

Handout: Mark Lesson 3

For you are a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in distress ... Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing.

Isaiah 25:4 and 35:4-6, 8th century BC

The five conflict stories in Mark Chapters 2-3:

1. Jesus is charged with blasphemy for forgiving a man’s sins (Mk 2:1-12).
2. Jesus attends a banquet and is accused of eating with sinners (Mk 2:13-17).
3. Jesus and His disciples are criticized for failing to fast (Mk 2:18-22).
4. Jesus is criticized for allowing His disciples to violate the Sabbath restriction by picking grain (Mk 2:23-28).
5. Jesus is criticized for healing on the Sabbath (Mk 3:1-6).

“Son of Man” is Jesus’ favorite title for Himself. He calls Himself “Son of Man” 14 times in St. Mark’s Gospel. Outside of the Gospels, this title is only found in the New Testament in three other places: Acts 7:56; Rev 1:13 and 14:14; each of these passages refers to the resurrected, divine Jesus Christ. The use of “Son of Man” in the Gospels is meant not only to identify Jesus in His humanity but to recall the vision of the Divine Messiah in the Book of Daniel: *I was gazing into the visions of the night when I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, as it were a Son of Man. He came to the One most venerable and was led into His presence. On Him was conferred rule, honor, and kingship; nations and peoples of every language serve him* (Dan 7:13-14a).

Old versus New Cloth and Wineskins	Old Covenant versus New Covenant
Old cloth cannot be patched with new cloth. The new cloth will no longer fit properly when the garment is washed and the new cloth shrinks.	The Old Covenant was necessary for its time to cover the covenant people in righteousness, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a new garment that cannot become a patch for the Old Covenant.
Old wineskins have already stretched to capacity with the fermentation of the wine. If new wine is poured into old skins, the fermenting wine will expand and burst the skins and both the wineskin and the wine will be destroyed.	The eternal gifts of the New Covenant cannot be contained within the limits of the Old Covenant. The eternal gifts of God’s grace that fill the children of God in the New Covenant must fulfill and transform the Old Covenant.

Parable of the Strong Man	
<i>Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. 1 Jn 3:8b</i>	
Strong man	Satan
Strong man’s house	the earth
Strong man’s property	all those “children of Adam” who do not belong to God
The one who “ties up”/overpowers the Strong man	Jesus Christ

Aramaic Phrases in the New Testament:

Gospel of Mark	
Mark 3:17	“Sons of Thunder”
Mark 5:41	“Girl arise!”
Mark 7:11	“Offering/sacrifice”
Mark 7:34	“Be opened.”
Mark 14:36	“Daddy/my Daddy” = Abba
Mark 15:34	“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
Gospel of Matthew	
Matthew 5:22	“Idiot”
Matthew 27:6	“Offering/sacrifice”
Matthew 27:46	“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
Gospel of John	
John 1:42	“Rock”
John 20:16	“My teacher/master”
St. Paul’s letters	
Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6	“Daddy/my Daddy” = Abba