



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: MARK



## BEST NAME

**Bartimaeus**, son of **Timaeus** (I love anybody with an -aeus in their name!), a blind beggar whom Jesus heals in Jericho. Like others, "His faith has made him well."

## COOLEST CHARACTER

Jesus encounters and heals, **Legion**, a man, who is possessed by many demons. The demons are redirected into a herd of two-thousand swine, and they run off a cliff and into the sea. Yikes!

## FAVORITE STORY

**Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome**, bring spices to the empty tomb to prepare the body of Jesus. They are the first to experience Easter, and they are afraid, and silent, even. The author ends it there. We are left to imagine to whom they first told the story, and how they found the courage to tell it.

## UNIQUE TO MARK

- **Messianic Secret**-- Jesus asks the disciples to be silent about his work
- **No Birth Story** -- We meet Jesus as an adult
- **Urgency and Pace**-- Mark is the shortest gospel; We hear more *why* than *who*.

## TIMELINE

The Gospel According to Mark was composed more than 4 decades after the death of Jesus. This community was as far removed from the life of Jesus as we would be from 1983 in 2024.

34 CE

41 YEARS

75 CE

Death of Jesus

Composition of Mark



1983 CE

41 YEARS

2024 CE

Return of Jedi Debuts  
Cardiac Pack!

Present Day,  
Raleigh, NC

Final Episode of M\*A\*S\*H



## TROUBLESOME STORIES

We have to be very mindful of healing stories. In the First Century, there is enormous stigma around disability and disease -- they are too closely tied to sin. What kind of wholeness and healing is Jesus inviting us into? And how are we claiming these stories today in healthy ways?

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Jesus as the Son of Man; God as an agent of transformation and ultimate authority; Urgency; Seeing discipleship in the margins; Conflict of systems.

## IF MARK WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

THESE ARE CHAOTIC TIMES, SOME MIGHT EVEN SAY **DIRE STRAITS**, WHO JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A LEAD SINGER NAMED **MARK KNOPFLER** (ALSO NOT A BAD PRANK-CALLER!). THE BAND IS MOST FAMOUS FOR THE SONG SULTANS OF SWING



IS  
AMANDA  
THERE?

