THE GOSPEL OF MARK – THEMES FOR PENTECOST, PART 2

Mark’s Story:
This story constantly unfolds in mystery, hiddenness, surprise, in secrecy and irony (greatest is one who serves)
(cf. Donald Juel, *Master of Surprise*; Roy Harrisville, *Miracle of Mark*)

Beginnings:
Beginning of the good news...Salvation comes in the wilderness (1:1)

In the Middle:
The Kingdom of God is at Hand; Repent and Believe the Good news (1:14-15)
Call to Discipleship
Teaching in Parables
Healing
Rejection (Do you not understand?) 8:21

Passion: Messiah is one who suffers/serves
Follow - Take up the Cross

Endings:
Passion (Philippians 2:5-13 in narrative form)
Resurrection

Urgency

Secrecy (commands to silence; hiddenness of kingdom)

Apocalyptic Community Waits in the meantime of radical call to obedience

Christology: Jesus as the suffering servant

Focus and Themes For Pentecost 2

Center and Climax: At the Heart of the Story
Marked by Irony

Identity and Way of God’ Messiah
Peter’s Confession
Foretelling of Jesus Suffering, Death and Resurrection
The Way of Discipleship: Call to Take Up Cross and Follow

Salvation and Reversal Belong Together
Outsiders & Insiders
Greatest is the One Who Serves