

## Quiet Day, 13 February 2021

### Epiphany in Mark: The Cosmic, Apocalyptic, Eschatological Mission

#### Mark 1:1-39

##### The Proclamation of John the Baptist

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

##### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

##### The Temptation of Jesus

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

##### The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

##### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## **The Man with an Unclean Spirit**

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

## **Jesus Heals Many at Simon’s House**

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

## **A Preaching Tour in Galilee**

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, ‘Everyone is searching for you.’ <sup>38</sup>He answered, ‘Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.’ <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## **The Resurrection of Jesus. Mark 16:1-8**

16:1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ <sup>8</sup>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.

## Mark chapters 2—4:2

(Chapter 4 is all about parables – the side and back doors!)

Hardness of Heart

New Wine

Binding the Strong Man

### “Chiasm” or “Chiastic Structure”

Mark crafts stories with a literary artisanship intended to communicate in layers & over time. One literary device Mark uses frequently is a chiasm. You might want to do a little research on this literary device.

### Mark 2:1—3:6

the Son of Humanity  
has authority to forgive

→ forgiveness extended  
to the tax collectors  
and sinners

new wine has arrived that must burst  
the old wineskins

the Son of Humanity has  
Authority to redefine the  
Sabbath regulations

← Sabbath regulations  
redefined to extend  
compassion to those in need

### Mark 3:7—4:2 (4:3 begins the parable of the sower)

3:7-12	Teaching in a boat
3:13-20	Jesus' true family
3:21	Jesus' relatives
3:22-26	Accusation of collaboration with Satan
3:27	Parable of the Strong Man
3:28-30	Accusation of collaboration with Satan
3:31	Jesus' relatives
3:32-35	Jesus' true family
4:1-2	Teaching in a boat

**Two Quotes Relevant to a long-term view of change or development or evolution or the maturation of the creation and how this relates to the interconnectedness of everyone and all things:**

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.” Reinhold Niebuhr

“Because we are members of one species, all of whom are interconnected and interdependent, our every thought, word and deed affect everyone else in the human family instantly, regardless of space and time. Hence we are accountable to each other as well as to God.” Thomas Keating

**Matthew**

**Luke**

But whenever you pray, go into your inner room, and having shut/locked/barred the door, pray to your Father who is hidden/secret; and your Father who sees in hidden/secret will reward you.

... and she (Mary) sat beside the Lord's feet listening to his word. ... Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Pray then in this way:

When you pray, say:

Father of us who dwells in the heavens;

Father,

let be hallowed the name of you;

let be hallowed the name of you;

let come the kingdom of you;

let come the kingdom of you;

let become the will of you,

as in heaven also upon earth;

the bread of us the *epiousion*<sup>1</sup> give to us today;

the bread of us the *epiousion* give to us each day;

and forgive us our debts,

and forgive us our sins,

as also we have forgiven those indebted to us;

for also we ourselves forgive all those indebted to us;

and do not lead us into temptation,

and do not lead us into temptation.

but rescue us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses/offenses (against you), your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses/offenses.

... how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

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<sup>1</sup> “*epiousion*” = super substantial or the bread of the new era (the Kingdom) or the Holy Spirit