

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Series #14: The Gospel of Mark
Session #10: Chapters 15-16
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Outline

- A. *Part One: Who is Jesus? (1:1 – 8:26)*
- B. *Part Two: Jesus is Revealed as the Messiah. (8:27 – 10:45)*
- C. *Transition: The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)*
- D. *Part Three: How is Jesus the Messiah? (11:1 – 16:8)*
 - 1. *Two Kingdoms in Conflict (11:1 – 12:44)*
 - 2. *Eschatological Discourse (13:1-37)*
 - 3. *The Plot against Jesus and his Arrest (14:1-72)*
 - 4. The Trial, Passion, Death, & Resurrection of Jesus (15:1 – 16:8)
 - a. Jesus before Pilate (15:1-5)
 - 1. Council (Sanhedrin)
 - The ancient Jewish court system. The Great Sanhedrin was composed of approx. 71 members located in the Temple. Small towns had their own local Sanhedrins. This system lasted until ca. 425 CE.
 - b. Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified (15:6-15)
 - 1. Barabbas – Aramaic name, *bar* ‘son of’ + *abba* ‘father’. The release of Barabbas (son of the father), whose name creates an irony with the conviction of Jesus the Christ (the Son of the Father).
 - 2. V. 14 – the verb form *elegen* ‘was asking’ uses the imperfect tense, which is indicative of Pilates repeated attempts to save Jesus from death.
 - c. Soldiers mock Jesus (15:16-20)
 - 1. The mockery creates an irony between Jesus appearing to be a weak Jewish messianic pretender and the reality from the perspective of faith that he is the King of kings and Lord of Lords.
 - 2. Purple is the color of royalty.
 - d. The Crucifixion (15:21-32)
 - 1. Mark divides Passion into three-hour sequences:
 - Early = 6:00 AM – Jesus before Pilate
 - Third hour = 9:00 AM – the Crucifixion
 - Sixth hour = 12 Noon – darkness
 - Ninth hour = 3:00 PM – Jesus’ death
 - Late = 6:00 PM – burial
 - e. The Death of Jesus (15:33-41)
 - f. The Burial of Jesus (15:42-47)
 - g. The Resurrection (16:1-8)
 - 1. According to some of the most ancient authorities, Mark ends here.

E. Appendix: Alternate Endings of Mark (16:9-20)

- a. Not clear why there are alternate endings. Likely that the abrupt ending at verse 9 was unsatisfying, particularly in light of the endings of the other gospels.
2. The Shorter Ending (1 scriptural authority)
3. The Longer Ending (not present in the best Greek manuscripts (Sinaiticus or Vaticanus)
 - a. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (16:9-11)
 - b. Jesus appears to two disciples (16:12-13)
 - c. Jesus commissions the disciples (16:14-18)
 - d. The Ascension of Jesus (16:19-20)

Themes to look for

- 1. Trial, passion, crucifixion, death, & resurrection of Jesus**
- 2. Post-Resurrection stories**
- 3. The Great Commission**
- 4. The Ascension**

References

Notes from HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

“The Gospel of Mark” in *Sacra Pagina*, Daniel J. Harrington, ed. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2008)