

# Mark's 'journey' section

8:22–10:52

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# Shape and structure

- framing by healings of two blind men  
8:22-26; 10:46-52
- key phrase ‘on the way’ ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ or εἰς ὁδὸν
  - ‘the way/path of the Lord’ in Greek OT (LXX)

‘They have deviated quickly from **the way that you commanded them.**’ Exodus 32:8

‘...you shall be watchful to do as the Lord your God has commanded; you shall not turn right or left, **to go according to all the way that the Lord your God has commanded** so that he may give you rest and that it may go well with you and that you may prolong your days upon the land that you shall inherit.’

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

‘But this dictum I commanded them, saying, “Obey my voice, and I will become a god to you, and **you shall become a people to me, and walk in all my ways, which I command you,** so that it may be well with you.”’

Jeremiah 7:23

# Shape and structure

- framing by healings of two blind men  
8:22-26; 10:46-52
- key phrase 'on the way' ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ or εἰς ὁδὸν
- **three sections**, each with
  - passion prediction
  - misguided response by disciples
  - discipleship teaching

# Disciples and discipleship

- focus on disciples as Jesus' companions and recipients of his teaching
- frequent use of 'whoever', 'anyone', etc.
- **Jesus** is the model disciple, not the disciples
  - they follow Jesus ἀκολουθέω

‘[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and **follow me.**”’ 8:34

‘Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then **come, follow me.**”’ 10:21

‘Peter began to say to [Jesus], “Look, we have left everything and **followed you.**”’ 10:28

‘Immediately [Bartimaeus] regained his sight and **followed [Jesus] on the way.**’ 10:52

# Disciples and discipleship

- focus on disciples as Jesus' companions and recipients of his teaching
- frequent use of 'whoever', 'anyone', etc.
- **Jesus** is the model disciple, not the disciples
  - they follow Jesus *ἀκολουθέω*
  - i.e. they imitate Jesus; he is the model

‘The theory of discipleship articulated in 8:27–10:45 becomes reality in a life lived to its very end according to the arduous and all-encompassing demands of the gospel.’

Helen Bond, *The First Biography of Jesus*, 159



# The disciples highlight Jesus

‘Characters in Mark’s Gospel serve primarily to further the portrayal of Jesus.’

Whitney Shiner, *Follow Me!*, 8

- recipients of Jesus’ teaching—public events
- foils to Jesus—private events

‘Then **in the house** the disciples asked him again about this matter.’ 10:10

‘He said all this quite openly. And **Peter took him aside** and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” 8:32-33

‘Then they came to Capernaum; and **when he was in the house** he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.’ 9:33-34

‘**James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him** and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ... When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them...’ 10:35, 40-41

# The disciples highlight Jesus

‘Characters in Mark’s Gospel serve primarily to further the portrayal of Jesus.’

Whitney Shiner, *Follow Me!*, 8

- recipients of Jesus’ teaching—public events
- foils to Jesus—private events

‘In their lack of comprehension, the disciples represent the general human condition rather than a perverse reaction of an especially corrupt group.’ Whitney Shiner, *Follow Me!*, 251

# The disciples highlight Jesus

‘Characters in Mark’s Gospel serve primarily to further the portrayal of Jesus.’

Whitney Shiner, *Follow Me!*, 8

- recipients of Jesus’ teaching—public events
- foils to Jesus—private events
- highlight Jesus’ courageous and lonely death by contrast—they run away and abandon Jesus

‘And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’”’

Mark 14:27, quoting Zechariah 13:17

# 8:22-26 Healing the blind man

22 They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to [Jesus] and begged him to touch him.

23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” 24 And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.”

25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.”

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# 8:27–9:29

- Passion prediction and misunderstanding 8:27-33
  - Mark slows down narrative time
  - ‘immediately’ εὐθύς only 4x in 8:22  
9:15, 20, 24 (within one story), and 10:52

8:27 Jesus went on with his disciples to **the villages of Caesarea Philippi**; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28 And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

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# 8:27–9:29

- Passion prediction and misunderstanding 8:27-33
- Discipleship teaching 8:34–9:29

8:34 [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If anyone [τις] wants to follow behind me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever [ὅς δ' ἄν] wants to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Whoever [ὅς...ἐάν] is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

9:1 And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

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# 8:27–9:29

- Passion prediction and misunderstanding 8:27-33
- Discipleship teaching 8:34–9:29
  - take up your cross 8:34–9:1
  - Jesus' true glory revealed 9:2-13

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured **before them**,  
3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there **appeared to them** Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.  
5 Then **Peter said** to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 He did not know what to say, for **they were terrified**. 7 Then **a cloud overshadowed them**, and from the cloud **there came a voice**, “This is my Son, the Beloved; **[you]** listen to him!”  
8 Suddenly **when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus**.

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Exodus 34:29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, **Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.** 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, **the skin of his face was shining**, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 **When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face;** 34 **but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out;** and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that **the skin of his face was shining**; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

‘Then [the LORD] said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, **you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu**, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship at a distance.’ Exodus 24:1

‘Then Moses went up on the mountain, and **the cloud covered the mountain.**’ Exodus 24:15

‘[Elijah] got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to **Horeb the mount of God**. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.’

1 Kings 19:8-9

‘Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Lo, **I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes**. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.’ Malachi 4:4-6

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9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. 11 Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” 12 He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”



# 8:27–9:29

- Passion prediction and misunderstanding 8:27-33
- Discipleship teaching 8:34–9:29
  - take up your cross 8:34–9:1
  - Jesus' true glory revealed 9:2-13
  - success and failure in deliverance 9:14-29
    - public deliverance vv 20-27
    - private teaching to disciples vv 28-29

‘When [Jesus] had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”’ 9:28-29

# 9:30–10:31

- Journey setting 9:30, 33; 10:1, 17
- Passion prediction 9:30-32

‘...he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be **betrayed into human hands**, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.’ 9:31-32

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- Passion prediction 9:30-32

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# 9:30–10:31

- Journey setting 9:30, 33; 10:1, 17
- Passion prediction 9:30-32
- Misunderstandings and arguments 9:33-41
  - 9:33-37 Who's the greatest?

9:33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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- Journey setting 9:30, 33; 10:1, 17
- Passion prediction 9:30-32
- Misunderstandings and arguments
  - 9:33-37 Who's the greatest?
  - 9:38-41 Who's included?

9:38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 Whoever is not against us is for us. 41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.’

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- Passion prediction 9:30-32
- Misunderstandings and arguments 9:33-41
- Discipleship teaching 9:42–10:31
  - Sayings about discipleship 9:42-50

“If **anyone** [ὅς ἄν] puts a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for them if a great millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.” 9:42

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” 9:49-50

# 9:30–10:31

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- Passion prediction 9:30-32
- Misunderstandings and arguments 9:33-41
- Discipleship teaching 9:42–10:31
  - Sayings about discipleship 9:42-50
  - Unconventional values 10:1-31

10:2 Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 He answered them, “**What did Moses command you?**” 4 They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” 5 But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ’

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1 Suppose a man enters into marriage with a woman, but she does not please him because he finds something objectionable about her, and so he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house; she then leaves his house 2 and goes off to become another man's wife. 3 Then suppose the second man dislikes her, writes her a bill of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house (or the second man who married her dies); 4 her first husband, who sent her away, is not permitted to take her again to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that would be abhorrent to the LORD, and you shall not bring guilt on the land that the LORD your God is giving you as a possession.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

10:2 Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 He answered them, “**What did Moses command you?**” 4 They said, “**Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.**” 5 But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, ‘**God made them male and female.**’ 7 ‘**For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,** 8 **and the two shall become one flesh.**’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ’

10:10 Then in the house the disciples asked [Jesus] again about this matter. 11 He said to them, “Whoever [ὅς ἂν] divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

10:13 People were bringing little children to [Jesus] in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” 16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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[Jesus] said, “**Abba, Father**, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” 14:36

“Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes **in the glory of his Father** with the holy angels.” 8:38

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that **your Father in heaven** may also forgive you your trespasses.” 11:25

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father.**”  
13:32

10:17 As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’” 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.



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10:23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for **those who have wealth** to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

28 Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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# 10:32-52

- Journey motif vv 32, 46, 52
- Passion prediction vv 32-34

10:32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, “See, we are going up to **Jerusalem**, and the Son of Man will be handed over **to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; 34 they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.**”

# 10:32-52

- Journey motif vv 32, 46, 52
- Passion prediction vv 32-34
- True greatness vv 35-45



10:35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” 38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” 39 They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

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10:41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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11 Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant,  
shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet **he bore the sin of many**,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:11-12

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- Journey motif vv 32, 46, 52
- Passion prediction vv 32-34
- True greatness vv 35-45
- A picture of discipleship vv 46-52
  - *inclusio* with 8:22-26



10:46 They came to **Jericho**. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving **Jericho**, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”

52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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