

PRIMARY STRUCTURES (only): MARK 8:22–10:52

9/16

I will first describe the primary structures operating within this segment. Then I will separate out key structures for individual description and interrogative questions.

Primary Structure 1: Inclusio with comparison and contrast, and interrogation.

1. Inclusio with comparison and contrast

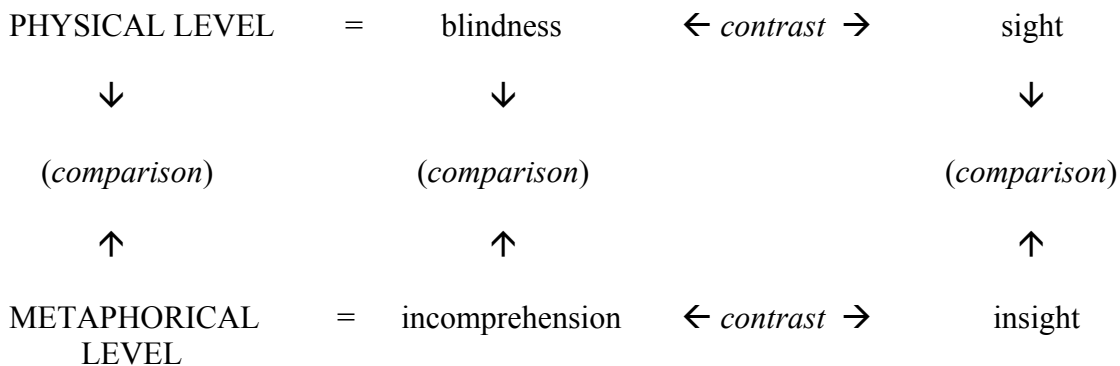
8:22–26 Blind man receives sight



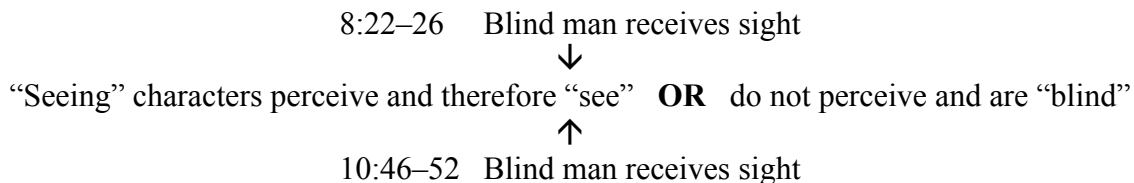
10:46–52 Blind man receives sight

Each of the framing sections contrasts blindness and sight, but does so on two levels:
on a *physical* level where the unseeing become seeing,
on a *perception* level where “sight” and “blindness” refer to “insight” and
“incomprehension” respectively.

Thus, the comparisons and contrasts can be portrayed as follows:



Furthermore, there is a comparison between the physical sight/blindness of the individuals in the framing stories and the insight/comprehension of those in the narrative in between these framing pieces.



Questions:

1. What are the key elements of each part of the inclusio?
2. What does each of these elements mean?
3. How do the two passages that make up this inclusion differ? How are they alike?

4. How do these similarities and differences help us understand each? Both of them together?
5. How do these passages illuminate the content 8:27–10:45? (a key question)
6. Why does the author use this inclusion relationship?
7. What are the full implications of this inclusion for how we understand this passage in Mark?

Primary Structure 2. Question and Answer (or Interrogation)

8:29 Jesus asks disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”

8:30–10:52 Answers this question

8:29 functions as *the* question about which people are blind or see/lack comprehension or understand

8:30-10:52 provides insight into the answer

- a. What are the key elements of this question?
- b. What does each mean?
- c. What are the key elements of the answer to this question?
- d. What does each mean?
- e. How does the question help us understand the answer(s)?
- f. How does the answer(s) help us understand the question?
- g. Why does the author use this question/answer structure?
- h. What are the full implications of the question and its answer(s)?

Primary Structure 3: Recurrence of Jesus' Passion/Resurrection predictions (with Recurring Misunderstanding and Correction)

- 8:31 Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, be killed, rise again
9:31 Son of Man will be delivered to his killers, will rise again
10:33 Son of man will be delivered to those who will condemn him, they will deliver him to Gentiles, Gentiles will mock, scourge and kill him, he will rise again

Questions

- a. What are the key elements of these recurring predictions?
- b. What do each of these mean?
- c. How are these statements alike? How do they differ? What is the significance of these similarities/differences?
- d. How do these similarities and differences help us understand each? all of them together?
- e. How do these recurring predictions illuminate the content of 8:22–10:52?
- f. How do these recurring predictions help us understand the answer to Jesus' question of 8:29?
- g. Why does the author repeat this prediction?
- h. What are the full implications of these recurring statements for those who follow Jesus?