

# Preaching Gospel Text in Context

The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) will sometimes present similar materials in a different order. These books are not assorted jumbles of stories randomly collected together. There is inspired crafting at work. In this session, we will look at some examples of the crafting evident in the sequencing of accounts and consider how we can reflect this design in our preaching.

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## I. Mark the storyteller

- A. Historically Accurate
- B. Theologically Driven
- C. Artistically Sophisticated

## II. Inspired Crafting

- A. Parables: outsiders and insiders (4:1-34)
- B. Actions Speak: Who then is this...? (4:35-5:20)
- C. A-B-A: The Markan Sandwich Technique (5:21-43)
- D. Echoes: Exodus Parallels (6:30-56)
- E. Déjà-vu: feeding thousands (6:30-44, 8:1-21)
- F. Unlikely examples: the Syrophenician Woman (7:24-30)
- G. Removing the Veil: Gradual Seeing (7:31-37, 8:22-26)
- H. Disciples: Do you not yet understand? (8:14-21)

## III. The unifying theme: Jesus

- A. Jesus' miracles
- B. Jesus' teaching
- C. Jesus' followers

- D. Jesus' secret
- E. Jesus' enemy
- F. Jesus' rejection

## Markan Sandwich Technique

### I. 3:20-35

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- A. Jesus' family went out to seize him (3:20-21)
    - B. Jesus is accused (3:22-30)
  - A. Jesus' family find him (3:31-35)
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### II. 4:1-20

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- A. Parable of the sower (4:1-9)
    - B. Purpose of parables (4:10-13)
  - A. Explanation parable of sower (4:14-20)
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### III. 5:21-43

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- A. Jairus pleads with Jesus to save his daughter (5:21-24)
    - B. Woman with hemorrhage touches Jesus (5:25-34)
  - A. Jesus raises Jairus' daughter (5:35-43)
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### IV. 6:7-30

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- A. Mission of the twelve (6:7-13)
    - B. Martyrdom of John the Baptist (6:14-29)
  - A. The twelve return to Jesus (6:30)
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### V. 11:12-21

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- A. Cursing of the fig tree (11:12-14)
    - B. Jesus clears the temple (11:15-19)
  - A. Fig tree withered (11:20-21)
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### VI. 14:1-11

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- A. Plot to kill Jesus (14:1-2)
    - B. Jesus anointed at Bethany (14:3-9)
  - A. Judas plots to betray Jesus (14:10-11)
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### VII. 14:17-31

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- A. Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal (14:17-21)
    - B. Institution of the Lord's supper (14:22-26)
  - A. Jesus predicts Peter's denial (14:27-31)
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**VIII. 15:40-16:8**

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- A. Women at the cross (15:40-41)
    - B. Jesus is buried (15:42-46)
  - A. Women at the empty tomb (15:47-16:8)
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**Suggested Readings:**

James R. Edwards. *The Gospel According to Mark* (Pillar, William B. Eerdmans, 2002).

R.T. France. *The Gospel of Mark* (NIGTC, Eerdmans, 2002)

Peter Orr. *The Beginning of the Gospel* (New Testament Theology, Crossway, 2023).

Robin Sydserff. *Teaching Mark* (Christian Focus, 2020).