

Re-creating a pre-Gospel Source Used By Mark

We can reconstruct a source used by Mark. Underline or highlight these passages:

4:35-39, 41

5:2-20

5:22-23, 35-36, 38-42

5:25-30, 33-34

6:34-44

6:45-51

7:25-30

7:32-35

8:1-10

8:22-25

Class 1 Handout:

Reconstructing a Pre-Gospel Source Used by Mark (Text from the NIV translation)

4:35-39	
35	That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."
36	Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.
37	A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
38	Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"
39	He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
4:41	
41	They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"
5:2-20	
2	When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.
3	This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain.
4	For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.
5	Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
6	When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
7	He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"
8	For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"
9	Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
10	And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.
11	A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.
12	The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."
13	He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.
14	Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.
15	When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
16	Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man-- and told about the pigs as well.
17	Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.
18	As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.
19	Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."
20	So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.
5:22-23	

22	Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet
23	and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."
5:35-36	
35	While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"
36	Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."
5:38-42	
38	When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.
39	He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."
40	But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.
41	He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").
42	Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.
5:25-30	
25	And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.
26	She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.
27	When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
28	because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."
29	Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.
30	At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"
5:33-34	
33	Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.
34	He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."
6:34-44	
34	When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.
35	By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late.
36	Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."
37	But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"
38	"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five-- and two fish."
39	Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.
40	So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.
41	Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish

	among them all.
42	They all ate and were satisfied,
43	and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.
44	The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.
6:45-51	
45	Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.
46	After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.
47	When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.
48	He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,
49	but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out,
50	because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
51	Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed,
7:25-30	
25	In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet.
26	The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.
27	"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."
28	"Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."
29	Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."
30	She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
7:32-35	
32	There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man.
33	After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue.
34	He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!").
35	At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.
(NIV)	
8:1-10	
1	During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said,
2	"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.
3	If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."
4	His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?"
5	"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied.
6	He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so.
7	They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to

	distribute them.
8	The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
9	About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away,
10	he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.
8:22-25	
22	They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.
23	He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"
24	He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."
25	Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Reading the Gospel

(from Rhoads, 4-7)

The Story World

What do we do when we read a novel or watch a movie? We willingly suspend our disbelief in order to enter the world of the author/screenwriter.

So, read Mark as a story, and try not to bring today into the past. Read the story as real people doing historical things, but within the context of a story.

Read the gospel as story and *not* history.

Read Mark independently from the other gospels, although don't be afraid to compare them. But do not use the other gospels to "fill in" gaps.

Avoid reading 21st century ideas into a 1st century story. Just as we need to know 16th century customs to really understand Shakespeare, we need to understand the 1st century Markan story.

Try not to read a modern theology into Mark's story. Don't construe later ideas about the trinity into Mark's story. Mark wasn't Christian! Do not think of Jesus as meek and mild. Mark's Jesus was anything but meek or mild.