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NT(IBS)511 Mark

Module 13 Final Assignment

Segment Survey (Mark 12:1-12)

\*\*\*Primary Source was a non-study Bible (NIV)

**I. Major Divisions**

1. Introduction to the Parable *[12:1]*

-- Mark explains the scene external to the parable; Jesus is speaking/teaching

-- Jesus explains the scene inside of the parable; introducing venue and actors

* Area of Interest: Vineyard
* Actors:
  + Unnamed Man (Owner of the Vineyard)
  + Farmers (Tenants)

-- Time not specified within the parable; simple introductory statement

Notable events:

* Man plants, equips, and fortifies a vineyard
* Man rents out the vineyard and leaves it to the care of others—

2. Sending of the Servant *[12:2 –5]*

-- Jesus continues the parable in the temple courts

-- Jesus indicates that within the parable, time has passed; it is now harvest

-- The man sends many servants to collect the debt of the farmers

-- Notable events and themes:

* Servant 1 sent: Beaten and released (v.2,3)
* Servant 2 sent: Beaten and humiliate (“struck/treated shamefully”) (v.4)
* Servant 3 sent: Killed (v.5)
* An unspecified number of servants are sent to collect the debt of the tenants, each meeting the same fate – some combination of brutalization, humiliation, and killing (v.5)

3. Sending of the Son *[12:6–8]*

-- External to the parable, Jesus is continuing to speak

-- Jesus implies that within the parable, more time has passed as the owner has continued to send servants until the point that he has none left, but a son

-- Notable events and themes:

* The son is set apart from the servant, given the additional title of “whom he loves” (v.6)
* The man declares the authority of his son in stating “they will respect my son.” (v.6)
* Farmers continue their pattern of killing all those sent to collect on the debt (v.8)
* Farmers indicate special motivation for this act of violence, believing that if the son is to die, they will (for some reason) inherit the vineyard to themselves (v.7)

4. Conclusion of Parable; Opposition’s Response *[12:9 – 12]*

-- Jesus concludes the parable with a hypothetical question and answer, followed by a scriptural reference/teaching

-- Mark concludes the scene external to the parable by presenting the reader with the response of the chief priest and others.

-- Notable events and themes:

* Jesus poses the question about what the owner of the vineyard’s next action would be, and follows promptly with an answer (v.9)
* Jesus then recites a Scriptural passage, challenging the listeners as to whether they understand or not (worded as “Haven’t you read this…”) (v.10,11)
* Chief priests and co. choose not the rebut and leave the scene, even though they feel as though Jesus has spoken against them (v.12)
* Mark elaborates that the chief priest and co. are not acting for fear of the crowd around them, not fear of Jesus’ authority (v.12)

**II. Primary Structures and Interpretive Questions**

Primary Structure 1: Recurrence with Comparison and Contrast

*Recurring Theme: Persons sent to collect the debt of the Tenants*

*Contrast (Red): The perception of the vineyard owner*

*Comparison (Blue): Fate at the hands of the Tenants/Farmers*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Person(s) Sent*** | ***Vineyard Owner’s Perception*** | ***Farmer’s Reaction; Eventual Fate*** |
| *Servant 1* | Unspecified | *Beaten and sent back (3)* |
| *Servant 2* | Unspecified | *Struck and treated “shamefully”/belittled (4)* |
| *Servant 3* | Unspecified | *Killed by farmers (5a)* |
| *“Many” Servants* | Unspecified | *Beaten and/or killed (5b)* |
| *The son* | **SET APART:**  Distinguished as: “loved”  Given authority as:  “They will respect…” (6) | *Killed by farmers (8)* |

What are each of the elements of comparison recurring in this segment? (Identification)

What do each of them mean? (Definition)

Is any comparison stronger or weaker than the others? More significant? (Definition)

What are each of the elements of contrast recurring in this segment? (Identification)

What do each of them mean? (Definition)

How do these comparisons/contrasts interact? How do they enlighten or illumine one another throughout the segment as a whole? (Mode)

Why has the Jesus chosen to use these comparisons/contrast in his parable? Why has Mark presented this parable with the structure present? Are each of the comparisons/contrasts for the same purpose? (Reason)

What is the full list of implications made by the presence of this structure within the segment? What is the additional meaning has been added by the use of the structure? (Implication)

Primary Structure 2: Bracketing Causation

*Cause: Jesus speaks against the chief priests and co. through the use of a parable*

*12:1a “Jesus…began to speak…in parables”*

*Effect: Tensions rise further between Jesus and his opposition*

*12:12 “The…priests…looked for a way to arrest him because…he had spoke the parable against them.”*

What is the element of cause present in this segment? (Identification)

What does it mean? (Definition)

What is the resulting effect of the cause in this segment? (Identification)

What does it mean? (Definition)

How does the cause lead to the effect in this segment; what are the connecting links? How does the causation interact with the rest of the segment? (Mode)

Why has Mark chosen to use this structure? Why does Mark present the structure in the form that it is presented? (Reason)

What is highlighted by the presence of the cause and effect pattern present? (Reason)

What implications are made by this use of the structure? (Implication)

Primary Structure 3: Interrogation

*Question: Jesus asks his listeners a final rhetorical question about what the owner of the vineyard’s reaction would be?*

*12:9a “What then will the owner… do?”*

*Answer: Jesus informs the listener immediately as to what the owner of the vineyard’s response would be.*

*12:9b “He will come…kill…and give the vineyard to others.”*

What is the questioning element of the interrogation? (Identification)

What does it mean? What prompted the question, and where does it lead? (Definition)

How does the question reflect on the information leading to it? How does it interact with the segment as a whole? (Mode)

Why does the author choose to present this question? Does it highlight specific information within the text? If so, what information? (Reason)

What is the answering element of the interrogation? (Identification)

What does it mean? (Definition)

How does the answer interact with the question? What information brought to the forefront through it? (Mode)

How does the connected interrogation interact with the segment as a whole? (Mode)

Why has the author chosen to use the structure as it is present? What meaning is added to or illuminate within text because of this structure’s presence?

What does the presence of the interrogation imply for the meaning of the segment as a whole? (Implication)

**III. Strategic Areas**

12:8 Shows an instance of the *Recurrence* of fate meeting those sent to collect

the debt.

12:9 Present the whole of the *Interrogation* the concludes the parable

12:12 Present the key element of effect within the *Causation*, showing the

priests response to the parable and tension between them and

Jesus.

**IV. Additional Observations**

1. The term “vineyard” appears 6 times throughout the 12 verses (v. 1*(2)*, 2, 8, 9 *(2)*).

* Is there a distinct purpose for Jesus using this term for the setting?
* What about “vineyard” was important or substantial to the culture of the day?
* Does this lean on other scriptural imagery?

1. In verse 1, Christ describes the vineyard fortification and equipment in detail (i.e. wall surrounds it, equipped with winepress, overlooked via a watchtower).

* What are the purposes of elaborating on these features?
* Is there greater interpretive function to these descriptive features?

1. As spoken on above, the “owner of the vineyard” repeatedly sends his servants to collect the debt of the farmers. Assuming that the servants are not returning (based on the lack of servants remaining in v. 6), why has the owner not sent pairs or groupings prior to this, that they might be safer?
2. Why is only the second servant (v. 4) indicated to have been humiliated (“treated shamefully”)?

* Is this not a recurring feature of the response of the farmers?
* Does this refer to a distinct event in biblical history?
* Why has Jesus chosen only this one to prescribe that description to, or is this an editorial addition/reduction by Mark?