

2020 New Testament Reading Plan

Living Hope Fellowship, Chico

Directed Study, Week 6

Mark 8–14

Pattern of discipleship

Chapters 8, 9, & 10 each have a similar outline. Jesus foretells his death, his disciples don't get what he's talking about, then Jesus teaches them about discipleship. The following chart is helpful to see this at a glance. These are central chapters for Mark's thesis building up to the capstone at the end of chapter 10.

The Three Major Passion Predictions in Mark

Three times in Mark 8–10 Jesus predicts his death, the disciples fail to understand or to respond appropriately, and he then teaches them about discipleship.

Announcement of Jesus' Death	Failure on the Part of the Disciples	Jesus Teaches on Discipleship
Jesus will suffer, be rejected, killed, and will rise after three days (8:31)	Peter rebukes Jesus (8:32–33)	Jesus commands them to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him (8:33–9:1)
Jesus will be delivered, killed, and will rise after three days (9:30–31)	The disciples do not understand the saying and are afraid to ask him about it (9:32)	Jesus teaches that the first must be last and that those who receive children in his name receive him (9:33–50)
Jesus will be delivered, condemned, mocked, flogged, killed, and will rise after three days (10:33–34)	James and John ask that they may sit next to Jesus in his glory (10:35–37)	Jesus teaches that, to be great, they must become servants; to be first, they must become slaves; and that he came to serve by giving his life as a ransom for many (10:38–45)

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1. What connections and similarities do you find between these three chapters in *content*?
2. Noting repeated themes in these 3 chapters, what might be Mark's emphasis about Christ and subsequently his followers?

Servant

I would argue that 10:42–45 is Mark's central thesis: Jesus is the prime example of a Servant and his service is exemplified by his death as a substitute for sinners. This emphasis of Jesus as servant is all the more striking considering that Mark was a rich kid with servants of his own growing up. The Jerusalem church met in his mother's home and they at least had one servant, Rhoda (see Acts 12:12–13).

3. Did you catch Jesus teaching his disciples about being a servant in chapters 8–10?

Discipleship

Mark is also a gospel about discipleship. Jesus is very interested in equipping his disciples, *teaching* them (look out for teaching terms), and transferring ministry to them.

4. What are some ways that Jesus instructs his disciples in chapters 8–14? Does Jesus teach his disciples alone, by healing someone, in crowds, or something else? Does Jesus' primary audience change throughout these chapters, especially from 11 on (last week of Christ's life)?