - i. Introduction (1:1-13)
 - ii. Jesus ministry in Galilee (1:14-9:50)
 1. Around the Sea of Galilee
 2. Wider journeys
 - iii. Galilee to Jerusalem (10:1-52)
 - iv. Last week in Jerusalem (11-15:47)
 1. Events/encounters (11-12:44)
 2. End times (13:1-37)
 3. Passion narrative (14-15:47)
 - v. The empty tomb (16:1-8)
 - vi. Appearances and ascension (16:9-20)

3. Working in Small groups

- a. Break into small groups and each group gets two themes
 - i. Themes: Miracles, the woman, the disciples, names/titles for Jesus, Jesus' encounters with authorities, crowd responses
- b. Skim the chapters for reference to the particular theme
- c. Make sure to keep notes in your notebook....share and record responses to the themes
- d. Discuss insights, questions or discoveries

4. HOMEWORK

- a. Memorize the Apostles Creed
- b. Continue working on personal Statement of Faith...these will be handed in next week.