

Study Series: Mark

Discussion questions from key passages in Mark

1. How do you make sense of Jesus' enigmatic explanation of why it was he spoke in parables (Mark 4.10-12)? Does this make you think differently about what parables are and how they function?
2. Which characters recognize Jesus' true identity in the Gospel? Who is the first human character in Mark's narrative to clearly and correctly recognize who Jesus is? Why is this significant, especially considering that both the narrator and (presumably) the readers know immediately from the outset of the story who Jesus is (see Mark 1.1)?
3. Why, according to Mark, did Jesus have to die? How does the way the cross and Jesus' impending death are presented throughout the Gospel help the reader to grasp the reason for Jesus' death?
4. Scholars agree that Mark originally ended at 16.8. Consequently, the story ends on a rather gloomy if not ominous note. How do you, as a reader, reconcile this ending with the rest of the story preceding it?