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## Structural Analysis of Mark via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: Presentation and Preparation 1:1-20
- Jesus is introduced in verse one in the presentation of His Gospel. John begins ministering, calling for repentance in this phase. Jesus is then baptized and tested. Once John is imprisoned, Jesus takes up the mantle and preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom and calls His disciples. It is important to note that Jesus is not really introduced through His lineage in this Gospel, John does say One will come after him, but there is no genealogy or explanation of who Jesus is other than verse one which directly says “the Son of God”. He is identified without proofs. As the book progresses, Mark allows Jesus to show for Himself who He is to the reader. As the Jewish people often laid claim to genealogy and a built-up foundation, it can be inferred that since this Gospel lacks those details, this Gospel was not written to a Jewish audience, but that of the Gentiles. It was also written in Greek, which would have been understood by the Gentiles it sought to instruct.
- A. Jesus is immediately identified as the Son of God by the narrator 1:1  
Mark wastes no time in identifying who Jesus was and immediately expresses this truth.
- B. John the Baptist preaches repentance 1:2-11  
John’s call is two-fold, first calling people to repent from their sins and the second is to recognize the coming One.
1. John speaks of One coming who is greater 1:2-8  
John is described as different, living in the wilderness and takes on the role of a prophet. The common people believed he was from God and his message was that of ushering in One who was greater.
2. Baptizes Jesus 1:9-10  
In a short and concise description, Jesus is baptized, the heavens parted and the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove.
3. God verifies Jesus is His Son 1:11  
Not only did the Spirit descended upon Him as proof, God also says “You are My beloved Son...” as a further proof as to His identity.
- C. Jesus is tested in the wilderness 1:12-13  
The reader is told that the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, and that he was there forty days being tempted.
- D. John the Baptist imprisoned 1:14-20  
When John the Baptist is imprisoned, this represented a shift in Jesus’ ministry and He begins to preach “The Time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand...”
1. Jesus begins preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom
2. Jesus calls the disciples  
With John the Baptist no longer to usher in or tell of His coming, Jesus now calls the disciples – others who will help accomplish His work.
- II. AUTHORITY AND TEACHING PHASE: 1:21-12:44
- In this section of Mark, there is a recurring pattern of proofs provided via miraculous signs, always followed by a teaching phase. This has been classified as authority and teaching, as the prophets of old were always validated through their miraculous works. Jesus provided proofs of his authority prior to any teaching as outlines in this Gospel. The importance of this is that those who heard the teaching were without excuse, having had signs to validate the message beforehand.

A. Proof and teaching – Part 1

1:21-4:41

Jesus has three main sections of proof and teaching found in the Gospel of Mark. This is the first section and the proofs/works are a means to establish His authority and validate His message.

1. Proof by works

1:21-3:12

Prior to each of His teaching phases, Jesus begins with an authority phase whereby He provides proofs of who He is as well as the authority He has, which validates the messages He is about to teach. These works give Jesus the attentive ear of the people. Even the Jewish leaders are amazed and listen intently to what He says, even if it is in an effort to overthrow Him.

i. Jesus casts out demons

1:21-28

Thereby establishing His dominion over Satan and spirits.

ii. Heals the sick and diseased

1:29-39

Thereby establishing His dominion over illness and disease.

iii. Heals a leper

1:40-45

Showing that He can make the unclean clean.

iv. Heals a paralytic

2:1-12

Showing that He has dominion over the body.

2. Teaching ministry

2:13-4:41

After the proofs phase, Jesus enters in to teaching. He begins by telling Levi to follow Him and then proceeds to teach about meeting with those who have the greatest need – sinners. To validate this observation, the teaching phase will be broken into segments below:

i. Calls Levi (Matthew) and teaches about sinner's need

2:13-17

Of note as well is that the text mentions many tax collectors and sinners followed Jesus at this time. Levi would later be known as Matthew.

ii. Fasting not needed currently, parable of wineskins

2:18-22

Jesus says fasting is not required when the event or person you are fasting for is present. John and his disciples fasted for Christ's coming, now that He was here, there was no need to fast.

iii. Sabbath

2:23-3:5

Jesus teaches that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath – this switched a primary understanding of the purpose of Sabbath, it was meant to be a blessing to man, not a burden.

iv. Christ teaches the power of God through various healing

3:5-12

People approached and pressed against Him to be healed, demons cried out identifying who He was. All proofs of who He was.

v. Jesus chooses the twelve disciples

3:13-21

Peter, brothers James & John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot.

vi. Teaches rejection of the Spirit unpardonable sin

3:22-30

When the Pharisees accused Jesus of being possessed, He warns about blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.

vii. Teaches on relationships with a Kingdom focus

3:31-35

Earthly family relationships are subservient to Spiritual relationships. In the family of God, it is the saved person who is part of the family.

viii. Parable of the sower and soils

4:1-20

Jesus teaches of how some will accept quickly but fall away when persecuted and others will fall away for various reasons. He shares that good seed cast on good soil will produce the desired harvest. Jesus seems to have prepared the spiritual soil with His works of healing, and then planted the seed when he taught.

- ix. Parable of the lamp 4:21-25  
The message of God was precious and needed to be shared, not kept up for themselves.
- x. Parable of growth and mustard seed 4:26-34  
It says Jesus explained all of the parables to His disciples.
- xi. Jesus stills the wind and sea 4:35-41  
While one might choose to put this into the area of works, Jesus was actually teaching His disciples about who He was. Calming the wind and the sea was not truly an authority move by works, but instead a move that would offer instruction to the disciples about faith and putting their trust in Jesus who could overcome the temporal and physical world. In this way, it was more instructive and used to teach.

B. Proof and teaching – Part 2 5:1-7:33

Continuing in the pattern for proofs then teaching, this is the second such phase found within the Gospel of Mark. The first phase focused on casting out demons and healing the body, which is continued in this phase, however, there is a special note made about Jesus performing fewer works due to the lack of faith of his home town.

- 1. Proof by works 5:1-6:56
  - i. Jesus casts out demons 5:1-20  
Again establishing His Lordship and authority.
  - ii. Heals the woman with bleeding issue 5:21-34  
This was healing based on her faith and her sneak touch of His garment. He made a point to find out who had done this so He could explain that it was her faith that healed her.
  - iii. Brings man's daughter back to life 5:35-43  
Jesus is ridiculed for telling people that she is just asleep. He restores her from death to show that He has power over life and death.
  - iv. Nazareth's disbelief limited works to some healings 6:1-5  
Jesus mentions that a prophet is without honor in his home area. This shows a lack of understanding of the people in that it is never the prophet who is powerful, it is God working through the prophet – so birthplace has no matter in regards to Kingdom power or authority. In this case, it did matter who He was, this was the Christ – the Son of God, but in the past, other prophets would have been empowered by God, so who they were as a person had no bearing on the authority they had been given by God. At a minimum the Nazarenes were without excuse in regards to at least considering Jesus as a prophet from God.
  - v. Jesus instead sends out His disciples to teach and do works 6:6-13
- 2. John the Baptist killed 6:14-29  
No longer having a voice calling out in the wilderness meant that Jesus would now bear this responsibility, and he had selected a team to help – His disciples.
- 3. Continues the proof by works 6:30-56
  - i. Feeding the 5,000 6:30-44

Jesus performs an obvious miracle here, establishing His authority and showing that He has the power to meet the needs of the people.

- ii. Jesus walks on water 6:45-52

This miracle shows Jesus walking on the water, but also shares that they were amazed at this and had not understood the loaves because of hardened hearts. This could then be said to help eliminate doubt by providing a plain miracle in their sight.

- iii. Various healing through touch 6:53-56

There were so many that specifics were not provided. As many a touched Him were made well.

#### 4. Teaching ministry 7:1-23

- i. Uncleanliness is from within 7:1-23

Jesus teaches that it is not external sources that make someone unclean, but the sin found within them that is truly evil and makes them unclean.

### C. Proof and Teaching – Part 3 7:24-12:44

#### 1. Proof by works 7:24-8:10

- i. Daughter with unclean spirit 7:24-30

Jesus identifies His target audience at the time is the Jew, He heals this daughter through the persistence and faith of the mother.

- ii. Deaf-mute healed 7:31-38

Of special note is that Jesus sighs before healing this person. This could have been due to the disciples or others not having enough faith to heal this man through faithful prayer. Jesus had already pointed out a lack of faith for some.

- iii. Feeds 4,000 8:1-10

The disciples seem to have forgotten the last food miracles as they asked "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?". It would have seemed more appropriate to say "Here are the loaves we have, would you like to bless and distribute these as You did before?" This seems to show their lack of faith and understanding.

#### 2. Teaching and Preparation of Disciples 8:11-9:50

- i. The Pharisees seek a sign, Jesus warns about their doctrine 8:11-21

- ii. Heals a blind man, but appears to be an object lesson 8:22-26

This is the only recorded miracle that happened in stages. Perhaps, while literal, it also is showing in a spiritual sense that the disciples will have things made clear in stages. Verse 10 does end with "How is it you do not understand."

- iii. Jesus asks who they think He is, Peters says the Christ 8:27-30

- iv. Jesus teaches about His pending death and resurrection 8:31-33

- v. Jesus teaches that the disciples must prepare to suffer 8:34-38

#### 3. Teaching ministry 9:1-12:44

- i. Jesus teaches His disciples who He is with the transfiguration 9:1-13

- ii. Jesus teaches the disciples where their power comes from. 9:13-29

This is why He shares that some are healed only by prayer and fasting. Perhaps the disciples had become prideful at their abilities and needed an object lesson remind them of where the power really came from.

- iii. Jesus teaches His disciples about His coming fate 9:30-32

- iv. Jesus teaches that they are to be humble, not proud 9:33-37
- v. Jesus teaches His disciples about unity 9:38-41
- vi. Jesus teaches on the fate of sinners 9:42-50
- vii. Jesus teaches on divorce being a matter of the heart, letting go of the things of this world for something greater, and about reward for those who follow the Lord 10:1-31
- viii. Jesus again teaches of His upcoming sacrifice 10:32-34
- ix. Jesus tries to teach against pride again 10:35-45
- x. Jesus teaches that it is their faith that makes them well 10:46-52
- xi. Jesus teaches His disciples that He is the reason from the preparation, "Hosanna in the highest" 11:1-11
- xii. Fig tree ,temple cleansing, prayer of faith, forgiveness 11:12-26  
Jesus teaches about being fruitful and fulfilling the purpose God has for you, He casts out those who are defiling the Temple and making it a business, He teaches on faith being a necessity in prayer and He also teaches on the need for forgiveness amongst mankind as well as in relation to God. These feel like a teaching session that covers a great deal in a short bought.
- xiii. Jesus teaches the leaders that He is wiser than they are 11:27-33
- xiv. Parable of the Vineyard – against the leaders 12:1-12  
Jesus rebukes the leaders for not being faithful in working with God's people. They seek to take over the focus and have not honored God in what they do, and He will hold them accountable.
- xv. Jesus teaches the leaders about perspective 12:13-17  
Money is not important. God deserves honor and all things are His.
- xvi. Jesus teaches the Sadducees they lack kingdom knowledge 12:18-27
- xvii. Jesus summarizes the commandments 12:28-34  
Love the Lord your God, and love our neighbor as yourself. This simplified the overcomplicated manmade traditions of the leaders, who continually argued about new rules to follow in excess of God's requirements, giving them the same authority.
- xviii. Jesus teaches to not follow the hypocrisy of the leaders 12:35-40  
He points out their desire to receive honor, instead of honoring God.
- xix. Jesus teaches perspective on giving and faith 12:41-44  
This was one of the longer records of teaching in regards to content and it would appear to be so due to the upcoming sacrifice. There was still a great deal left to be explained prior to the fulfillment of the times.

III. PREPARATION PHASE: 13:1-31

This section of Mark switches from that of authority and teaching to one of preparation. It begins with Jesus telling his disciples of future things including the end times and Christ's return. This preparation was specifically for his disciples and appears to be preparing their hearts for things to come. Moving forward from here, Jesus also tells them to observe and keep watch for these signs. Preparation then moves on to the Jews preparing to kill Jesus as part of the required fulfillment. Jesus is prepared for death by having fragrant oil applied to Him and Judas plans for betrayal – preparing the final stages of Christ's death. Here, Jesus

provides final instruction to His disciples and institutes the Lord's Supper as a way to remember.

- A. Reveals future events to the disciples 13:1-37
  - 1. Disciples told to be attentive to the signs  
This is all in preparation of His coming death and resurrection. Jesus is preparing the disciples to be able to carry on without Him, and to discern between the times.
- B. Jews prepare plot to kill Jesus 14:1-11
  - 1. Judas makes plans
- C. Further preparations made for Passover 14:12-21
- D. Last Supper for Disciples 14:22-25
  - 1. To be done as a remembrance  
Jesus teaches His disciples about His coming sacrifice and how to memorialize this event.
- E. Denial and Scattering foretold 14:26-31  
In preparation for the disciples coming failure, Jesus tells them about it beforehand. They deny that they will, but this was necessary so that they could see it as part of the plan. Despite Jesus knowing full well they would desert Him, He has still entrusted His message to them. They would realize this and be able to overcome their guilt and self-defeat.

- IV. LAMENTATION: 14:32-42  
In this brief phase, we see a change where Jesus laments of the coming sacrifice. He seeks prayer, but asks for support from the disciples, who all fall asleep. Jesus prays that God's will be done and continues His personal preparation through prayer.
  - A. Jesus laments the coming sacrifice and suffering 14:32-42
    - 1. Prays three times
      - i. Take this burden away if possible, but Your will be done
      - ii. Spoke the same words in prayer.
      - iii. It does not specify the content of the prayer but it can be inferred to follow the same pattern of being the same request.  
These prayers confirm the real suffering that Jesus would go through, it was not a token crucifixion without pain, this was the real deal, a true pain and suffering for Jesus that would come.

- V. CONCLUSION/SACRIFICE FULFILLED: 13:43-16:20  
In this final stage, the plan is fulfilled in the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. It does not end here as Christ is resurrected, thereby establishing His final authority, and then He again teaches His Disciples, delivering to them a commission to share and teach themselves. This continues the pattern of proof then teaching. In the end, Christ ascends into heaven.
  - A. Arrest 14:43-72
    - 1. Peter denies 14:66-72  
In fulfillment of Christ's revelation prior, Peter denies Jesus three times. This ends with him feeling ashamed. It is likely that Jesus told Peter and the others of scattering beforehand, so that they might be able to forgive themselves and carry on after their failure. Knowing there would be a coming failure beforehand may act as a way of letting them know that it was part of the plan.
  - B. Jesus tried and convicted 15:1-47

In a sham court, Jesus is tried and convicted, but even the judge believes He is innocent. Later when Paul is being tried to Caesar, so there was legal recourse Jesus could have taken, but chose not to, as this was to happen.

1. Trial 15:1-19

In keeping with Mark's authorial style, this is short and to the point.

2. Crucifixion 15:20-41

Mocked, scorned, and beat, Jesus was even too weak to carry His cross the full way. One thing to note is that this section of Scripture is keen to note that there were many women who were present and had followed Him up from Jerusalem.

3. Burial 15:42-47

Joseph of Arimathea received permission from Pilate to bury Jesus and did so in the tomb. Mary Magdalen and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where he was taken.

C. Resurrection, Commission, and Ascension 16:1-20

In fulfillment of His earlier teaching, Jesus has risen and ultimately shows His final authority over life and death. This final works phase is followed by the Great Commission (teaching) and then his ascension. When the women came to do the preparation of the body, they found that He was not there. Not only was He missing, but an angel was there to greet them and share the good news.

1. Resurrection 16:1-14

- i. Was not found in cave
- ii. Angel validates his resurrection and instructs to tell the disciples
- iii. Jesus appears to disciples

2. Commission 16:15-18

- i. The message should be taken to the whole world 16:15-16
- ii. Proofs will be present to validate their message 16:17-18

Of special note, these proofs were promised to the disciples, not assumed for all believers going forward. The apostles had received special authority in these regards as proofs to the unbelieving audience they would encounter.

3. Ascension 16:19-20

This is a closing double-statement by Mark, short and concise. Jesus went up with God and the apostles went out confirming the word through signs. The end. This was the end of the story of Jesus, His Lordship, His sacrifice, and the proofs of who He was.