

CEC Bible Study: According to Mark

Session 4: Mark 7 – 9
Jan. 27, 2021
Christ Episcopal Church
Cape Girardeau, MO

Group Introductions

- Any newcomers?
- Recap of last week
- What questions do you have? What captured your attention in this week's reading?

Reading Outline: Mark 7 – 9

- Things to Look For
 - Sight vs. Blindness / Perception vs. Imperception
 - The Identity of Jesus the Messiah
 - Ritual Purity vs. Impurity
 - Authority: Who has it? How do they use it?
 - Mark's "Dunder-Headed Disciples"
 - Spot the Markan Sandwiches
- Mark 7
 - On Defilement ([Mark 7:1–23](#))
 - Resisting Anti-Jewish Interpretations of Scripture
 - The "Traditions of the Elders" are *not* the Laws of God
 - Compare Josephus, [Jewish Antiquities 13.10.6](#)
 - The Syrophenician Woman ([Mark 7:24–30](#))
 - The "Demonic" is the Ritually Unclean
 - Again: "Sacred vs. Profane," "Clean vs. Unclean"
 - The unclean causes the sacred to withdraw
 - Not so with Jesus!
 - "The Holy One of God confronts [the] powerful [spiritual] force of impurity."¹
 - Even better: Jesus empowers us to kick back the forces of impurity and death, as well!
 - (See [Mark 3:14–15, 6:7](#))
 - Jesus Opens the Ears of a Deaf Man ([Mark 7:31–37](#))

¹ Matthew Thiessen, *Jesus and the Forces of Death: The Gospels' Portrayal of Ritual Impurity within First-Century Judaism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020), 141.

- Mark 8
 - A Miraculous Potluck ([Mark 8:1–10](#))
 - The Pharisees Demand a Sign ([Mark 8:11–13](#))
 - Jesus’s Thick-Headed Disciples Are Confused ([Mark 8:14–21](#))
 - Jesus Heals a Blind Man ([Mark 8:22–26](#))
 - The “Interpretive Fulcrum” of Mark
 - Why Two Attempts?
 - First Attempt
 - Half-Sighted: Jesus as healer/exorcist/riddling teacher
 - Second Attempt
 - Full-Sighted: Jesus as the Holy One of God, the Christ
 - “Who Do *You* Say That I Am?” ([Mark 8:27–38](#))
 - Peter’s Confession ([8:27–30](#))
 - A New Kind of Messiah ([8:31–33](#))
 - Jesus Predicts His Death
 - “Son of Man”? (See [Dan. 7:1–14](#))
 - Peter Tries to “Exorcise” Jesus
 - Jesus “Exorcises” Peter!
 - The Cost of Discipleship ([8:34–38](#))
 - “As the Master goes, so go the disciples.”
 - A Prophecy about the Coming Kingdom ([9:1](#))
 - Reflection: Experience of Jesus as the Foundation for Evangelism
- Mark 9
 - The Transfiguration ([Mark 9:2–10](#))
 - Questioning the Meaning of the Transfiguration ([9:11–13](#))
 - Jesus Heals a Child with Seizures ([Mark 9:14–29](#))
 - Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time ([Mark 9:30–32](#))
 - A Series of Teachings ([Mark 9:33–50](#))
 - The Disciples Argue: Who’s the Greatest? ([9:33–37](#))
 - On Those Who Work Wonders in Christ’s Name ([9:38–41](#))
 - On Sin ([9:42–48](#))
 - On Being Salty ([9:49–50](#))