

Handout 8: Gospel of Mark Notes (Talk 19)

Ryan Carroll, Reformation Fellowship, June 13th, 2021

Summary: Mark 8:27-9:1

The narrative of Mark's gospel hits a turning point. The disciples have finally recognized Jesus rightfully as the Messiah. What Messiahship will mean in actuality, however, will prove to be equally as difficult to grasp as His identity was.

Outline:

1. Review of last week

- a. How did Peter (and disciples) finally see?
 - i. The Gift of Sight: "Blessed are you Simon, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you but My Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 16:17)

2. Picking back up where we left off: Mark 8:29-30

- a. Peter's Revelation: "You are the Messiah!" (8:29)
 - i. What does Peter think he means when he responds thus?
 1. What was the expectation about a Messiah from the biblical promises?
 - a. Rise of the Davidic Ruler expectations
 - i. 2 Samuel 7
 - ii. Isaiah 9, 11, 49
 - iii. Jeremiah 23, 33,
 - iv. Ezekiel 37
 2. Summary of Messianic expectations during 2nd Temple period:
 - a. For the above to be fulfilled, what kind of a "King" would need to come?
 - b. Given Peter's response in verse 32 to what Jesus will say in verse 31, we can be relatively sure that Peter's understanding of the Messiah was something along these lines.

3. But notice that Mark introduces his entire gospel (1:1) about “Jesus the Messiah, Son of God”, by proclaiming the coming not of the Messiah with a Messianic text, BUT two texts about the return of Yahweh, Himself:
 - i. Isaiah 40:3
 1. “A Voice is crying in the wilderness, make ready *the way of Yahweh* Make His paths straight” (Is. 40:3)
 - ii. Malachi 3:1
 1. “Behold I send My messenger, and he will clear *the way* before Me [Yhwh]”
 - iii. How do Jesus’ acts/authority (listed above) line up with...
 1. a return of Israel’s God?
 - a. Jesus displaying power and authority of Yahweh:
 - i. Raising the dead
 - ii. Authority over nature
 - iii. Authority over demons/Satan
 - iv. Authority to forgive sins
 - v. Authority over Sabbath
 - vi. Authority over what defiles (clean/unclean)
 2. a raising up of their Davidic King?
 - a. Jesus displaying traits of the Davidic King (as foreseen by popular 2nd Temple expectation):
 - i. A Warrior King? Not so much
 - b. Jesus displaying traits of the Davidic King (as foreseen by the OT)

- i. Reflecting the wisdom of Yahweh in his teaching?
Yes
 - ii. Reflecting the authority of Yahweh in the world?
Yes
- 4. What are we to make of this tangled web?
 - a. There are more OT prophetic texts that look ahead to Yahweh's return (after the Exile) than to the Davidic King's arrival.
 - i. More than any other expectation about various figures who may come to Israel's rescue, it was Yahweh himself who was most anticipated and hoped for by the prophets and 2nd Temple literature.
 - b. A Shocking Conclusion the text points us toward?
 - i. When Messiah arrived, it was also the arrival of Israel's God: Jesus, the Messiah, is Israel's God in person
 - ii. If we are to take the NT seriously, moving forward, the identity of Israel's God cannot be separated easily from the identity of Jesus the Messiah
 - 1. "[Jesus] The Son is the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15)
 - 2. "If you have seen me you have seen the Father" (John's Gospel)
 - 3. "Therefore, God highly exalted him [Jesus] and bestowed on him the NAME which is above every NAME, that at the NAME of Jesus 'every knee should bow and every tongue confess' that Jesus, the Messiah, is LORD." (Phil. 2:9-11)

4. "He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [Yahweh's] glory and the exact representation of His [Yahweh's] nature" (Heb. 1:3)
 5. At this point, Peter's correct declaration about Jesus' identity doesn't see any of this clearly... BUT Peter has seen and had enough revealed to him to know that if the Messiah has come, and it's Jesus, he owes Jesus fealty
 - a. That is... unless the Messiah starts talking some crazy foolish talk about, uh, I don't know, DYING!
 - b. Why does Jesus warn disciples not to tell anyone? (8:30)
 - i. The title bore significant political expectation
 - ii. The title brought about revolutionary overtones
 - iii. Historically speaking, someone claiming to be a "would-be" Messiah did not last long... Jesus needed discretion in order to fulfill his full destiny later in Jerusalem
- 2. "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer" (8:31-33)**
- a. Who is this "Son of Man"?
 - b. Suffering and rejected Messiah?
 - i. At the hands of the "Elders, Chief Priests, and the Scribes"

We've already seen hints of this during Jesus' ministry

 1. Pharisees want to kill him (after healing on Sabbath)
 2. Scribes accuse him of being possessed by ruler of demons (after exorcising so many demons)
 3. Scribes accuse him of blasphemy (after claiming to forgive sins)
 - c. Dead Messiah?
 - d. After three days rise again?
 - e. "And Peter took Him [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke Him"
 - i. None of this matters to Peter, as it does not fit the picture of Messiahship he understands:
 1. Cognitive dissonance at it's finest
 - ii. Peter will need more touches in order to see more clearly (just like the blind man)
 1. Revelation is not a guarantee of full knowledge

- 2. Our wrestling for truth will always be imperfect
- f. Jesus' Rebuke of Peter:
 - i. "Get behind Me Satan"
- 3. And He summoned the multitude with his disciples and said... (Mk. 8:34-9:1)**
 - a. "If ANYONE..."
 - i. Who is Jesus speaking to here?
 - 1. Is this a call specifically to the Twelve, or is it a more broad summons to any individual wishing?
 - b. "Wishes to come after Me"
 - i. What does Jesus mean by "coming after Him"?
 - c. "Let him..."
 - i. Deny himself
 - ii. Pick up his cross... and
 - iii. follow Me
 - d. A nonsensical reversal in human terms
 - i. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it"
 - ii. "For whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it"
 - e. What is a life/soul worth?
 - f. What does it mean to be ashamed Jesus AND his words?
 - g. What does it mean for the Son to be ashamed of the one who is ashamed of Him?
 - h. "When the Son of Man comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels": To what moment is Jesus referring to?
 - i. "Kingdom of God with Power" (9:1)
 - i. Who shall see it?
 - ii. Tasting death?
 - iii. Why power?