

The Gospel of Mark

September 2 - November 25

Mark Dynna and David Schuchardt

Course Description

The Gospel of Mark gives us a portrait of Jesus which is qualitatively different from the other three gospels. Often, Mark's narrative moves at a break neck pace and is far more focused on Jesus' actions rather than his teaching. Jesus is powerful and decisive yet at every turn he is misunderstood and rejected. He opens up the hiddenness of the kingdom to his disciples and even they continue to misunderstand him, allowing fear to outweigh faith. Yet, Mark declares to us that this very rejection God uses paradoxically to bring about this kingdom.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course participants should:

- Understand the narrative flow of Mark's gospel and recognize major themes
- Have a rich picture of who Jesus is
- See the connection between the Old Testament, intertestamental expectations, and their fulfillment in Jesus
- A deeper understanding of discipleship and how we present day disciples should be living

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	September 2, 2015	Mark 1:1-45	<i>TCOJ</i> (11-25)	David
Week 2	September 9, 2015	No Class - Sarah's Birthday!		
Week 3	September 16, 2015	Mark 2:1-3:35	<i>TCOJ</i> (25-39)	David
Week 4	September 23, 2015	Mark 4:1-41	<i>TCOJ</i> (39-53)	Mark
Week 5	September 30, 2015	Mark 5:1-43	<i>TCOJ</i> (54-67)	David
Week 6	October 7, 2015	Mark 6:1-56	<i>TCOJ</i> (67-82)	Mark
Week 7	October 14, 2015	Mark 7:1-8:21	<i>TCOJ</i> (82-95)	David
Week 8	October 21, 2015	Mark 8:22-9:50	<i>TCOJ</i> (96-111)	Mark
Week 9	October 28, 2015	Mark 10:1-52	<i>TCOJ</i> (111-125)	David
Week 10	November 4, 2015	Mark 11:1-12:12	<i>TCOJ</i> (126-140)	David
Week 11	November 11, 2015	Mark 12:13-13:37	<i>TCOJ</i> (140-154)	David
Week 12	November 18, 2015	Mark 14:1-72	<i>TCOJ</i> (154-167)	Mark
Week 13	November 25, 2015	Mark 15:1-16:8	<i>TCOJ</i> (167-197)	David

Participants

This class is operated on a drop in, drop out basis. Participants are not required to come to every class, simply as they desire or are able to. It would be helpful if participants brought a bible in order to follow along with the discussion. Participants may also benefit from bringing a means to take notes as there will be a lot of information. Finally, for those who want to go deeper and get more out of this course, it is recommended that they:

- Read through the gospel in one sitting at least once per week. Reading out loud versus silently would also be a benefit in this area. This will give an increased familiarity with the gospel and will help to capture the whole.
- Label the paragraphs. Following the schedule above, participants can label each paragraph as they appear in their bible. Labels should be concise (not a description or a summary of the paragraph) and specific (should describe only this paragraph and no other, i.e. not general). This can be done on your own or it can be handed to the facilitator to receive feedback.
- Read the gospel in several versions. This will benefit because translating is always subjective. Different translations will bring out different words that translates the original greek. By identifying the difference, participants will have a fuller appreciation for the range of meanings of the original language.
- Read the book *The Challenge of Jesus (TCOJ)* by N.T. Wright. A reading schedule has been provided.

This course is not a bible study, rather it is presented in course format as a Text and Interpretation: Gospel of Mark, such as you might take at the Bible College or university level (though no papers, exams or grades!). As such, it is lecture based though we welcome questions through out the entire class. We have scheduled our time so that we spend an hour of working through the material and then have thirty minutes for questions and answers or general discussion.

At the end of the course participants will be asked to provide feedback on the course so we might adjust the format for future classes. If participants desire to give feedback as the course progresses or if they have question that come up outside of class time they are encouraged to email David at david.schuchardt@northview.sk.ca.