Introducing Mark

Steve Walton

Slides: http://stevewalton.info

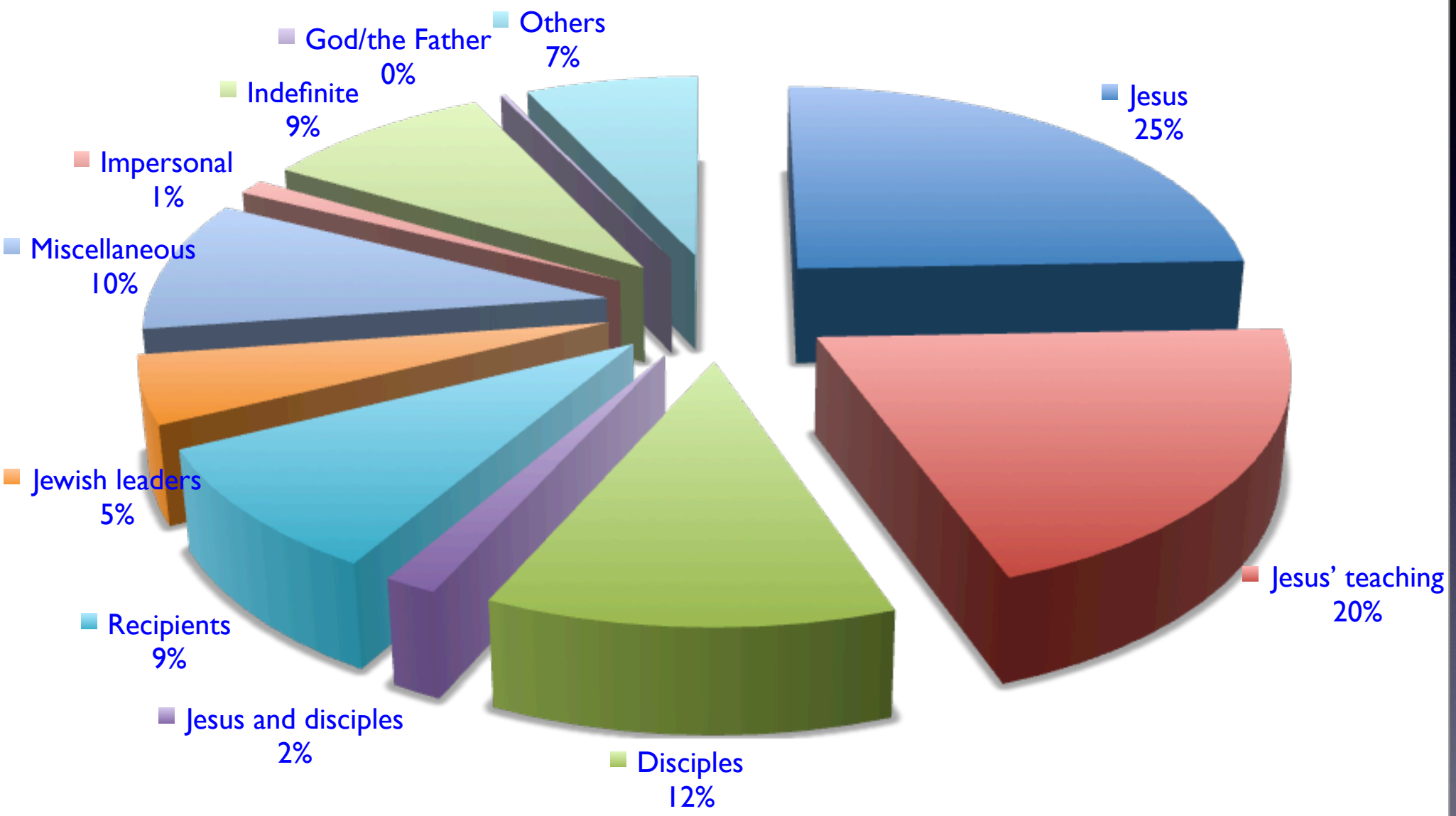
"Immediately" εὐθύς

- "And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him." 1:10
- "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness." 1:12
- "And immediately they left their nets and followed him." 1:18
- "Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him." 1:20
- "They went to Capernaum; and immediately when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught." 1:21 (adapted)
- "Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit" 1:23
- etc.!

It's all about Jesus

- The Gospels as ancient biographies (Burridge, Bond)
- opening features 1:1
- the subject dominates the action

Verb subjects in Mark (Burridge's analysis)

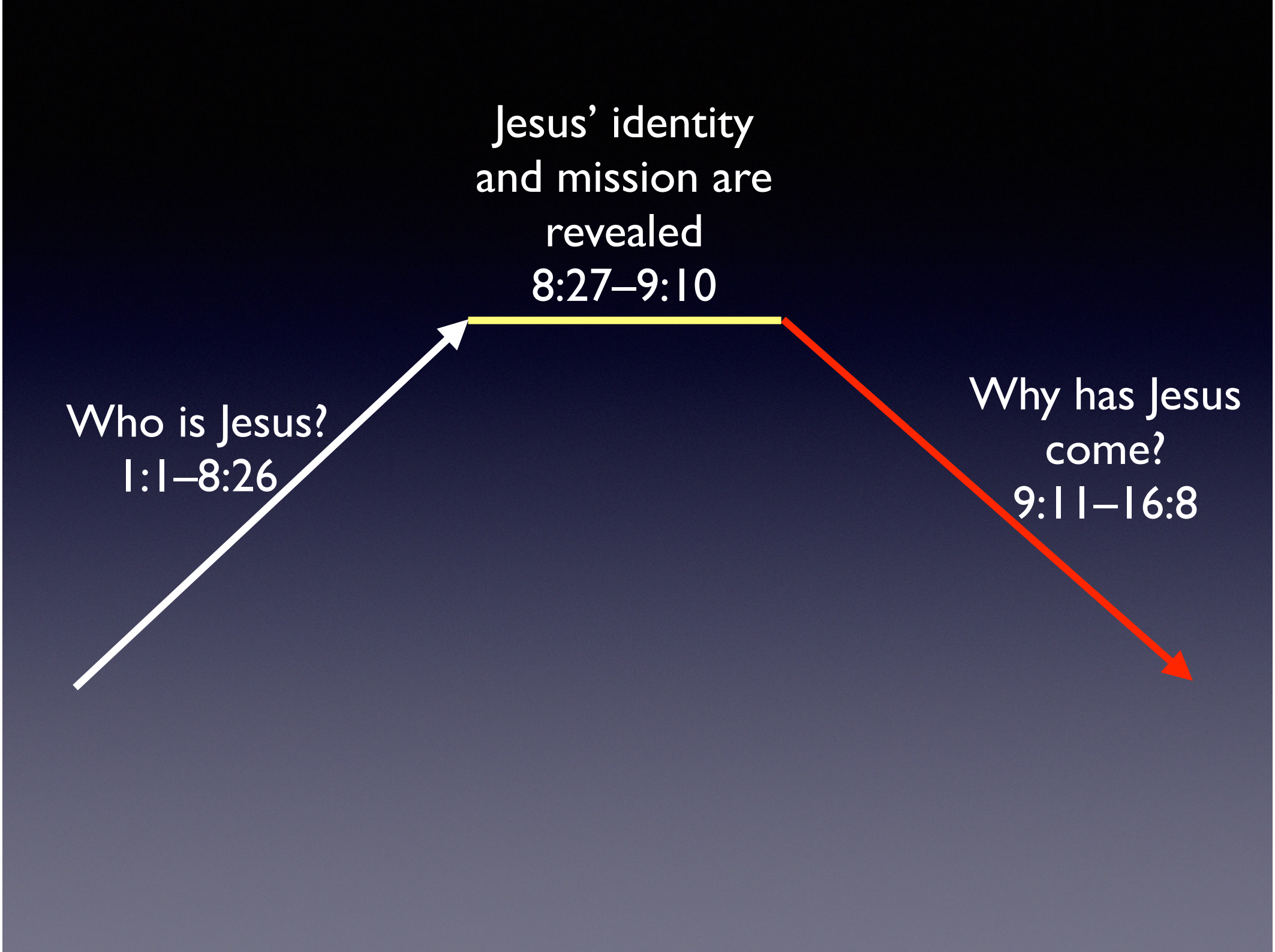


It's all about Jesus

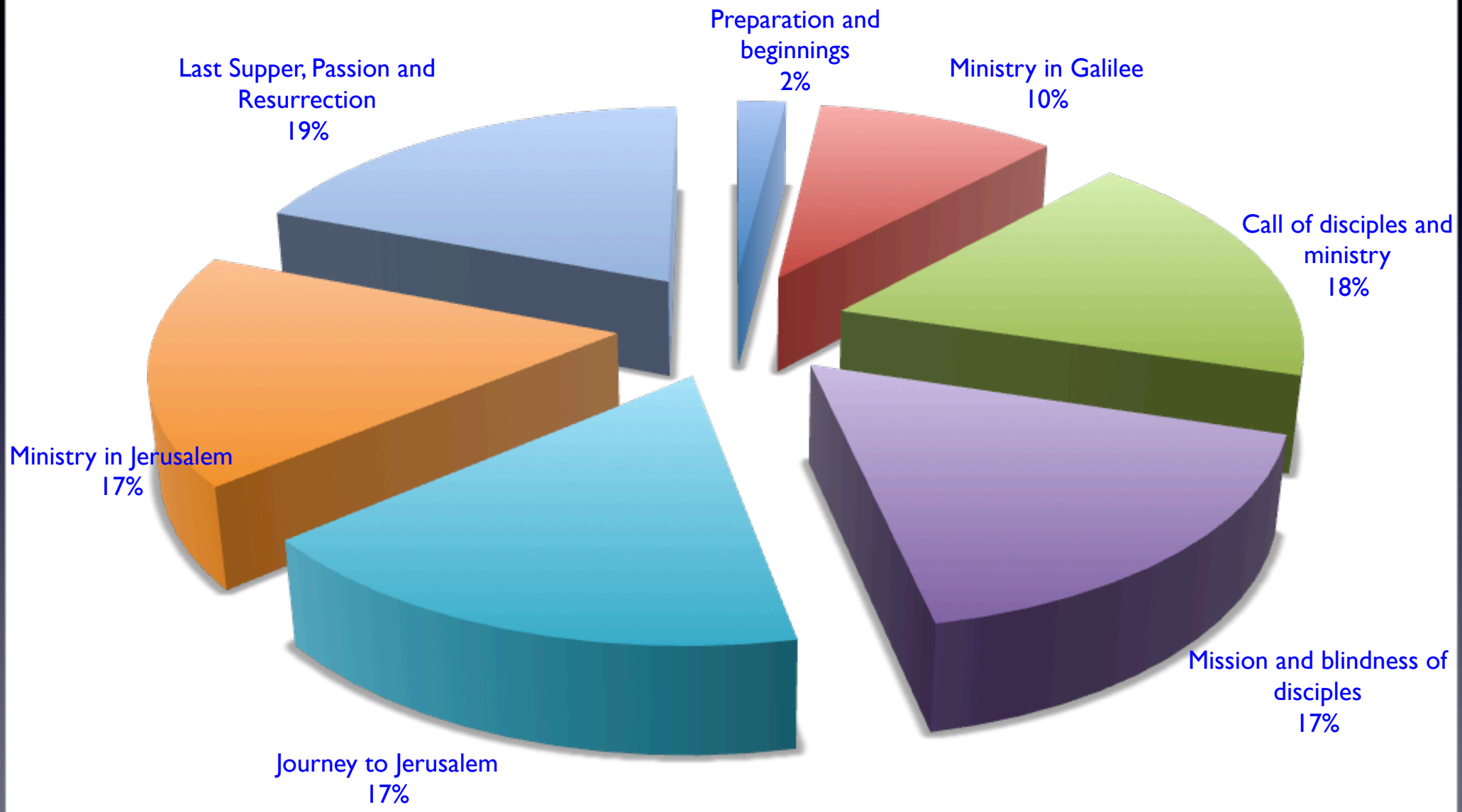
- The Gospels as ancient biographies (Burridge, Bond)
- opening features 1:1
- the subject dominates the action
- external features enhance the focus on the subject
  - presentation: prose narrative
  - length
  - structure and style

Structure of Mark (Burridge)

Chapters	*Verses*	*Topic*	*%age of work*
1:1-13	13	Preparation and beginnings	2.0
1:14–3:6	66	Ministry in Galilee	9.9
3:7–6:6	119	Call of disciples and ministry	17.9
6:7–8:26	113	Mission and blindness of disciples	17.0
8:27–10:52	113	Journey to Jerusalem	17.0
11–13	114	Ministry in Jerusalem	17.1
14–16:8	127	Last Supper, Passion and Resurrection	19.1
	665		


Jesus' identity
and mission are
revealed
8:27–9:10
Who is Jesus?
1:1–8:26
Why has Jesus
come?
9:11–16:8

Content analysis of Mark's Gospel (Burridge)



It's all about Jesus

- roughly chronological
- geographical progression from Galilee to Jerusalem
- topic material grouped
- scale: focus on Jesus

  "The circle of light is always sharply defined. The description of those who appear in it is limited to the essential."
  Günther Bornkamm, *Jesus of Nazareth*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1960, 25

It's all about Jesus

- literary units
- characterisation
  - by words and deeds in ancient writings
  - Jesus' portrait through words and deed
  - other characters portrayed in relation to Jesus

It's all about Jesus

- internal features
  - settings focused around Jesus

    "Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves" 11:15

It's all about Jesus

- internal features
  - settings focused around Jesus
  - topics and contents included

    "As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." 6:34

It's all about Jesus

- internal features
  - settings focused around Jesus
  - topics and contents included

    "Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'" 1:41

It's all about Jesus

- internal features
  - settings focused around Jesus
  - topics and contents included

    "Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him." 12:17

It's all about Jesus

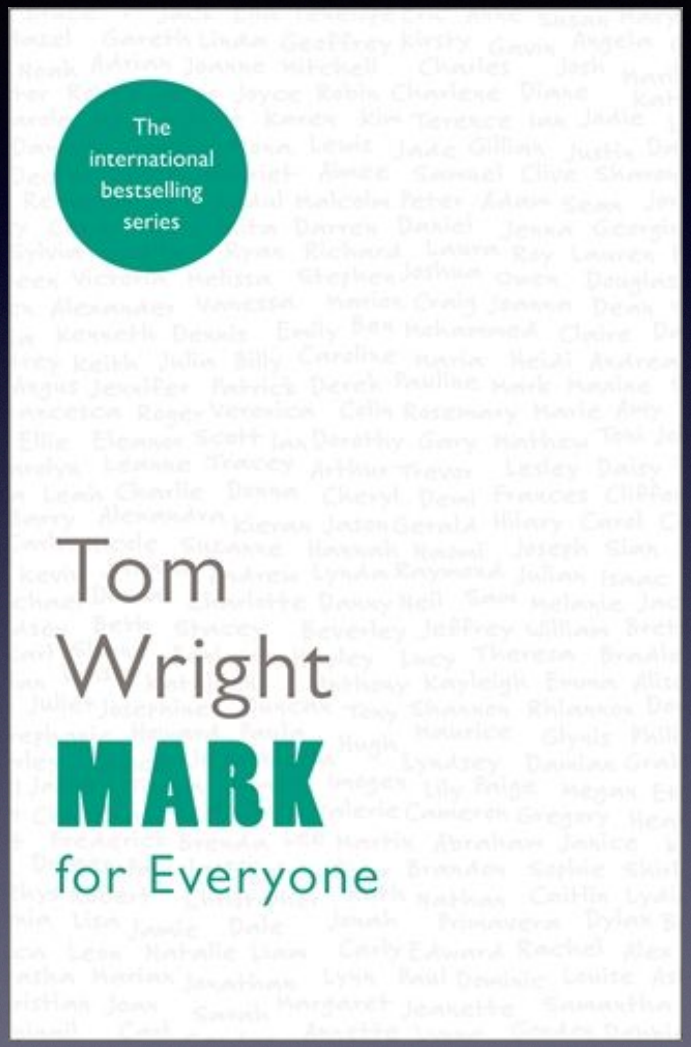
- internal features
  - settings focused around Jesus
  - topics and contents included
  - author's intention and purpose

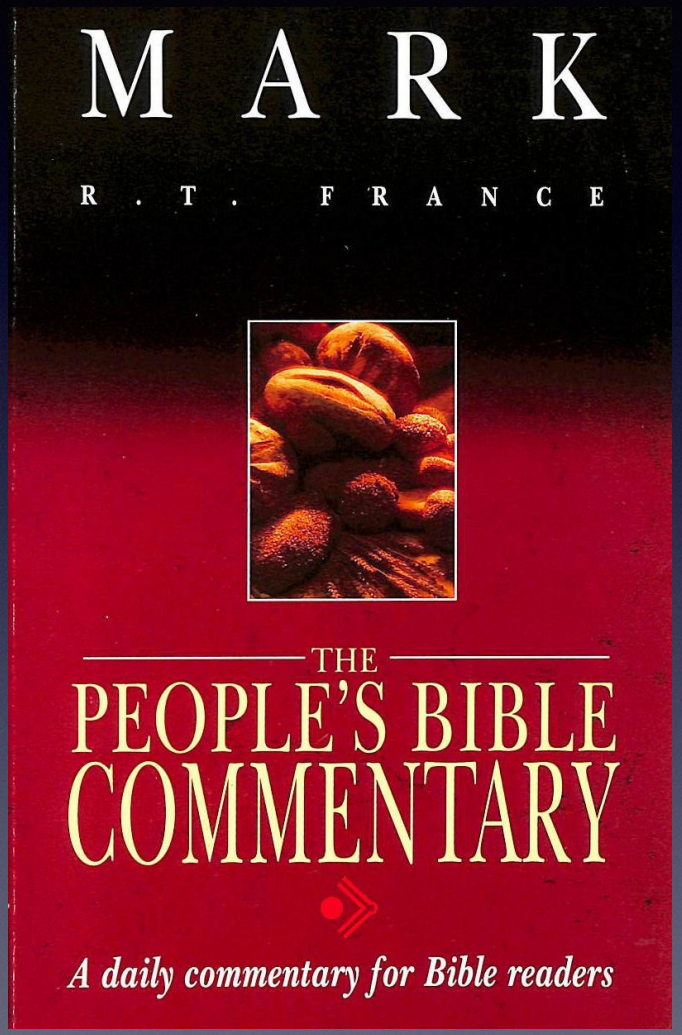
It's all about Jesus

- not the early church
- not the Christian life

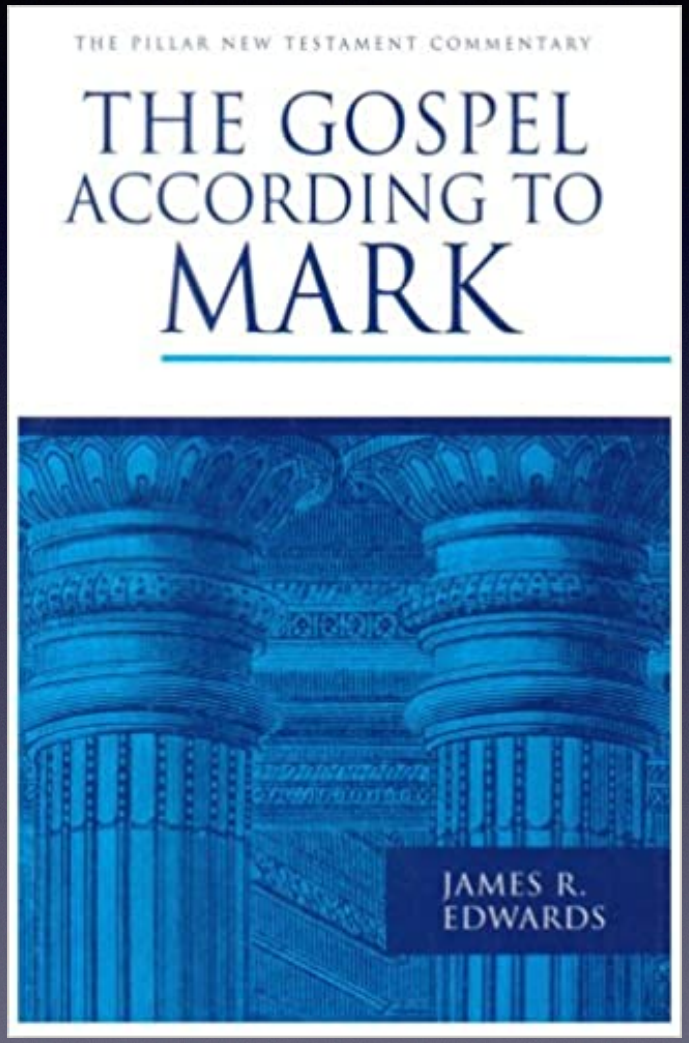
When we read Mark,
we should focus on Jesus
as Mark portrays him

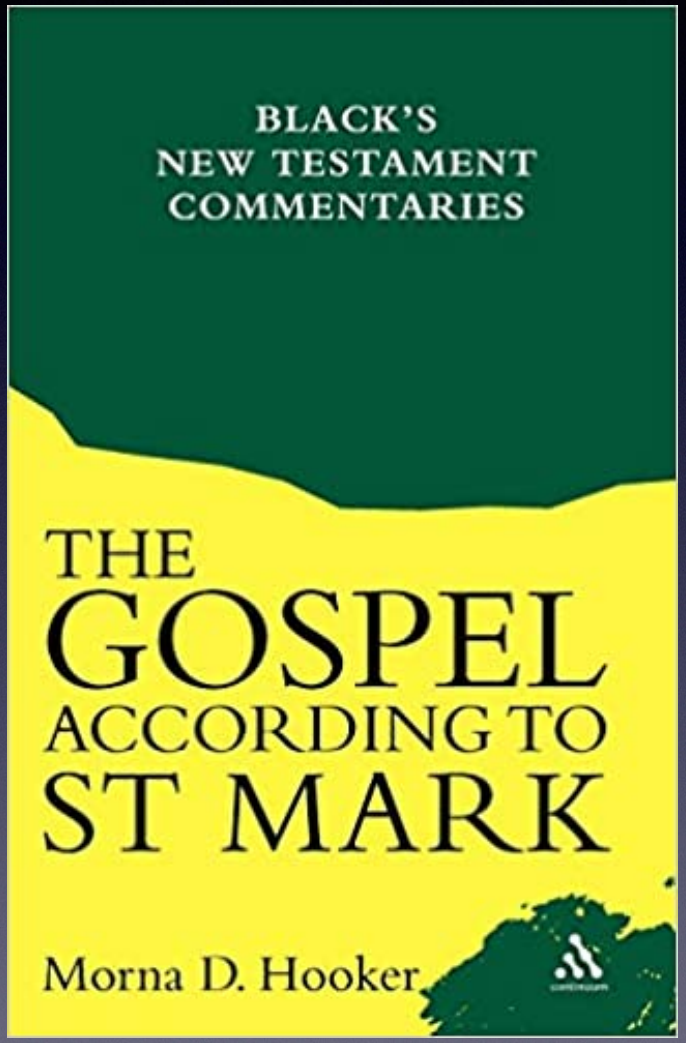
‘Entry level’ commentaries



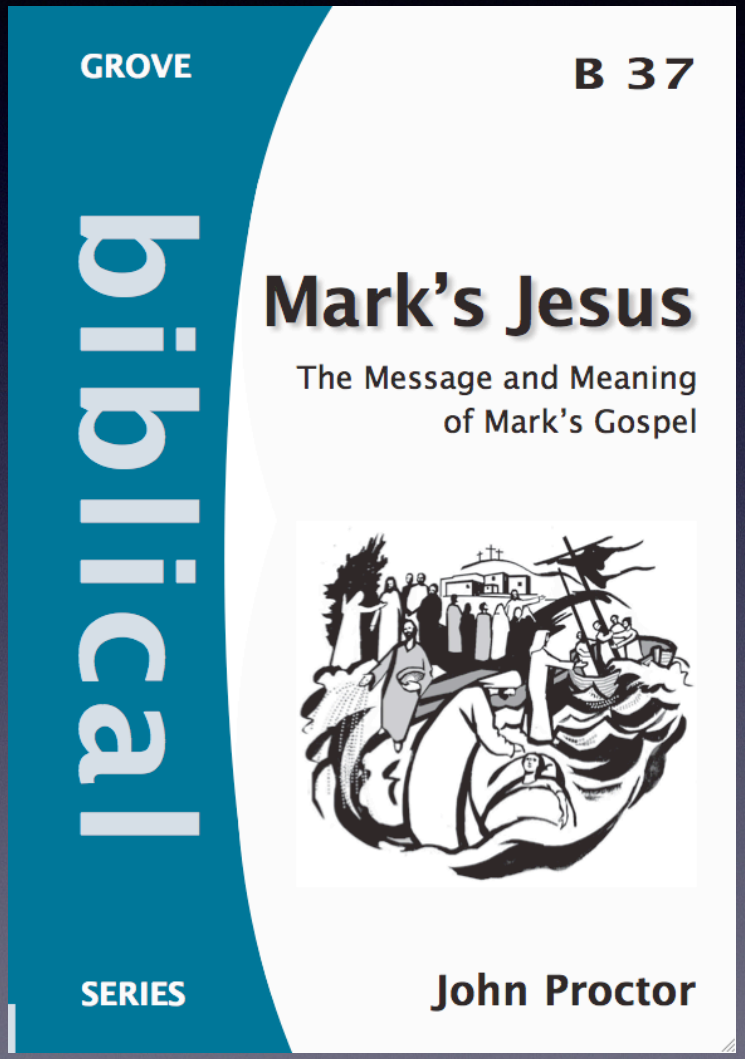


Fuller commentaries





Other helpful resources



Studying the text

Mark 1:21-34

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 6:1-6

- Key questions
  - How is the passage organised? How does it move from beginning to end?
  - Where's the focus of the passage?
  - What do we learn about Jesus?
  - What do we learn about what it means to follow Jesus?

You can get these slides from
Acts and More
http://stevewalton.info