

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHRISTOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Exploring the interrelated topics of Christology and discipleship within the apocalyptic context of Mark's gospel, Henderson focuses on six passages: Mark 1:16–20; 3:13–15; 4:1–34; 6:7–13; 6:32–44; 6:45–52. Together, these passages indicate that the disciples failed to understand not just Jesus' messianic identity *per se* but the apocalyptic nature of his messiahship, as well as its implications for their own participation in God's coming reign.

The implications of this for Mark's gospel as a whole are to situate Mark's Christological claims within the broader context of the apocalyptic "gospel of God." This lends coherence to Mark's bifocal interest in miracle and passion. It also illuminates the relationship between Mark's Jesus and his followers as those who carry forward his own mission: to demonstrate the coming kingdom of God, which is fully assured if not yet fully in view.

SUZANNE WATTS HENDERSON is Assistant Professor of Religion at Salem College, Winston-Salem.

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

MONOGRAPH SERIES

General Editor: John Court

135

CHRISTOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

*MONOGRAPH SERIES**Recent Titles in the series*

122. An Aramaic Approach to Q
MAURICE CASEY
0 521 81723 4
123. Isaiah's Christ in Matthew's Gospel
RICHARD BEATON
0 521 81888 5
124. God and History in the Book of Revelation
MICHAEL GILBERTSON
0 521 82466 4
125. Jesus' Defeat of Death
PETER G. BOLT
0 521 83036 2
126. From Hope to Despair in Thessalonica
COLIN R. NICHOLL
0 521 83142 3
127. Matthew's Trilogy of Parables
WESLEY G. OLMSTEAD
0 521 83154 7
128. The People of God in the Apocalypse
STEPHEN PATTEMORE
0 521 83698 0
129. The Exorcism Stories in Luke–Acts
TODD KLUTZ
0 521 83804 5
130. Jews, Gentiles and Ethnic Reconciliation
TET-LIM N. YEE
0 521 83831 2
131. Ancient Rhetoric and Paul's Apology
FREDRICK J. LONG
0 521 84233 6
132. Reconstructing Honor in Roman Philippi
JOSEPH H. HELLEMAN
0 521 84909 8
133. Theological Hermeneutics and 1 Thessalonians
ANGUS PADDISON
0 521 84983 7
134. Greco-Roman Culture and the Galilee of Jesus
MARK A. CHANCEY
0 521 84647 1

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark

SUZANNE WATTS HENDERSON



Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521859066

© Suzanne Watts Henderson 2006

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-85906-6 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-85906-9 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs
for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not
guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

To my father

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii

Part I Introduction

1 Jesus' mission and theirs: Christology and discipleship in light of Mark's apocalyptic gospel	3
State of the question	5
Splitting Mark open: the problem of false dichotomies	9
A way forward	15

Part II Patterns of discipleship

2 The calling of the fishers in Mark 1:16–20	31
Introduction	31
Narrative context	32
The initial call: Mark 1:16–20	48
Conclusion	64
3 The commissioning of the Twelve in Mark 3:13–15	66
Introduction	66
Narrative context	67
The making of the Twelve: Mark 3:13–15	78
Conclusion	93

Part III Discipleship in action

4 Discipleship as presence in Mark 4:1–34	97
Introduction	97
Narrative context	98
Jesus' kingdom-of-God teaching: Mark 4:1–34	101
Conclusion	134

Cambridge University Press
 0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
 Suzanne Watts Henderson
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

<i>x</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
5	Discipleship as practice: Jesus' sending out of the Twelve in Mark 6:7–13	136
	Introduction	136
	Narrative context	137
	The calling and sending out of the Twelve: Mark 6:7–13	144
	Conclusion	167
6	Discipleship as (transforming) presence: the wilderness feeding in Mark 6:30–44	169
	Introduction	169
	Narrative context	170
	The wilderness feeding: discipleship as presence	175
	Conclusion	201
7	Discipleship as (foiled) practice: the motif of incomprehension in Mark 6:45–52	204
	Introduction	204
	The incomprehension motif	205
	Narrative context	209
	The second sea crossing as failed discipleship	212
	Conclusion	236
Part IV Conclusion		
8	Further thoughts “on the way”	241
	Summary of findings	241
	Impact of findings	245
	Final thoughts	260
	<i>Bibliography</i>	262
	<i>Index of passages cited</i>	274
	<i>Index of modern authors</i>	285

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

This book represents the culmination of a project begun some fifteen years ago during my Masters of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. There, in my final semester, I enjoyed the privilege of participating in a doctoral seminar on Mark's gospel led by Professor Joel Marcus. My seminar paper for that course addressed the topic of the disciples' incomprehension.

Nearly a decade after finishing at Princeton I enrolled in the doctoral studies program at Duke, still convinced there was more work to be done on the topic of the Markan disciples. By God's providence – or sheer good fortune – Professor Marcus joined the faculty at Duke just in time to supervise my dissertation. In the meantime he had completed his Anchor Bible commentary on Mark 1–8, which along with his earlier writings proved invaluable for my grounding of discipleship in the soil of apocalyptic thought.

The abnormally lengthy gestation period of this work has benefited from the cumulative wisdom of innumerable friends and colleagues, terms that apply equally to those I name here. To begin with, my gratitude to Professor Marcus simply could not be more profound. His example of rigorous scholarship and his free-flowing red ink have strengthened my work immeasurably; his profound kindness, persistent encouragement, and refreshing good humor have strengthened my soul even more. My thanks go also to Richard B. Hays, E. P. Sanders, and James L. Crenshaw – the other members of my dissertation committee whose careful reading and constructive feedback have contributed significantly to this work.

I also wish to thank those who have shared my journey at Duke. The Graduate Program in Religion has offered an abundantly hospitable and collegial setting for my studies. I am most grateful for the other students and faculty whose gifts of friendship and vigorous conversation have made my days in Durham so invigorating. The New Testament & Judaic Studies Colloquium provided a helpful forum for the discussion of much of chapter 2. In particular, Rick Stone has shared not only commuting

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii Preface

expenses but also keen exegetical insights that have bolstered my arguments at every turn. Rick is this book's "sous chef," and words cannot express my gratitude for his vast contribution to this effort. In addition, Dustin Ellington, now at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, has read and responded to much of the work contained here with characteristic depth and sensitivity. Along the way, my community of faith, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, has served as a living example of the ideals of discipleship presented in this book.

Institutionally, I would like to thank the administration, faculty, and students of Salem College, where I now teach Religion, for an environment that has supported this publication effort. Thanks also go to Father Michael McGarry and the staff at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem for the gift of time and space to complete the book's index during my stay as Scholar-in-Residence. My editorial contacts at Cambridge University Press, Kate Brett, Jackie Warren, and Jan Chapman, have dealt most graciously with me, as I navigate this process for the first time.

Finally, my husband Bob and our children Abbie, Hannah, and Will have provided the foundation of unqualified love and enthusiastic support that makes a sustained effort such as this possible. They have tolerated my frequent disappearance to the computer screen with patient grace. They are truly God's greatest gift to me.

Five years ago today my father, Thomas Ellington Watts, Jr., lost a valiant fight against cancer. Though he did not live to see the completion of this project, he was its greatest inspiration, and it is to him that I dedicate this book. The power of his unflinching love has outlasted his life on this earth; his reach does indeed exceed his grasp. May he rest from his labors.

ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
ACNT	Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament
AnBib	Analecta biblica
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
<i>b.</i>	Babylonian Talmud
BAGD	Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, and Danker, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
BHT	Beiträge zur historischen Theologie
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
<i>BibLeb</i>	<i>Bibel und Leben</i>
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CGTC	Cambridge Greek Testament Commentaries
EKKNT	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses</i>
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>

xiv *List of abbreviations*

IRT	Issues in Religion and Theology
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JSSSup	Journal of Semitic Studies Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LEC	Library of Early Christianity
LSJ	Liddell, Scott, and Jones, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon with a Supplement</i>
LQ	<i>Lutheran Quarterly</i>
LXX	Septuagint
m.	Mishnah
MT	Masoretic text
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OG	Old Greek version of the Septuagint
OT	Old Testament
PC	Proclamation Commentaries
QL	Qumran literature
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RNTS	Reading the New Testament Series
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
SBB	Stuttgarter biblische Beiträge
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBM	Stuttgarter biblische Monographien
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTW	Studies in the New Testament and Its World
t.	Tosefta
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary

Cambridge University Press
0521859069 - Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark
Suzanne Watts Henderson
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of abbreviations

xv

WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>