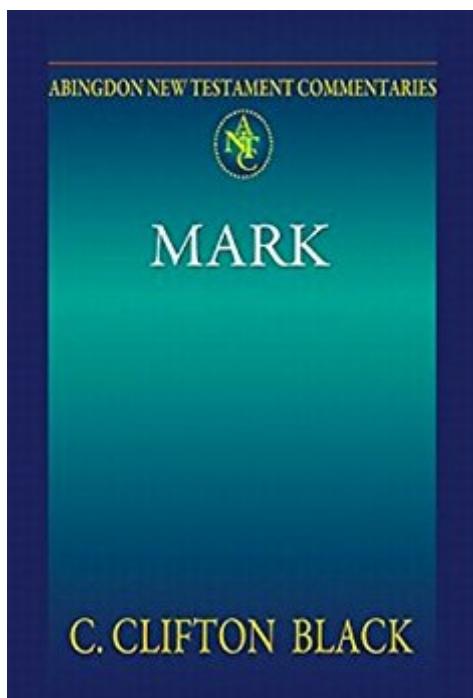


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Abingdon New Testament Commentaries: Mark



Synopsis

Markâ™s genius lies, not in telling a story about Jesus, but in creating conditions under which the reader may experience the peculiar quality of Godâ™s good news. The Evangelist hurries one along breathlessly, âœimmediately,â • making sure that the reader lurches with the characters into one pothole after another. âœWhat is this new teachingâ • that consorts with the flagrantly sinful, turning the pious homicidal, intimates into strangers, and mustard seeds into âœthe greatest of all âœshrubsâ •? Jesusâ™ closest adherents, the Twelve, are among the most muddled. Who can blame them? They ask for an obscure parableâ™s interpretation and receive an answer even more confounding. They are told to feed thousands with next to nothing. Their boat almost capsizes while their teacher sleeps. As they oar in rough waters, the teacher strides the waves intending to bypass them. Putting the reader in the same boat, Mark structures conversations with Jesus that make little sense, if any. The Twelve are craven, stupid, self-serving, and disobedient: meet the average Christian. Besides, âœtheir hearts were hardened.â • Who hardens hearts? God. Should not Godâ™s Messiah lift the burdens of those following him? What kind of Christ heads to a cross, handing his disciples another for themselves. âœDo you not yet understand?â •Â from the Introduction

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Insightful, thought provoking and theologically informative. Black does a marvelous job of his commentary and hypothesis of this Gospel's controversial ending. A must read for serious Bible Students

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