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NT(IBS)511 X1-Miller

Module 1 Assignments

**1. Written Assignments from Activities 2:**

**1.a Major Divisions and Justifications:**

* **Mark 1:1 – Mark 1:13**
* Preliminary to the "active" ministry of Christ, the events within this division set the stage for what things are to come next
* Uses narrative prose to give a sense of chronology to the occurrences within.
* **Mark 1:14 – Mark 4:34**
* Large time skip indicated by the forty days tempting in the wilderness and John's imprisonment.
* Indicates a change of setting to the region of Galilee, near and in Capernaum and the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.
* Use of narrative prose to describe Christ calling the disciples, performing healing miracles, and casting out demons.
* (3:35 – 4:34) Use of parable teaching over time instead of narrative prose.
* Theme: Preaching and teaching in Galilee (Capernaum Area).
* **Mark 4:35 – Mark 6:7**
* Depart from Galilee across the Sea of Galilee to Gerasenes.
* Return to a regular use of narrative prose.
* Theme: Miracles being worked before being rejected due to fear.
* **Mark 6:8 – Mark 8:21**
* Christ sends the 12 out for in order to expand ministry.
* Introduced to the reach of Christ’s teaching in the change of focus to Herod in 6:14.
* Interruption of the chronology to introduce Herod’s recount of John’s imprisonment and execution, before returning after a presumably long time skip to the 12 reporting back to Jesus.
* Miracles begin to be worked on a “greater” scale.
* **Mark 8:22 – Mark 9:50**
* Setting changes to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee at Bethsaida, with other traveling within all remain on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
* Theme: Focus is trained in on Christ’s divinity, revealing Jesus as the Christ rather than simply a great teacher or prophet.
* **Mark 10:1 – Mark 12:44**
* Location changes to the region of Judea, between Jericho and Jerusalem.
* Introduces a more blended use of prose, parable, and potentially discursive language as Christ enters the land in and around Jerusalem.
* Tonal shift to more confrontational and serious, as Christ begins to have more regular conflict and exchanges with the religious leaders.
* Begins heavily foreshadowing the persecution of Christ to come.
* **Mark 13:1 – Mark 13:37**
* Introduces the sole use of apocalyptic language within the Gospel of Mark when Jesus begins speaking about the End Times.
* **Mark 14:1 – Mark 16:8 (16:20)**
* Final narrative over the Gospel of Mark, covering the entire series of events surrounding the death of Christ.
* Provides a fluid, chronological progression from the poetic preparation of the body at Bethany, through the trial and crucifixion, and finally the resurrection.
* Displays a fluid tonal shift from despair and expectation, through mourning and sadness, and finally resulting in a spirit of victory and triumph in one connected story-block.

**1.b Key Notes and Observation Made in Preliminary Reading:**

A more detailed and lengthy record of notes taken during reading can be found in the submission file.

1. Themes that recur throughout the Gospel of Mark that stood out during this preliminary reading was that of Christ’s frustration, the fatigue of ministry, the grace that must be present in all times in ministry, the resistance of the people and leaders to the presence of the Messiah and power of the Holy Spirit, and the acceptance of God the Father’s guidance throughout life.

2. The only question that immediately stood out during this reading was in regards to chapter 6 verse 52, “for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.” In reading this, even now, the meaning does not seem apparent. Intuition says that it simply speaks to the fact that Christ was fully divine even while fully human, and the disciples had not realized this with the miracle worked at the feeding, but if this is the case, what is the necessity in the verse being present? Even further, what caused the hearts of the disciples to be hardened still?

Surely, there are more questions to ask in regards to the Gospel of Mark, but this is the only one that caught my attention during this preliminary reading. It’s my hope that in this course, I will learn how to ask not just question for the sake of questions, but useful questions that lead to deeper insight, even of texts where I do not particularly see anything that begs for inquiry.

**2. Statement 1:**

I completed watching Introduction to IBS in full.

I completed watching IBS Survey 1 in full.

**3. Statement 2:**

I completed reading the Gospel of Mark in full in one sitting from the NIV translation, an acceptable primary source. Included within the submission folder is a written account of my notes recorded during the reading of the text. These notes were used in completing the work for this Module.