

The Preaching Power of Narrative

The main ingredient in Mark's Gospel is short, punchy narratives. As we look at the book's first chapters, what can we learn about the nature of narrative gospel literature and how it changes lives? In this session, we will look at some narratives together to understand how they work and to consider how we might preach them most effectively.

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I. Who is Jesus?

- A. His Titles

- B. His Actions

II. Calling, Healing and Preaching (1:16-39)

- A. Calling the first disciples (1:16-20)

- B. Healing a man with an unclean spirit (1:21-28)

- C. A day in the life of Jesus (1:29-34)

- D. Preaching throughout Galilee (1:35-39)

III. Identity Disclosure (1:40-2:12)

- A. Trading Places (1:40-45)

- B. The Authority to Forgive (2:1-12)

IV. Conflict Arises

- A. The "friend of sinners" controversy (2:13-17)

- B. The "not fasting" controversy (2:18-22)

C. The “sabbath” controversy (2:23-28, 3:1-6)

V. How to Preach Narrative:

A. Don’t lose the “Plot”

B. Surface Tension

C. Create Identification

D. Narrative Pace

E. Text Selection

F. Participation more than Argumentation

G. Show and Tell

Suggested Readings:

Jeffrey D. Arthurs. *Preaching with Variety*. (Kregel Publications, 2007).

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).