

Preaching Christ from the Gospels

The Gospels are about the gospel

Mark 1:1

- The evil of humanity – we are hardened rebels who want to kill God
- The substitutionary death of Jesus – suffering the wrath of God in their place

Mk. 1:9-15 – Jesus identifying with sinner, Jesus introducing us to the Trinity, Jesus invincible over Satan, Jesus incarnating the Kingdom

Look up OT references (e.g. Mark 1:3)

Getting a grip on Mark

- A 2-fold division (Mk. 8:27-31) – “Who is Jesus?” (1:1; 4:40; 6:14) then “Why has he come?”
- Or, all about “Who is Jesus?” – “The Christ” (8:29) then “The Son of God” (15:39) – we also see *what sort* of Christ and *what sort* of Son of God
- Or, open any passage and ask:¹
 - “Who is Jesus?” (Mk. 8:27-30) – IDENTITY
 - “Why has he come?” (Mk. 8:31-33) – MISSION
 - “What does it mean to follow him?” (Mk. 8:33-38) - CALL

Stick with Mark

Reading carefully

- One passage interprets another – e.g. Mk. 8:22-33
- Contrast – e.g. Mk. 10:35-52; 14:53-72
- Collection – e.g. Mk. 4:35-5:43
- Markan sandwiches (Mk. 3:20-35; 5:21-43; 11:12-25; 14:1-11)
 - What is the meat and what is the bread?
 - What are the contrasts or connections between the ‘bread’ and the ‘meat’

¹ These three questions are suggested by Rico Tice.

Applying Gospel Narratives

A) Stories – don't jump to spiritualise – they are history – main point is what Jesus did then

B) Parables – look for the big punch, the 'sting in the tail'

C) Teaching – more direct but look at who it is addressed to and why

Think CONTEXT

Think IDENTITY, MISSION, CALL

Application doesn't have to mean something to do – it may be something to know

Big application of the gospel: Mk. 1:15

Give them Jesus

The Apostles demonstrate how to read and apply the Gospels in their:

1. Sermons in Acts e.g. 2:22-36; 3:13-26; 10:36-43; 13:17-41

- centred on Jesus, cross & resurrection
- OT fulfilment
- call to repentance & faith
- miracles = attesting

2. Letters

- cross as salvation (Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 4:10)
- and as pattern (Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:21-25)