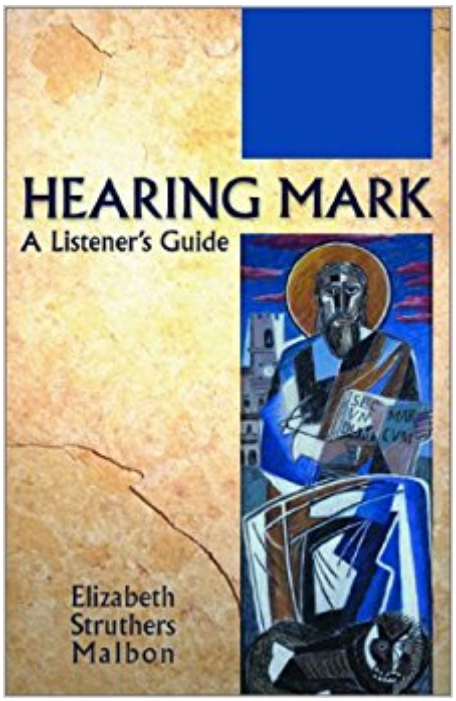
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Hearing Mark: A Listener's Guide



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Synopsis

Originally, the Gospel of Mark was read aloud to first-century audiences eager to hear more about the life of Jesus and how his teachings could touch their own lives. Now Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, an expert who has written about and taught Mark for twenty years, brings us back to that original setting, providing an exciting new way of reading and hearing the Gospel of Mark.In clear, non-scholarly language, Malbon begins by outlining the presuppositions that scholars use when they read this gospel. We learn that Mark's gospel, in its original context, was not meant to be read silently; it was meant to be performed, read aloud, and heard by an audience of Christians.The chapters of Hearing Mark then follow the gospel in narrative order, from first verse to last, with each chapter of the book focusing on a theme emphasized in each gospel section: kingdom, community, discipleship, suffering. The conclusion offers Ã¢â ¬Å“echoes" of these interrelated themes as they play out for Mark's listeners in the first centuryÃ¢â ¬â •and in the twenty-first.Hearing Mark closes with selected suggestions for further reading and annotations. Malbon also lists resources for hearing the Gospel of Mark in various ways, including persons to contact for dramatic presentations, videotapes, and instructions for conducting a reading in a local church.Elizabeth Struthers Malbon is Director and Professor, Religious Studies Program, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her books include In the Company of Jesus: Characters in MarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Gospel and Narrative Space and Mythic Meaning in Mark.

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Customer Reviews

" Using the best of her own and others' research on the Gospel of Mark, Elizabeth Struthers Malbon has written a book for Christian laity bringing alive the oral story of Mark. Through her book, congregations today can experience some of the excitement the gospel held for its first hearers."Ã¢â ¬â •Joanna Dewey, Ph.D., Academic Dean and Harvey H. Guthrie Professor of Biblical Studies, Episcopal Divinity School, July 15, 2002 (Joanna Dewey, Ph.D.)Hearing Mark offers readersÃ¢â ¬â •and hearers!Ã¢â ¬â •the opportunity to venture with Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, one of Mark's most sensitive and most graceful critics, into a deeper engagement with the aural dimensions of the Second Gospel. Listening to her hear Mark, we are encouraged, instructed, and strengthened to engage the good news in our own lives. Her instructive advice on reading Mark aloud in a congregational setting dovetails with her exposition of the text, and will surely prove valuable to any group that takes up her suggestions. (A. K. M. Adam, Associate Professor of New Testament, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary)"At last, a book that encourages folks to hear the Gospel and to hear it in its entiretyÃ¢â ¬â •as it was meant to be experienced." (David Rhoads)"This book is intended for a popular audience that wants to engage the message of Mark's text seriously. Reflections, discussion questions, and suggestions for further work on the Gospel enhance its value."Ã¢â ¬â •Donald Senior C.P., The Bible Today, July/August 2003. (Donald Senior C.P.)Ã¢â ¬Å“Malbon does get what she wants: a captive audience paralleling those of the first century. Furthermore, the liturgically styled prayers that open and close each chapter serve the purpose of rooting the hearing of Mark in confessional grounds. MalbonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s flair and reverence for the gospel of Mark are inspiring, and her new book reminds us all of the multifaceted value of biblical text in general and the devotional character of MarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gospel in particular.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œReligious Studies Review, 1/2004 (Religious Studies Review)" Using the best of her own and others' research on the Gospel of Mark, Elizabeth Struthers Malbon has written a book for Christian laity bringing alive the oral story of Mark. Through her book, congregations today can experience some of the excitement the gospel held for its first hearers."Ã¢â ¬â •Joanna Dewey, Ph.D., Academic Dean and Harvey H. Guthrie Professor of Biblical Studies, Episcopal Divinity School, July 15, 2002 (Sanford Lakoff)"At last, a book that encourages folks to hear the Gospel and to hear it in its entiretyÃ¢â ¬â •as it was meant to be experienced." (Sanford Lakoff)"This book is intended for a popular audience that wants to engage the message of Mark's text seriously. Reflections, discussion questions, and suggestions for further work on the Gospel enhance its value."Ã¢â ¬â •Donald Senior C.P., The Bible Today, July/August 2003. (Sanford Lakoff)

Elizabeth Struthers Malbon is Director and Professor, Religious Studies Program, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

I took a scripture course for my Master's Degree and this was one of the books we were required to read. I have heard the Gospel of Mark several times through the years but have never experienced it quite like this book presented. It was a joy to read this short little book and I keep it in my library of books at home. The book points out the Gospel of Mark was meant to be read out loud and assists the reader in an engaging journey to discover what that means. My ears were opened to the beauty of the gospel and I am thankful to the author for her work and research.

"Hearing Mark" is barely over 100 pages, but it is a great commentary full of insights and information and "hooks" for preachers.It would also be perfect for Bible study groups. Hard core Bible warriors and tentative explorers, folks of all education levels and political convictions will be able to use and enjoy this book. It would probably even work with younger people if you were inclined to try it.There are a lot of commentaries out there. What sets this one apart?1. It emphasizes Mark's gospel as written for the ear -- as a story that unfolds, almost as if around an ancient campfire. So instead of looking in depth at Greek words or the shades of meaning that come out of separating each strand in a sentence (the way you might carefully study a written text), the author explores the importance of setting, plot, characterization...and themes that appear, step back, and return later....the things that a listener might hear and pick up on as a tale is told. This is a different way of reading, and yields fresh insights.2. The author also clearly writes for the ear. (For example: writing about the feeding of the 4000, she says: "Do you hear an echo here? He did this before. He took, he blessed, he broke, and he gave. These four verbs occur one more time in Mark--at the Last Supper.") I find her style to be really learned and really approachable all at the same time.3. It follows the work of David Rhoads (Mark as Story) and others, trying to offer resources to help people reconnect with the Gospel as a heard experience. The "resources" section at the end of the book gives many ideas and dvd/vhs possibilities for church groups who want to pursue this as a special program. That alone would be worth the price of the book, and I am giving it serious thought for my own church. (It's that convincing.)4. For preachers: this commentary takes about 90 minutes to read cover to cover. It's a great way to give yourself a genuine overview of Mark and plan a year's worth of preaching (if you're using the lectionary). You'll see when important moments are going to appear, when they build over several Sundays, when Mark shifts gears, when important theological concepts emerge or reemerge. For narrative preachers, specifically, this is much like Rhoads in

emphasis, but written in a commentary format.It is a great book. I hope that Dr. Malbon writes companion volumes on the other Gospels.

This small guide is just outstanding! Wish there were more of it, but Malbon's comments are always right on the money. For instance, in the passage on the Widow's Mite, she does a masterful job of relating the context to the text - something traditional treatments of this passage which is always trotted out on Stewardship Sunday miss! This is a masterful critique of the Temple establishment. Love Malbon's stuff including her volume of essays on Mark, In The Company of Jesus. Don't miss this one!

One of the best studies of Mark's Gospel I have read, beyond learning in traditional sense, I became excited, motivated by the essence of Marks kingdom message.Great copy, came promptly. Totally happy, inspired, and a great bargain. Thanks

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