

Mark: An Unfamiliar Gospel of an Unfamiliar Jesus

Fall 2020—Robert M. Fowler (robert.fowler@bw.edu)

Session #1—

- (A) Regarding the writing of the Gospel of Mark: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?
- (B) A sprint through "Twelve Observations on the Gospel of Mark"

Session #2—

Question: Is it possible to have a gospel without a story of miraculous conception and birth or any mention of divine pre-existence? In the case of Mark's Gospel, the answer is Yes. In this session we will look at how Mark's Gospel in fact begins, with the story of the baptism of Jesus at the hands of John the Baptist (**Mark 1:1-15**).

Session #3—

Question: Is it possible to have a gospel in which the disciples of Jesus fail to understand and to live by his most emphatic teachings? The answer of course is Yes, and in this session, we will examine **Mark 8-10**, which is built around the three passion predictions in which Jesus describes the Way of the Cross for himself and for anyone who would wish to be his follower.

Session #4—

Question: Is it possible to have a gospel in which the Resurrected Lord never appears to his confused, wayward disciples, to reconcile with them and to send them forth into the world to preach the gospel to all nations? The answer of course is Yes, and so we will consider Mark's haunting, seemingly incomplete gospel ending (**Mark 16:1-8**; with a glance at appendices added to the text of Mark by later generations, such as **Mark 16:9-20**).

Procedure for this class:

- These four presentations will be pre-recorded and made available as videos on the Trinity Cathedral YouTube account.
- In those recorded lectures, many handouts will be displayed on the screen. All of these handouts, including this document, will be available to class participants, likely on the Trinity Cathedral website.

- We will develop a schedule for a series of Zoom online sessions, in which anyone interested may join together to chat about the four videos one by one. We can talk about the related handouts and any questions and comments that might arise.
- If you have questions about any of this, feel free to contact Bob Fowler or Adrienne Koch (robert.fowler@bw.edu; akoch@trinitycleveland.org).