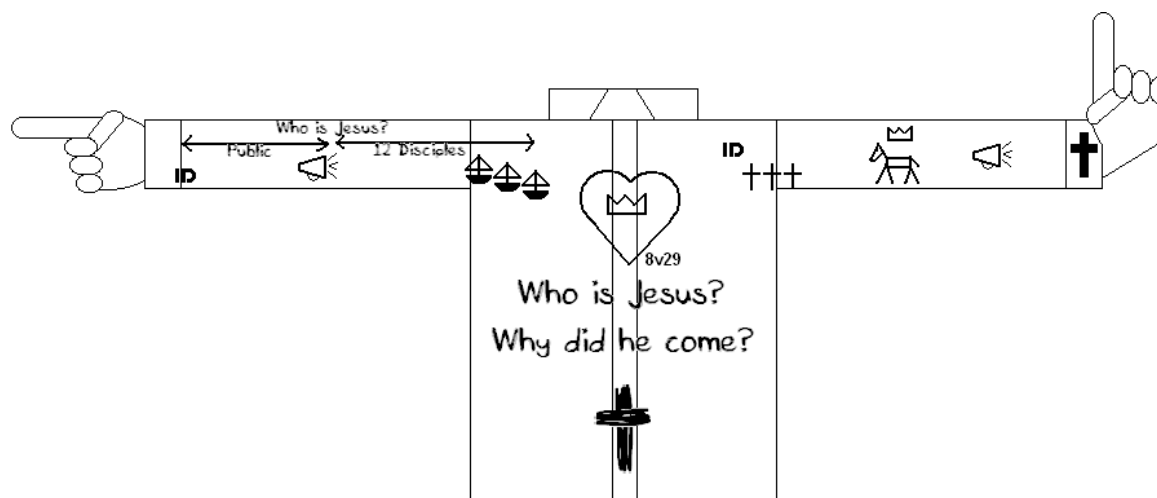


MARK IN MINUTES



The heart of Mark's gospel is the identity of Christ, which Peter figures out in 8v29. This passage divides the book in half – the story changes dramatically once the disciples acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ.



They are acknowledging that Jesus is God's chosen King – Mark unfolds what this means throughout his book.



Mark's focus is the cross – Jesus demonstrates both his sacrificial love and his lordship on the cross. The whole book builds to this climax.



Mark begins by pointing back into the Old Testament – the arrival of Jesus is the fulfilment of OT promises about the Isaiah.

ID

Straight away we are introduced to Jesus identity – He is the Christ, the Son of God, which is confirmed by God himself at Jesus' baptism (1v11).

The first half of Mark deals mainly with the identity of Jesus, focussing first on his public ministry, then on the 12.



There is a major block of teaching starting in chapter 4, including lots about 'the kingdom.' This is followed up by a series of miracles confirming Jesus identity.



There are 3 encounters on boats, each of which shows the disciples struggling to understand Jesus' identity (4v35, 6v45, 8v14).

Eventually, Peter realises who Jesus is. From this point, the direction changes and they head for Jerusalem (and the cross).

ID

The Transfiguration confirms what the disciples have finally grasped about Jesus' identity (9v7).



Jesus predicts his death 3 times. He is blunt about what will be required of him. But each time he explains that 3 days later he will rise again (8v31, 9v31, 10v33-34).



This is (clearly) a donkey, representing the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This combines Jesus' kingship (hence the crown) with his servanthood. It also links him back into the OT promises about the Messiah (see Zechariah 9v9-10).



There is another key block of teaching beginning in chapter 11, which takes place in and around the temple.



Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion follow. But, at the end of the gospel, the final part of Jesus predictions comes true – three days later he rises from the dead, confirming all that he said would happen.

(With thanks to Charlie Skrine, who I nicked quite a lot of this from. Although he didn't use a shirt.)