

- i. 1 Major Themes in the Gospel
 - 1 Jesus as the very human son of God
 - 2 The centrality of the cross. In a sense Mark is a transition between Paul who stressed the Cross and Resurrection but not Jesus' teachings, and Matthew and Luke who do.
 - 3 Secrecy
 - a. Only insiders understand the parables of the Kingdom
 - b. The so-called Messianic Secret
 - 4 Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
 - a. It is here-in the person of Jesus
 - i. Jesus lives as if the Kingdom is here already. In him we see what it will look like
 - ii. Jesus' purity has invaded the world.
 1. He touches lepers and he is not contaminated; they are cleansed
 2. He associates with sinners and they are purified
 - b. It is not yet here-in the world in its fullness. This will come when he comes again-see Chapter 13
 - c. His presence makes a new kind of obedience possible for disciples.
 - 5 The failure of the disciples
 - a. They never understand
 - b. They desert and deny Jesus-perhaps as those in Mark's church have done.

II. The Structure of Mark

Part One of the Gospel (1:1-8:21)

1. From John the Baptist to the controversies in Capernaum (1:1-3:6)
 - a. John the Baptist as the one who fulfills the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi.
 - b. The Baptism of Jesus
 - i. Anointed as Warrior King of God's coming Kingdom, but Jesus redefines what it means to be a Warrior King
 - ii. Revealed to be God's Son and faithful Servant.
 - c. Jesus is driven into the wilderness to do battle with the King of the World and God's principal opponent, the devil. Is Jesus victorious in this testing or is it left in doubt?
 - d. John is arrested: this prefigures Jesus' fate.