

Presentation 15

Mark's Story of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection

Concluding Overview



Andrea di Bartolo, *Way to Calvary*, c. 1400.

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Concluding Thoughts on Mk 14-16

‘...Mark’s death scene redefines what a “Christian death” must look like. To die in faith need not mean a peaceful symmetry, or pious decorum. The Marcan Jesus struggles in death, crying out to God in a piercing lament, and breathing his last with a scream. Yet the God of Jesus is present even—and especially—in these moments when human dignity seems shredded. No corner of human existence is closed to God’s presence. No body too broken, no spirit so bent that the God of the crucified would recoil from it...’

Donald Senior, *Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*
(Delaware: Glazier, 1984), 147.

- The Gospel reflects on divine absence and silence: When have I experienced this?
- Jesus remains present to his God, even in the midst of suffering and abuse (sexual?)
- The most painful of experiences cannot limit God or God’s presence.
- Mark offers a way for those who have experienced pain and suffering to reflect and know communion with Jesus.
- Jesus is presented as the intimate and passionate lover, seeking communion. He is the model lover reaching out to God.
- Death is the moment of revelation and discovery.
- Jesus is utterly committed to God, despite what surrounds him.
- Our response to suffering and death reveals our relationship to God. Death is the moment of ultimate communion with God.
- Mk’s Jesus offers a way to God in the midst of suffering, gives voice to those who suffer, are abandoned and experience silence. They, like Jesus, remain in communion with God

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- What causes people you know to suffer deeply? Do you know how they respond?
- What do you think is the deepest suffering that people you know have experienced?

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