



40 Stories from Mark Every Christian Should Know

During year B in the Revised Common Lectionary, the Gospel readings on Sunday are drawn largely from the Gospel of Mark.

Mark is the oldest and the shortest Gospel. Over 90% of the Gospel of Mark is included in the Gospel of Matthew and about 50% of the Gospel of Mark is included in the Gospel of Luke. This leads most scholars to believe that the authors of both Matthew and Luke had access to early versions of Mark's Gospel.

These forty stories capture the core of the Gospel.

Mark's Gospel doesn't have a story of the birth of Jesus. It begins with John the Baptist & Jesus' baptism

1. Jesus' Baptism – Mark 1:4 – 12

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry by healing people. This almost immediately brings him into conflict with the religious leaders of his day.

- 2. Healing a man with a skin disease – Mark 1:40-45**
- 3. Healing a paralyzed man – Mark 2:1-12**
- 4. Teaching about fasting & the Sabbath – Mark 2:18-28**
- 5. Talking about demons – Mark 3:20-35**

The healings are followed by several parables about the kingdom of God.

6. Parable about soil – Mark 4:1-20
7. Parables about lamps & measures – Mark 4:21 – 25
8. Parables about the kingdom of God – Mark 4:26 – 34

The next section of the Gospel highlights Jesus' power of the natural world and the spiritual world, along with a few more healing and a little teaching.

9. Calming the storm – Mark 4:35 – 41
10. Legion – Mark 5:1-20
11. Two healings – Mark 5:21 – 43
12. Death of John the Baptist – Mark 6:14-29
13. Feeding of the 5,000 – Mark 6:30-44
14. Walking on water – Mark 6:45-52
15. Teaching about the commandments – Mark 7:1 – 23
16. Healing the Greek woman's daughter – Mark 7:24-30
17. Feeding of the 4,000 – Mark 8:1-21
18. Transfiguration – Mark 9:2 – 13
19. Demon possessed boy – Mark 9:14 – 29

Jesus now prepares for the end of his ministry. He tells his disciples what is going to happen and gives them some guidance and teaching.

20. Jesus predicts his death – Mark 9:30 – 37
21. Recognizing allies – Mark 9:38-50
22. Divorce & remarriage – Mark 10:1-12
23. Jesus blesses children – Mark 10:13-16
24. Rich man's question – Mark 10:17-31
25. Request from James & John – Mark 10:35 – 45
26. Healing of Bartimaeus – Mark 10:46-52

Jesus now enters Jerusalem and, in Mark's version of the story, spends sometime around the temple in Jerusalem. He engages in debate with the religious leaders and speaks more clearly about what God wants from those who seek to follow him.

27. Entering Jerusalem – Mark 11:1-11
28. Parable of the tenants – Mark 12:1 – 12
29. Question about taxes – Mark 12:13 – 17
30. Question about the resurrection – Mark 12:18-27
31. Most important commands – Mark 12:28 – 34
32. Poor widow's contribution – Mark 12:41 – 43
33. Temple's fate – Mark 13:1-4
34. Keep watch – Mark 13: 5 – 27
35. Woman & perfume – Mark 14:1-9

As Jesus moves towards his arrest, he celebrates the Passover with his disciples and after the meal they go to a garden where he is arrested. This is followed by a trial and crucifixion.

36. Passover meal – Mark 14:10 – 26
37. In the garden – Mark 14: 27 – 42
38. Arrest & Trial – Mark 14:43 – 15:15
39. Crucifixion – Mark 15:16 – 47

The empty tomb. Most scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark originally ended with verse 8. Which means that there were no appearances of the risen Christ in the Gospel of Mark and that it ended with the words, "they said nothing to anyone because they were afraid." It is believed that verses 9 through 16 were added later.

40. Empty tomb – Mark 16:1-8

