

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

A TIMELESS CLASSIC

William Shakespeare



Much Ado About Nothing

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more.

Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea, and one on shore,
To one thing constant never.

Then sigh not so, but let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into hey nonny, nonny.

BLITHE AND BONNY



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Fall: Revelation — The King appears, full of authority and compassion.

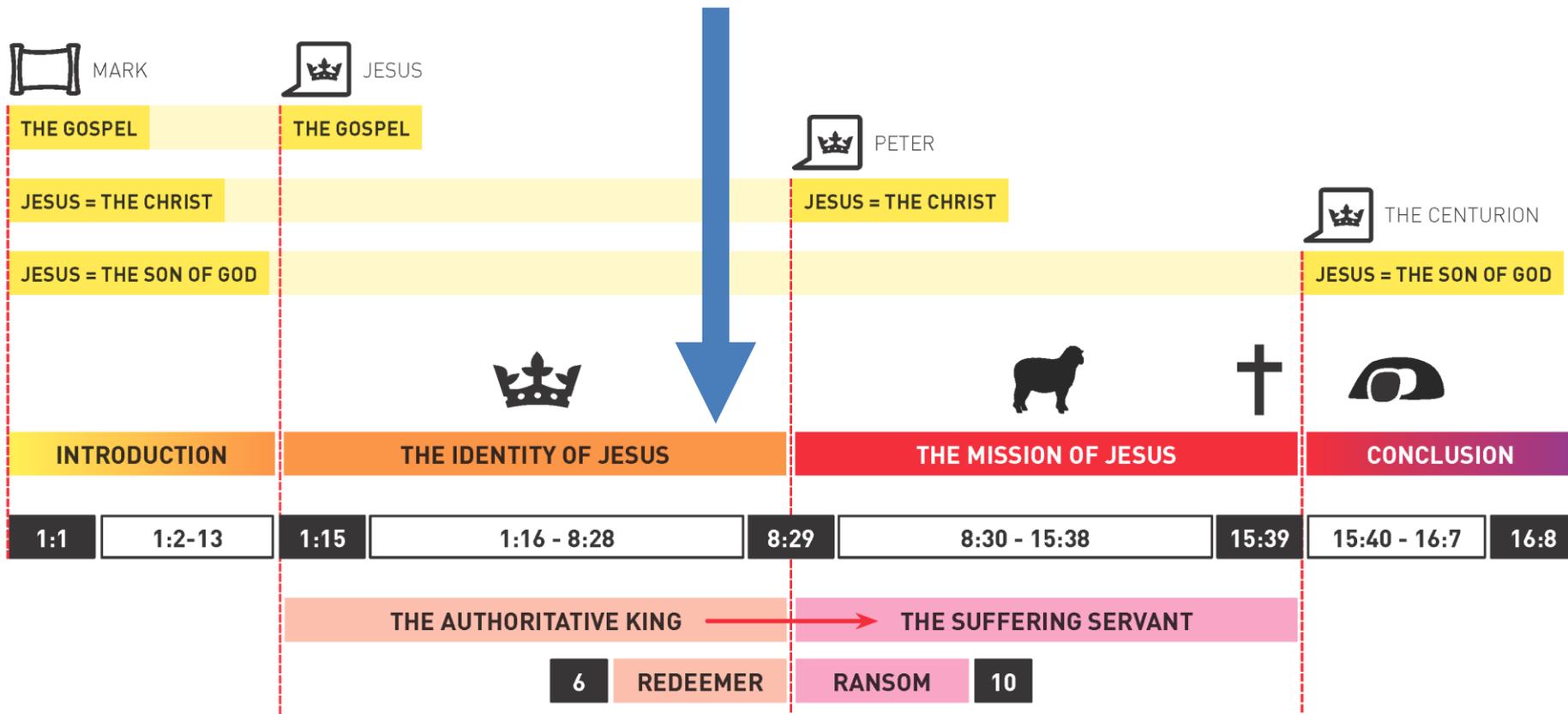
Winter: Recognition — His power and identity stir confusion, awe, and opposition. 

Spring: Reversal — The road to glory is the way of suffering, service, and surrender.

Easter through June: Redemption — Betrayed and crucified, the King rises to reign and send.

THE STRUCTURE OF MARK

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Three Scenes of Mark 7:31–8:13

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man
(with a sigh from Jesus)

Jesus Feeds 4,000

The Pharisees Demand a Sign
(with a sigh from Jesus)

Scene #1 Jesus Heals a Deaf Man (with a sigh from Jesus)

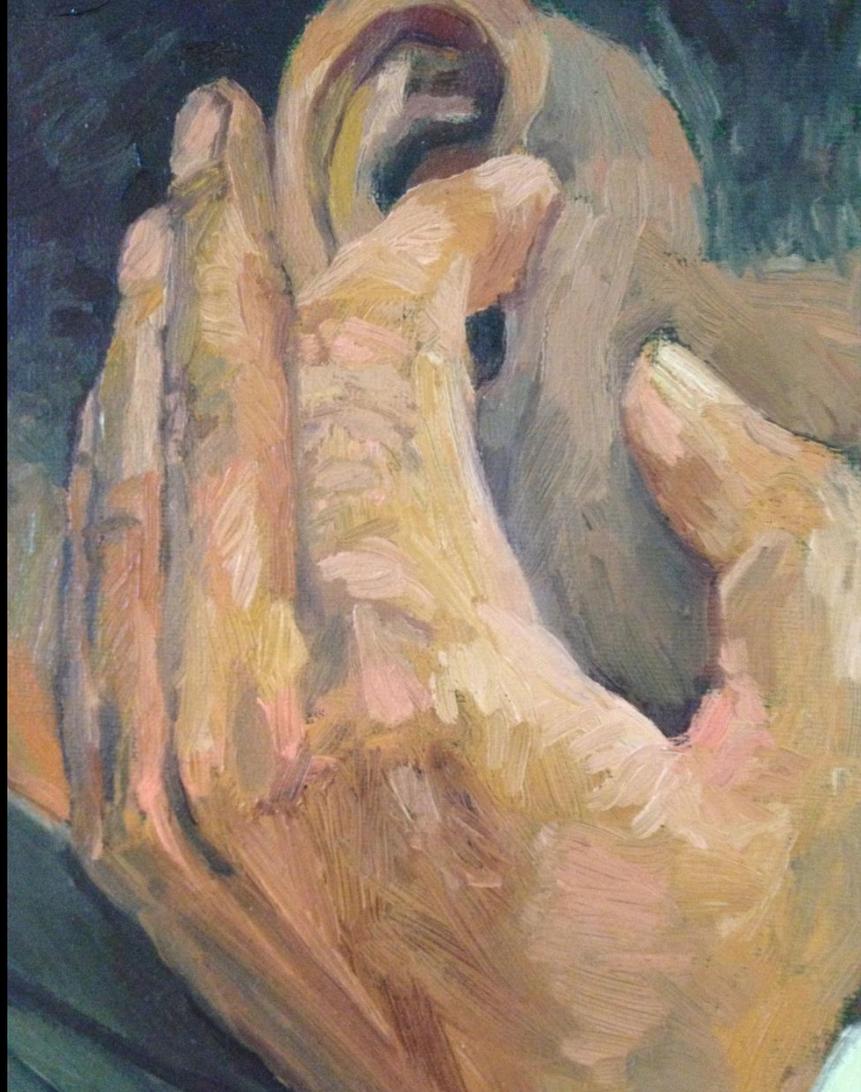
Mark 7:31-37

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue.

Scene #1 Jesus Heals a Deaf Man (with a sigh from Jesus)

Mark 7:31-37

³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”



Isaiah 35:6

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Scene #1 Jesus Heals a Deaf Man (with a sigh from Jesus)

Mark 7:31-37

³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”



Scene #2 Mark 8:1-10 // The Feeding of 4,000

¹ During those days another large crowd gathered.

Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ² “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” ⁴ His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” ⁵ “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.

⁶ He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. ⁷ They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. ⁸ The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹ About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, ¹⁰ he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.



Mark 8:19–20

¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”
“Twelve,” they replied. ²⁰ “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.”



Isaiah 49:6

God says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

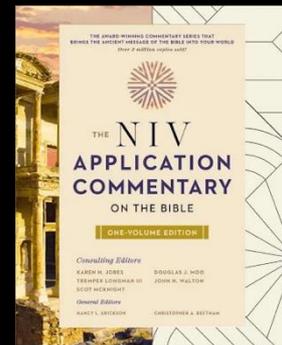
Scene #3 The Pharisees Demand a Sign (with a sign from Jesus)

Mark 8:11-13

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. ¹² He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” ¹³ Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

This generation, represented by the Pharisees, asks Jesus to do something that will signal Israel's deliverance from her enemies (i.e. the Gentiles) and their crushing defeat. A sign from heaven is something that "is apocalyptic in tone, triumphalistic in character, and the embodiment of one of the 'mighty deeds of deliverance' that God had worked on Israel's behalf in rescuing it from slavery (i.e. Exodus)." Ironically, this request comes after the miraculous feeding, a miracle that pointed to the blessing, not the destruction, of Gentiles.

David E. Garland, *Mark*, The NIV Application Commentary.
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996).



you asked
for a
sign...





MUMFORD & SONS
SIGH NO MORE

Sigh No More

Sigh no more, no more
One foot in sea, one on shore
My heart was never pure
You know me
You know me



Love that will not betray you, dismay or enslave you,
It will set you free
Be more like the man you were made to be,
There is a design, An alignment to cry,
Of my heart to see,
The beauty of love as it was made to be





Love that will not betray you, dismay or enslave you,
It will set you free
~~Be more~~ HE IS like the (person) you were made to be,
There is a design, An alignment to cry,
Of my heart to see,
The beauty of love as it was made to be



1 Corinthians 1:22-23

²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,
²³ but we preach Christ crucified.

Gospel Application

Where amidst the sighs of your life are you demanding that Jesus prove himself, rather than trusting the sign he has already given?

Where have you been trying to become “the person you were meant to be” rather than seeing it in Him?