

THEMES & THREADS in the Gospel of Mark

Reading the text we may notice several themes or threads running through the narrative:

1–Movement (walking through the land, sailing across the lake, climbing a mountain, entering the city)

2–Teaching (storytelling in the open air—compare the Stoics— & inside synagogues; the question of **Authority**)

3–Healings (dramatic moments relating to purity, wholeness, restoration to sanity and the community)

4–Secrecy (“tell nothing to no one”)

5–Encounters with Religious leaders (not always an incident of conflict—opportunity for instructive lessons)

6–The notion that “the time is fulfilled” (the Reign of God is Here, the End is Near—in other words, the Apocalypse is imminent—“this generation”)

7–The impending death of the Storyteller/Healer (repeats that he will be killed—“take up your cross”)

8–Death and . . .maybe rising from the dead?

What other threads can you identify in the text?