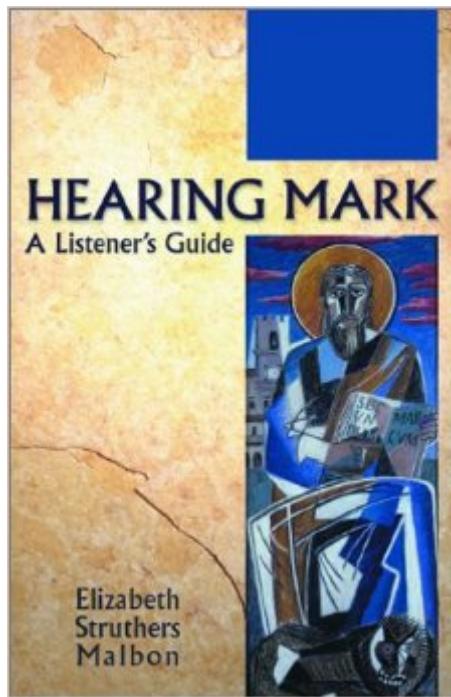


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Hearing Mark: A Listener's Guide



Synopsis

Originally, the Gospel of Mark was read aloud to first-century audiences eager to hear more about the life of Jesus and how his teachings could touch their own lives. Now Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, an expert who has written about and taught Mark for twenty years, brings us back to that original setting, providing an exciting new way of reading and hearing the Gospel of Mark. In clear, non-scholarly language, Malbon begins by outlining the presuppositions that scholars use when they read this gospel. We learn that Mark's gospel, in its original context, was not meant to be read silently; it was meant to be performed, read aloud, and heard by an audience of Christians. The chapters of Hearing Mark then follow the gospel in narrative order, from first verse to last, with each chapter of the book focusing on a theme emphasized in each gospel section: kingdom, community, discipleship, suffering. The conclusion offers "echoes" of these interrelated themes as they play out for Mark's listeners in the first century and in the twenty-first. Hearing Mark closes with selected suggestions for further reading and annotations. Malbon also lists resources for hearing the Gospel of Mark in various ways, including persons to contact for dramatic presentations, videotapes, and instructions for conducting a reading in a local church. Elizabeth Struthers Malbon is Director and Professor, Religious Studies Program, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her books include *In the Company of Jesus: Characters in Mark's Gospel* and *Narrative Space and Mythic Meaning in Mark*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Hearing Mark" is barely over 100 pages, but it is a great commentary full of insights and information and "hooks" for preachers. It would also be perfect for Bible study groups. Hard core Bible warriors and tentative explorers, folks of all education levels and political convictions will be able to use and enjoy this book. It would probably even work with younger people if you were inclined to try it. There are a lot of commentaries out there. What sets this one apart? 1. It emphasizes Mark's gospel as written for the ear -- as a story that unfolds, almost as if around an ancient campfire. So instead of looking in depth at Greek words or the shades of meaning that come out of separating each strand in a sentence (the way you might carefully study a written text), the author explores the importance of setting, plot, characterization...and themes that appear, step back, and return later....the things that a listener might hear and pick up on as a tale is told. This is a different way of reading, and yields fresh insights. 2. The author also clearly writes for the ear. (For example: writing about the feeding of the 4000, she says: "Do you hear an echo here? He did this before. He took, he blessed, he broke, and he gave. These four verbs occur one more time in Mark--at the Last Supper.") I find her style to be really learned and really approachable all at the same time. 3. It follows the work of David Rhoads (Mark as Story) and others, trying to offer resources to help people reconnect with the Gospel as a heard experience. The "resources" section at the end of the book gives many ideas and dvd/vhs possibilities for church groups who want to pursue this as a special program.

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