

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Galilee and Jerusalem in Mark

a. Historical Criticism (Robert H. Lightfoot. 1883-1953. Oxford Univ.)

There would be conflicts and tensions between Galilee and Jerusalem.

Both regions might have different theological understandings.

In Mark, Jesus' ministry in both regions was different.

Question. Can you find out Jesus' different ministries in both regions in Gospel Mark?

Critics say that Jesus was not always welcomed in Galilee (Mark 6:1-6).

b. Redaction Criticism (Willi Marxsen. 1919-1993. Univ. of Munster)

Mark might focus more on theology than region.

Mark might mention Galilee intentionally (Mark 1:9 and 3:7)

Galilee as the place of the coming Kingdom (Mark 14:28 and 16:7)

Critics say that Mark does not imply Jesus' second coming to Galilee (Mark 13:26-27)

Werner Kelber (1935 – . Rice Univ.): Galilee as the Kingdom of God

after destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD (Mark 1:15 and 12:35-37)

c. Mythic Structure (Elizabeth S. Malbon. 1947 – .Virginia Tech)

Understanding with synchronic approach to the space in Mark

1) Geopolitical space: Jewish Area vs. Gentile Area, Galilee vs. Judea, and Suburb vs. Jerusalem

2) Topographical space: Heaven vs. Earth, Land vs. Sea, Isolated Sites vs. Residential Sites

3) Architectural space: House vs. Synagogue, Room vs. Court, Tomb vs. Temple

(Promise) Heaven

Land

Isolated Sites

Mountain

The Way (Mark 8:27, and 16:7)

Residential Sites

Sea

(Threat) Earth

Critics ask, "Is it really Mark's intention?"

d. Places for Restoration (Sean Freyne. 1935 – 2013. Trinity College)

Universal Gathering at Galilee (Mark 3:7-8, 6:30-44, and 8:1-10)

Jerusalem is not negatively described (Mark 1:1-6 and 3:8)

Jesus' ministry for all peoples through Galilee eliminated distinction.

Jesus' death and resurrection at Jerusalem built the identity of Jesus and His disciples/people.

e. Centering Jesus (Eric C. Stewart. 1945 – . Augustana College)

Spatial practice at synagogues and Temple (vertical, exclusive, and discriminative) ended.

“Gathering around Jesus,” new space was established: the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' new spatial practice will be completed at His return.

3. Let us read Ch. 8

4. Discussion

- a. Can you compare the story of feeding 4,000 with the story of feeding 5,000 in Ch.6?
- b. In verse 11, what kind of sign do you think the Pharisees asked for?
- c. How shall we understand verse 15 in light of verses 19 and 20?
- d. Do you see an ironical/paradoxical relationship between Jesus and His disciples?
- e. Why do you think Jesus had to try again to help the blind man to see clearly?
Or what does this story tell us about?
- f. Do you find any pattern of Jesus' ministry from Ch. 4 to Ch. 8?
- g. How do you understand Peter's confession?
- h. Why is Jesus the Christ to you? Or what has convinced you that Jesus is the Christ?
- i. Following Jesus requires self-denial and cross-bearing. What does “self-denial and cross-bearing” mean in today's?

5. Closing Prayer