

Discuss a missiology for the Gospel of Mark.

One of the biggest issues in the U.S.A. is racism. Some people think they are superior to other nations and some look down on other nations because of history or other reasons. After reading the missiology for the Gospel of Mark, I realized that God is fair and righteous to everyone and He is against the racism. And also, people think Mark was written after Matthew because it is the second book of the New Testament books. However, it is widely regarded that it was written prior to Matthew's gospel. (139) So, Mark can be the foundation book. Tennent says that Mark's gospel contains several of the themes regarding a universalistic mission that were carried over into Matthew's gospel and have already been explored. (139)

First, Mark emphasizes the universal mission to the Gentiles. (Tennent, 140) It records the final phrase of the citation from Isaiah 56:7, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." It does not say that God's house is called a house of prayer for specific nations, but all nations. It means that God embraces all the nations.

Secondly, it emphasizes on persecution and suffering. (140) Because of the issue about George Floyd, a lot of black people and other nations protest and march. There are a lot of persecution and suffering in races and furthermore, in religions. God is love and He wants to love one another and forgive. Mark emphasizes on persecution and suffering so it tries to convey the message about peace between nations.

Thirdly, Mark commands the church to proclaim the good news to all nation. (141) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9) Nobody can brag or boast about salvation because it is not from our work but God's grace. We are chosen by God because He chose us. We can never feel superior to other nations about good news because it is from God. We got this gift and responsibility as well. We should convey and proclaim this good news to all nations.

Fourthly, Mark has an eschatological context, warning that whoever believes 'will be saved,' whereas whoever does not believe 'will be condemned'. (16:16) We can get salvation from belief in Jesus. Salvation is not for rich people or some specific nations. If anybody believes in Jesus Christ, the one can be saved.

We have read Mark and learned about a missiology of Mark. I have read Mark so many times but I found out many new things from the lesson this week. According to the author, we can find many things that the author emphasized. That can be the main point and important thing. Mark emphasized a universal mission, persecution/suffering, good news to all nation, and eschatological context. We can see the author focused on the universal mission and good news to all nations. A lot of people suffer from racism, unfairness, persecution and so on. We should rethink about these people suffering and ourselves if we have done anything unfair to other people.

As a Christian, we are chosen by God as a child of God. We got the privilege and at the same time responsibility. We should apply the Bible verses in our lives. Before we are from Asia, Europe, America, Africa, etc., we are from God and we are brothers and sisters in God.