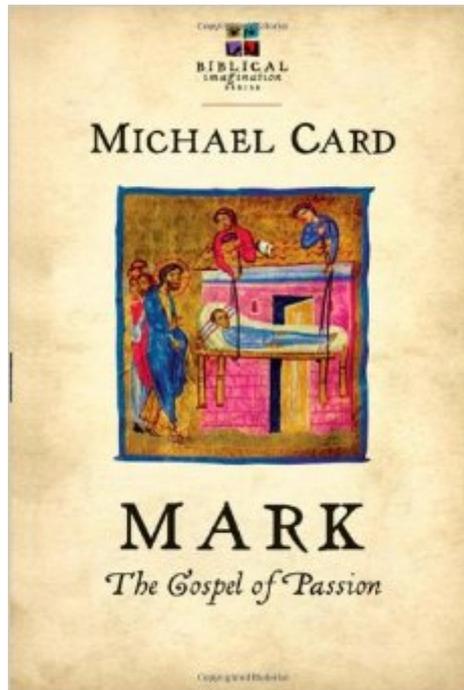


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Mark: The Gospel Of Passion (Biblical Imagination)



Synopsis

"Follow Me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you into fishers of men!" Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. --Mark 1:17-18 The Gospel of Mark is a book of action and passion. Events happen one after another, with a vivid sense of immediacy and urgency. Jesus's emotions come through strongly--at times he is angry and distressed, other times filled with compassion. In this volume, Michael Card provides a lively tour of the Gospel of Mark. As a friend and interpreter of Simon Peter, Mark gives firsthand glimpses of the life and ministry of Jesus in vibrant and energetic narration. The first Gospel to be written, Mark is a "pamphlet for hard times," encouraging Christians that all their sufferings were already endured by Jesus. Accompany Mark on his journey with Jesus. The more clearly you see Jesus here, the greater your passion will be for him.

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Customer Reviews

Michael Card has written a breathtaking narrative commentary on the Gospel of Mark which at once introduces the reader to scholarship material, both a narrative and a canonical take, as well as a passionate performance of the often times glossed over second Gospel. This commentary is for the heart and soul while refreshing the mind. Just like the Gospel of Mark, with its quick pace and immediate actions, Mark: The Gospel of Passion is written so that it draws in the reader and without a depression or lull in reading pushes that reader further along. Frankly, I was so enthralled with Card's writing style that I read it in a matter of hours. Commentaries are dry, often times more

original language than English, and used to induce the lay reader into a coma. Mark: The Gospel of Passion is something that cannot be rightly classified as a commentary, but perhaps more as an ongoing sermon. Card bases his work off sound scholarship, in what generally appears to be from his acknowledged mentor, William Lane, and carries the conversation forward about the Gospel of Mark in a canonical-narrative way. It is a narrative and takes the Gospel and presents it in the receptive tradition of the Church and in many ways, how Preachers use it on Sunday morning. This doesn't mean that critical issues are glossed over, but the goal of the author is not the minutia of scholars; instead, it seems to be to present Mark freshly and energetically. There is scant attention to the original languages, which often times will bog down preachers and other ministry leaders, although the original Greek is used somewhat strategically. Further, there is the constant dialogue with the other Gospels as well as Tradition which connects Mark to both Peter and Paul.

While browsing recently at a Thrift store, I found Scandalon (1986), one of Michael Card's earliest recordings. It was fascinating to go on and read customer reviews praising this release. If you have any familiarity with Card's music, you know that he has a remarkable ability to convey depth in biblical truth within the confines of a song. It seems fitting that all of his Bible study for songs would lead first to theological books and now an ambitious commentary series on the four gospels. Mark: The Gospel of Passion is the second release. Luke: The Gospel of Amazement was released last year, and commentaries on Matthew and John are scheduled for 2013 and 2014 respectively. Each of these will have a separate companion recording related to the themes of each gospel. Card has not given up his music career; writing commentaries is just another means to fulfill his primary calling as a teacher. As I read, immediately (a favorite term in Mark's gospel) I was inspired by Card's meticulous study. His attention to detail is an example for us all. His way of combining facts and imaginative thought makes the text come alive, and it is what this series is all about. Card was mentored in this approach by William Lane, and he most likely gets more into the "how to" aspect in his touring conference series. Here in these first two commentaries he teaches more by example and asides. If you are familiar with the gospel accounts of the crucifixion, you may recall the centurion's confession, "Truly this man was the son of God" (Mark 15:39 ESV). In his comment on the passage, Card encourages, "Stop and take time to engage with the text at the level of your imagination."

I have long been an admirer of Michael Card. I first became familiar with him, as many Christians have, through his music. His music mixes simple acoustic melodies with lyrical profundity that

touches the heart with conviction and comfort. Card's songs demonstrate what can happen when a creative mind that longs to communicate the good news of Jesus engages the Scripture and theology with intelligence and spiritual depth. Now, Michael Card has begun to take on the task of writing commentaries on the gospel. Last year, Card released his commentary on Luke, which was very well received. This year, he is releasing *Mark: The Gospel of Passion*. I believe this commentary will also receive accolades and admiration for its combination of depth of thought and clarity of communication. I am well-versed in Scripture. I have a degree in theology. Yet, as I read Michael Card's commentary on Mark each page jumps forward with a new insight and with new depth of meaning. In the introduction, Card does a good job with allowing his readers to enter into the story of the context in which the gospel of Mark is written. He notes several things about the text that many other commentaries miss. I was especially impressed with Card's discussion of the way Mark's description of Jesus puts the Lord's emotional life on his sleeve, and lets us not only hear what Jesus was saying, but how he was feeling. *Mark: The Gospel of Passion* also presents an outline of the book that drives the readers understanding of the content of Mark. Through carefully expanding upon and using an outline of Mark in order to explain the gospel, he allows the reader to see the "movement" in the gospel from beginning to end. This is very helpful. The appendices in the book are also well done and informative.

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