

Readings In The Gospel According To St. Mark

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The Gospel according to St. Mark, as I compared it with Luke's Gospel, I found to be short, crisp, bluntly vigorous. Things go so breathtakingly fast in this Gospel. Its powerful parsimony penetrates the reader, and that unawares. The following pages consist of my weekly readings of St. Mark's Gospel, often one chapter at a time, sometimes one section at a time.

I have read it with literary sensitivity and sensitivity of faith. I came to know much better Jesus and his sheer vigorous and persistent love, and love him much more (faith-sensitivity), as I appreciated the rugged beauty, rough-hewn integrity, and uncouth rigor of each chapter of the Gospel (literary sensitivity). And so these readings, for all their seemingly objective probings, are as intensely personal as is my previous "On Reading the Bible," a sequel of which this is. Nonetheless, or rather, precisely because of this intensely personal enhancement, these readings may not be out of touch with biblical scholarship. They may be of some scholarly value, for what else is biblical scholarship for?

I find two English translations of the Bible accurate, vigorous, and helpful: New King James Version and New Revised Standard Version. The Taiwanese Version, with all its archaic and awkward expressions, is amazingly accurate. The Kuoyu editions Japanese editions are sadly inaccurate. I constantly use *The Greek-English New Testament* which, in addition to interlinear Greek text, conveniently carries King James Version and New International Version.